

percent retail marijuana state sales tax. This 15 percent is divided among each local government based on percentage of retail marijuana sales tax revenue collected in their boundaries. So, Palmer Lake would receive a total of 1.5 percent of reported sales.

There are approximately 200 retail marijuana stores in Colorado. The \$150,000 average monthly revenue per store would likely give Palmer Lake approximately \$2,250 of tax revenue per month from retail marijuana. The black market, medical marijuana, and loopholes in the law are stealing away portions of this money from the towns as well. In Colorado, 40 percent of marijuana is sold through the black market, and that is increasing due to the high taxes on retail marijuana. Medical marijuana has a much lower tax, thus providing incentive for people to find a way to buy it through this source to avoid the high taxes. The amount of proposed income certainly does not justify the negative impact it could have on our town. The unintended consequences from allowing retail marijuana is a risk we just can't afford to take.

Send a strong message again by voting "no" on retail

marijuana. Also, vote "yes" on the three-year moratorium. Let's intensify our focus on the things that will truly build up our town!

*Name withheld by request*

### Politics as usual?

The El Paso County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) held a regularly scheduled meeting on Sept. 23, which I attended. One proposed resolution was to move county emergency services functions from the Sheriff's Office to the Public Services Department. I have been a volunteer for the Sheriff's Office Emergency Services Division for the past 10 years as an instructor for disaster preparedness, a member of the Emergency Operations Center staff and a member of the Fire Rehab service, all of which fall under this division.

During open discussions on the proposal it became apparent that the three board members promoting the resolution have no plan in place to facilitate the move. They were unsure of how funding would be accomplished

and they were unsure of where the experienced personnel would come from to populate the newly formed organization. But, they were adamant that it had to happen right away. Why? Reasons given were thin at best. It also became sadly apparent that the decision to approve the resolution had been reached before the meeting ever started, regardless of any public input. Limited to three minutes, seven spoke against and no speakers supported the move.

The BOCC conceded one point, and instead of tabling the motion until further information could be provided to the public, passed the resolution on a 4 to 1 vote on the condition that a transition plan be in place and implemented on Dec. 1 of this year. Commissioner Peggy Littleton voted against the measure. Hopefully this plan will be coordinated with the Sheriff's Office and detail which functions will transfer and which ones will stay.

No further public input was allowed nor will be sought. Is this how our county government works?

*Scott Rand*

□

## Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

# A variety of new fall books

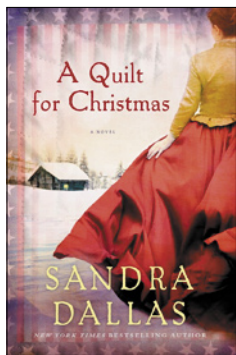
*By the staff at Covered Treasures*

Covering many topics from a Christmas quilt and a French house to a blueberry bakery and Colorado bears, the following is a look at some of the new fiction and nonfiction books on our shelves.

### *A Quilt for Christmas*

*By Sandra Dallas (St. Martin's Press) \$17.99*

It is 1864, and Eliza Spooner's husband, Will, has joined the Kansas Volunteers to fight the Confederates, leaving her in charge of their two children, their home, and land. Eliza is confident that he will return home, and she passes the months making a special quilt to keep Will warm during his winter in the army. When the unthinkable happens, she takes in a woman and a child left alone by the war, and she finds solace and camaraderie among the women of her quilting group. When she is asked to hide an escaped slave, she must decide what is right and who she can count on to help her.



### *The Irresistible Blueberry Bakeshop & Café*

*By Mary Simses (Little, Brown & Co.) \$15*

Ellen Branford leaves Manhattan and her fiancé to fulfill her grandmother's dying wish—delivering her last letter to the hometown boy she once loved. The short trip she anticipated to Beacon, Maine, quickly becomes complicated when she almost drowns in the ocean and is saved by a carpenter. The rescue turns Ellen into something of a local celebrity, which may or may not help her unravel the past her grandmother labored to keep hidden. This is a warm and delicious novel about the power of a simpler life.

### *Lucky Us*

*By Amy Bloom (Random House) \$26*

Disappointed by their families, Iris, the hopeful star, and Eva, the sidekick, journey through 1940s America in search of fame and fortune. From small-town Ohio to Hollywood and the jazz clubs and golden mansions of Long Island, the pair encounters big dreams, scandals, betrayals, and the war. Deeply moving and fantastically funny, *Lucky Us* is a novel about success and failure, good luck and bad, the creation of a family, and the pleasures and inevitable perils of family life.

