

November Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

As usual, November was dry and sunny for the most part, with one wintry visit just before Thanksgiving. Temperatures ended up slightly cooler than average for the month and precipitation also came in slightly below normal.

The start of November was a bit up and down, with cool temperatures on the 1st and 4th and mild weather in between. A few light flurries developed during the late morning of the 1st, with clear skies quickly following. This was on the heels of another storm system that moved by just a little too far to our north to have much of impact on the Palmer Divide.

Behind that system, clear and quiet weather moved in under a ridge of high pressure. This led to highs reaching into the upper 50s and low 60s. Cool conditions, with low clouds and fog, moved back in behind a cold front on the 4th. Highs were held in the 30s that afternoon, and many areas up in the trees received a nice coating of rime ice.

As is typical in November, normally one of our driest months of the year, the first full week of the month, was, well, dry. After a brief taste of winter on the 4th and 5th, sunshine was abundant, with temperatures hovering from normal to warmer than normal levels. The warmest day was the 8th, when west/southwest winds helped highs reach into the mid-60s. Overnight lows started off on the chilly side to start the week, hitting the low teens and up-

per single digits on the mornings of the 5th and 6th.

It was another dry and mild week from the 11th through the 17th. High temperatures were consistently at or above average for the week with the exception of Sunday. Highs reached into the 50s for the most part, reaching as high as the low 60s on the 13th. A storm system out of the Pacific Northwest affected the state over the week-end. The path of this storm meant snow and wind for the mountains, but just wind for us. As the storm passed by, a quick shot of snow fell on the evening of the 16th, and the cooler air behind the storm kept temperatures slightly below normal on Sunday the 17th.

Winter finally made a sustained appearance just before Thanksgiving, with a strong cold front moving through just after midnight on the 21st. Temperatures cooled significantly that morning and through the afternoon, ending up 20 to 30 degrees cooler than the previous few days. Snow developed as well, with 2 to 3 inches accumulating around the region. Light snow stuck around through the morning of the 21st, and the cold air stayed in place. High temperatures only reached the low 30s on the afternoon of the 22nd and 23rd.

The region was dry on the 23rd before the rest of the storm moved through over the next couple of days. As the storm moved over Colorado on the 24th and 25th, areas of light snow and snow showers developed each day. Another

inch of snow accumulated over the two-day period and temperatures stayed below normal, as highs struggled to hit the 30s each day.

Quiet and sunny conditions then moved in behind this departing storm for the remainder of the month. Sunshine helped temperatures rebound to normal and slightly above normal over the next few days, ranging from 38°F on the 26th to 54°F on the 29th.

November 2013 Weather Statistics

Average High	48.3° (-0.8°)
100-year return frequency value max	55.5° min 38.5°
Average Low	21.3° (+0.6°)
100-year return frequency value max	27.5° min 14.1°
Monthly Precipitation	0.41" (-0.73")
100-year return frequency value max	3.80" min 0.16"
Monthly Snowfall	5.5" (-4.1")
Highest Temperature	65° on the 8th
Lowest Temperature	6° on the 21st
Season to Date Snow	10.1" (-13.4")
	(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)
Season to Date Precip.	12.90" (+2.95")
	(the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)
Heating Degree Days	906 (+6)
Cooling Degree Days	0 (0)

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Letters to Our Community

Guidelines for letters to the editor are on page 31.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in Letters to Our Community should not be interpreted as the view of OCN even if the letter writer is an OCN volunteer.

Share your vision for local trails, sidewalks

Like many of you, I bicycled or walked to school almost every day until my junior year of high school when it wasn't cool" anymore—even in Wisconsin. For most students in D-38, that's not a safe option. But what if it were? We'd have healthier kids, less congestion on roads before and after school, plus more time and less stress for overscheduled parent-chauffeurs.

Recently, residents had the chance to share their vision for improved trails and sidewalks for the Tri-Lakes region. Only 30 people attended the "Walk Bike Connect," PPACG's regional non-motorized transportation meeting held in Monument in November. But you'll get another chance. Public comments are welcome at <http://www.walkbikeconnect.org>. Another public meeting will be held in our area next spring. Perhaps a few elected officials and community leaders will attend.

We all need to weigh in. If you ride a horse, bicycle or walk/jog, your opinion matters. Where do we need bike lanes? Where does trail connectivity matter most? That wisdom will become our regional roadmap for years to come. The Master Plan will be used as money becomes available. And it'll be up to organizations like mine and trail/sidewalk users like you to demand that public money be spent on these projects as an investment in our region. The squeaky bike wheel almost always gets greased, eventually.

