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.

Retaliation for report of illegal activity
I have served the citizens of Palmer Lake as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) with the Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department since mid-June 2015. The fact that Palmer Lake Fire Department has had so many chiefs in just a few years is testament to the dysfunction between the town and the Fire Department.

Serving as the Emergency Medical Services coordinator for Fire Department, I became aware of serious problems affecting our ability to provide emergency medical services to the citizens of Palmer Lake. I reported those problems to the fire chiefs. I discovered that a member of the Fire Department had been serving for more than a year as an EMT, but was not licensed to do so in Colorado. This is practicing medicine without a license in the State of Colorado. After being directly asked by our Penrose Hospital medical direction (they are responsible for all EMS activities in Palmer Lake) about whether anyone was practicing medicine without a license, I confirmed that there was an individual who had been running calls as an EMT who was not licensed in Colorado to do so.

Two days after an urgent meeting requested by the Penrose medical director with members of the Town Council and the Fire Department, I was summarily asked by the Fire Department chiefs to resign. This request was direct retaliation for embarrassing the town and Fire Department by reporting an unlicensed person performing as an EMT. I never was given an opportunity to present my side of the situation to anyone at the town or the Fire Department.

The action of the Town Council and chiefs is unethical. The town and Fire Department chiefs should be held accountable in this matter, but instead they retaliated against me for exposing serious problems to our medical director.

Sharyn Baker

Statement regarding 2015 D-38 school board election
First, I want to thank the more than 8,300 voters who care enough about the future of education in our district to take the time to vote. I also want to thank those who supported me in this election, especially our wonderful and dedicated educators, who are the heart and soul of the Lewis-Palmer School District.

I offer my congratulations to Mark Pfaff, Matt Clawson, Sherrie Hawkins and Sarah Sampayo on their election to the board of education. The re-election of three incumbents makes it clear that the citizens of our community believe that the current board and D-38 Superintendent are doing a superb job and want to continue the tradition of educational excellence that is the hallmark of D-38.

While I’m disappointed in the results personally, I know Sarah also cares about our kids and believe she will work hard to keep D-38 one of the best in the state. I strongly believe D-38 is doing a great job educating our kids and I will continue to be involved in the district as a volunteer. I want to continue all the wonderful, positive things going on in the district and help shape an even better future for D-38. Kris Beasley

Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

Book buzz from the trade show

By the staff at Covered Treasures
Excitement was in the air as Mountains and Plains Booksellers descended upon Denver in October for our annual trade show. This is where authors and publishers showcase their new and noteworthy publications, and we select those that might be of interest to our customers. We’re eager to share a sampling of our discoveries with you.

Furiously Happy: A Funny Book about Horrible Things
By Jenny Lawson (Platium Books) $26.99
A hysterical, ridiculous book about crippling depression and anxiety so hard to understand, so trivial, Lawson explores her lifelong battle with mental illness, this becomes a book about embracing everything that makes us who we are—the beautiful and the flawed—and finding joy in fantastic and outrageous ways. As Jenny’s mom says, ‘Maybe ‘crazy’ isn’t so bad after all.” Sometimes crazy is just right.

The National Parks: An Illustrated History
By Kim Heacox (National Geographic) $30
This stunning book is a lavish celebration of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. The very best of National Geographic’s iconic photographs, combined with an illuminating history, presents a panorama of diverse perspectives on the protected layers of the Grand Canyon to the verdigris flame of the Statue of Liberty.

By Harriet Halbig

November library events

Celebrate National Novel Writing Month
By Harriet Halbig
November is National Novel Writing Month. Come to the library alone or with your friends during several sessions throughout the month and join in the creativity. The community room will be reserved on Thursday, Nov. 12 from 1 to 4; Saturday, Nov. 14 from 12:15 to 1:45; Thursday, Nov. 19 from 2 to 4; Friday, Nov. 20 from 1:30 to 3:30 and Saturday, Nov. 28 from 10 to 1.

No registration is necessary and Wi-Fi is available.

Children’s programs

The Family Fun program for November, on Saturday, Nov. 14 from 2:30 to 4, is the chance to meet local children’s author Amber Isaac and Cody, the Teeny Tiny Alpaca. Amber will share her book about Cody. It is a picture book for children that helps young readers learn about feeling different and the value of being unique.

The Lego Club will meet on Saturday, Nov. 21 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Fourth Fridays’ Kid’s Crafts will be on Friday, Nov. 27 from 4 to 5. This month’s craft is a “What I’m Thankful for Worship” and is recommended for children 5 and up.

By Mary Karr (Harper Collins) $24.99
Mary Karr, author of The Liars’ Club, offers a master class in the essential elements of great memoir—delivered with her signature humor, insight, and candor. Synthesizing her experiences as a writer, reader, and reviewer, and the mechanics and art of memoir that is both irreverent and entertaining. “In some ways,” she says, “writing a memoir is knocking on your own front door, if it’s done right.”

The Life and Times of Gen. Wm. Tecumseh Sherman
By Harriet Halbig

The Anno-