

that this school board refer to policy BG (policy adoption) and accept my official request for a policy proposal as a parent on the issue of substitutions for high school PE credits. Please add this item to your agenda.

As a parent, taxpayer, and former teacher, I will continue to encourage the board to do what's in the best interest of our kids. I am also hopeful that other community members will reach out to the board on this topic. Please email them and share your thoughts on behalf of our student athletes. CTaylor@lewispalmer.org, TUchurch@lewispalmer.org, MClawson@lewispalmer.org, and MPfoff@lewispalmer.org  
**Amy McKenzie**

### Have we become part of the problem?

Can anyone reasonably deny that social upheaval exists in our national discourse—lack of civility, no appetite for compromise, lies, unwillingness to admit mistakes? While I don't think so, I do worry that this condition has begun to creep into our community. Take for example the turmoil in the D38 school board activities (resignation of Secretary Sarah Sampayo), the disorder in the Monument town government (Monument Town Manager Chris Lowe and Chief of Police Jacob Shirk placed on paid administrative leave), proposed legislation to prohibit teachers from striking, and letters to the editor (some of which contain vitriol and personal jabs). To my way of thinking, the signs of social turmoil in the Tri-Lakes area, while not ubiquitous, are present and worrisome.

Perhaps it's time for all of us to stop and take a long look in a mirror—then ask, am I part of the problem? If so, am I willing to compromise with those I disagree with, could the positions of "others" have merit, am I civil and respectful when discussing controversial subjects? If not, you might want to rethink

your approach.

We live in a wonderful area with many equally wonderful people. Our school district is one of the best in all of Colorado; we work diligently to take care of those in need; smiles abound; while driving, we see many "hand waves." Let's strengthen our community by seeking solutions to problems and interacting with those we disagree with in a civil, genuine, and respectful manner—and do so in a good-faith manner so that our efforts lead to reasonable and lasting solutions.

**Ross Meyer**

### LPHS After Prom thanks

Thanks to our great community of parents, Lewis-Palmer High School staff, and students, After Prom was a huge success! We had approximately 400 students attend the event.

Many school districts do not offer an After Prom, as the planning and coordination involved take a substantial amount of time and money. Both District 38 high schools have such a dedicated group of staff, parents, and community patrons that we have been able to make After Prom a yearly tradition.

Much of the financial support comes from local businesses and families. We would like to recognize the following: Arapahoe Basin Ski & Snowboard Area, Bass Pro Shop's Uncle Buck, Briargate Qdoba Mexican Grill, City Rock, Coca-Cola Refreshments, Colorado Springs Switchbacks, Community Banks of Colorado, Costa Vida, Costco (Nevada), Danelle's Boutique & Bridal/Tuxedo Junction, Denver Museum of Science and Nature, Deuces Wild Casino Rentals, Dion's Pizza, Elitch Gardens, Gravity Play, Hamula Orthodontics, Home Depot, Horseshoe Donuts, Hyland Hills Park & Rec, Loveland Ski Area, Luna

Hair Salon, MOD Pizza, Borriello Brothers, Columbine Gardens Restaurant, Jimmy John's, King Soopers, Safeway, Wal-Mart, Chick-fil-A, Rock House Ice Cream, Santa's Workshop/North Pole, Sky Sox Baseball, Sports Clips, The Summit Interquest, Tri-Lakes Printing, and Village Inn, as well as the Barkocy, Davis, Ferguson, Gross, Kadlubowski, Larsen, Lewis, Limas, Shook, Shuman, and Witt families.

We had over 100 volunteers who helped with everything from mailing invitations to building props, doing artwork for invitations, posters, and tickets, selling tickets, decorating, working on the night of the event, and cleaning up the day after.

A very special thank you goes to the After Prom committee of Lynne Asman, Laura Barkocy, Melanie Davis, Gretchen Donisi, Marcy Hudson, Kristin Merrill, Melanie Oliver, Nicole Pritchard, Lauralyn Purdham, Chele Randell, Karen Tucker, and Joanna Witt.

**Karen Shuman, LPHS After Prom Chair** ■



Above: After Prom activities.  
Photo provided by Karen Shuman

## Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

### Celebrate dads

By the staff at Covered Treasures

Celebrate Dad this month with some great books!

