

sioners (BOCC) in January.

Referring to current development, Vierzba noted that although the Pilot Travel Center (PTC) was approved by the town of Monument in September, the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) actually owns that section of Baptist Road west of I-25; therefore, PTC must also receive CDOT approval. See [www.ocn.me/v17n10.htm#mbot](http://www.ocn.me/v17n10.htm#mbot).

### Regular business items addressed

Member-at-large Mike Aspenson announced that NEPCO Director of Community Outreach Jennifer Cunningham recently resigned to pursue a business startup. He opened the annual election explaining that all five spots on the Board of Directors were available. No one self-nominated, and the membership voted to elect the current directors for another two-year term.

Robert Swedenburg reported that NEPCO now

consists of 41 HOA members and 8,806 homes.

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The next NEPCO meeting is scheduled for Jan. 13, 2018, from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Monument Town Hall conference room, located at 645 Beacon Lite Rd, off Highway 105.

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## Woodmoor Improvement Association Board of Directors, Nov. 15 Board reports current highlights

By Jackie Burhans

The Woodmoor Improvement Association (WIA) board met on Nov. 15, providing highlights of current business. Board members Brian Bush, Jennifer Cunningham, and Lee Hanson were absent.

### Board report highlights

- The 2018 budget is posted on the website along with past years at <http://bit.ly/wia-budget>.
- There will be an ice carving demonstration in front of Gallery 132, next to the Coffee Cup, on Dec. 9 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- WIA is running at 3.5 percent under budget and has 56 unpaid accounts.

- There were 16 HOA violations in October, with five being scheduled for hearings.
- Year-to-date there have been 646 projects submitted with a 98.3 percent approval rate.
- Woodmoor Public Safety (WPS) notes that holiday mail and packages should be retrieved as soon as possible and encourages email notifications for package delivery.
- WPS is seeing an increase in coyote sightings. Information and reporting on coyotes and other wildlife can be found on <http://bit.ly/wps-wildlife> at the bottom of the page.
- The Governance tab on the website has been

changed to read "Covenants."

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The WIA Board of Directors usually meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Barn at 1691 Woodmoor Drive, Monument. The next meeting be on Dec. 13 due to the holidays.

The WIA calendar can be found at <https://www.woodmoor.org/wia-calendar/>. WIA board meeting minutes can be found at <https://www.woodmoor.org/meeting-minutes/> once approved and posted.

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## November Weather Wrap

By Bill Kappel

It was a warm and dry November around the region, much like last year. Temperatures averaged nearly 10°F above normal, an amazing departure from normal. This also resulted in several days of record high temperatures. We did get a couple brief visits from winter weather, but these were short-lived and didn't produce enough moisture to get us above normal levels for the month.

The first week of the month saw temperatures 5 to 10 degrees above average with highs in the mid-50s to low 60s. Gusty winds held temperatures warm at night as well, with lows only reaching the low 40s on the 1st and 4th.

A quick-moving cold front moved through late on the 6th and kept highs below freezing on the 7th. Areas of flurries and freezing drizzle developed, with mainly cloudy skies and areas of fog on the 7th through the 9th. About an inch of snow fell during the period, but never caused any problems as it was spread out over days and was generally very light.

Temperatures warmed to the low 60s over the next couple of days, with mainly clear skies. Slightly cooler air arrived on the 15th, but this only resulted in 40s for highs versus the 60s the previous couple of days, which was still above average. The same pattern happened over the next couple days, with 60s return-

ing on the 16th and 17th, then a return of cooler air on the 18th. However, this shot of cooler air was accompanied by more moisture.

The cold front moved through around 6 p.m. on the 18th, with clouds quickly filling in behind the front. Light rain quickly changed to snow that evening, producing 1-3 inches of snow before midnight. But this was another quick-moving storm, with clear skies returning by early the next morning. This allowed for chilly temperatures that morning, but the sunshine also allowed highs to reach the low 50s that afternoon. Highs again reached the low 60s on the 20th before yet another quick-moving cold front brought brief snow showers the morning of the 21st.

