

## Letters to Our Community

Guidelines for letters are on page 31.

**Disclaimer: The information and opinions expressed in Letters to Our Community are the responsibility of the letter writers and should not be interpreted as the views of OCN even if the letter writer is an OCN volunteer.**

### EPCO District 1 needs a leader

El Paso County Commissioner Holly Williams is not a leader. I voted for her expecting great things for our community but am now convinced she is weak and not in

touch with her constituents. One only needs to review the board of commissioner meeting videos to witness her lack of knowledge on the issues and her inability to lead fellow commissioners to do right by the people of Northern El Paso County. The record shows Commissioner Williams is tuned out on most issues and offers no substantive comments during meetings. It is apparent the other commissioners are more engaged with District 1's issues than she is. The record also shows her unwavering support for area developers over the desires

of her constituents. A review of the TRACER Campaign Finance System indicates our commissioners enjoy the rich support of area developers and associates who donate to their campaigns. With explosive growth threatening the northern rural reaches of our county, District 1 critically needs a "switched-on" leader with the competence and gravitas to persuade their fellow commissioners to vote on the side of the citizens they serve. It is the reason why I will not be voting for Holly Williams.

**Chris Sorenson**

Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

## Pick a series for summer reading

By the staff at Covered Treasures

"Books train your mind to imagination to think big"—  
Taylor Swift

Summer is a perfect time to dive into a book series. Here are some award-winning choices for middle grades and elementary.

### Dragon Captives: The Unwantseds Quests No. 1

By Lisa McMann (Aladdin) \$8.99

Magical twins Fifer and Thisbe have spent their entire lives wishing for an adventure. When a dragon shows up claiming that his family is being kept as slaves, the twins sneak off to the land of the dragons to help them. Bestselling author Lisa McMann has written more than two dozen books for middle grades and young adults. One of her most well-known series for middle grades is *The Unwantseds*. *The Unwantseds Quests* is a sequel to that series. Some have said this is Hunger Games meets Harry Potter.



### Tesla's Attic: Book 1 of The Accelerati Trilogy

By Neal Shusterman and Eric Elfman (Little Brown and Company) \$7.99

With a plot combining science and the supernatural, four kids are caught up in a dangerous plan concocted by the eccentric inventor Nikola Tesla. Fans of intrigue, action, humor, and nonstop surprises are guaranteed a

read unlike any other. The authors' love of Tesla shines through as they weave in history, science, and math lessons in a painless way. Great for fans of Rick Riordan's *Kane Chronicles*.

### Winterhouse

By Ben Guterson (Square Fish) \$8.99

Eleven-year-old Elizabeth spends Christmas break at Winterhouse. There, in a massive library, she discovers that she has magic, and her love of puzzles helps her solve a mystery. Themes for this enchanting middle-grade fantasy trilogy are danger, intrigue, fun, adventure, and the power of family. This series is great for fans of *The Mysterious Benedict Society* and *Greenglass House*.

### The Isle of the Lost: A Descendants Novel No. 1

By Melissa de la Cruz (Disney-Hyperion), \$9.99

Imprisoned on the Isle of the Lost, the teenage children of Disney's most evil villains search for a dragon's eye. Twenty years ago, all the evil villains were banished to the Isle of the Lost. Stripped of their magical powers, they live in total isolation, forgotten by the world. In the quest for the Dragon's Eye, these kids are proof that just because you come from an evil family tree, being good isn't so bad. Great for fans of *Ranger's Apprentice*, *Wings of Fire*, and *Keepers of the Lost Cities*.

### The Field Guide: Spiderwick Chronicles No. 1

By Tony DiTerlizzi and Holly Black (Simon & Schuster) \$7.99

After finding a mysterious, handmade field guide in the attic of the ramshackle old mansion they've moved into, the Grace children discover there's a magical and maybe dangerous world existing parallel to our own. Perfect fit for fans of *The Borrowers* and *A Series of Unfortunate Events*.

### Two Dogs in a Trench Coat Go to School

By Julie Falatko (Scholastic) \$9.99

Loyal pups Sassy and Waldo need to save their boy from being bored all day in class, but the school won't let two dogs inside. Good thing they found that trench coat! This is the first in a series from the creator of the Snappy the Alligator books. One of our customers says it's similar to *Spy School*.