### *Great Colorado Bear Stories*

*By Laura Pritchett (Riverbend Publishing) \$14.95*

Carefully researched and skillfully written, this is an incredible look at Colorado's bears, including the grizzlies that once roamed the state and the black bears that still do. These stories describe the natural history of bears along with near-death encounters of people ranging from Roosevelt's hunting and Pike's exploring to contemporary backyard bruins in the suburbs. These stories involve hikers, ranchers, hunters, historians, Native Americans, and regular folks—at the moments their lives have intersected with the great bears of Colorado.

### *The French House*

*By Don Wallace (sourcebooks) \$14.99*

Shortly after Don and Mindy Wallace move to Manhattan to jump-start their writing careers, they learn of a house for sale in a village they once visited on a tiny French island off the Brittany coast. Desperate for a life change, the Wallaces bravely (and impulsively) buy it almost sight unseen. What they find when they arrive is a ruin, and before long, their lives begin to resemble it—with hilarious and heartwarming results. Filled with the

beauty and flavors of French country life, this is a lively, inspiring, and irresistibly charming memoir of a family that rises from the rubble, wins the hearts of a historic village, and finally finds the home they've been seeking off the wild coast of France.

### *No Man's War*

*By Angela Ricketts (Counterpoint) \$25*

Raised as an Army brat, Ricketts eloped with Jack, an infantry lieutenant, now a colonel, who has been deployed eight times—to Somalia, Iraq, and Afghanistan. With humor, candor, and a brazen attitude, Ricketts pulls back the curtain on the part of the war machine that stays behind: the subculture of military families who support the troops going off to war. This is a story of sisterhood and survival that illuminates a too-often unacknowledged group devoted to military service.

If you're looking for a new book for yourself, or to give as a special gift, there are a variety of new fall titles to choose from. Until next month, happy reading.

*The staff at Covered Treasures Bookstore can be contacted at books@ocn.me.*

## HANG - High Altitude Natural Gardens

# Local fall and winter gardening

*By Janet Sellers*

Most garden crops are in by now, and the long warm season surely helped extend harvesting for our area. I am thrilled to see that, even in early October, most of my plants still have something on them to harvest, and with any luck our nice warm fall weather can continue to support plants with the help of covers, even makeshift cloth, sheets, or hooped contraptions covered with those materials.

Since the end of the garden season is a sad one for me (I just love to see my garden as it grows) I have secretly been planning a way to somehow string twinkle lights out on my "hugelkultur" bed under the hoops to keep its nights a tad warmer for a bit longer.

Fall is time to take in the sunny days and protect plants at night from frost, and survey the garden in preparation for winter. Many gardeners cover plants in straw (or even layers of newspaper) and tie or weigh that down; plants that would other-

wise die off in our area seem to need that bit of help, and come back in the spring.

Many perennials die down to the roots each year and come back full of life when the weather warms up again, but all of our plants and trees will need a keen eye for watering to keep them strong in our weather patterns. We are lucky to live in one of the sunniest areas of the nation, but the actual temperatures vary widely from fall to spring with anyone's guess for sunny warmer days and cold nights, cold days and nights, and deep cold periods of snow and ice. One thing is sure, and that is that the weather can and will change at the drop of a hat.

In fall and winter, local gardeners plan their garden plant companions, change up placement, and begin seedlings as well. Container gardening is still possible indoors in a sunny window, but it's anybody's guess what will do well indoors.

With our sunny days and indoor

warmth, indoors in winter I know I can have abundant geraniums, petunias, and ovens near the windows all season. My trick for a bug-free indoors is to spray as well as water the plants with soapy water and if any gnats are hiding in the soil or leaves they disappear soon enough.

Next month, I will find out the local tips and tricks to keep the fall mums and holiday plants vibrant and pretty, how to extend their blooms, and some fun holiday ideas with plants and ovens. And, as usual, keep up on local garden info and events with Tri-Lakes Garden Community at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Tri-Lakes-Garden-Community/> and Monument Community Garden at <https://www.facebook.com/MonumentCommunityGarden>.

*Janet Sellers is an avid novice HANG gardener in the Tri-Lakes area. Contact her with your tips and questions for the TLGC at janetsellers@ocn.me.*



**Above:** Locals joined the Tri-Lakes Gardening Community (TLGC) for the last tour of garden walks for the year in Palmer Lake. Crops included corn, squashes, beans, tomatoes, herbs, apples, and more. The TLGC brought harvests to Tri-Lakes Cares from the Monument Community Garden at the end of the season. The fresh produce included beets and beet greens, Swiss chard, lettuces, herbs, other vegetables and apples from nearby organic gardens. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*