Susan Davies, executive director, Trails and Open Space Coalition and South Woodmoor resident

Personal attacks on Wangeman not helpful

Two weeks ago I attended the November meeting of the D-38 Board of Education to hear former Superintendent Ray Kilmer's acceptance of his installation into the Lewis-Palmer School District Hall of Fame. His remarks were as memorable as the man himself must clearly have been during his active service with the school district.

Less memorable though was a succession of speakers following Ray who paraded to the microphone calling for the resignation of Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman. This display was not at all memorable; it was a travesty.

I have known Ms. Wangeman for many years. From that point to the present I have been highly impressed with her integrity and work ethic. In fact, during my own 34 years of service in the public sector, I have never known a public servant more capable of performing assigned duties, more dedicated to the job and to the organization, or more level-headed in exercising judgment. She is a selfless financial pro, a tireless worker for the benefit of the district, and a walking encyclopedia of district operations. Would that all of my public sector subordinates years ago had exhibited the extraordinary characteristics Cheryl Wangeman brings to the table in abundance.

Rather than taking unfair and inappropriate personal potshots at district employees, wouldn't it be better for these individuals to offer constructive ways for the district to cope with a shrinking set of financial resources? D-38 will need all the help we residents can give it.

Russ Broshous

Another D-38 superintendent search

Here we go again: another Lewis-Palmer School District 38 superintendent search. In the past eight years, this revolving door position has been filled six times and now

Ted Bauman has been chosen again as the interim following the sudden resignation of Mr. Borman, effective Dec. 31. The most recent superintendent search cost the district \$10,000, expended enormous amounts of time for then interim Superintendent Bauman, district personnel, and volunteers from the community to sit on interview committees.

Two of the three finalists brought solid experience at the highest levels of school district administration, while John Borman was a well-liked and seemingly competent principal who had served at Lewis-Palmer High School for several years. In the end, the Board of Education and Bauman hand selected Borman after dismissing most of the committees' input. The board's favorite, Borman, did not even meet the published qualifications and was not the first or second choice for the position by the community committee members, yet the school board members overwhelmingly chose him.

Interestingly, of the three finalists, only Borman said he would support an MLO at that time. Also recall that the primary justification the board members gave in the selection of Borman over two far more experienced finalists was the "he knew the district," which was not one of the published criteria for the position.

Who was it who said, "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result"? Shouldn't the current process include a panel made up of school district patrons who either have proven business, education, or leadership expertise? How will the board redeem themselves and prove to the community that this selection process will indeed honor the voices of diverse community members in this important leadership position?

Stephen Boyd ■

Between The Covers at the Covered Treasures Bookstore

Last-minute gift ideas

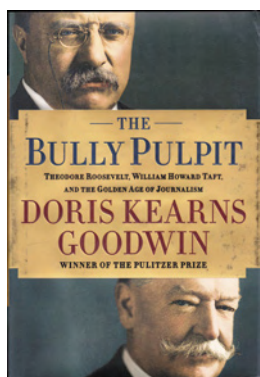
By the staff at Covered Treasures

As the shopping days wind down, are you still looking for the ideal gift for the "hard to buy for" entries on your list? Or do you need some stocking stuffers or hostess gifts? Following are a few unique, new, and interesting titles to consider.

The Bully Pulpit

By Doris Kearns Goodwin (Simon & Schuster) \$40

In her distinctive ability to combine scholarly rigor with accessibility, Goodwin offers a



dynamic history of the Progressive era. The story is told through the intense friendship of Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft—a close relationship that strengthens both men before it ruptures in 1912, when they engage in a brutal fight for the presidential nomination. It is also the story of the muckraking press, which arouses the spirit of reform, and is founded upon a wealth of primary materials, including letters and diaries.

No Plan B

By Mark Kiszla (Taylor Trade Publishing) \$22.95

On the practice field, Peyton Manning can be a perfectionist, while on the team plane he becomes a comedian who has teammates rolling in the aisles. To get inside football's most beautiful mind, Kiszla takes readers from

raucous locker rooms to quiet film rooms for a behind-the-scenes look at Manning's release from the Colts and his remarkable revival with the Broncos. New details emerge, such as whom, among the management team, first suggested that the Broncos recruit Manning after this celebrated MVP was cut by Indianapolis.

One Summer

By Bill Bryson (Doubleday) \$28.95

Charles Lindbergh became the first man to cross the Atlantic by plane nonstop and became the most famous person on the planet. Babe Ruth began his assault on the home run record, and Al Capone tightened his grip on the illegal booze business. All this and more transpired in the epochal summer of 1927, which Bryson describes in nar-