### The Secret Explorers and the Lost Whales

By SJ King (DK Publishing) \$5.99

Meet the Secret Explorers. This group of brilliant kids comes together from all four corners of the globe to fix problems, solve mysteries, and gather knowledge all over the planet and beyond. In book one, marine life expert Connor needs to help save a pod of humpback whales that have lost their way. Packed with fun illustrations and facts, this thrilling adventure is perfect for emerging readers and fans of *Explorer Academy*.

### Azmina the Gold Glitter Dragon: Dragon Girls No. 1

By Maddy Mara (Scholastic) \$5.99

Azmina, Willa, and Naomi are thrilled to learn they're Glitter Dragon Girls. Summoned to the Magic Forest by its magnificent ruler, the Tree Queen, the girls quickly find out their dragon-selves have unbelievable abilities. As Dragon Girls, they are sworn protectors of the forest and must help keep it safe from the troublesome Shadow Sprites, who are determined to take the forest's magic for their own. Great for fans of *Key Hunters* and *Zoey and Sassafras*.

Until next month, happy reading.

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

## May Library Events

# Summer Adventure begins with special programs, prizes

By Harriet Halbig

The Pikes Peak Library District's *Summer Adventure* program kicked off on June 1. Open to ages up to 18, the program is designed to create a habit of reading, creating, or being physically active each day.

The program is scored the same for all age groups, and a paper scoresheet can be picked up at any library, or patrons are invited to register and keep track of their activities on the district website ([ppld.org](http://ppld.org)) and come in to claim their prizes. Scoring is based upon the number of days of activity.

Upon registration, all age groups receive a free book. After 30 days of activities, ages up to 3 receive a set of three plastic boats, ages 4 to 12 receive a reading medal, and ages 13 to 18 receive a book or journal.

Regular story times and toddler times are suspended during June and July, replaced by special programming. At the Monument Library, the special programs will be on Tuesdays from 10:30 to 11:30. In Palmer Lake the special programs will be on Fridays from 9:30 to 11 through July 5, then *Family Story Time* will resume on Fridays from 10:30 to 11:15.

To learn of additional programs during the summer, please go to the website under programs and by location.

*Story Times* at the Reynolds House at the Western Museum of Mining and Industry will continue through the summer on Mondays from 9:30 to 10:30. They will be hosted by the Bookmobile.

On Aug. 5 there will be an end-of-program party on the Village Green in Palmer Lake from 10 to noon, featuring games, refreshments, and fun for all. All community members are invited to attend.

To learn more about special programming, please see the district website, [ppld.org](http://ppld.org), and look under programming by location.

Free math tutoring is suspended for the summer and will resume after Labor Day.

The official ribbon-cutting to reopen the Palmer Lake Library was held on May 7. Palmer Lake will remain open from 10 to 6 on Wednesday through Friday. Monument Library is open from 9 to 7 Monday-Wednesday, closed on Thursday and Sunday, and open on Friday and Saturday from 10 to 6.

We look forward to seeing you for our summer adventure!

Please note that all Pikes Peak library locations will be closed on July 4 in observation of Independence Day. Harriet Halbig may be reached at [harriethalbig@ocn.me](mailto:harriethalbig@ocn.me).



**Above:** Pikes Peak Library District (PPLD) representatives attending the ribbon-cutting for the reopening of the Palmer Lake Library included, from left, PPLD Friends of the Library Vice President Aida Richardson, Interim Chief Librarian Teona Shainidze-Krebs, Library 21c Manager Catie Tierney, Monument and Palmer Lake Library Manager Jean Carrier, East Library Manager Gigi Holman, PPLD Friends of the Library President Rita Jordan, PPLD Southeast Region Director Abby Simpson, and Interim PPLD Chief of Public Services and Deputy Chief Librarian Tammy Sayles. Photo provided by the PPLD.

**Left:** Interim Pikes Peak Library District Chief Librarian and CEO Teona Shainidze-Krebs and Monument and Palmer Lake Library Manager Jean Carrier cut the ribbon to reopen the Palmer Lake Library on May 7. Photo by Rita Jordan.