

**Our Oldest Companion: The Story of the First Dogs**

By Pat Shipman (Belknap Press) \$25.95

How did the dog become man's best friend? Anthropologist Pat Shipman untangled the genetic and archaeological evidence of the first dogs. She tells how scientists are shedding new light on the origins of the unique relationship, revealing how deep bonds formed between humans and canines as our guardians, playmates, shepherds, and hunters.

**Wish You Were Here**

By Jodi Picoult (Ballantine Books) \$28.99

Diana O'Toole is perfectly on track with all her life plans. She's certain her boyfriend, Finn, a surgical resident in New York City, is about to propose on their romantic getaway to the Galápagos, days before her 30th birthday. But then Covid-19 changes things. Finn must stay behind at the hospital, but he assures her she should still go. Everything goes awry. Completely isolated and stranded, luggage lost, Wi-Fi nearly-non-existent, hotel shut down due to the pandemic, and the whole island under quarantine. She ends up connecting with a local family and finds herself examin-

ing her relationships, her choices, and herself.

**The Last Goodnight**

By Kat Morgan (Kensington Publishing), \$26

A cold case is heating up, and with another body turning up, one private investigator, Ellie, is hot on the trail of a killer, with the help of the rancher, Kade, who hired her to deliver justice. From corporate Denver high-rises to posh Vail mansions, Kade and Ellie sense the killer is closing in again, and this time Ellie is the target. Kade must risk everything to save the woman he's coming to love before she becomes the next one to die.

**Infamous**

By Minerva Spencer (Kensington Publishing) \$15.95

"Bridgerton" fans won't want to miss this new holiday love story. Once the reigning beauty of her social set, Celia, whom the newspapers dubbed Lady Infamous, has fallen on hard times and is practically destitute, her reputation in shreds. When Celia is forced to attend a society wedding as a companion to an elderly guest, she must confront the clique she once com-

manded, the gentleman she'd once hoped to marry, and the powerful man who ruined her life a decade before and is threatening to do so again.

**To the River's End**

By William W. Johnstone and J.A. Johnstone (Kensington Publishing) \$12.95

An epic saga based on true events of the untamed American West Frontier, with the trailblazing fur trappers and the mountain men who lived it. Where nature is cruel, violence lurks behind every tree, and where only the strongest of the strong survive. The American Fur Company is sending Luke Ransom, a seasoned trapper, hunter, and master of his trade, to the now-famous Rendezvous at Green River. When he encounters a fellow trapper under attack by Indians, his life takes an unexpected turn. A new friendship is forged in blood. And a dangerous new journey begins.

Until next month (and next year!), happy reading.

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

**November Library Events****Holiday closures announced, ramp continues to progress**

By Harriet Halbig

Patrons are all welcome to take advantage of the library's resources, including access to computers, printing and faxing services, and a variety of newspapers.

To reserve a meeting room, go to the [ppld.org](http://ppld.org) website under special services, meeting rooms. Select a room and a date and time. We recommend that you have more than one date in mind as the room is now also being used for some group meetings such as book clubs and some library programs.

To view the programs available, go to programs on the website and search by location. Some programs are virtual and some are in person.

The framework for the ramp to the Palmer Lake

Library now extends to the level of the door (see photo). Once the ramp is complete, some interior work will need to be done before reopening the branch.

The Monument Library continues to be closed on Thursdays due to staffing shortages.

Please note that all Pikes Peak Library facilities will be closed all day on Dec. 24 and 25. They will also close at 4 p.m. on Dec. 31 and remain closed all day on Jan. 1.

Happy holidays from the library.

Harriet Halbig may be reached at [harriethalbig@ocn.me](mailto:harriethalbig@ocn.me).

**Right:** Viewed from the west, the new ADA-compliant ramp now extends to the level of the library entrance.

Photo by Harriet Halbig

**Palmer Lake Historical Society, Nov. 18****World War II ski troops: 10th Mountain Division**

By Sharon Williams

On Nov. 18, the Palmer Lake Historical Society (PLHS) welcomed Marine Corps Col. (retired) Tom Duhs who quickly brought us into the realities of time and place in the history of the ski troops of the 10th Mountain Division during World War II (WWII).

