

fluffy accumulations of 3-6 inches with plenty of blowing snow off and on during the 22nd and 23rd. Temperatures tumbled to the singled digits during the day on the 22nd and well below zero that night and the morning of the 23rd. But the Arctic air was shallow and began to drain from the higher elevations of the Palmer Divide during on the 24th. This allowed us to hit the low 40s that afternoon while lower elevations of the plains only reached the teens and 20s.

The remainder of the month again saw a return to mild conditions along with gusty winds at times. Conditions were dry for the last week of the month, with each day seeing average to above average temperatures. These gusty winds along with the stronger late-February sunshine also did a lot of work to melt our snowpack.

But don't get too excited, the next month is our snowiest time of the year.

A look ahead

March is known for a wide range of weather conditions in the region. We can see 70° temperatures one afternoon and blizzard conditions the next. Many of us remember the blizzard of March 2003 when we received 30-50 inches of snowfall that shut down the region. However, snow that does fall begins to melt quickly this time of the year, providing beneficial moisture for our plants as we head into spring.

February 2023 Weather Statistics

Average High	41.5° (+1.8°)
100-year return frequency value max	51.9° min 32.8°
Average Low	12.8° (-0.0°)

100-year return frequency value max	21.9° min 3.7°
Highest Temperature	56° on the 11th, 25th
Lowest Temperature	-11° on the 23rd
Monthly Precipitation	0.73" (-0.21" 23% below normal)
100-year return frequency value max	2.10" min 0.02"
Monthly Snowfall	19.5" (+1.8", 10% above normal)
Season to Date Snow	65.1" (-5.4", 8% below normal)
Season to Date Precip.	1.72" (+0.07", 4% above normal)
Heating Degree Days	1034 (-4)
Cooling Degree Days	0

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Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

March mystery madness

By the staff at Covered Treasures

"Good books don't give up all their secrets at once."—Stephen King

March is a month of basketball and spring break. It's also a great time to hunker down with some good mysteries, whether you are staying at home or traveling.

Standing Dead

By Margaret Mizushima (Crooked Lane Books) \$28.99

Critically acclaimed author Margaret Mizushima brings the eighth installment of her award-winning Timber Creek K-9 mysteries. Deputy Mattie Wray and her sister, Julia, travel to Mexico to visit their mother only to discover that she and her husband have vanished without a trace. Back in Timber Creek, Mattie finds chilling notes that lead her, Robo, and the sheriff's department to a grisly discovery, and the suspicion that her mother and sister are in danger. In a last-ditch gambit, Mattie must go undercover into a killer's lair to save her mother or die trying.



Saguaro Sanction

By Scott Graham (Torrey House Press), \$16.95
When Janelle Ortega's cousin is found murdered at a remote petroglyph site in Saguaro National Park, she and her husband, archaeologist Chuck Bender, are drawn deep into a threatening web of hostility and deceit stretching across the U.S.-

Mexico border and back in time 1,000 years, to when the Hohokam people thrived in the Sonoran Desert. Book eight in Scott Graham's National Park Mystery Series introduces readers to the landscapes and cultural histories of Saguaro National Park, providing an inside look at its wonders and archaeological and cultural complexities.

Exiles

By Jane Harper (Flatiron Books) \$27.99

Mystery follows federal investigator Aaron Falk, even on vacation in Southern Australian wine country. It's the one-year anniversary of Kim Gillespie's disappearance at a busy town festival, abandoning her baby. When Kim's older daughter makes a plea for anyone with information to come forward, Falk and his old buddy, Raco, can't leave the case alone. Falk is welcomed into the tight-knit circle of Kim's friends and loved ones. But the group may not be what it seems.

Finlay Donovan is Killing It

By Elle Cosimano (Minotaur Books) \$17.99
Finlay Donovan is killing it—except, she's really not. She's a stressed-out single mom and a struggling novelist, and her life is in chaos. When Finlay is overheard discussing the plot of her new suspense novel, she's mistaken for a contract killer, and inadvertently accepts an offer to dispose of a problem husband to make ends meet. Finlay discovers that crime in real life is a lot more difficult than its fictional counterpart, as she becomes tangled in a real-life murder investigation. This is the first in a witty new series.

My Sister's Grave

By Robert Dugoni (Thomas & Mercer) \$15.95
Tracy Crosswhite has spent 20 years questioning the facts surrounding her sister Sarah's disappearance and the suspect's murder trial. Tracy became a homicide detective and dedicated her

life to tracking down killers. When Sarah's remains are finally discovered, Tracy is determined to find the answers. She unearths dark, long-kept secrets that will forever change her relationship to her past and open the door to deadly danger. This is the first book in the bestselling series that has millions of readers around the globe.

How to Sell a Haunted House

By Grady Hendrix (Berkley) \$28

Grady Hendrix takes on the haunted house in a new thriller that explores the way your past and your family can haunt you like nothing else. Louise's parents have died; she dreads going home to deal with her brother and all the details. Unfortunately, she'll need his help because it'll take more than some new paint and clearing out a lifetime of memories to get the house on the market. But some houses don't want to be sold, and their home has other plans for both of them.

The Violin Conspiracy

By Brendan Slocumb (Vintage) \$17

Ray McMillian is a Black classical musician on the rise, undeterred by the pressure and prejudice of the classical music world, when a shocking theft sends him on a desperate quest to recover his great-great-grandfather's heirloom violin on the eve of the most prestigious musical competition in the world. Ray must not only reclaim his precious violin but prove to himself, and the world, that there has always been a truly great musician within him.

Until next month, happy reading.

The staff at Covered Treasures can be reached at books@ocn.me.

March Library Events

Enjoy our annual quilt display, participate in adult reading

By Harriet Halbig

As in many years past, the Palmer Divide Quilt-makers will display many of its creations in the library during March. The quilts will hang from the ceiling and be mounted on the walls throughout the library. A printed guide naming the maker of each piece will be available. This is a welcome, colorful event which many anticipate.

The Winter Adult Reading Program will continue through March 31. Upon registering for the program, you will receive a convenient tote bag, just right to carry a few books or a tablet. Upon completing 30 days of reading 30 minutes or more or participating in selected library programs, you

will receive the annual program mug and a Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory chocolate bar.

You can register online at our web site, ppld.org, or come in during open hours to register in person.

As tax time approaches, you can access federal and state forms on our website as well. From the home page, ppld.org, go to research, taxes and view the available forms. There is also information on free help with taxes.

We hope to see you soon at the library.

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