

of the challenges of training for living in space and the reality of living on the Space Shuttle.

Packing for Mars for Kids

By Mary Roach (Norton Young Readers) \$9.95

This lighthearted book asks the type of questions that children would ask in a comprehensive guide for the strange, gross, and awe-inspiring realm of space travel and life without gravity. From flying on NASA's weightless wonder and eating a sloppy joe from a tube to learning how to use shuttle toilets, this book is chock-full of thorough research and firsthand experiences.

The Sky Is Not the Limit

By Jeremie Decalf (Eerdmans Books for Young Readers) \$18.99

A poetic odyssey through space with the groundbreaking Voyager 2 probe past Earth into deep space and beyond. Voyager 2 has viewed Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune and continued past the boundaries of our solar system. This lyrical, atmospheric book introduces young readers to the pioneering NASA spacecraft that has spent over 45 years observing and exploring our galaxy.

Totality! An Eclipse Guide in Rhyme & Science

By Jeffrey Bennett (Big Kid Science) \$19.99

This book features a unique combination of rhyme

and science, suitable for a wide range of ages. The engaging rhyme, with a couplet on each page, has been constructed to serve as a mnemonic device for underlying science, which is further explained through beautiful illustrations and "Big Kid Box" sidebars. This book concludes with a glossary, suggested activities, an eclipse science summary, features that will add value for parents and teachers learning along with their kids or students. Printed books come with two pairs of eclipse viewing glasses, which provide a great way to view the sun at any time, especially during a solar eclipse.

The Moon Tonight: Our Moon's Journey Around Earth

By Jung Chang-hoon (Blue Dot Kids Press) \$18.99

Through the eyes of this father-daughter duo, this book explores the science behind the moon's phases and the 29½-day lunar cycle. There are easy-to-follow scientific explanations of the first- and last-quarter moons, ebb and flow tides, where the new moon goes, and more.

Sun Moon Earth: The History of Solar Eclipses from Omens of Doom to Einstein and Exoplanets

By Tyler Nordgren (Basic Books) \$30

In Sun Moon Earth, astronomer Tyler Nordgren illustrates how this most seemingly unnatural of natural phenomena was transformed from a fearsome omen

to a tourist attraction. This book takes us around the world to show how different cultures interpreted these dramatic events.

The Last Stargazers; The Enduring Story of Astronomy's Vanishing Explorers

By Emily Levesque (Sourcebooks) \$18.99

Levesque takes readers inside the most powerful telescopes in the world and introduces the people who run them. She also explores the future of one of the most ancient and inspiring scientific disciplines as we gain the ability to see farther beyond our planet than ever before while relying increasingly on code and computers to study the stars. Stay up to date with the latest scientific breakthroughs and advancements in the field of astronomy.

The Astronauts Guide to Leaving the Planet: Everything You Need to Know from Training to Re-Entry

By Terry Virts (Workman Publishing) \$14.99

A former astronaut inspires the next generation of space travelers with answers to kids' questions on how people become astronauts, how they prepare for space travel, and what it's like to live and work in space.

Until next month, happy reading.

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

October Library Events

New programs for Teens and Tweens; Culture Pass for Pikes Peak Highway

By Harriet Halbig

This October the library will host several seasonal activities for teens and tweens.

On Oct. 13 from 2:30 to 5:30 there will be a Teen Spooky Movie Marathon with titles to be chosen by the teens in attendance (ages 13 to 18). Registration is not required.

On Oct. 16 from 4:30 to 5:30 tweens (ages 9-12) are invited to bring a favorite spooky story to share.

Complete your experience by making s'mores and a fun memento to take home.

There is a new tween Dungeons and Dragons Club meeting once a month at the Monument Library. The next meeting will be on Nov. 3 from 4 to 5:30. Registration is preferred but not required. All are welcome to join and no experience is required.

From now until April 30, 2024, cardholders can get free access to the Pikes Peak Highway through the

district's Culture Pass program. The pass will admit two adults and two children. For more information and to get your pass, please go to ppld.org/culture pass. Passes are also available to many local museums and the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Monument Library has recently added a new playhouse in the children's area. Come and see!

Harriet Halbig may be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me

High Altitude Nature and Gardening (HANG)

Gardening with cinnamon; fall tool care

By Janet Sellers

"It's amazing how many worries are lost while gardening."—"The Empress of Dirt"

Cinnamon is good for people and gardens

I've used cinnamon for flower pots and veggie beds to keep out critters with success, but I recently learned about the wide range of how it helps gardening. Cinnamon has gotten more expensive recently, so I have also used pepper flakes and cayenne powder instead—which started with trying to keep our kitten off the Christmas tree branches. It worked great for that.

