

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.

Derek Araje donates to D38 security

I would like to recognize Derek Araje for his support of Lewis-Palmer District 38. In response to new state laws and student safety concerns, our district has hired former El Paso County Deputy Dennis Coates as chief of Safety and Security. At the December 2016 school board meeting, Araje generously donated a Diamond Membership for Coates at the prestigious Front Sight Firearms Training Institute. This membership entitles him to lifetime training as often as Coates would like to participate. This training will increase his ability to keep our children and staff safe and our district's insurance premiums down. Thank you, Derek, for looking out for our community

and your continuous involvement for the welfare of D38 students.

Bruce Clark

Corporations taking over local veterinary field

I have a concern about the future of our community and the corporation VCA, Veterinary Centers of America. They quietly purchased Front Range Animal Hospital and are attempting to acquire another local veterinary hospital in the area. They have also purchased two private veterinary hospitals in Colorado Springs recently. Now VCA has been purchased by Mars Inc., the candy company. This means VCA, Banfield and Antech Diagnostics are now owned by the same parent company.

VCA's dealings should be known by our community—they approach the owner of a business and offer far above the value of the business. By doing this if one of the practicing veterinarians is interested in purchas-

ing the business, they're unable to compete with VCA; no bank will loan an individual more than the value of the business. Black Forest Veterinary Clinic was also purchased recently by another corporation. The amount of money these corporations offer above the businesses' worth is difficult to resist.

Being part of a small community is wonderful, and I understand we have many corporations in our community, but do not like the way these corporations are taking over the veterinary field. There will only be two private veterinary hospitals left in the Tri-Lakes community, and I would not be surprised if Mars/VCA starts courting them also. Mars Inc. is now under investor investigation for potential wrongdoing regarding the acquisition of VCA Inc.

We can make our voices heard by putting our support and our money behind our local veterinarians.

Name withheld by request ■

Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

Books take to the silver screen

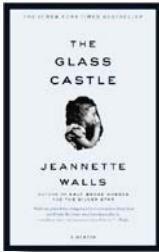
By the staff at Covered Treasures

Several popular books of recent years will be made into major motion pictures in 2017. Read the book, then see the movie!

The Glass Castle

By Jeannette Walls, (Scribner Book Co.) \$17

Walls has written a stunning and life-affirming memoir about surviving a willfully impoverished, eccentric, and severely misguided family. This is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant. The Glass Castle is a memoir permeated by the intense love of a peculiar but loyal family.



The Circle

By Dave Eggers (Vintage Books) \$16

When Mae Holland is hired to work for the Circle, the world's most powerful internet company, she feels she's been given the opportunity of a lifetime. The Circle, run out of a sprawling California campus, links users' personal emails, social media, banking, and purchasing with their universal operating system, resulting in one online identity and a new age of civility and transparency. What begins as the captivating story of one woman's ambition and idealism soon becomes a heart-racing novel of suspense, raising questions about memory, history, privacy, democracy, and the limits of human knowledge.

The Nightingale

By Kristin Hannah, (St. Martin's Press) \$27.99

With courage, grace, and powerful insight, bestselling author Kristin Hannah captures the panorama of World War II and illuminates an intimate part of history seldom seen: the women's war. *The Nightingale* tells the stories of two sisters, separated by years and experiences, by ideals, passion, and circumstance, each embarking on her own dangerous path toward survival, love, and freedom in German-occupied, war-torn France—a heartbreakingly beautiful novel that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the durability of women.

The Goldfinch: A Novel

By Donna Tartt (Back Bay Books) \$20

This novel won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2014. Theo Decker, a 13-year-old New Yorker, miraculously survives an accident that kills his mother. Abandoned by his father, Theo is taken in by the family of a wealthy friend. Bewildered by his strange new home on Park Avenue and tormented with longing for his mother, he clings to the one thing that reminds him of her: a small, mysteriously captivating painting that ultimately draws Theo into the underworld of art. As an adult, Theo moves between the drawing rooms of the rich and the dusty labyrinth of an antiques store where he works. He is alienated and in love—and at the center of a narrowing, ever more dangerous circle.

