

our school board's continual attacks on people and facts.

Gordon Reichal

D-38 administrator should go

Twice now, Russ Broshous has written letters to our two local newspaper editors. And both times, he's been flat out wrong! Russ thinks it's a "travesty" for citizens to speak out and demand the resignation of D-38's Assistant Superintendent Cheryl Wangeman. Really, is this a dictatorship? Who gave you the power to decide what is OK to say in a public meeting?

The definition of travesty is "a false, absurd, or distorted representation of something." Here's what I think is absurd. No one in D-38 has been held accountable for the \$75,000-plus that the three failed mill levy overrides (MLO) cost the D-38 taxpayers. Ms. Wangeman was the architect of those three failed MLOs (2007, 2008, and 2013) and, to add insult to injury, she approved the payment of \$14,000 this past July for a professional survey of "likely voters" in D-38 concerning the \$4.5 million MLO.

The professionals advised against the MLO request, but the powers that be didn't bother to listen. In the highest turnout in all El Paso County, the voters proved the poll-

sters correct with a 3-to-1 "no!" vote. Another \$14,000 down the drain! And what about "distorted representation of something"? Now we hear that there's plenty of money in D-38's budget. How about just telling the truth, Ms. Wangeman?

But maybe the bigger question is how much more should the D-38 taxpayer tolerate from this high-paid administrator? In my book, not one more penny! It's time to send her packing and maybe Mr. Broshous should go with her. He has a history of expecting the local taxpayers to pick up the tab for his pet projects from a taxpayer funded recreation center to D-38 MLOs. I am just happy that you are not on the school board. What will you want the taxpayers to pay for next, Russ?

Ernie Biggs

Good news and bad news at D-38

There is both good and bad news from the last school board meeting.

The bad news first: The school board now begins its meeting with a long-winded, legal-sounding statement intended to intimidate district patrons regarding their citizen comments. The statement threatens possible legal action for comments that question a school staff

member's performance. Board member Robb Pike went further when he stated that the board will listen to community members who bring dissenting points of view, but will not answer any questions posed or respond to any comments that appear critical of the district. Is this the new normal?

What the board will welcome is accolades. The good news came from board President Pfoff when he proclaimed the results of his research regarding student scores. He drew a direct correlation between the revolving door of district superintendents and the increase in student scores: Every time a superintendent leaves, the scores go up. So, the obvious conclusion is that D-38 never needed an MLO, smaller, reasonable class sizes, or competent teachers to achieve their high ranking.

Hence the lackluster commitment to acquiring a highly qualified experienced superintendent with a proven track record who would be invested in developing a vision for the district's future with a long-term commitment to seeing it through. These comments can be viewed on the district website when viewing the streaming of the Dec. 19 meeting.

Stephen Boyd ■

Between The Covers at the Covered Treasures Bookstore

Taking care of No. 1 in 2014

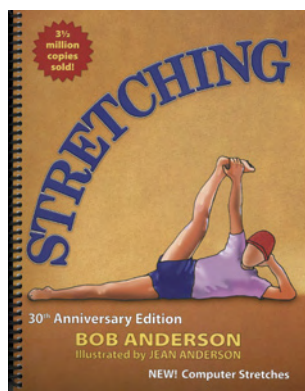
By the staff at Covered Treasures

After spending the holidays keeping family and loved ones happy and comfortable, January is a good time to take care of yourself. Whether through reflecting on life, adopting a healthier lifestyle, exercising, or dieting, there are books to inspire and help you find your way.

Stretching

By Bob Anderson (Shelter Publications) \$19.95

Stretching relaxes your mind and tunes up your body, so it should be a part of your daily life, regardless of age or flexibility. Regular stretching will reduce muscle tension, help coordination, increase range of motion, help prevent injuries, make strenuous activities easier, help maintain flexibility—and it feels good! This 30th Anniversary Edition includes 150 stretches with instructions for each, 17 routines for everyday activities, 10 routines for computer users and office workers, and 37 routines for different sports. Illustrator Jean Anderson has also created a graphic index of all 150 stretches, which is useful for doctors and medical and fitness professionals in prescribing stretches for patients.



How to be a Lady and How to be a Gentleman

By Candace Simpson-Giles and John Bridges (Thomas Nelson) \$16.99 each

A lady is not only kind and intelligent, witty and resourceful. She is also mindful of the effect she has on

those around her and knows how to breeze through an awkward conversation with poise. A gentleman is not only a nice, considerate guy. He also knows when to use email and when a handwritten note is proper. He knows how to dress for the golf course, church, and for a party, and how to smartly initiate a conversation. These contemporary guides to common courtesy reiterate ideals that will never be obliterated by technology, or the latest social ideology. Bridges, Bryan Curtis and Kay West have also developed companion volumes for young gentlemen and young ladies.

The Daniel Plan

By Rick Warren D. Min., Daniel Amen M.D. & Mark Hyman M.D. (Zondervan) \$24.99

With assistance from medical and fitness experts, Pastor Rick Warren and thousands of people from his congregation at Saddleback Church started a journey to transform their lives. The result: 15,000 people lost over 360,000 pounds in the first year. But the changes in people's lives went far beyond the pounds they lost. This book is an appetizing approach to achieving a healthy lifestyle by optimizing the key five essentials of faith, food, fitness, focus, and friends.

The Gifts of Imperfection

By Brené Brown, Ph.D., L.M.S.W. (Hazelden.) \$14.95

Brown encourages readers to let go of "who they think they are" and embrace "who they are" by sharing 10 guideposts on the power of "Wholehearted Living." She advocates cultivating authenticity, self-compassion, a resilient spirit, gratitude and joy, intuition and trusting faith, creativity, play and rest, calm and stillness, meaningful work, and laughter, song and dance.

Think and Grow Rich

By Napoleon Hill (Ballantine Books) \$12.95

Andrew Carnegie's magic formula for success was the direct inspiration for this book. Carnegie demonstrated its soundness when his coaching brought fortunes to those young men to whom he had disclosed his secret. This book will teach you that secret by showing you not only what to do but how to do it.

Desperate

By Sarah Mae & Sally Clarkson (Thomas Nelson.) \$15.99

Motherhood turns you inside out. Sometimes you feel overwhelmed by how tired you feel; the days go on and on, and you want to be a "good" mom, but you feel like a failure so much of the time. Mae and Clarkson have been to the edge and back. *Desperate* is not a book about despair; it is the story of one young mother's trials and one experienced mentor's priceless exhortations. It is filled with encouragement, help, and answers to some of your heart-wrenchingly honest questions.

The Four Doors

By Richard Paul Evans (Simon & Schuster) \$19.99

Evans weaves stories from his readers, stories about great achievers, and stories about his own struggle growing up in a large family into a careful explanation of the four doors to a more fulfilling life: Believe there's a reason you were born; free yourself from limitation; magnify your life; and develop a love-centered map.

We at Covered Treasures hope that 2014 is a happy, healthy New Year for all of you. Until next month, happy reading.

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

Art Matters

Art: the many benefits to each person



By Janet Sellers

It is good to love many things, for therein lies true strength, and whosoever loves much performs much, and can accomplish much, and what is done in love is well done. — Vincent Van Gogh

I hope we all find our inner creativity this January—and all winter—with creative endeavors such as art classes, art groups, and our local art venues. The arts are a heart-felt and heart-filled, vigorous effort on the part of our citizens to live the best life possible in any season of our lives. We are very fortunate to be able to support our local arts here and thereby create our community ourselves by daily effort and enjoyment.

Do drive around town, even on a cold wintry day, and see the art at the Sculpture Park, Monument Town Hall, or Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts and keep an eye out for the outdoor art we have that is steadfastly carrying on the cause, in snow or sun, to make your day a little happier,

your thoughts a brighter, and your love of our place, our community, that much warmer.

We can thank local citizens and volunteer groups for our local outdoor art. One such group is Tri-Lakes Views. It began informally in 2002 as a group of interested citizens who looked to support and promote the arts and historic preservation in our area. Through the years, the group has brought art shows, art awards and art venues into existence where previously there were none.

Our beautiful Monument Sculpture Park is a case in point. Through the efforts of Tri-Lakes Views, School District 38 and the Town of Monument have joined hands to create a lovely, grass-filled (OK, I admit it is a field of fluffy snow this time of year) park with numerous fine art outdoor sculptures in a wide variety of art expressions. It is all there to bring us a fun, happy sense of community through the arts.

Tri-Lakes Views not only helped create and sustain

our sculpture park, but also has broadened the reach of the outdoor art venues throughout our Tri-Lakes region. From Palmer Lake to Monument to surrounds, our local public art is on view in every season. This means that visitors and locals alike benefit from a sense of place, regardless of town limits or town politics.

Long-timers in our area know that our community remains strong because of the immense volunteer spirit and volunteer activities of its people. People new to the area bring ideas, energy and wonder to the place, and as they settle in, find the many opportunities to support our Tri-Lakes area that they can join in and strengthen our community even more.

People mention over and over that our Tri-Lakes area is unique in the state, if not the nation, for the immense impact of the arts through virtually all volunteer efforts. That's enormous testament to the social fiber of our area.

The winter months bring an indoor variety of activ-