

November Weather Wrap

November was much colder than normal overall, with about normal precipitation. A record cold arctic air outbreak helped to push temperatures well below average for the month, with mild air and windy conditions to end the month. Unfortunately, we just missed out on the higher amounts of snowfall with each storm that moved through, with the heaviest snow falling just a 100 miles or so north and south of us each time.

November started off about as expected with mild and breezy conditions on the 1st and 2nd to low clouds, fog, and a few surries on the 3rd. Temperatures reached into the mid-60s with westerly winds on the 1st, about 10° warmer than normal. The cold that moved in behind the departing storm early on the 3rd kept temperatures in the 30s and 40s that afternoon. This storm just missed us, moving about 100 miles too far north to really have a big effect on us. Keep in mind, November is typically our driest month, with plenty of days with gusty winds as we transition from fall into winter.

A record cold air mass moved in during the second week of the month. The initial cold front moved through around 11a.m. on the 10th. Temperatures were mild ahead of the front, reaching the upper 50s to low 60s that morning. This air mass was directly from arctic regions, as the temperature drop showed. By 5 p.m. that evening, we were at 11°F, a drop of 50°F in six hours.

Cold air continued to pour in from the north over the next few days, which allowed record levels to be reached. The high temperature on the 11th reached 17°F before an even colder push moved in. Temperatures continued to slowly fall that afternoon, reaching the low single digits by midnight. Temperatures continued to fall through that morning, with that 2°F temperature becoming the warmest we would see until the afternoon of the 13th. Temperatures reached into the teens below zero before midnight of the 12th and stayed cold through the 13th. The high on

the afternoon of the 13th only reached 9°F.

The cold air mass finally began to move out of the region to the east on the 14th. Highs that afternoon reached the upper 40s, reaching above freezing for the first time around 9:30 a.m. on the 14th—that's almost four days below freezing. It was very unusual, because we normally rebound pretty quickly along the Front Range as westerly winds generally kick out the cold air within a day or two. Also unusual was the time of year this air arrived—pretty early compared to normal. In fact, several record low maximum highs and record low temperatures were set all along the Front Range.

Snowfall was minimal, with most areas around the Palmer Divide accumulating 2-3 inches during the cold snap. Heavier snowfall occurred on the west side of Colorado Springs, down through Pueblo and southern Colorado and up in the foothills west of Boulder and Fort Collins.

The brief warm-up on the 14th was short-lived however, as another cold front moved through on the morning of the 17th. This air mass wasn't quiet as cold but still much colder than normal for mid-November. Temperatures were in the single digits above and below zero from the 14th through the 18th, with another 1-2 inches of snowfall accumulating on the 15th. The cold patter finally broke on the 18th, with highs reaching normal levels and slightly above by the 20th. High temperatures climbed through the mid-40s on the 18th, the upper 40s on the 20th and 21st, peaking out in the mid-50s on the 22nd.

As usual however, the warmest temperatures occurred on the west/southwesterly winds ahead of the next cold front. This cold front moved through during the early morning hours of Sunday the 23rd, with snow filling in quickly. By sunrise that morning, another 1-2 inches of snow had fallen. Cold air and a strong northerly

ow continued to affect the region through that evening, and this allowed another band of snow to develop that afternoon. This brief but heavy snowfall capped things off with another 2 inches of snow, making for a slippery commute that evening.

Temperatures warmed slowly over the last week of the month, starting with highs in the low 40s on the 25th and 26th, then warming quickly over the next few days. Highs reached the upper 50s to low 60s from the 27th through the 29th as mild air moved in from the west. Winds also kicked up at times over the last few days of the month. A final cold front then moved through during the early afternoon of the 30th. The cold air with this front was very shallow, however, so the air mass slowly progressed from the lower elevation to the top of the Palmer Divide, with the highest elevations feeling the cold last. Low clouds filled in behind this front and a few surries fell to end the month.

November 2014 Weather Statistics

Average High	46.1° (-2.9°)
100-year return frequency value max	55.5° min 38.5°
Average Low	16.0° (-4.7°)
100-year return frequency value max	27.5° min 14.1°
Monthly Precipitation	0.41" (-0.20")
100-year return frequency value max	3.80" min 0.16"
Monthly Snowfall	7.9" (-1.3")
Highest Temperature	66° on the 1st and 9th
Lowest Temperature	-15° on the 13th
Season to Date Snow	9.0" (-13.4")
	(the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)
Season to Date Precip.	10.74" (+0.52")
	(the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)
Heating Degree Days	1019 (+6)
Cooling Degree Days	0 (0)

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Letters to Our Community

Guidelines for letters to the editor are on page 35. Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in Letters to Our Community should not be interpreted as the views of OCN even if the letter written is an OCN volunteer

Firefighter frustrated with OEM move

I'm a former firefighter who attended the first two Board of Commissioners hearings on the rushed and hurried transfer of the Office of Emergency Management from the Sheriff's Office to the county organizational structure.

Commissioner Littleton was the only to vote against this short-noticed and highly-controlled process and decision of cramming the system into the organizational chart

and then trying to scratch up a budget for what they were trying to pull off.

Any public comments were limited to three minutes, which frustrated us all, including the sheriff's emergency commander who was working with Sheriff-elect Bill Elder and a historic goodwill transition team of law enforcement, fire service and citizens' preparation groups, poised to move out and fix the broken system as close to the best as we would ever get.

Of course, all the county bureaucracy reps were given as much time to speak as they needed after the decision was made and our three minutes were so quickly spent. This was called a "working group," by the way, and they were the operators who worked it all while we were fast-tracked.

In light of the way all this was handled, I ask, "Which

disaster preparation group had the truest goodwill and the single mindedness to do the most effective job for us all?"

I made certain to let the board and those officials and citizens in the gallery know that no amount of hurried and mysterious reshuffling will ever create an environment of trust, functionality and hope for us all.

I also indicated that the fire service members in this county are not at all happy to have their leader, Bill Elder, removed from the emergency management responsibilities and sponsorship of their collaborative efforts.

Firefighters know best who they can trust and work with, and this county board will have a hard pull to gain the goodwill, openness, and trust that Bill Elder has gotten from the fire chiefs.

Robert Unger □

Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

Great gift books for children

By the Staff of Covered Treasures Bookstore

These enchanting new books are sure to bring smiles to the children in your life. Why not add a few to your Christmas list?

Everything I Need To Know About Christmas I Learned From a Little Golden Book

By Diane Muldrow (Random House) \$9.99

This Little Golden Book—for both adults and children—looks beyond the holiday traffic, hordes of visiting relatives, and excessive spending and eating to return to the simple joys of the season and the true meaning of Christmas.



The Fabulous World of Mr. Fred

By Lil Chartrand (Fitzhenry & Whiteside) \$10.95

Mr. Fred was Pierrot's first real friend. Every day, they sat together on a park bench and read from Mr. Fred's invisible book—tales of mermaids and dragons—that he had shared many years ago with his son. One day, Mr. Fred isn't on their park bench anymore, but Pierrot discovers that all of his stories have been written down. Now, as a grown man, Pierrot takes his son on those same amazing adventures.

My New Friend Is So Fun!

By Mo Willems (Hyperion Books) \$8.99

Old friends Gerald the Elephant and Piggie are back for another "teaching moment." Gerald is careful. Piggie is not. Gerald worries so that Piggie does not have to. Gerald and Piggie are best friends. Brian Bat and Snake are also best friends. But what happens if one of the best friends finds a new friend?

Blizzard

By John Rocco (Hyperion Books) \$17.99

One winter day it started to snow, and it did not stop until

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