Recently, local marijuana wholesalers sent mail requesting the citizens of Palmer Lake to vote “yes” for petitioned items 300 and 301 in the November election. Please! Before you vote, read this letter.

The petitioners only have listed one way to protect our children from the increased availability of MJ in our town. It could give one MJ recreational retail store in Palmer Lake a monopoly. This could mean lawsuits against Palmer Lake from other people who want to open an MJ retail store, too.

In 2014, the Palmer Lake voters declared a moratorium on any voting on establishment of recreational marijuana store(s) in Palmer Lake for three years. That vote passed by 710-634. This petition seeks to nullify that vote for people who want to open an MJ retail store, too.

The federal government says sales of recreational MJ are illegal. The petitioners say the taxes they pay will help fund our town’s needs. Do we really want a major tax contributor in Palmer Lake to be a seller of drugs that are illegal under federal law? If you pass it, then they could become the only recreational retailer between Manitou Springs and Denver. Think about that. What negative impacts can you see for our small town?

The petitioners only have listed one way to protect our children from the increased availability of MJ in our town and that would be to sell the MJ and its products in “childproof containers.” Teenagers are also our children!

The petitioners have no way to control who ends up using the products. Legal selling falls under the umbrella of town government and could be very hard and expensive to control.

Bob Mush

A thank you and a clarification

Thank you to Janet Sellers in her October OCY High Altitude Natural Gardening article for addressing the efforts that have been made toward noxious weeds eradication. I tend to obsess on noxious weeds, sharing bits of information regarding every plant I see. In the reservoir trailhead area, knapweed flower head weevils and root weevils are doing an exceptional job eradicating knapweed. The seed in the area is not to be consumed. They are migrating to other knapweed areas that are calling for their assistance. Knapweed is allopathic, exuding a toxic substance which inhibits growth of other surrounding plants. It is spread primarily by seed which is estimated to be viable for five or more years. The larva stage of the flower head weevil consumes the seeds, thereby diminishing the seed bank. The root weevils weaken the plant by feeding on the roots. Bouncing bet, Canada thistle, Common tansy, Leafy spurge, and Toad flax, also noxious weeds, are spread by rhizomatous root systems, as well as seed, making them difficult to eradicate. Seeds of Common mullen, another Colorado noxious weed, are viable for 100 years. All noxious weeds are non-native plants which produce thousands of seeds, allowing them to aggressively invade and diminish native ecosystems and biodiversity, are harmful or poisonous to humans and animals, and they increase wildlife potential as ground and ladder fuels. (Poson by ivy is a native plant, therefore is not a noxious plant.) Thanks to everyone who has joined in this effort to protect our native biodiversity by eradication noxious weeds. Additional information is available from the Colorado Department of Agriculture and Colorado Weed Management Association. The El Paso County guide to Identification and Control of Noxious Weeds is available in limited quantity at the Palmer Lake Post Office, town office, and library. We can be contacted at phloxiousweeds@comcast.net. Phyllis Head

Vote on principle

In this election, the fate of the Supreme Court and our constitution is in the balance. It is not an issue to be taken lightly, and I urge you to cast a vote. The Supreme Court is the final arbiter of our laws, and its decisions can have a profound impact on our daily lives. I urge you to vote based on the principles that are important to you. Do you believe in the right of privacy? Do you support the right to abortion? Do you support the right to same-sex marriage? Do you believe in the right to bear arms? These are just a few of the issues that will be decided by the Supreme Court in the next term.

I know that some people are concerned about the political process and the role of money in politics. I understand these concerns, but I believe that it is important to have an informed electorate. I urge you to research the candidates and their platforms, and to make an informed decision based on your own values and beliefs. If you are unsure about a particular issue, I encourage you to reach out to your Senators or Representatives and ask for their input.

I believe that the Supreme Court is an institution that is vital to the functioning of our democracy. It is up to each of us to ensure that it continues to serve as an independent and impartial arbiter of the law. I urge you to use your vote to support our Constitution and to ensure that the Supreme Court remains a guardian of our freedoms.

