

The Republican Party should go back to the state primary system in selecting a nominee for president of the United States.

Thomas Chevront Olson

Another great year at Lewis-Palmer

As we come to the close of another school year, I thought I would take an opportunity to give a brief update on how the school district is doing.

Financially, we will yet again end the year with a balanced budget. After eliminating all operational debt a couple years ago, we can continue to say, "we have no operational debt" (we only have debt on capital, i.e., buildings). We continue to maintain strong reserves.

Academically, Lewis-Palmer continues to be one of the top performing school districts in the state. Both high schools have received multiple recognitions for academic excellence. Our kids continue to amaze.

Because of our great teachers, involved parents, supportive community, and awesome kids, we continue to be one of the top school districts in the nation.

I take every opportunity I can to thank our teachers. It seems every year the job gets harder, they work harder, and our kids go farther. We have the best teachers! I don't want to forget our entire staff that works hard every day. I've never seen a group of individuals so committed to our kids' safety and education. We are LP!

I also want to recognize our kids. I regularly visit our schools and get to interact with many of them. They are truly awesome! Parents, you can be very proud.

I want to congratulate all our graduates and wish them a great future!

We are blessed with a great school district and the best community in Colorado. I'm proud to say I'm from Monument, Colorado.

I hope everyone has a great summer!

Mark Pfoff

D-38 Board of Education

1999 MLO never included lots of schools

Americans are traditionally fair. Past and present D-38 School Board leadership hand-wave "everybody knows" Monument Academy was never specifically included in the 1999 MLO. Here is some Big News! Online Academy Schools and Pikes Peak Community College receive D-38 MLO money. Yet they too were not mentioned in the 1999 MLO. Presidents Ferguson and Pfoff owe a fair and better explanation to our kids than their "everyone knows" argument for the funding discrimination against MA kids. A return of fairness in our D-38 leadership is needed.

Gordon Reichal

State board denies D-38 waiver

I have read with interest the Tribune article on the state Board of Education's denial of D-38's assessment waiver for kindergarten students. As a grandmother of a kindergarten student, I'm very concerned about excessive testing and collection of student data. I've been studying this issue for a while.

I'm equally concerned about, what looks to me, like an ongoing fuss between the D-38 leadership and its parents. Since we know there's always two sides to every story, maybe it's time for D-38 leadership to reach out to the handful of parents who took the time to study and weigh in on this important issue. Find out what these parents think. It's always good to get an outside perspective.

And one more thought. As a D-38 taxpayer, I remain concerned about expensive bureaucratic processes. We have a chance to get this waiver right—the second time around. Let's join together to make sure we do get it right.

Sharon Schafer

School board's actions disenfranchise students

I arrived at the D-38 school board meeting on April 21 early and entered my name on the public comment list. Twenty individuals were allocated to speak; I was number

eight. I waited over three hours to speak. Through administrative shenanigans, the board president prevented several parents whose names were on the list from making comments.

Because I was not allowed to speak, I am providing my comments to the public directly.

My children are in the seventh grade at Monument Academy (MA). Our family moved to Monument two years ago. We selected Colorado, specifically Monument, because of the quality of life and the quality of the education.

Prior to relocating, we toured several schools in the community. We selected MA because of the school's philosophy that all students benefit from challenging, content-rich educational programs that built personal character. MA educates students to become active, responsible citizens.

I expect my children to be responsible citizens!

Now to my surprise, I find that the D-38 Board of Education fails to have the character qualities that I expect in my children.

It is unconscionable that some district students are treated less favorably compared to their peers in other district schools. The D-38 board members were elected to represent all residents. The board should not be picking which schools win and which schools lose when tax dollars are distributed. A government body, picking winners and losers, was an instigating factor that led to the 13 colonies' fight for independence. Every tax dollar spent by D-38 my neighbors and I earned. D-38 board members must make the responsible decision to treat all district schools equitably.

The majority of the board represents only a select number of D-38 students and parents. "Doing what is best for the students" are empty words spoken by Mr. Pfoff and other board members.

Thomas B. Smith ■

Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

Gift books for moms, grads, and other special people

By the staff at Covered Treasures

May is the time when we remember special people in our lives—and an appropriate book is the perfect companion to a thoughtful card. One of the following titles may be just right for someone on your list.

