

April and May library events

By Harriet Halbig

Many thanks to all of the teens who have applied to be summer reading volunteers. Training sessions will be held in May, and the program begins June 1. We all enjoy the energy of the summer reading program with its special performances and prizes. The teen volunteers add extra life to the library.

May's Family Fun at the Monument Library is Llamas in the Library on Saturday, May 12, at 1:30 p.m. Mike Shealy and Marlice Van Zandt of Touch the Earth Ranch in Black Forest will bring one of their charming llamas into the library. You will be able to turn the wool into felt and see how to spin it into thread.

The Monumental Readers will meet on Friday, May 18, at 10 a.m. to discuss *The Lacuna* by Barbara Kingsolver. All patrons are welcome to join this monthly club.

May's Fabulous Friday Fun will be on Friday, May 18, from 4:14 to 5:15 p.m. This is an exploration of the Dewey decimal system in the form of a scavenger hunt, designed for mid-elementary to middle school students. There are free snacks and each participant gets a book to take home.

The teen Book-Eaters book club and Crafty Teens will not meet in May due to end-of-school obligations.

The Lego Club will meet on May 19 from 10:30 to noon. We'll provide the Legos and you bring the creativity. Please do not bring your own Legos. Be sure to bring your camera to record your creation, because all pieces

used to make projects remain the property of PPLD. Good news! The Lego Club will also meet during the summer months.

On May 19 from 1 to 5 p.m., the library will host the AARP Mature Safe Driving program. A driver refresher course designed for motorists age 50 and older, this course offers the opportunity to save on insurance premiums if attendees present their completion certificate to their insurance agent. The cost of the course is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for nonmembers. Class size is limited and registration is required. Please call 488-2370 to register.

On the walls of the library during May is *Sister & Brother: A Contrast in Art*. Siblings Rita and Ric display their figurative watercolors and abstract acrylics.

In the display case is *Here Comes the Circus!*, a collection of miniature circus items from the collection of Bob Garner.

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Come to the library to read with Misty, the sheltie. Research has proven that reading to a quiet and patient dog can improve fluency among young readers. Misty loves to listen and likes for you to give her a treat. Misty will be at the library from 4:30-5:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 10.

On Friday, May 11 at 6:30 p.m., Palmer Lake Library volunteer Mark Schaible will present a photo journal of his 2011 trip to Mount Everest. Learn how Mark trained

for Everest and the fascinating details of his 10-week adventure.

In 1999, Mark was the top-rated Air Force experimental test pilot and in line to fly the Space Shuttle when he was diagnosed with stage 4 Waldenstrom's macroglobulinemia. In 2004, Mark received an unrelated-donor bone marrow transplant that saved his life.

Registration is required for this program. Please call 481-2587.

The Palmer Lake Library Knitting Group meets each Thursday from 10 until noon. Bring your project and enjoy the fellowship of other knitters. No registration is required and knitters of all skills are welcome.

Palmer Lake's Family Fun Program is Llamas in the Library on May 19 at 10:30 a.m. Please see the description of the program above.

The Palmer Lake Book Group will meet at 9 a.m. on June 1 to discuss *The Four Ms. Bradwells*, a novel by Meg Waite Clayton. All patrons are welcome to join this group.

On the walls of the library, you are welcome to view *Expressions of Beauty – Shared*, photography by Laurisa Rabins.

All Pikes Peak Library District facilities will be closed on May 28 for Memorial Day.

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Above (left): Bethany Bonser portrayed the younger sister of Charley Morrison, whose letters were read. **Above (center):** Back row left to right, Lucas Palonen, Drew Williamson, Zach Sardi. Front row: Katelyn Wilder and Kristin Malloy. These Honors American History students read Charley Morrison's letters. **Above (right):** Katherine Scott Sturdevant. Professor of History at Pikes Peak Community College, spoke of caring for and interpreting historical documents. *Photos by Harriet Halbig*

Palmer Lake Historical Society, April 19

Early trails laid groundwork for I-25, I-70

By Bernard L. Minetti

During the April 19 meeting of the Palmer Lake Historical Society, author, TV producer, and lecturer Lee Whiteley presented an overview of the Pikes Peak regional transportation systems and their origins and evolution.

Whiteley explained that the Palmer Divide, also known as the Arkansas-Platte Divide, has historically created challenges and demanded high levels of local expertise to overcome the pitfalls of transporting people and goods through the area. This transportation corridor is bordered on the west by the Rocky Mountain ranges and on the east by the plains of what once was Kansas Terri-

tory, originally known as the Great American Desert.

Whiteley noted that some of the explorers of the 1800s came west on the Smoky Hill Trail. From this vantage point, some of them observed Pikes Peak and he recalled how the naming of this mountain then evolved. Zebulon Pike in 1806 was perhaps the first white man to observe this mountain, which he named "Highest Peak."

Stephen Long came in 1820 and the peak was then named "Long's Peak." Subsequently, the peak was named "James Peak" after a botanist who participated in the Long expedition. Eventually the name evolved into Pike's Peak (later Pikes Peak) as the regional inhabitants gradu-

ally used that name more and more and it evolved into permanency. I-70 now generally follows some of the same route as the Smoky Hill Trail.

Whiteley detailed the transformation of the many trails in the region and their evolution into some of our major highways of today. He explained how "Trapper's Trail" began around 1830—how it started in Pueblo's Arkansas River and meandered to the forts north of Denver and eventually terminated in Fort Laramie. It was a major commerce and transportation system of the region at the time. Essentially, this trail was the original general foundation of the present day I-25 route. He noted that