

Lowest Temperature **22° on the 28th, 31st**  
 Season to Date Snow **Trace** (-12.3")  
 (the snow season is from July 1 to June 30)

Season to Date Precip. **8.08"** (-1.85")  
 (the precip season is from July 1 to June 30)  
 Heating Degree Days **488** (-140)

Cooling Degree Days **0** (0)  
 Bill Kappel is a meteorologist and Tri-Lakes resident. He can be reached at [billkappel@ocn.me](mailto:billkappel@ocn.me).

## Letters to Our Community

Guidelines for letters to the editor are on page 31.

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

### Retaliation for report of illegal activity

I have served the citizens of Palmer Lake as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) with the Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department since mid-June 2015. The fact that Palmer Lake Fire Department has had so many chiefs in just a few years is testament to the dysfunction between the town and the Fire Department.

Serving as the Emergency Medical Services coordinator with the Fire Department, I became aware of serious problems affecting our ability to provide emergency medical services to the citizens of Palmer Lake. I reported those problems to the fire chiefs. I discovered that a member of the Fire Department had been serving for more than a year as an EMT, but was not licensed to do so in Colorado. This is practicing medicine without a license in the State of Colorado. After being directly asked by our Penrose Hospital medical direction (they are responsible for all EMS activities in Palmer Lake) about whether anyone was prac-

ting medicine without a license, I confirmed that there was an individual who had been running calls as an EMT who was not licensed in Colorado to do so.

Two days after an urgent meeting requested by the Penrose medical director with members of the Town Council and the Fire Department, I was summarily asked by the Fire Department chiefs to resign. This request was direct retaliation for embarrassing the town and Fire Department by reporting an unlicensed person performing as an EMT. I never was given an opportunity to present my side of the situation to anyone at the town or the Fire Department. I did not resign.

The action of the Town Council and chiefs is unethical. The town and Fire Department chiefs should be held accountable in this matter, but instead they retaliated against me for exposing serious problems to our medical director.

**Sharyn Baker**

### Statement regarding 2015 D-38 school board election

First, I want to thank the more than 8,300 voters who care enough about the future of education in our district to take

the time to vote. I also want to thank those who supported me in this election, especially our wonderful and dedicated educators, who are the heart and soul of the Lewis-Palmer School District!

I offer my congratulations to Mark Pfoff, Matt Clawson, Sherrie Hawkins and Sarah Sampayo on their election to the board of education. The re-election of three incumbents makes it clear that the citizens of our community believe that the current board and D-38 Superintendent are doing a superb job and want to continue the tradition of educational excellence that is the hallmark of D-38.

While I'm disappointed in the results personally, I know Sarah also cares about our kids and believe she will work hard to keep D-38 one of the best in the state.

I strongly believe D-38 is doing a great job educating our kids and I will continue to be involved in the district as a volunteer. I want to continue all the wonderful, positive things going on in the district and help shape an even better future for D-38.

**Kris Beasley**

### Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

## Book buzz from the trade show

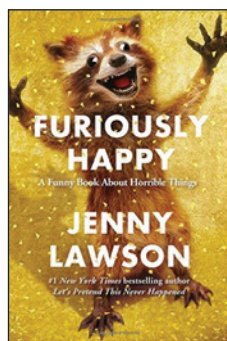
By the staff at Covered Treasures

Excitement was in the air as Mountains and Plains Booksellers descended upon Denver in October for our annual trade show. This is where authors and publishers showcase their new and noteworthy publications, and we select those that might be of interest to our customers. We're eager to share a sampling of our discoveries with you.

### Furiously Happy: A Funny Book about Horrible Things

By Jenny Lawson (Flatiron Books) \$26.99

A hysterical, ridiculous book about crippling depression and anxiety sounds like a terrible idea, but as Lawson explores her lifelong battle with mental illness, this becomes a book about embracing everything that makes us who we are—the beautiful and the flawed—and finding joy in fantastic and outrageous ways. As Jenny's mom says, "Maybe 'crazy' isn't so bad after all." Sometimes crazy is just right.



### The National Parks: An Illustrated History

By Kim Heacox (National Geographic) \$50

This stunning book is a lavish celebration of the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. The very best of National Geographic's iconic photographs, combined with an illuminating history, presents a panorama of diverse properties from the multihued layers of the Grand Canyon to the verdigris flame of the Statue of Liberty. For-

mer Denali National Park ranger Kim Heacox traces the evolution of the Park Service's mission from protecting "scenery" to advocating for cultural and natural preservation and conservation, weaving in dozens of fascinating stories and personalities.