*"A father is neither an anchor to hold us back nor a sail to take us there but a guiding light whose love shows us the way."*—Anonymous

#### **The Feather Thief: Beauty, Obsession, and the Natural History Heist of the Century**

By Kirk Wallace Johnson (Viking), \$27

This true-crime adventure takes the reader into an underground world of fanatical fly-tiers, a bizarre and shocking crime, and one man's relentless pursuit of justice. The British Museum of Natural History was full of rare bird specimens whose feathers were worth staggering amounts of money. Some of the bird skins were collected 150 years earlier by Alfred Russel Wallace who'd risked everything to gather them. In 2009, these were all stolen. Two years later, Kirk Wallace Johnson's fly-fishing guide told him about the heist. He was soon consumed by the strange case of the feather thief. In his search for answers, Johnson was catapulted into a years-long, worldwide investigation.

#### **Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America**

By James Fallows and Deborah Fallows (Pantheon Books), \$28.95

For the last five years, James and Deborah Fallows have been traveling across America in a single-engine prop airplane, visiting small cities and meeting with the people. *Our Towns* is the story of their journey and an account of a country busy remaking itself. It reflects the energy, generosity, and compassion, dreams and determination of many who are in the midst of making things better.

#### **Principles: Life and Work**

By Ray Dalio (Simon & Schuster), \$30

Ray Dalio, one of the world's most successful investors and entrepreneurs, shares the unconventional principles he's developed, refined, and used over the past 40 years to create unique results in both life and business. The book's hundreds of practical lessons, which are built around his cornerstones of "radical truth" and "radical transparency," include Dalio laying out the most effective ways for individuals and organizations to make decisions, approach challenges, and build strong teams.

#### **Gold Panning Colorado: A Guide to the State's Best Sites for Gold**

By Garret Romaine (Falcon Guides), \$25.95

This reference source contains accurate, up-to-date prospecting information for all known panning areas in Colorado. The write-ups for each locale include driving directions, GPS coordinates, historical information, land ownership restrictions, full-color photos, and geological background.

#### **The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels**

By Jon Meacham (Random House), \$30

Our current climate of partisan fury is not new. In this inspiring and encouraging book, Jon Meacham shows us how what Abraham Lincoln called the "better angels of our nature" have repeatedly won the day. Meacham brings turning points in American history vividly to life. Each of these dramatic hours in our national life have been shaped by the contest to lead the country to look forward rather than back, to assert hope over fear.

#### **If I Understood You, Would I Have This Look on My Face?**

By Alan Alda (Random House), \$17

This is the warm, witty, and informative chronicle of how Alan Alda found new ways to help people communicate and relate to one another more effectively. He reflects on moments of miscommunication in his own life, when an absence of understanding resulted in problems both big and small. He guides us through how communication can be improved in all areas, but especially with the hard stuff. Alda describes ways we can build empathy, nurture our innate mind-reading abilities, and improve the way we relate and talk with others.

#### **The Hush**

By John Hart (St. Martin's Press) \$27.99

Johnny Merrimon is 10 years removed from the shattering events that killed his twin sister and tore the rest of his family apart. He has since become a prickly recluse, living in self-imposed isolation in the forbidding swampland of Hush Arbor, 6,000 acres he alone knows how to traverse. His best friend Jack, now a local attorney, is his only invited guest, and others who attempt to conquer the Hush often meet inexplicably violent ends. The property has belonged to the Merrimons for centuries but is haunted by the souls of the freed slaves who once lived there, and one of the descendants believes the land is rightfully hers.

Until next month, happy reading.

The staff at Covered Treasures can be reached at [books@ocn.me](mailto:books@ocn.me).

## June Library Events

### Summer Adventure begins

By Harriet Halbig

The summer reading program for youngsters through age 18 began on June 1. *Summer Adventure* will continue through July 31, offering special programs and prizes.

More than 50 teen volunteers have been trained and scheduled to help with registration and granting prizes. We thank them for their offer to help.

This year's program brings back the game card so each child can chart his or her own progress and

can choose between reading and activities (or both) to earn points.

Join us for this exciting and rewarding activity!

To view the programs during *Summer Adventure*, go to the library home page, [ppld.org](http://ppld.org), click on programs at the top and choose by library and choose your branch. A calendar will appear. If you hover over the name of a program, a description of it will appear.

If registration is required for the program, it will be indicated by a square with a pencil. To register, call

the library, or click on the event to register yourself.

Fliers will also be available to take home as a reminder.

#### Family programs

On Mondays, June 11, 18, and 25 from 2:30 to 4 there will be a 7up program each week featuring programs on art and engineering themes. These programs are recommended for kids ages 7 and older.

On Tuesdays from 3:30 to 4:45 each week, a technology program for elementary school kids will be