

Conservative D-38 board member attacked by self-described anti-bullying advocates

Last year, a Facebook war broke out between District 38 administration loyalists and administration watchdogs. One of the watchdogs is an outspoken father who complained about the size of administrators' raises and the district's handling of its mass exposure of student login credentials. D-38 officials had the father investigated by Monument Police Department, who found no wrongdoing and dropped the investigation. Undeterred, the school board president and district supporters advertised the investigation on Facebook and insisted that the father

had committed a crime anyway. Outraged, the father and other skeptics became more outspoken. The two sides have been fighting ever since.

Things reached a boiling point when the skeptics posted a public document from a pending lawsuit against the district online. The complaint alleges that administrators mistreated a special-needs child who was being bullied at school. Facebook went ablaze with comments, pro and con, debating D-38's new anti-bullying program.

Administrators, board members, and the teachers' union responded at Feb. 16's meeting with a coordinated display. They decried the bullying tactics of an entire group of named people, mostly parents—some of whom have never appeared to bully anyone. They stood to show

unity as one administrator read a letter theatrically claiming that board meetings are no longer safe for children to attend because there is so much "yelling" that goes on.

I watch board meetings. There is no yelling. More tellingly, however, I have never seen uncivil or disrespectful behavior from D-38's conservative board member, Sarah Sampayo. But that didn't matter to the mob. She sat, alone, while they presented no evidence but accused her by name of "attacking a teacher," held her responsible for the behavior of others, and told her to resign.

To those who keep insisting this district is great I say, on the contrary, it is sadly typical.

Melinda Zark ■

Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

Spotlight on local authors

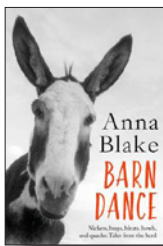
By the staff at Covered Treasures

Colorado has no shortage of talented authors. From general and historical fiction to self-help, biography, and time travel, the imagination of these talented people is in high gear! Here is a sampling:

Barn Dance: Nickers, Brays, Bleats, Howls, and Quacks: Tales from the Herd

By Anna Blake (Prairie Moon Press) \$15.95

A collection of essays on horse play, donkey ethics, and the fine art of mucking, from a small Colorado horse farm and the diverse assortment of animals who live there, including llamas, goats, and Edgar Rice Burro, a long-eared sage and the farm's moral compass.



The Lucky Hat Mine

By J.v.L. Bell, (Hansen Publishing Group) \$16

Mail-order bride Millie Virginia arrives in Idaho Springs to find her husband-to-be is dead—murdered, according to her almost brother-in-law. The two team up to find the killer and protect the dead man's gold mine. Bell interlaces the tale of a feisty heroine with frontier legend and lore, making for an arousing historical murder mystery.

The Conversationalist: Building Life-Defining Relationships One Conversation at a Time

By Russell Verhey (BroadStreet Publishing Group) \$16.99

The Conversationalist will help you to develop your heart, ask the questions, and engage your relationships—leading yourself and others into life-changing discovery.

In an age driven by social media and virtual reality, we need practical tools to help take our relationships to the next level of trust, transparency, and real change for the good. An adventure is waiting for those willing to step forward courageously as conversationalists.

But I Do Believe in God's Country

By Jeffrey Morris (Green Ivy Publishing) \$22.99

When Conrad Kerr, a prestigious lawyer, sees the obituary of childhood friend, college roommate and draft dodger, Deacon Thomas, he begins a geographical and emotional journey introducing him to a people and landscape that will ultimately transform his predictable, upper class life.

Leave

By Heather Buchman (Heather A. Buchman)

The story of Annabella Merlino and FBI Special Agent Prescott continues. Is she a suspect in the case involving arson and attempted murder? Will he believe her? Can she trust him? The answers are in this third and final book of the East Aurora Linger saga, scheduled for release in April.

Dark Brothers

By John Bryan (Published by John Bryan) \$12.99

Al and Molly move back to their small hometown for the birth of their first child. The couple can't realize they are on a collision course with a long-buried scandal from the town's history. Al must wage the battle of his life in a clash between past and present, good and evil, and life and death.

