

TCAP (Transitional Colorado Assessment Program) tests in grades 3-10 in reading, writing, and math. This is the last year of the traditional TCAP paper and pencil testing. In April, elementary and middle school students will be assessed using a new online assessment with interactive items in science (grades 5 and 8) and social studies (grades 4 and 7) called CMAS (Colorado Measure of Academic Success).

While testing online stretches our technical resources, our students are ready to demonstrate excellence on these new measures. Our teachers have aligned and realigned our curriculum to the new Colorado Academic Standards and have prepared students to navigate an online testing medium.

District 38 has amazing students, supportive parents, and tremendous teachers who are all helping our students

grow to reach incredible levels of academic success. Thank you for joining us as we help our students become successful learners.

Lori Benton, Ph.D.

Director of Assessment and Gifted Education Lewis-Palmer School District #38 ■

Between The Covers at the Covered Treasures Bookstore

Noteworthy new releases

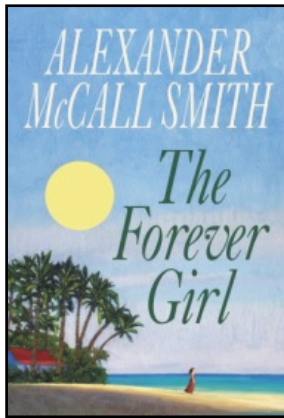
By the staff at Covered Treasures

If these cool, March winds give you the urge to stay inside by the fire and read a good book, there are some excellent new titles to choose from.

The Forever Girl

By Alexander McCall Smith (Pantheon Books) \$24.95

The popular author of the best-selling No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series brings readers a new stand-alone novel about love and following one's heart. Set in a close-knit community of ex-pats on Grand Cayman Island, Smith tells a tale full of love and heartbreak, humor and melancholy that beautifully demonstrates the myriad ways in which love shapes our lives.



The Kid: The Immortal Life of Ted Williams

By Ben Bradlee Jr. (Little, Brown and Co.) \$35

When Williams, a cocky 20-year-old arrived in Boston in 1939, he declared that he wanted to become the "greatest hitter who ever lived." He not only achieved that distinction within two years, but he also earned a long list of accolades, despite the fact that he left baseball for five years in his prime to serve in World War II and Korea. John Glenn, who flew with Williams, called him one of the best pilots he'd ever seen. After a decade of research,

Ben Bradlee Jr. delivers the fascinating story of a man as big as his myth.

Still Life With Bread Crumbs

By Anna Quindlen. (Random House) \$24.99

Quindlen's latest novel begins with an imagined gunshot and ends with a new tin roof. Between the two events, she presents a portrait of photographer Rebecca Winter, who discovers that what she sees through a camera lens is not all there is to life. Skillfully written, this is a deeply moving and often very funny story of unexpected love, and a journey into the life of a woman, her heart, her mind, and her days, as she discovers that life is a story much more exciting than she ever imagined.

Your Life Calling: Reimagining the Rest of Your Life

By Jane Pauley (Simon & Schuster) \$26

By the end of this year, every baby boomer will have reached age 50. For most, it's not an end but the beginning of the new experiences that lie ahead. Research has shown that people in their 50s are more vital than they were 10 years ago. Jane Pauley, one of America's most trusted broadcast journalists, gives voice to the opportunities of her generation, offering humor and insight about the journey forward. She tells her own story and introduces readers to some of the fascinating people she has met during her broadcast career. Their delightful, compelling, and inspiring stories help boomers answer the question, "What am I going to do with the rest of my life?"

A Well-Tempered Heart

By Jan-Philipp Sendker (Other Press) \$15.95

This spirited sequel to *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats* explores the most passionate terrain: the human heart. Almost 10 years have passed since Julia Win came back from Burma, her father's native country. Even though she's a successful Manhattan lawyer, her career and wealth leave her longing for more. When her personal life falls apart, she finds herself considering questions she's been trying to avoid: Why does she live alone? To whom does she feel close? What does she want in life? Interwoven with Julia's story is that of a Burmese woman who finds her world turned upside down when Burma goes to war and calls on her young sons to be child soldiers.