### Bats of the Republic

By Zachary Thomas Dodson (Doubleday Books) \$27.95

This is a book that instantly transfixes, even before you start reading. The author is a book designer who co-founded Featherproof Books out of Chicago, and his debut novel is a glorious demonstration of what old-fashioned paper can still do in the hands of a creative genius. Bats of the Republic cumulatively is a book about the way books are made and the way stories work. Novels, Dodson suggests, are contraptions, jury-rigged together with parts of other novels, archived letters, remembered conversations, maps, scraps of info, imagined journeys, and creatures real and strange. Dodson has quite brilliantly exposed the gears and cogs whirring in the novelist's imagination.

### The Art of Memoir

By Mary Karr (Harper Collins) \$24.99

Mary Karr, author of *The Liars' Club*, offers a master class in the essential elements of great memoir—delivered with her signature humor, insight, and candor. Synthesizing her experiences as a writer, reader, and renowned professor, Karr provides a unique window into the mechanics and art of memoir that is both irreverent and entertaining. "In some ways," she says, "writing a memoir is knocking yourself out with your own fist, if it's done right."

### Quick and Easy Italian Recipes

By The Silver Spoon Kitchen (Phaidon) \$29.95

The 10th anniversary edition of this trusted and bestselling Italian cookbook presents over 100 simple, fast, and delicious recipes to help the busy cook embrace the flavors and spirit of Italian cuisine at home with minimal fuss. With full color photographs and recipes that cooks of all levels can master, the book includes Italian classics such as spaghetti alle vongole, risotto Milanese, fritto misto, and tiramisu.

### The Ultimate Alphabet; Complete Edition

By Mike Wilks (Pomegranate) \$50

Artist Mike Wilks set out in the 1980s to depict as many words as possible in 26 images corresponding to the alphabet. His four-year painting odyssey resulted in a suite of magnificent compilations, all minutely detailed, masterfully rendered, and slightly surreal. Each picture contains hundreds of items all starting with the same letter. The images were first published in a book in 1986 in the best-selling *The Ultimate Alphabet*, and later in *The Annotated Ultimate Alphabet*, in which keys to the images were included. Now, *The Ultimate Alphabet: Complete Edition* brings these two volumes together in one deluxe slipcase edition; one volume presents the paintings with introductory text by the artist; the other offers the keyed drawings and alphabetical lists of words—all 7,825 of them!

Stop by and browse through some of our new selections. Choose some to enjoy yourself during these cool fall nights, or find some special gifts for the readers on your list. Until next month, happy reading. ■

### November library events

## Celebrate National Novel Writing Month

By Harriet Halbig

November is National Novel Writing Month. Come to the library alone or with your friends during several sessions throughout the month and join in the creativity. The community room will be reserved on Thursday, Nov. 12 from 1 to 4; Saturday, Nov. 14 from 12:15 to 1:45; Thursday, Nov. 19 from 2 to 4; Friday, Nov. 20 from 1:30 to 3:30 and Saturday, Nov. 28 from 10 to 1.

No registration is necessary and Wi-Fi is available.

### Children's programs

The Family Fun program for November, on Saturday, Nov. 14 from 2:30 to 4, is the chance to meet local children's author Amber Isaac and Cody, the Teeny Tiny Alpaca. Amber will share her book about Cody. It is a picture book for children that helps young readers learn about feeling

different and the value of being unique.

The Lego Club will meet on Saturday, Nov. 21 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Fourth Fridays Kid's Crafts will be on Friday, Nov. 27 from 4 to 5. This month's craft is a "What I'm Thankful for Wreath" and is recommended for children 5 and up.

### Teen programs

Need help with math? Free tutoring is offered through the AfterMath program every Monday from 3:30 to 7. Bring your homework and meet with an experienced tutor. No appointment is necessary.

Join us to watch *The Hunger Games Mockingjay Part 1* and make a Mockingjay-inspired mini-crossbow on Saturday, Nov 7 from 1 to 3:30. No registration required.

### Adult programs

View the documentary *The Life and Times of Gen. Wm. Jackson Palmer: Founder of Colorado Springs and the Denver & Rio Grande R. R.* (as seen on PBS) on Sunday, Nov. 15 at 2 p.m. Local filmmaker Jim Sawatzki will show his one-hour documentary with questions and answers to follow. No registration necessary.

The Monumental Readers will meet from 10 to noon on Friday, Nov. 20 to discuss *White Ghost Girls* by Alice Greenway.

### Palmer Lake Library events

The Palmer Lake Book Group meets at 9 a.m. on the first Friday of each month. Please call 481-2587 for the current selection.