

April Library Events

Quilt show continues

By Harriet Halbig

The quilts made by the Palmer Divide Quiltmakers will remain on display through April. Patrons can come and enjoy the variety of techniques and colors. There will be many programs at the library for all ages during April. Go to our website, ppld.org, and look under classes by location. In some cases registration is required.

We hope to see you soon at the library.
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Right: Palmer Divide Quiltmakers (PDQ) held its 21st annual quilt show at the Monument branch library in March. Members contribute to the community by providing pillows, turbans, and hats for adults and children undergoing cancer treatment in the Colorado Springs area. The club's Blanket Brigade members gather weekly to piece and tie quilts for local children in need of comfort. PDQ raises money at local craft sales to help bring quilters from around the world to speak at the meetings and conduct classes for members. PDQ welcomes new members and meets the first Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce, 166 Second St., Monument. *Photos by Janet Sellers.*



Palmer Lake Historical Society, Feb. 16

History of the KKK in Denver presented

By Marlene Brown

At the March 16 meeting of the Palmer Lake Historical Society (PLHS), special guest speaker Shaun Boyd, curator of History Colorado, presented a program on the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) in the greater Denver area in the 1920s. Even though it was a dark time in Colorado history, the Colorado History Society has procured archives of the KKK membership and be able record in history as far the activities of the KKK of the time.

In the early 1900s there were about 100,000 people living in the Denver area, with about one-third being members of the KKK. As many as 30,000 people would show up for an event. The events were political and condoned violence. In 1915, *The Birth of a Nation* was the first nationally released film. The film was controversial and has remained so ever since as "the most reprehensibly racist film in Hollywood history." The film has since been denounced for its racist depiction of African Americans, according to www.wikipedia.org.

Many of Denver's well-known residents, including Mayor Benjamin Franklin Stapleton who served five terms, 1923-31 and 1935-47, was a member of the

KKK. He also was the Democratic Colorado state auditor from 1933 to 1935.

Though the Klan came to Colorado in 1921, they were disbanded by 1929. The records and membership ledgers can be viewed at historycolorado.org/kkkladders. There were no known members on the ledgers from the Tri-Lakes area.

Next month's program is scheduled to be *Treasure Trove of Local History—Pikes Peak Library District Collections* by Brett Lobello, director of Regional History and Genealogy. Lobello will share information about researching through the library district's special collections stored in the Carnegie Building next to the Penrose Library in Colorado Springs. The public is welcome to learn how to research for special projects.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7 to 8:30 p.m. April 20 (doors open at 6:30) at the Palmer Lake Town Hall, 42 Valley Crescent St. For more information, see palmerdividehistory.org. The PLHS offered a special "thank you" to Sigi Walker for her longtime work and support to the group and her special talents for the

upkeep of the website and newsletter.

Marlene Brown can be reached by email at malenebrown@ocn.me.



Above: Shaun Boyd, curator of History Colorado, presents her program on the history of the KKK in Denver to the Palmer Lake Historical Society. March 16. *Photo by Marlene Brown.*

High Altitude Nature and Gardening (HANG)

Plants can fill us with food and fill our electrical energy needs, too

By Janet Sellers

Garden friends, it's April and that means outdoors we'll have snow and sunshine and rain and every mix of weather here in our area of Colorado. That's not good news for outdoor planting unless you have a greenhouse to protect everything. But we can start tomatoes and other plants that take four to six months to grow.

We technically have a very short growing season, only 26 days. But we can start things indoors, get them going and then give them a protective covering for the month of June until they get going in the garden. We haven't had a lot of hail in our area lately, but a protective outdoor trick is to cover the garden bed with chicken wire. The hail bounces off the chicken wire and doesn't harm the plants.

Starting plants indoors from seeds is a good way to get things moving. Honestly, we shouldn't plant anything outdoors until Memorial Day. We have snow even in late May, and that can ruin a good start of outdoor seeds.

Successful gardeners in our area have told me they start these seeds in April: tomatoes and cucumbers, beans, herbs, and other plants that they want to give a head start for the season.

Another method that can be started in April for plants is to use the straw bale method. That requires three or four weeks of preparation by putting in very well composted soil between the flakes and watering between the flakes as well. This will start the special

composition for the straw to be ready for seeds. The straw not only provides a nice, inoculated substrate for the seeds but also insulates seeds from weather conditions while they are growing. I like straw bales because I don't have to bend down very far and it's basically an instant, inexpensive raised bed.

Some curious plant facts

- *ScienceDaily.com* reports that, "by simply connecting a 'plug' to the plant stem, the electricity generated can be harvested and used to power electronic devices. IIT's researchers show that the voltage generated by a single leaf may reach

to more than 150 volts, enough to simultaneously power 100 LED light bulbs each time the leaf is touched."—Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia (IIT).

- Tomatoes ripen from the center out and the bottom up which means that you can harvest your tomatoes before they actually look ripe because of the way they ripen. You can put them on the window sill on the counter and they will continue to get redder but the flavor won't change.

Janet Sellers is an avid organic "lazy" gardener. With minimal effort, she lets mother nature lead the way and take care of the growing. Send your garden tips to JanetSellers@ocn.me.

On the Trail (in memory of Tim Watkins)

Wildfire mitigation in Monument Preserve

By Steve Pate

Anyone who has hiked or biked in Monument Preserve, around the Rock, on either side of Mount Herman Road will be shocked to see the results of the United States Forest Service's (USFS) efforts to reduce the risk of wildfires in the preserve.

According to Friends of Monument Preserve (FOMP), "Most of you know that the USFS continues its three-year fire mitigation project in the 1,000 acres of open space surrounding the Monument Fire Center. According to the Fuels Management Office of the

Pikes Peak Ranger District, this area was designated as extremely high risk for high-intensity, potentially catastrophic wildfires. Thus, USFS concentrated its money and efforts here to protect the wildland-urban interface and surrounding communities."

To repair damage to trails in the preserve, FOMP will begin its regular trail work volunteer nights starting the second Tuesday in April through the second Tuesday in October. Additional workdays will be scheduled to repair significant damage caused by heavy equipment used to remove Gambel oak and