High pressure from the west moved in and strengthened over the next few days and highs soared into the 60s and low 70s, peaking on the 27th. The month ended with a couple quick-moving cold fronts, which kept temperatures at more normal levels. The first front raced through around 1 a.m. on the 28th, leaving behind some low clouds in the morning and temperatures that were about 30 degrees colder than the day before. Conditions were sunny and quiet on the 29th, before a final cold front moved in on the 30th, knocking temperatures back to normal levels.

### A look ahead

In December, daytime highs often stay below freez-

ing and overnight lows can drop well below zero. The month is generally dry, however, with several light, fluffy snowfalls. Gusty winds are also a common nuisance during the month. A white Christmas is fairly common for the area, with either snow on the ground or a snowfall on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Let's hope the pattern shifts from the dry, mild conditions we saw during fall and we start getting some much-needed moisture.

### November 2017 Weather Statistics

Average High	57.4° (+8.8°)
100-year return frequency value max	55.5° min 38.5°
Average Low	30.0° (+9.7°)
100-year return frequency value max	27.5° min 14.1°
Monthly Precipitation	0.41" (-0.18")
100-year return frequency value max	3.80" min 0.16"
Monthly Snowfall	3.7" (-7.1")
Highest Temperature	71° on the 27th
Lowest Temperature	16° on the 18th
Season to Date Snow	7.8" (-14.0")
<i>(the snow season is from Oct 1 to Sept 30)</i>	
Season to Date Precip.	0.88" (-1.54")
<i>(the precip season is from Oct 1 to Sept 30)</i>	
Heating Degree Days	640 (-226)
Cooling Degree Days	0 (0)

Bill Kappel is a meteorologist and Tri-Lakes resident. He can be reached at [billkappel@ocn.me](mailto:billkappel@ocn.me).

## 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 views of OCN even if the letter writer is an OCN volunteer.

### A better way for health care

First, I am a fiscal conservative. I hate waste and stupidity. I was senior management for most of my life and then both my wife and I owned our own businesses. We know what it's like to make payroll and build a business. The hours are long and the decisions are often tough.

Now, Bernie Sanders made a big point of pushing a "health care for all" in the 2016 election. As one would expect, there was a lot of pushback from Congress. "How would this be paid for? This is just another example of runaway socialism."

I'm going to skip past the politics and just go to the facts. The World Health Organization has two interesting stats, both published in 2016. First is the ranking of world healthcare systems, where the U.S. ranks 37th (No. 36 is Costa Rica). Second is life expectancy, where the U.S. ranks 31st (and Costa Rica again outranks us at No. 30).

OK, let's look at spending per capita. According to the 2016 report by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), we spend an average of \$9,024 per person. France (which has the No. 1 healthcare system), Germany, Canada, UK, and Japan are all spending less than half what we

spend—and all have better results.

What if all the money that is paid into health insurance companies by businesses, local, state and federal governments and individuals was instead paid into a general medical insurance fund? The probable result would be lower costs, better care, and longer life.

I know this sounds like a crazy leftwing idea, but if it saves money and produces a better outcome for Americans, it might be worth thinking about.

**Kent Jarnig**

### Too much speeding on I-25

What is going on? While most drivers on I-25 between Castle Rock and the Springs drive at or around the speed limit, some number of them wildly flaunt the limit. When on I-25, I try to drive at the posted speed limit, and observe that many other drivers are doing the same. At the same time, however, other drivers pass us, sometimes going at least 85 mph. Do

they not care, do they not recognize that their disregard for safe driving puts them and others at risk of a serious crash? It seems that not a day goes by without my receiving an email from CDOT about a crash on I-25 between Monument and Castle Rock.

What then can we law-abiding citizens do? As far as I can tell, one reasonable and simple action is to tell our elected officials and law enforcement officers that we will not stand by and allow these unsafe drivers to continue their reckless disregard of traffic laws. Personally, I have written a letter to *The Gazette* (it was published), and have corresponded with the Colorado State Police (response: not enough troopers).

I can't help but wonder what the response would be if we all, or least a great number of us, wrote or called and demanded better enforcement of our traffic laws? Perhaps nothing, perhaps something. It's at least worth a try.

**Ross Meyer** ■

Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

## Books for the discerning reader

By the staff at Covered Treasures

"You can make positive deposits in your own economy every day by reading and listening to powerful, positive, life-changing content and by associating with encouraging and hope-building people."—Zig Ziglar

Here are a few suggestions of some great books for the discerning readers on your holiday list: