

Maybe that’s one reason why overall enrollment in the district is increasing.
James W. Howald

D-38 leadership called “small-minded”

A few weeks ago, a volunteer who is a senior citizen, a licensed teacher, and currently working toward a PhD in educational leadership was invited to be a guest speaker at Palmer Ridge High School. The teacher requested this volunteer’s expertise to address his classes for a full day on a Thursday and a block class on a Friday morning. The lesson concerned the qualities and characteristics of strong leadership.

Unlike other volunteers who sign in and proceed to their destination, this person was told to wait in the office to be escorted up to the classroom. A dean of students was sent into the classroom to monitor the lesson this volunteer was team-teaching.

As planned, the lesson went very well

and the students were thoroughly engaged. Both the teacher and volunteer also found the classes to be gratifying, as good teachers do when students experience active learning. On the second day, the teacher was extremely upset because he had been chastised severely by school administration for having invited this particular volunteer. Why did PRHS administrators fear this individual volunteer? Later, the teacher was told directly it was because it was me, Stephen Boyd.

I have written opinion pieces accurately raising issues regarding the policies and practices of this school district. Are we being punished for exercising our First Amendment rights? I have relatively thick skin gained from a first career in business and was not bothered by the shabby treatment I received; however, the teacher felt demeaned and that his professional integrity had been challenged. Ironically, later, the dean who observed the teaching commented on what an outstanding lesson it was.

If highly qualified volunteers aren’t

welcome to participate in public education, then students suffer. What is being modeled for our staff and students with this kind of retaliatory, vindictive, and small-minded style of leadership in D-38?
Stephen Boyd

Parents form Friends of D-38
I have a child that attends Lewis-Palmer Elementary School, and I have been involved in the activities of the school district as DAAC chairperson since May 2010. I regularly attended school board meetings and work sessions. I have watched and listened as the board has navigated these last four years, having to cut a total of about \$10 million. And right now, it looks like they will have to cut more than \$1 million next year.

I have listened to them discuss and debate countless issues—from bus routes, to food services, to marketing the district. I have watched them put time and effort into making informed decisions, by consulting experts and getting the communi-

ty’s opinion. I have not always agreed with their decisions, but for the most part, I feel they have done their best.

In the coming months, there are going to be discussions about a mill levy override (MLO) on the 2012 ballot. An MLO is an investment in our community. All MLO money stays in our schools. We live in a competitive world, and giving our schools a competitive advantage with an MLO is not just good for the short term, it is smart for the long term.

I believe this so much that I, along with a few other concerned parents, have organized a group to help educate the community on what exactly the cuts have been and where the money is most urgently needed. We are calling ourselves Friends of D-38.

This is my home. I am invested in this place. I have a stake in it, not just limping along but thriving, now and for years to come.

Thank you.
Steve Braun

Between The Covers at the Covered Treasures Bookstore

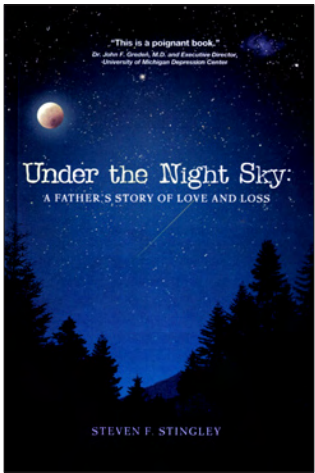
Spotlight on local authors

By the staff at Covered Treasures

Did you know that our neighborhood is teeming with authors? Just as the Tri-Lakes area has become a mecca for artists, writers, too, are finding it a comfortable place. Some of their work is described below.

Under the Night Sky
By Steve Stingley (Monument Rock Press) \$16

A father struggles to make sense of the tragedy of losing his oldest son at the tender age of 23. As Stingley embarks on a personal journey to find answers to the elementary and existential questions, he returns to the things the two of them enjoyed most: spending time outdoors and sleeping under the stars.



Radical Equations
By Robert Spiller (Courtney Literary) \$9.99

Math teacher Bonnie Pinkwater is at it again. When she and her Wiccan sidekick find the body of Bonnie’s boss, their day takes a decided turn for the worse. But when that same body disappears, then reappears seated at his desk, Bonnie decides to nose around and turns up killer motorcyclists, suspicious preachers, tyrannical dwarves, high-stakes poker games, land-grabbing CEOs, and a damaged math genius. Set in East Plains, Colo., this is the fourth book in the Pinkwater series.

Interment
By Reg Grady (Createspace) \$18.95

Four college friends form a backpacking club, and each year they gather to choose the most remote spot, farthest from civilization, for their annual summer solstice trip. One year, everything changes. A mystery, a murder, and a strange conspiracy theory emerge from their innocent annual outing. Out of the hills of the Ozarks comes a threat to our country’s national security and to the friends, who find they really don’t know one another very well.

Garden of the Gods (Images of America Series)
By Toni Hamill (Arcadia Publications) \$21.99

Since prehistoric times, the Garden of the Gods has been a source of fascination. This geologic formation in Colorado Springs was a seasonal camping site and source of spiritual significance for Ute Indians, and scientists have discovered evidence of dinosaurs, prehistoric cultures, and unusual biological associations. Hamill, a retired teacher and member of the Manitou Springs Heritage Center, wrote her master’s thesis on the history of the park. That research was the inspiration for this book.

A Successful Life
By Gabriel Lawson (iOdyssey Books) \$12.99

This book presents five principles for living a successful life as derived from the perspective, reflections, and regrets of dying hospice patients. Learn about their mes-

sage on the meaning of life and the powerful scientific principles proven to increase success in every aspect of life. These secrets may enable you to start living the life you deserve—a successful life.

The Adventures of Sean McCauley; From Ireland to Scotland Yard
By Gerald Allen Cox (Createspace) \$15

An Irish lad growing up in a small village takes advantage of unusual opportunities and finds his mundane life exploding into one of intrigue, danger, and international recognition. Cox, a retired professional investigator, uses his vast experience to spin an engrossing tale of the dismantling of an international terrorist organization, with a little romance thrown into the mix.

Living with Interest: Indian Summer
By Robert Hammitt (Createspace) \$17.50

On his 16th birthday, Bobby Greenfield learns of an unusual family talent, which may actually be a curse. From an uneventful day at the Greenfield family bank, the reader is transported into the future and back, giving that same day a sense of urgency and intensity. Focusing on the crossroads we face throughout our lives, Hammitt shows how alternate paths can have unexpected ripple effects on the future.

Crossing the Gore: An Adventure of Spirit
By Karl Roscoe (Spruce Mountain Press) \$13.95

Upon his return from a very bad business trip, Hunter Veritas gets a traffic ticket. This is the first in a series of events that leaves his life in shambles, as he loses his job, his wife, and his friends. But then a young stranger introduces him to a new world that exists within and beyond our own, and she slowly coaxes him back from the brink.

Why not try sampling some books by our local authors? You may be pleasantly surprised by the talent in our midst.

Until next month, happy reading. ■

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Behind the D-38 Administration Building at Second and Jefferson St. in Downtown Monument. Park in the administration building parking lot.

Playground for the kids! Many new vendors plus all your old favorites!

For information, call 592-9420.