

rity at all our schools.

If you vote yes on 4A and 4B, your taxes will go up next year; however, they will go down the following year and will continue to decline as more homes are built and bonds on other school buildings are paid off by the district. The average home in our area will pay approximately \$14 more a month; a small investment to help ensure our classroom sizes stay manageable and our schools are safe.

Our school district has managed our money responsibly and have maintained a balanced budget for years. Now they need our help to address growth and safety. Continue our legacy of great schools and a great community. Vote yes on 4A and 4B.

Get the facts about the bond and MLO at [www.lewispalmer.org/4a4b](http://www.lewispalmer.org/4a4b).

**Mark Pfoff**

### Support Ballot Issues 4A and 4B

As a current LPSD 38 Board of Education member, I can attest that developing ballot issues 4A and 4B spanned more than 18 months and included significant community deliberation and multiple work sessions and board meetings during the summer months. The bond and MLO are simply need-based; given the growth in our community (approx. 500 additional students since 2013), it is imperative that we provide for our students and families.

Bond funds will provide necessary money to build a new elementary school, re-convert the existing Bear Creek Elementary school back to a middle school (the former Creekside Middle School) and collaborate with Monument Academy to build a district-owned gymnasium or auditorium adjacent to their proposed high school. Our middle school is currently utilizing library space as a classroom, closet space for offices and converting the teacher's lounge into classroom space. This is not an acceptable condition for our teachers or our children. These bond funds will alleviate the overcrowding at the middle school level while also providing additional capacity in the short term for elementary students.

MLO funds will provide for increased security personnel and wellness counselors. I have four teenagers and am reminded daily of the differing world they are navigating. I am in full support of providing a secure learning environment and additional counseling support. Additional personnel allows for teachers to focus on teaching and for students to feel safe in their learning environments.

As a parent in this district since 2006, I have advocated for our schools, teachers, and staff in the hope that we are providing the best for our kids and our entire community. Strong schools create strong communities ... strong communities should continue to nurture strong schools! Please join me in providing what is necessary for our students, teachers, and community!

**Theresa Phillips**

### Funding lag requiring bond for new school in D38

In order to explain why D38 needs a bond to build a new school, we must understand the recession-era legislative decisions that changed how Colorado funds its schools and balances its budget.

Amendment 23 was a citizens' ballot initiative, passed in 2000, to reverse a decade of budget cuts. The amendment requires the Legislature to annually increase K-12 per pupil funding by inflation +1% through 2011 and inflation thereafter. Because of Colorado's budget crisis, Amendment 23 was not fully implemented through 2011. In an effort to cope with falling revenues, the Legislature reinterpreted the amendment to allow them to cut education funding, which is referred to as the "Negative Factor." School years 2008-10 saw additional unpredicted cuts made mid-year that put Colorado schools in a worsening bind. Although Colorado is experiencing increasing revenues, TABOR has not allowed the state to add to reserves enough to pay for the debt owed schools.

State underfunding of D38 has amounted to nearly \$50 million. In the leanest years, D38 successfully cut administrative positions rather than teachers. Compared to surrounding districts, D38 operates with a much leaner administration budget.

State underfunding has been an issue for school districts all over Colorado. They have had to compensate by asking their taxpaying base to help. And help D20, D11 and D49 have received, among 13 other districts in 2016. If D20 passed a \$230 million bond, D38 can pass a \$36.5 million bond. The cost of the bond for an average \$400,000 home is less than \$9/month. The amount addresses our immediate capacity need. Additional schools will be necessary for the near future, but I applaud our Board of Education for being fiscally prudent with taxpayer dollars.

Bond measure 4B is a necessity!

**Erin Vineyard**

### Residential treatment center saved my life

My name is Rob Meeker, and last summer after being gone for 19 years I chose to move my family of four (soon to be five) back to Monument. It's been a heck of a year:

Seven days after returning, my high school cycling coach Tim Watkins was murdered. I began to wonder what has happened to the community I grew up in—busier people, faster drivers, fewer waves....

Needless to say, I am afraid that the loving and charming town of Monument that I left in the '90s has either died or is on life support and needs to be woken back up.

Sadly, the polarization of our society has reared its ugly head in a new way as of late in quaint little Monument.

Rob Meeker was the student body president of the LPHS class of 1998 (go Rangers!) and is a proud Tri-Lakes community member.

However, Rob Meeker is also a recovering alcoholic who likely would have died in his disease had he not been able to go to a residential treatment facility much like the "opposed" one here in our perfect little town.

I am frankly disgusted by our community's reaction to this and their attitude toward addiction in general. In case you're not aware, addiction knows no boundaries.

Addiction of many sorts has been, and always will be, part of D38 and the Tri-Lakes community. It is our job as a modern "Christian" society to try to take care of the sick and needy among us, and by among us I hope that we can agree that humanity qualifies as "us."

I hope and pray that the Tri-Lakes community will have a change of heart on this issue and embrace a business designed to not only change lives but also to save them.

**Rob Meeker**

### It's not a done deal

An alcohol/drug rehabilitation facility on the Ramada Inn property is not a done deal! So far, the rehab center has no licenses to operate; a protest is underway. Take Action El Paso County is the organization fighting to close this facility [www.TakeActionElPasoCounty.com](http://www.TakeActionElPasoCounty.com). It follows the San Clemente, Calif., organization that is having success in regulating the alcohol/drug rehabilitation facility there <http://www.takeactionsancllemente.com/index.html>.

