

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

Thanks to a true angel

I was involved in a two-car accident on Jackson Creek Parkway and Baptist Road on July 28 around 12:45 p.m. The other car involved ran a red light westbound, my car being northbound, and my car was devastated by crash. I would like to thank the young lady by the name of Kelly who pulled up behind my car, put her ashers on, and came to my aid giving me moral support until the firemen and police arrived. Kelly is a true angel—only having lived in this area for the past year. My husband was home alone, totally disabled and I had gone to get him lunch as we had just been referred to a hospice that morning for his future care. Kelly made sure she stayed with me, called a friend of mine on my cell phone to let her know the situation, and made sure the firemen knew our address to come and assist my husband. I continued on to the hospital via ambulance for checkup care. I am happy to say I came home that evening.
Thank you for your help, Kelly.
Jan from Monument
Support Sampayo for school board
Sarah Sampayo is a parent, attorney, a tireless advocate for kids' privacy and protection, and a candidate for the D-38 School Board. Thanks to her presence at the State

Capitol, helping to write legislation with state Rep. Paul Lundeen, our kids in this district were not subjected to the sexually intrusive and biased Healthy Kids Survey. Sarah brought this issue to the attention of our board and superintendent, applying pressure until our district opted out of the survey.
Sarah has testified at the state Legislature, written letters to every legislator and superintendent in the state, and challenged the state attorney general on several points of law to protect our children and provide for an education environment that benefits them versus transforming them into social experiments. Sarah has exhibited the kind of informed leadership we need on the school board. As parents ourselves, we have been surprised by the board's lack of knowledge and leadership regarding some issues critical to our children, including Common Core, privacy for children's data, and even the proposed methadone clinic in Monument. It is parents who have brought these issues to the board and to our community; the board looked to the parents to lead on these issues as opposed to taking leadership themselves.
Sarah is one of the parents who has done her research, educated our board and administration, and held them accountable. Let's put her on the board to inform and lead on these important issues. She has proved a knowledgeable and committed advocate for the protection of our children. She deserves your vote this November. Local politics matter!
Dennis and Diana Helffenstein

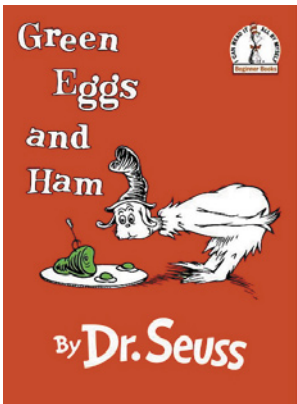
Vote for four school board candidates
This coming November, there will be four School Board seats open. I am running for another term as are two other current school board members. I believe our school board has shown its dedication to our community and our kids. I'm proud of our many awards and recognitions received over the years for our high student achievement. We even have the highest graduation rate in the state! Along with high academics, we have also maintained a balanced budget, increased our reserves, and paid off all operational debt. Many individuals move to this area because of our community values and great schools. Not only do our schools provide a great education, but they support a strong community.
I hope you will join me in continuing our "Tradition of Excellence" at Lewis-Palmer. I have chosen to run with individuals (two current board members) whom I support. We do not all share the same ideas or views, but we share the same goals and values; putting our kids first and preserving our tradition of educational excellence.
The others joining me are Kris Beasley, Matthew Clawson, and Sherri Hawkins. Between us we have nine kids in the district, so we have a vested interest in the success of our schools.
Our community is one of the best places to raise a family and to retire. I love our community and would like to see our "small town" traditions and values continue.
I hope we can count on your vote this November.
Mark Pfoff

Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

Read aloud to children for success

By the staff at Covered Treasures
"Reading to children even before they can understand words, teaches them to associate books with love and affection."—Apples to teacher.com
Reading aloud to children from birth to school age is a win-win situation. These children are more likely to succeed in school and in life, and there's nothing quite like the bond a caring adult forms while sharing a book with a child. From old favorites to some inviting new offerings, there are many "read aloud" books to choose from.