After Visiting Friends: A Son's Story

By Michael Hainey (Scribner) \$16

Hainey was a boy of 6 when his father, a bright and shining star in the glamorous world of 1960s Chicago newspapers, died under mysterious circumstances. Years later, Michael undertakes a risky journey to uncover the true story by prodding reluctant relatives and his father's old colleagues. The result is an unforgettable story of a son who goes searching for his father, and in the journey discovers new love and admiration for his mother.

While you're waiting for warm weather activities, or enjoying spring break, why not treat yourself to one of these enticing new books? Until next month, happy reading.

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

Art Matters

Public art supports your community every day of the year

By Janet Sellers

"Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life."
— Pablo Picasso

As I mentioned last month, Tri-Lakes Views is a local organization that champions our local public art each year. Tri-Lakes Views currently has an active Call for Entries for its annual outdoor sculpture exhibition titled ARTSites. The juried exhibit will be installed in June and be on display for one year. They even create and distribute a bazillion maps of our local public art so you can take a self-guided tour any day of the year.

The chosen sculptures will be on exhibit throughout the Tri-Lakes area and the Monument Sculpture Park at Big Red, which is along Second and Jefferson Streets. Submittal deadline is March 31. For application criteria and details, use this link: www.trilakesviews.org. To its huge credit, Tri-Lakes Views is a nonprofit community arts organization.

Why consider public art for your business or site? Putting art in your business or town increases prosperity. Creating art awareness creates community awareness and true love of one's community. When we love where we live, we take good care of it and make plans to improve and keep it thriving.

Public art holistically improves local economies. Public art is free to enjoy, you don't have to dress up to go see it, and you can enjoy it alone, with a group, or just on a walk with your dog. Public art increases a sense of community and love of place, and cities loved by their residents are more prosperous.

In choosing a place to live or shop, or plans for a business, social offerings, openness, and beauty were cited more often for desirability than leadership, safety, or local economy, according to a Gallup survey in 2010 of 43,000 adults in 26 U.S. cities. It is a perspective that may

surprise civic leaders, but would likely be a valuable tool for helping areas to thrive, especially in tough economic times.

The survey found that high resident attachment/love for where people live results in higher GDP growth for an area. And while these factors are not new to residents because they have historically strongly influenced choices for people moving to a place, it may be a new idea for civic leadership and businesses for attracting new commerce and retaining residents for economic growth and community stability.

"This survey offers new approaches for communities to organize themselves to attract businesses, keep residents and holistically improve their local economic vitality," Gallup Deputy Director Jon Clifton said in a statement.

"Our theory is that when a community's residents are highly attached, they will spend more time there, spend more money; they're more productive and tend to be more entrepreneurial," Clifton said. In addition to improved living for residents, the survey also showed that public art located at a business increases an employee's emotional connection to the company and also increased the company's profits.

Art show events for March

Bella Art and Frame Gallery: Last call! The grand, yearlong show and sale of works by local pottery artist Tony Heslop will end in April. The gallery announced March as the final month of the show, which includes housewares, tableware, lamps, and ceramic sculpture in Heslop's inimitable style. Heslop is widely collected nationally. Also on exhibit are the gallery's dozen or more local artists featuring oil paintings, acrylic paintings, and watercolors as well as fiber art, pottery, and jewelry. Bella Art and Frame, 187 Washington St., Monument.

Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts (TLCA): Visions of Light Exhibition March 4 to 29, opening reception March 7, 5:30 to 8 p.m. The show will be judged by internationally acclaimed photographer Dan Ballard. The exhibit includes a wide variety of subjects: urban and nature landscapes, architecture, people, nature, and abstract works. Ballard will also teach a photography class at TLCA on March 6. Details are at TLCA, 304 Highway 105, Palmer Lake or www.trilakesarts.org.

Janet Sellers is an American artist, art teacher, and arts writer. She makes public art sculptures for Colorado cities, teaches art locally, and you can often see her painting pictures outdoors, faithful pooch at her side, in just about any weather. She can be reached at janetsellers@ocn.me.



Above: Local student artists Natasha, left, and Sophia Lovato work on their entries for the annual Junior Duck Stamp design competition. These two artists have supported and entered the design contest for over a decade to help save Colorado wildlife and habitat. Colorado state entries are due March 15. The contest is open to all students K-12. Details: www.fws.gov/juniorduck/States/Colorado.htm. Photo by Janet Sellers.