

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.

County urged to step up efforts against gangs

In February, the El Paso County Sheriff's Office Gang Unit gave a presentation on gangs in the local area. With the legalization of marijuana in Colorado, gangs from all over America and Mexico are moving here to set up profitable trades of diverted marijuana for opioids. Because of geography with I-25 running from Mexico to Canada, the gangs find it very profitable to operate in Colorado Springs and the surrounding areas. I-25 pro-

vides a cheap and convenient highway to move drugs. With the increase in gang members, they also engage in other crimes. To avoid scrutiny, gang members will often locate to smaller communities where law enforcement lacks the people and specialized resources to address gangs.

The El Paso County Commissioners are unwilling to fund, to staff, and to provide the resources for a fully functional gang unit. Similarly, the Colorado Springs City Council disbanded the CSPD gang unit. Typically, an 80/20 rule applies where 20 percent of the criminals commit 80 percent of the crimes. If law enforcement focused on the top 20 percent of hardened criminals, you could see a dramatic reduction in crime. Gang units can

use mapping software to document links between gangs, and it is often highly effective to break up critical links within gangs and between gangs, making them less profitable and less effective.

The El Paso County Sheriff's Office has excellent software to start capturing and mapping links within gangs and between gangs, but the El Paso County Commissioners have not provided the resources or the direction to do that to increase the crime-fighting effectiveness of the El Paso County Sheriff's Office informal gang unit.

None of this is being done.

Richard R. Allen ■

Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

Celebrate dads and grads

By the staff at Covered Treasures

Celebrate dads and grads this month with some great books!

"Any man can be a father, but it takes someone special to be a dad."—Anne Geddes

"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing you can do is keep your mind young."—Mark Twain

The Great Outdoors: A User's Guide: Everything You Need to Know Before Heading into the Wild (And How to Get Back in One Piece)
By Brendan Leonard (Scribner), \$24.95

A thorough guide to your next adventure, covering everything from mountain climbing to skiing, sledding, and sailing. Organized thematically and written in short takeaway entries with line drawings, it provides quick access to the information before and during your adventure. And if the reader finds himself at the point of man vs. nature, he or she will appreciate Leonard's tips on survival skills, including how to bandage a wound, read a topographical map, and how to drive on sand and remove a tick.



The Tug Is the Drug

By Chris Santella (Stackpole Books), \$24.95

These 37 inspirational stories take readers from leaping makos near the fairways of Torrey Pines to midnight Atlantic salmon fishing on the fabled Pono, to encounters with the very friendly mujeres on the streets of Havana—

and even offers an unauthorized (yet unequivocal) account of Bob Dylan's 1970s obsession with fishing.

My Dad Had That Car: A Nostalgic Look at the American Automobile 1920-1990

By Tad Burness (Black Dog & Leventhal Publishers), \$35

Burness provides a unique look at 70 years of automotive ingenuity, with more than 1,300 pages and 12,500 illustrations covering more than 10,000 American automobiles and more than 250 manufacturers. You will find information about original prices, engine sizes, horsepower, and other specifications, including unusual options and differences found within a model.

Originals: How Non-Conformists Move the World

By Adam Grant (Penguin) \$17

Adam Grant explores how individuals can recognize good ideas and speak up without getting silenced, parents can raise creative children, and leaders can build cultures that fight groupthink and promote innovation. Using remarkable studies and stories spanning business, politics, sports, and entertainment, this book offers groundbreaking insights about how we can all become more successful in championing our best ideas.

You Are a Badass at Making Money

By Jen Sincero (Viking), \$25

Sincero breaks down life-changing concepts into bite-size, ready-to-implement advice and exercises that give you the tools to make the kind of money you've never made before and to live the life that's always seemed to be beyond your reach.

Make Your Bed: Little Things That Can Change Your Life and Maybe the World

By Adm. William H. McRaven (Grand Central Publishing), \$18

Adm. McRaven shares the 10 principles he learned dur-

ing Navy SEAL training that helped him overcome challenges not only in his training and long Naval career, but also throughout his life. He explains how anyone can use these basic lessons to change themselves and the world for the better. This timeless book provides simple wisdom, practical advice, and words of encouragement that will inspire readers to achieve more, even in life's darkest moments.

Smarter Faster Better: The Transformative Power of Real Productivity

By Charles Duhigg (Random House), \$17

Duhigg provides eight key concepts, cutting-edge research, and case studies from the experiences of CEOs, educational reformers, four-star generals, FBI agents, airplane pilots, Broadway songwriters, and more, that can help us become smarter, faster, and better at everything we do.

Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI

By David Grann (Doubleday), \$28.95

In the 1920s, the richest people per capita in the world were members of the Osage Indian nation in Oklahoma after oil was discovered beneath their land. Then, one by one, the Osage began to be killed off, and many of those who dared to investigate the killings were also murdered. It was one of the FBI's first major homicide cases, but the bureau badly bungled the investigation. In desperation, the young director, J. Edgar Hoover, turned to former Texas Ranger Tom White, who put together an undercover team. Together with the Osage they began to expose one of the most chilling conspiracies in American history.

Until next month, happy reading.

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

June Library Events

Summer Adventure begins

By Harriet Halbig

The Pikes Peak Library District's summer reading program, Summer Adventure, kicks off on June 1 and continues through the end of July. This year's program consists of many activities in addition to reading, with a variety of online badges and the final prize of a book for younger patrons and a T-shirt for teens. You can register online at ppld.beanstack.org and begin right now.

As in the past, we will have enthusiastic teen volunteers on hand to help you register and record your progress, as well as many special programs. Pick up a full list of the special programs at your library and prepare to have an exciting summer!

Adult discussion groups will continue at their regular schedule during the summer, but the yoga and After-Math programs are on hiatus until after Labor Day.

Tuesday morning's Story Times will be replaced by a single program from 10:30 to 11:30 each week.

Children's programs

Each Monday at 2:30, there will be a program for elementary-age kids, including watercolors, pop art, self-portraits and bubble art.

Summer Morning Fun will be held each Tuesday from 10:30 to 11:30. These programs are for all ages and include music, science, yoga, and magic.

Thursdays at 2:30, there will be programs to include painting, a petting zoo, and building a roller coaster maze for a ping pong ball.

A list of all events is available at the library.

Teens and tweens

Tuesday, June 6, from 3:30 to 5, there will be a video game tournament with Wii games and snacks.

That same day, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., will be the monthly Monument Teen Creative Writing Group (ages 12 to 18), where you are welcome to share your interest in writing with others.

Wednesday, June 14, will be Teen Movie Night (ages 12 and up) from 6:30 to 9.

See the list at the library for other special teen events.

Adult programs

An intergenerational knitting group will meet on June 7 and 21 from 3 to 4:30. Practice materials are provided, but patrons are encouraged to bring their current project. Some instruction provided for those new to the art



Above: Annika, left, and Adriana Pogar enjoyed the Tea for All Ages on May 13, sponsored by the Tri-Lakes Friends of the Library. Photo by Harriet Halbig.