Green Eggs and Ham
By Dr. Seuss (Random House) \$8.99
As Sam I Am tries to convince a grouchy character that green eggs and ham are a real delicacy, children will delight in the repetition and the exciting places—from a box to a car to train and a tree and a boat. "You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book, and read to a child."—Dr. Seuss



If You Give a Mouse a Cookie
By Laura Numeroff; illustrated by Felicia Bond (Harper Collins) \$16.99
The consequences of giving a cookie to an energetic mouse can run a boy ragged, but young readers will come away smiling at the antics that tumble like dominoes through the

pages of this delightful picture book. The mouse will ask for a glass of milk to go with the cookie, and then he'll ask for a mirror to make sure he doesn't have a milk mustache, and then he'll ask for a pair of scissors to give himself a trim—and on and on it goes.
Are You Ready to Play Outside?
By Mo Willems (Hyperion) \$8.99
When Piggie and Gerald the Elephant get ready to play outside, rain threatens to spoil their fun. But the friends soon discover that running and jumping and skipping and splashing in the rain can be delightful. (This is one of a series of Elephant and Piggie books, all of which use humor and friendship to address the many moral issues of growing up.)
Again!
By Emily Gravett (Simon & Schuster) \$17.99
It was nearly Cedric's bedtime. He'd had his cookie and milk, brushed his teeth, had a bath and was ready for his mom to read his favorite book. It was about a dragon so much like him that he wanted the book read again, and again, and again. Delightful illustrations make this a fun read-aloud for adults and children alike.

The Little Engine That Could
By Watty Piper; art by Loren Long (Penguin) \$17.99
"I think I can. I think I can," said the Little Blue Engine, and she hitched herself to the little train." In one of the most popular picture books of all time, the happy little train breaks down, and the clown and the elephant are in despair—until the littlest engine of all decides to give them a hand. Over the years, the book's title and refrain

of "I think I can" have become a permanent part of the American vernacular.
Dig Dig Digging
By Margaret Mayo; illustrated by Alex Ayliffe \$17.99
Trucks and tractors, fire engines and helicopters—they all like to work hard. But after a long, happy day of beep-beeping and vroom-vrooming, even the busiest engines need to rest. This bright, bouncy, noise-filled book brings together the vehicles that children adore and will have the child "reading" the last line of each page with you: "they can work all day!"
Otis and the Scarecrow
By Loren Long (Penguin) \$17.99
On the farm where Otis the tractor lives, the farmer has introduced someone new—a scarecrow to shoo away the pesky crows. But when Otis and the animals greet the scarecrow with friendly smiles, the scarecrow's frown never leaves his face. Day after day, alone, he stares out into the cornfield. But then one cold, rainy day, Otis can't seem to take his eyes off the lonely scarecrow. This is a deeply resonant book about subtle acts of kindness, compassion, friendship, and standing up for others.
Until next month, happy reading.
Did you know? Children read to three to four times a week at home show a marked difference in skills compared to those who are not read to: 26 percent recognize letters vs. 14 percent of those not read to; 60 percent count to 20 or higher vs. 44 percent; 54 percent write their own names vs. 40 percent, and 77 percent read or pretend to read vs. 57 percent.—National Education Association

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September Library Events

Meet Marshall the miniature horse

By Harriet Halbig

Thank you to all who joined us at our Ice Cream Social on Aug. 1 in Palmer Lake. Sponsored by the Tri-Lakes Friends of the Library and the Palmer Lake Historical Society, the event was well attended, with live music (and some dancing on the Village Green) and costumed historical figures.

Family programs

The Family Fun program for September is the chance to meet Marshall the miniature horse on Saturday, Sept. 12 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Marshall is a rescued miniature

horse who will come to the library to meet you. You will learn about horse care, horse safety, and much more. This program is presented by the Colorado Horse Rescue Network.

The Legos Club will meet on Saturday, Sept. 19 from 10 to 11:30. Bring your creativity and we will supply the Legos. Open to all ages.

Fourth Fridays Kids Crafts will be on Friday, Sept. 25 from 4 to 5 p.m. Each month will feature a different craft.

The Homeschool Program for September will be "All About Coffee" on Monday, Sept. 28 at 1 p.m. Join Lindsey