Gift from the Sea

By Anne Morrow Lindbergh (Pantheon Books) \$16 & \$9.95

In this graceful, lucid and lyrical classic, Lindbergh shares her meditations on youth and age; love and marriage; and peace, solitude and contentment as she set them down during a brief vacation by the sea. Drawing inspiration from the shells on the shore, Lindbergh's musings on the shape of a woman's life bring new understanding to both men and women at any stage of life. A ground-breaking work when it was originally published in 1955, this book continues to be discovered by new generations of readers. It is available in both hard cover and paperback.



She Taught Me to Eat Artichokes: The Discovery of the Heart of Friendship

By Mary Kay Shanley (Sta-Kris Inc.) \$13.95

Sometimes we must wait patiently for the treasures of life. Just as a shared artichoke slowly reveals its heart, time and effort turn acquaintanceships into friendships. You make time—and take time—to peel the layers off one by one, all the while working toward a goal you didn't know was there. This tender story, combined with rich illustrations, portrays those day-to-day events that, slowly and patient-

ly, transform two neighbors into friends.

The Same Sweet Girls' Guide to Life

By Cassandra King (Maiden Lane Press) \$15

Originally delivered as a commencement address, this volume offers inspiration and practical advice that will sustain new graduates through life's ups and downs and that will only grow in meaning throughout the years. This small book for thoughtful people of all ages can—and should—be read again and again, as King presents readers with the sort of hard-earned wisdom that will enlighten both young and old.

The Prophet

By Kahlil Gibran (Alfred A. Knopf), \$15

One of the beloved classics of our time, Gibran considered this book his greatest achievement. Published in 1923, it has been translated into more than 20 languages, and the American editions alone have sold more than 9 million copies. Musical and vibrant with feeling, this book reminds one of the majestic rhythms of Ecclesiastes, covering everything from love and marriage to buying and selling, crime and punishment.

It's the Little Things

By Amy Collins (Adams Media Corp.) \$9.95

If you feel overworked and underappreciated—or know someone who is—this book offers the perfect rewards for surviving today's stressed-out world. You may find yourself saner and happier enjoying such simple pleasures as: Taking one item off your weekly to-do list, or using your good china and crystal often. This is the ideal gift for that

overwhelmed friend, sister, or mother. It's like having a day spa in book form.

The Importance of Living

By Lin Yutang (Harper) \$16.99

Intended as an antidote to the dizzying pace of the modern world, Yutang's prescription is the classic distillation of ancient Chinese wisdom: revere inaction as much as action, involve humor to maintain a healthy attitude, and never forget that there will always be plenty of fools around who are willing to be busy, to make themselves useful, and to exercise power while you bask in the simple joy of existence. Now, more than six decades later, with our lives accelerated to unbelievable levels, this wise and timeless book is more pertinent than ever before.

1,000 Places to See before You Die

By Patricia Schultz (Workman Publishing) \$19.95

Covering the U.S. and Canada, 1,000 spectacular, compelling, offbeat, utterly unforgettable places are presented, including pristine beaches, world-class museums, mountain resorts, salmon-rich rivers, scenic byways, and the country's best taco. Over 150 places of special interest to families are included with the nuts and bolts of how and when to visit.

If you need a gift for someone special, or would like a new addition to your bedside table, take a look at some of these inspirational books. Until next month, happy reading.

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

May Library Events

Animal program open to all ages

By Harriet Halbig Family programs

May's Family Fun program on Saturday, May 14 is a visit by members of the PPCC Zoo Keeping Technology program, who will bring various large wild things such as lizards, tortoises, and snakes. The program is open to all ages and will run from 2:30 to 4 p.m.

The Legos Club will meet from 10 to 11:30 on Sat-

urday, May 21. We provide the Legos and you bring your imagination!

Teen programs

Having trouble with math? Come to AfterMath each Monday from 3:30 to 7 and sit down with an experienced tutor. There is no charge for this service and no appointment necessary. Open to students of all ages and grade levels, this program will end for the school year on May 16.

Come to the library on Saturday, May 7 from 1 to 3:30 to view Marvel's The Avengers: The Age of Ultron! Snacks and refreshments provided. No registration required.

There will be a meeting of the Teen Advisory Board from 4 to 5 on Friday, May 13. Help us plan future events and parties for teens here at the library. Meet in the study room for snacks and conversation. You must fill out a volunteer application in order to get credit for volunteer