The federal government is investigating this industry for fraud and abuse. See [www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2018/06/01/congress-probes-rehab-industry-tactics/655050002/](http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2018/06/01/congress-probes-rehab-industry-tactics/655050002/)

Reasons to stop this facility:

- 1) Too close to Lewis-Palmer MS, Palmer Ridge HS, Lewis-Palmer ES, Monument Academy, public library (students wait for pick up), designated Safe-Route-Trails, Bright Start Pre-school & Daycare, and overlooking brewery.
- 2) Statistics show a rehab program itself is not effective. See "The Business of Recovery, A documentary by Greg Horvath" [www.thebusinessofrecovery.com](http://www.thebusinessofrecovery.com).
- 3) No background checks on patients, and they roam freely.
- 4) After 30 days, patients are released; statistics show 30 days are not enough. See documentary above.
- 5) Curbing practices: patients dumped into communities. If patients can afford it, they go to "Sober Houses," which are houses rented in our neighborhoods unless protected by HOA bylaws. Houses are overcrowded; it is documented many patients return to their addictions in what addicts call "party houses." See [www.denverpost.com/2018/03/11/colorado-sober-living-homes-opioid-crisis-christopher-bathum/](http://www.denverpost.com/2018/03/11/colorado-sober-living-homes-opioid-crisis-christopher-bathum/)
- 6) Half-full rehab facility, Highway 105, Palmer Lake, is causing neighbors problems; neighbors complain of needles and empty bottles on their property.
- 7) Property values will decline. Buyer cancels purchasing home when he learns of proposed rehab center.

Let's keep Monument and its schools safe. You can help by signing petitions at [www.TakeActionElPasoCounty.com](http://www.TakeActionElPasoCounty.com) and donating to our go-fund-me account at [www.gofundme.com/take-action-el-paso-county](http://www.gofundme.com/take-action-el-paso-county).

**Vera Schumaker**

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## Between the Covers at Covered Treasures Bookstore

# New nonfiction books

By the staff at Covered Treasures

"I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read."

—Groucho Marx

Here are some new nonfiction reads that you might prefer over television:

### **The Woman Who Smashed Codes: A True Story of Love, Spies, and the Unlikely Heroine Who Outwitted America's Enemies**

By Jason Fagone (Dey Street Books) \$16.99

This is the never-told, incredible true story of the greatest code-breaking duo that ever lived, Elizebeth and William Friedman. Together they invented the modern science of cryptology and used it to confront the evils of their time, solving puzzles that unmasked Nazi spies and helped win World War II. After World War I, Elizebeth accepted a covert mission to discover and expose Nazi spy rings. As World War II raged, Elizebeth fought a highly classified battle of wits against Hitler's Reich, cracking multiple versions of the Enigma machine used by German spies. Meanwhile, William worked furiously to break Purple, the Japanese version of Enigma—and eventually succeeded, at a terrible cost to his personal life.



### **Fly Girls: How Five Daring Women Defied All Odds and Made Aviation History**

By Keith O'Brien (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt), \$28

O'Brien weaves together the previously untold stories of five remarkable women: Florence Klingensmith, a high-school dropout; Ruth Elder, a divorcee; Amelia Earhart, the most famous, but not necessarily the most skilled; Ruth Nichols, who chafed at the constraints of her blue-blood family's expectations; and Louise Thaden, the mother of two young children who got her start selling coal in Wichita. Together they would make aviation history, fighting for the chance to race against the men—and in 1936 one of them would triumph in the toughest race of all.

### **Beautiful Boy**

By David Sheff (Mariner Books) \$16.99

Now a major motion picture, this is an eye-opening memoir of addiction, healing, and family, with a new Afterward by the author. Before Nic became addicted to crystal meth, he was joyous and funny, a varsity athlete and honor student adored by his siblings. After meth,

he was a trembling wraith who lied, stole, and lived on the streets. David Sheff traces the journey from the first warning signs. As a journalist, he instinctively researched every treatment that might save his son. And he refused to give up on Nic.

### **Wild Fire: On the Front Lines with Station 8**

By Heather Hansen (Mountaineers Books) \$24.95

Every year wildfires ravage forests, destroy communities, and devastate human lives, with only the bravery of dedicated firefighters creating a barrier against even greater destruction. Throughout the 2016 wildfire season, journalist Heather Hansen witnessed firsthand the heroics of the Station 8 crew in Boulder. She tells that story here, layered with the added context of the history, science, landscape, and human behavior that, year-by-year, increases the severity, frequency, and costs of conflagrations in the West.

### **Rocket Men: The Daring Odyssey of Apollo 8 and the Astronauts Who Made Man's First Journey to the Moon**

By Robert Kurson (Random House) \$28

In a year of historic violence and discord, the Apollo 8 mission would be the boldest, riskiest test of America's greatness under pressure. This insider account puts the focus on the three astronauts and their families. Drawn from hundreds of hours of interviews with the astronauts, their loved ones, NASA personnel, and myriad experts, and filled with vivid detail, Kurson reveals the epic dangers involved and the singular bravery it took for mankind to leave Earth for the first time.

### **Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder**

By Caroline Fraser (Picador USA) \$22

The true saga of Laura Ingalls' life has never been fully told. Now, drawing on unpublished manuscripts, letters, diaries, and land and financial records, Caroline Fraser fills in the gaps. Wilder's real life was harder and grittier, a story of relentless struggle, rootlessness, and poverty. It was only in her 60s, after losing nearly everything in the Great Depression, that she turned to writing children's books, achieving fame and fortune in the process, in one of the most astonishing rags-to-riches episodes in American letters.

"It is what you read when you don't have to that determines what you will be when you can't help it."

—Oscar Wilde

Until next month, happy reading.

The staff at Covered Treasures can be reached at [books@ocn.me](mailto:books@ocn.me).