Looking for Alaska

By John Green (Penguin Books) \$9.99

Miles Halter is fascinated by famous last words and tired of his safe life at home. In boarding school he becomes

encircled by friends whose lives are everything but safe and boring. Their nucleus is a razor-sharp, sexy, and self-destructive Alaska, who has perfected the arts of pranking and evading school rules. When tragedy strikes the close-knit group, Miles discovers the value of living and loving unconditionally.

The Devil in the White City

By Erik Larson (Random House) \$16.95

The story of two men's obsessions with the Chicago World's Fair, one its architect, the other a murderer. *The Devil in the White City* draws the reader into a time of magic and majesty, made more appealing by a supporting cast of real-life characters, including Buffalo Bill, Theodore Dreiser, Susan B. Anthony, Thomas Edison, Archduke Francis Ferdinand, and others.

Rules of Civility

By Amor Towles (Penguin Books) \$17

This novel presents the story of a young woman whose life is on the brink of transformation. On the last night of 1937, 25-year-old Katey is in a second-rate Greenwich Village jazz bar when Tinker Grey, a handsome banker, happens to sit down at the neighboring table. This chance encounter and its startling consequences propel Katey on a year-long journey into the upper echelons of New York society where she will have little to rely upon other than a bracing wit and her own cool nerve. Elegant and captivating, *Rules of Civility* turns an eye on how spur-of-the-moment decisions can define life for decades to come.

Until next month, happy reading.

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

February Library Events

Families can participate in Coloring for Everyone

By Harriet Halbig

Family programs

Come to the library for the Lego Build Club on Saturday, Feb. 18 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Legos and Duplos are provided; just bring your creativity.

Join us on the first Friday of each month for Coloring for Everyone. February's event was held too late for this February issue of OCN. March's theme is Undersea Beauty. Come and relax in the community room from 3:30 to 5:30 on March 3.

On March 2 from 3 to 4:30, we will celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday with the Pi Beta Phi alumnae. Enjoy birthday cake, stories, and Dr. Seuss crafts! All ages are welcome and no registration is necessary.

Teen programs

Join us for a Monument Teen Creative Writing Group for ages 12-18 on the first Wednesday of each month from 6 to 7:30. No registration is required.

On the first and third Wednesdays of each month, an intergenerational knitting group meets in the community room from 3 to 4:30. Practice materials are provided, but attendees are encouraged to bring their own materials. Some instruction is provided for those new to the world of knitting.

The Monument Library Teen Advisory Board will meet in the community room on Friday, Feb. 10 from 4 to 5. Help us plan future events and parties for teens here at the library. Meet us for snacks and conversation. No registration required.

Having trouble with math? Come each Monday from 3:30 to 7 for free math tutoring with AfterMath. Bring your homework and work one-on-one with experienced tutors. No appointment necessary. AfterMath will not be held on Presidents' Day, Feb. 20.

The Teen Arts and Crafts Open Studio will be offered on Wednesday, Feb. 22 from 4 to 6 p.m. Come use our meeting room as space to create. Supplies will be provided as available, however, feel free to bring whatever materials you are currently using and use the space. No registration required.

Adult programs

See above for Coloring for Everyone and intergenerational knitting.

The Second Thursday craft on Feb. 9 from 2 to 4 is Spa Day. Join in preparing two different scrubs, one for lips and one for body. Just the thing to help you through the cold, dry winter months. Registration is required online or at 488-2370.



Above: Ben Roberts of the Black Falcon School of Arms explained armor and weapons at a library program in January. Roberts is being assisted by his squire, Rou Barnett, right, and a young patron. Photo by Harriet Halbig.

Every Thursday, from noon to 1, join Pikes Peak Library District's first established yoga group. All levels of experience welcome. Classes are held following D38's calendar.

The Monumental Readers will meet from 10 to noon