Maestro Satriano: The First Musician to Perform at Red Rocks

By LeAnna DeAngelo (LeAnna DeAngelo) \$15

Based on a true story, Maestro Satriano is about Pietro Satriano, a musical child prodigy and a musician to royalty prior to moving to America in 1885. Through the years, the story unfolds about Pietro's father's drinking problem, Pietro's passionate personality and angry outbursts, his love of teaching children about music, a clandestine affair, and his amazing talent, which ultimately won him national recognition as a bandleader and musical personality in the early 1900s.

A Series of Red Carpets: From Believing to Knowing, A Memoir

By Theresa Diaz (A Red Carpet Ministry) \$12

When steered off course by a life-threatening hurdle in her 30s, Theresa remained determined to find her way back. She circled the globe in her 40s. A surprise encounter in 2015 would reveal an answer that would navigate her compass in yet another direction.

Once Upon another Time

By Diane Sawatzki (Palmer Divide Productions) \$11.95

Kate rushes home to Colorado when her grandfather suffers a heart attack. She has decisions to make. While out snowshoeing, a bear startles her and she falls down a passage into another time, where a Ute Indian befriends her. As this intriguing story unfolds, Kate struggles to survive in the dangerous world of territorial Colorado while she tries to return to the 21st Century.

Always thought you had a story to tell that others would want to read? Check out some of these selections for inspiration! Until next month, happy reading.

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

February Library Events

Visit the library for national quilting month

By Harriet Halbig

March is National Quilting Month, and the Monument



481-2665

105 Second St
Monument

proudly presents...

Spotlight on Local Authors

Saturday, March 11, 3-5

J.v.l. Bell – *Lucky Hat Mine*

John Bryan – *Side Streets and Dark Alleys*

Jeffrey Morris – *But I Do Believe in God's Country*

Diane Sawatzki – *Once Upon Another Time*

Russell Verhey – *The Conversationalist*

Saturday, March 18, 3-5

Anna Blake – *Barn Dance: Nickers, Brays, Bleats, Howls, and Quacks: Tales from the Herd*

LeAnna DeAngelo – *Maestro Satriano*

Theresa Diaz – *Series of Red Carpets: From Believing to Knowing*



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Library features a display of quilts by the Palmer Divide Quiltmakers throughout the library and the display cases. Also, there will be a variety of quilting books on display and a Second Thursday Craft program on English Paper Piecing.

Family programs

The March Family Fun program on Saturday, March 11 at 2:30 is Cool Science for the Family, a program about sound waves followed by several hands-on activities. March Straub, from Cool Science, will demonstrate how sound waves are created and travel through the air. No registration required.

The Lego Build Club will meet from 10 to 11:30 on Saturday, March 18. We provide the Legos and you bring your creativity.

There will be three special programs during spring break:

- On Monday, March 27 from 1:30 to 2:30, alpacas will be the topic, including how they came to this country and what family of animals they belong to. Learn about their fiber and items made with it.
- On Tuesday, March 28 from 10:30 to 11, join Denise and Sienna as they act out some of their favorite Dr. Seuss books. No regular story time today.
- On Thursday, March 30 from 1:30 to 2:30, join Kids on Bikes to learn about cycling safety. There will be a presentation on the ABC quick check, helmet fit, rules of the road and some basic bike maintenance.

Teen programs

An intergenerational knitting group will meet from 3 to

4:30 Wednesday, March 15. Practice materials are provided, but attendees are encouraged to bring their own materials. Some instruction provided for beginners. This group meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

Every Monday (except when the library or schools are closed) come to the library between 3:30 and 7 p.m. to receive free tutoring from experienced tutors. No appointment necessary. AfterMath will not be offered during spring break on March 27.

The Teens Arts and Crafts Open Studio will be offered from 4 to 6 on Wednesday, March 29. Use our meeting room as a space to create. Supplies will be provided as available; however, feel free to bring whatever materials you are currently using and use the space. No registration required.

Adult programs

See the Teen section for information on the intergenerational knitting program.

Learn about acupuncture in a program on Saturday, March 4 from 10:30 to noon. Randy Johnson, certified Seita Shinpo practitioner from the Manitou Springs Clinic of Acupuncture, will explain basic techniques, show equipment, and answer questions about this time-honored medical practice. Everyone is welcome and no registration is required.

Second Thursday craft (March 9): English paper piecing—Learn the craft of English paper piecing, which involves basting fabric to accurately cut shapes and then stitching them together. Two motifs will be shown—the Grandmother's Flower Garden made entirely of hexa-