

ness and obsession, have been effectively demonstrated by history's most brilliant minds that have changed the world. This book won't make you a genius. But embracing the hidden habits of these transformative individuals will make you more strategic, creative, and successful, and, ultimately, happier.

Seven Games

By Oliver Roeder (W.W. Norton & Co.) \$26.95
Checkers, backgammon, chess, Go, poker, Scrabble, and bridge. Oliver Roeder charts their origins and historical importance. Roeder introduces competitors such as Marion Tinsley, who across 40 years lost only three games of checkers, and an IBM engineer

who created a backgammon program so capable at self-learning that NASA used it on the space shuttle. Throughout, Roeder tells how humans have invented AI programs better than any human player, and what that means for the games and for us. Funny, fascinating, and profound, this is a story of obsession, psychology, history, and how play makes us human.

Great news for those who've been waiting, these popular books are now available in paperback:

- *Educated*, by Tara Westover, \$18.99
- *The Splendid and the Vile*, by Erik Larson, \$20
- *Everything Will Be Okay: Life Lessons for Young Women*, by Dana Perino, \$17.99

- *A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds*, by Scott Weidensaul, \$18.95
- *Women in White Coats: How the First Women Doctors Changed the World of Medicine*, by Olivia Campbell, \$17.99
- *The Women of Chateau Lafayette*, by Stephanie Dray, \$17
- *The Lamplighters*, by Emma Stonex, \$17

Until next month, happy reading.

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

April Library Events

Art exhibit at Monument; number of programs grows

By Harriet Halbig

An exhibit of art created by students with special needs will be on view at the Monument Library from April 4-6. A closing reception will be held on the 6th from 5 to 7. This exhibit was organized by an exchange student from Romania.

Regularly occurring programs at Monument are *Story Time* on Tuesdays from 10:30 to 11:30 and *Toddler Time* from 10 to 10:30 on Wednesdays, April 13 and 27. A *Story Time* will also be offered at Reynolds

House on the grounds of the Western Museum of Mining and Industry on Mondays from 9:30 to 10:45. The district's Bookmobile also will visit the site.

Free math tutoring continues to be available each Monday from 3:30 to 6:30. No appointment is necessary.

For additional programs for all ages, please see the district website, ppld.org, and look under programs by location.

The Palmer Lake Library is now open from 10 to 6

Wednesday through Friday each week. *Story Time* in Palmer Lake is on Fridays from 10:30 to 11:30.

Thank you for making this year's Winter Adult Reading Program such a success. It ended on March 31 with a record number of participants.

We hope to see you soon at the library. Remember that tax forms are available for printing from our website from home or the library.

Harriet Halbig may be reached at harriethalbig@ocn.me.

High Altitude Nature and Gardening (HANG)

Microclimates, early planting, and "good bugs"

By Janet Sellers

Our deep, wet spring snows insulate the garden floor and slowly melt, hydrating the earth through the pine needles which have knitted themselves together and allow moisture in but keep weeds out. As the weather warms up, the perfectly prepared and protected soil has optimal conditions for growing vegetables and flowers.

We have unstable weather, but our deep spring snow insulates our ground, as do pine needles at 3 or 4 inches thick as mulch protectors, and the seeds won't sprout until the soil is right, the microbiome is right, etc., but they will get going on their own time, which could be much later, we're just ready now. We've had dropped seed "volunteer" plants get going earlier in the season with this protection of pine straw and snow insulation. My experience with the garden

has shown that we can plant in spring between snows when we don't have the February hard freezing.

Organic gardens have a natural relationship with the climate. Chemical fertilizer offers too much too soon, and the plants get going and can freeze because the whole situation is not related to nature and microbiome, but more with chemicals. This is key: Microorganisms will not stir until the climate is optimal and stay dormant until the natural activity relates to this "readiness." Some years the readiness is in March, some years as late as June, but the process and order of things are the same in the garden. Our climate here is made up of microclimates, so one neighbor may see sprouting while another has a dormant garden.

Garden creatures to protect

Besides pollinators, we find helper bugs. Do not damage them or spray pesticides! The "roly-poly" onisci-

dae, better known as cochineal, is a subgroup of isopod crustaceans whose function is to remove harmful heavy metals from the earth such as mercury, cadmium, and lead. They contribute to the cleansing of the soil and groundwater and reaffirm the wisdom of nature. "Potato bugs" from the Stenopelmatidae family—different from the Colorado potato beetle—mostly help keep your soil healthy, preferring decaying plant life, burrowing and eating away all the dead roots and any other material left behind from the previous garden. They avoid us, but they could bite, so let's leave them alone.

Janet Sellers is an avid lazy—aka nature-focused—gardener, using Mother Nature's methods for the local "high desert forest" climate. Share your wisdom and send your local gardening tips to JanetSellers@ocn.me.



Above and right: Students from Palmer Ridge High School (left) volunteered at the Monument Community Garden. The students helped to top off the monofilament around the fenced area including red ribbons (to deter deer from jumping over the fence), then helped plant the garden area with vegetables and wildflowers to create a hummingbird garden. Beverly Rehm, right, of Woodmoor, answered our request posted on nextdoor.com and brought her bags of pine needles for the students to spread over the garden for mulch, a much-needed protector for the soil and garden seeds. *Photo by Janet Sellers.*

An important message for our readers

Our Community News needs your help!

Our Community News is an all-volunteer organization. For the past 20 years, our volunteers have provided unbiased reporting on important local issues, including real estate development, fire departments, school districts, and water availability. We have provided a very favorable platform for advertising local businesses. We have published letters to the editor to allow you to express your opinions on events affecting the Tri-Lakes area.

Now we find that we have more tasks than we have volunteers. Some vital jobs where we could use your help:

- Reporters. Reporting on local meetings, what

they talked about and what they decided.

- Mailing assistants. Counting and lifting tubs of papers to take the monthly mailing to the post offices and stacks of papers to local businesses, loading and unloading mailing tubs from a truck at two locations, preparing post-office paperwork, tub labels, subscription labels, etc.
- Drivers. Driving a rental truck to various post offices once a month.
- Ad sales assistants. We need volunteers who love OCN to contact local businesses and encourage them to advertise in OCN.

The time and skills involved vary greatly from job to job. OCN will provide whatever equipment and training you need.

Please join us today! Meet a group of interesting and committed people. Learn new skills—use your enthusiasm and creativity to benefit our community and celebrate unfiltered information.

Please call Publisher John Heiser at (719) 488-3455, or email johnheiser@ocn.me to see how you can contribute. Contact John today! He is waiting to hear from you. Together we can ensure that OCN continues to provide a vital service to our wonderful Tri-Lakes community.