Tammy John •

Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

New and exciting titles from our regional trade show

By the staff at Covered Treasures

Every year we look forward to the fall and winter new releases at the Mountains and Plains Booksellers trade show. We meet authors, talk with both publishers and authors about their new releases, and we select those that might be of interest to our customers. We’re excited to share some of our finds with you.

First, the three winners of the Reading the West Book Awards:

Ladies of the Canyons: A League of Extraordinary Women and Their Adventures in the American Southwest by Lesley Poling-Kempes (The University of Arizona Press) $24.95

The true story of a group of remarkable women whose lives were transformed by the people and landscape of the American Southwest in the first decades of the 20th century. They met their matches with the likes of Theodore Roosevelt, Charles Lummis, Chief Tawakapiwoki of the Hopi, and Hostin Klah of the Navajo. It’s the story of the personal challenges experienced by women and men during the emergence of the Modern Age.

A Series of Small Maneuvers by Elliot Treichel (Ooligan Press at Portland State University) $14.95

For 15-year-old Emma Wilson, everything is changing. For 15-year-old Emma Wilson, everything is changing. Uncomfortable at home and in school, Emma’s growing accident that kills her father on a spring break canoe trip meant to bring them closer together. Suddenly, Emma’s efforts to reconcile must happen without him, and she must confront her guilt and her grief to begin moving forward.

Black River by S.M. Hulce (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) $14.95

Wes Carver returns to his hometown—Black River, Mont.—with two things: his wife’s ashes and a letter from the parole board. The convict who once held him hostage during a prison riot is up for release. For years, Wes earned his living as a corrections officer and found his joy playing the fiddle. But the events of that book Wes’s faith and robbed him of his music; now he must decide if his attacker should walk free. S.M. Hulce shows us the heart and darkness of an American town, and one man’s struggle to find forgiveness in the wake of evil.

My Beer Year: Adventures with Hop Farmers, Craft Brewers, Chefs, Beer Sommeliers, and Fanatical Drinkers as a Beer Master in Training by Lucy Burningham (Roost Books) $16.95

As a journalist and beer enthusiast, Lucy Burningham made it her career to write about craft beer, visiting as many taprooms, breweries, and festivals as possible. She decided to make it her goal to become a certified beer expert. As Lucy studies and sips her way to becoming a Certified Cicerone, she meets an ecletic cast of characters, including brewers, hop farmers, beer sommeliers, pub owners, and beer-drinkers. Her journey into the world of beer is turns educational, social, and personal—just as enjoying a good beer should.

Rich People Behaving Badly by Dick Kreck (Fulcrum Publishing) $16.95

Take a trip back in time to revel in the scandal, murders, infidelities, financial misdeeds, and just plain bad behavior from Colorado’s past. Former Denver Post reporter Dick Kreck looks back at Colorado’s history and shows that the foibles of people—rich or poor—remain the same. Included are socialites such as Louise Sneed Hill, who wasrioed and ruled over Denver’s Circle of Society; Jane Tomberlin, who met and fell in love with a “prince” in an elevator at the Brown Palace Hotel; Irene Nolte, who cavorted late into the night with the city’s biggest priest; and prominent Denver clubman Courtland Dines, who was wounded during a frolic with two silent-screen stars in his Hollywood apartment.

I Wish My Teacher Knew: How One Question Can Change Everything for Our Kids

By Kyle Schwartz (Da Capo Lifelong Books) $19.99

Kyle’s book tells the story of the 1st Wish My Teacher Knew movement, with dozens of students’ handwritten emotion-al and insightful responses throughout. Kyle shares real stories from students, teachers, and family members that shed light on how we can help students tackle challenges and grow as individuals. She shares strategies that can work in classrooms across America, presenting a prac-tical guide to adapt the Wish My Teacher Knew exercise to suit any classroom’s needs or educator’s teaching style.

Stop by and browse through our new selections. Choose some to enjoy yourself during these cool fall nights, or bring some to enjoy yourself during these cool fall nights, or find some to give as gifts for the readers on your list. Until next month, happy reading.

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