Cinnamon protects soil and plants from fungi, rot, and more. It deters houseflies, aphids, moths, ants, and spiders even from our closets. I put cinnamon oil or powder on pine cones in a dish or on a shelf—even on a ribbon to dangle by the door. Cornell University cooperative extension reports pesticidal uses include insecticide and acaricide. Repellent of cockroaches, mosquitoes, dogs, and cats. Nematicide

for plant parasitic nematodes. Fungicide for disease control in edible mushrooms and more.

The website www.realmisolliesoakland.com/reports, "... Cinnamon has lots of eugenol, a popular insect-repellent ingredient. The spicy heat and strong aroma of cinnamon can also disrupt insect pheromones, separating them from their fellow bugs and disrupting communication." It is very good for human food since it has iron, calcium, fiber, various vitamins, and manganese. It also contains carbs, fats, lipids, and proteins.

Tool care in fall in our high desert climate

The Empress of Dirt website (a fun favorite of mine) offers advice for good fall routines: Paint the ends of tools bright colors, rinse off tools in diluted household bleach (4 teaspoons bleach for quart of water) for one minute and then dry well.

Kevin at the Epic Gardening website has rusty tool hints: Clean pruners in a white vinegar bath. Just

put the tool in a jar that fits the tool head, add vinegar up past the rust area, and next day the rust is in the vinegar. Then tackle the rest with a kitchen scrub pad and get all the rust and crud off. Then lube and protect with 3-in-1 oil. I clean my hands with Dawn dish soap, but many use Lava soap which has scrubbing pumice in it.

Wooden handles: Sand and protect with boiled linseed oil. Protect moving parts with 3-in-1 oil or WD-40 (check with the manufacturer's instructions). I use a sponge sander for the handles. I spray WD-40 on cutting tools and use folded 400 grit sandpaper in a back-and-forth motion to sharpen tools. (I dip things like shovels in a bucket of sand to clean them off, and the sand also seems to help the edges). Many people take their tools to a pro for this.

Janet Sellers is an avid "lazy" gardener, letting Nature lead the way for fun kid- and pet-safe gardening. Contact her at JanetSellers@ocn.me.

Art Matters

October is Arts Month



By Janet Sellers

September was the last Art Hop month of the season, but we have more art events coming up for fall. October brings its own art events and fun for the Pikes Peak Region, the annual Arts Month. This year marks the 10th annual event. The theme is "Open Your World with the Arts" and explore the strength and vitality of our arts community throughout El Paso and Teller counties.

This annual event is the brainchild of COPP'R, the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region created to build cultural promotion and cultural tourism. "The Cultural Office increases cultural participation among local residents and tourists, connects our arts community with peers in the tourism and media industries, and ultimately works to build our area as a regional, national, and international arts destination," according to the office. Besides art to see and

buy in our Pikes Peak region, the office is cooking up a Creative Stays program to attract cultural tourists to the region. This will offer a new way to explore and discover the wonderful attractions and amenities our region has to offer.

Palmer Lake Art Group Small Works Show

Palmer Lake Art Group (PLAG) has its third annual Small Works Show this year at Bella Art and Frame Gallery (250 Front St., Monument) Oct. 6 through Nov. 24. It's a member show with small artworks just in time for holiday gifting. Throughout the show, artists will replace each sold piece with a new one, so the work on view will be changing throughout the Small Works Show.

Artist Sunday

This special event is always the Sunday after Thanksgiving—mark your calendar! It seems the Thanksgiv-

ing weekend is the holiday kickoff for shopping, and artists are joining the fun by having their own national day offering truly personal and unique gifts. "A gift of art is a gift of feeling."

Artist Sunday includes 500-plus art organizations and economic development agencies across the country promoting and championing artists in their communities. Participating organizations include local arts agencies, state agencies, counties, chambers of commerce, national organizations, associations, municipalities, and community groups nationwide. View the Partner Directory for local partners: <https://artistssunday.com/locations/>.

Janet Sellers is an artist, writer, and speaker, sharing her works locally and across the country. Contact her at JanetSellers@ocn.me.

Snapshots of Our Community

Fox Run Park trail work

Right: Volunteers from the Friends of Fox Run Park worked on the trails in Fox Run Regional Park in August and September. After over 60 days of rain in the area, the trails were heavily damaged. Thanks to the El Paso County Parks Department providing the gravel and road base, several volunteers worked to build water bars and fill some of the ruts caused by the rains. Pictured are, from left, Katie Lenger, Barb Heidmous, and Albert Koscielnny. For more information on volunteering, email friendsoffoxrunpark@gmail.com. Photo by Marlene Brown.



Bye Bye Summer!



Above: There were plenty of ways area residents could say goodbye to summer on Labor Day, Sept. 4. Monument Lake was full of boaters, paddle boarders, parasailers, sunbathers, and anglers. Photo by Michael Weinfeld.