During the late 1930's, Hitler's Nazi invasion of Austria, Stalin's forces moving across Poland, and the Soviet's storming of Finland forced Britain and France to declare war on Germany in 1939.

By 1940, Finland was effectively fighting on skis against the cumbersome, mechanized equipment of the Soviets which limited them to roadside defenses.

The U.S. formally entered the WWII European Theater on Dec. 11, 1941, four days after the events of Pearl Harbor when Germany declared war on the United States.

In 1942, \$31 million was appropriated to build Camp Hale in Colorado at an elevation of 9,244 feet in the White River National Forest along the Eagle River near Leadville. This rugged environment provided the necessary cold weather mountain terrain for crucial U.S. combat training. By 1943, the complex was comprised of 800 structures to accommodate an infantry division of 15,000 and a mule school of 3,500 mules, followed by the arrival of 250 women from Basic Training to operationally support the encampment as drivers, mechanics, nurses, and supply management.

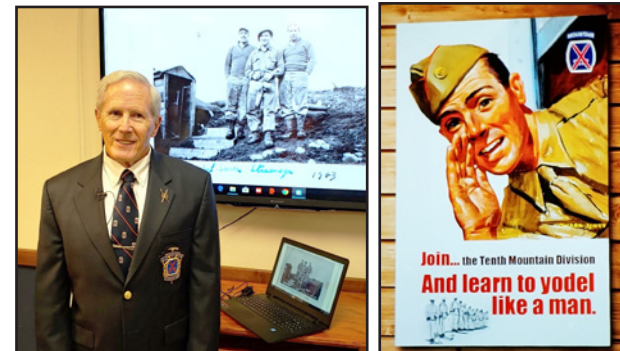
The 87th Mountain Infantry Regiment was the first unit of ski troops to be activated. The 1st Battalion was activated at Fort Lewis, WA on November 15, 1941. On November 6, 1944, the division was reorganized to become the 10th Mountain Division. The



**Above:** Camp Hale, CO in 1943 during the height of training and mobilization to Europe. Photo courtesy Tom Duhs program collection

87th was one of three regiments that made up the Division.

Presenter Tom Duhs is an avid military history buff, has co-written two novels, a screenplay, and separately authored another book, and a ten-episode mini-series. Growing up in Colorado, he learned to ski at a young age. Upon graduating from Colorado State University, he was commissioned in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1977 and retired as Colonel of Marines in 2008. His extensive mountain military experience included winter deployments to Norway for multinational NATO exercises, and he later served at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center as a skiing and climbing instructor and certified Marine



**Above: Left:** Tom Duhs, Colonel of Marines (retired), presenter of PLHS WWII ski troop program. Photo by Sharon Williams. **Right:** WWII recruitment poster for military ski and mountaineering training, circa 1941. Photo courtesy Tom Duhs program collection; caption by Sharon Williams.

Corps Mountain Leader doing all training, course development, assessments and evaluations. Today, he continues to provide lectures throughout Colorado.

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The Palmer Lake Historical Society (PLHS) monthly programs are presented at 7 p.m. every third Thursday of the month at the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce Community Room, 166 Second Street, Monument. There is no December program. The next PLHS monthly meeting will resume in the new year, Jan. 20, 2022. For info call 719-559-0837 or click on [www.palmerdividehistory.org](http://www.palmerdividehistory.org).

Sharon Williams can be reached at [sharonwilliams@ocn.me](mailto:sharonwilliams@ocn.me).

**High Altitude Nature and Gardening (HANG)****Are holiday plants safe for pets and kids?**

By Janet Sellers

In winter when the outdoors is rather drab, we often want to cheer up with plants indoors. Our holiday trees and wreaths do cheer us up, but there are many caveats about plants around pets and children.

I'm a dauntless plant lover, but as I looked into pet-safe plants, I realized I had a lot of surprising plant supervillains at my house. Some are not too bad, but I decided that even a little danger isn't worth having around.

We once had a young cat at Christmastime who liked to climb the Christmas tree and would knock it over in the middle of the night with a crash to our dismay. We ended up tying the top of the tree to the ceiling. That sounds hilarious, but as it turned out,