

the needs of our community. As our state House Republican majority leader, she has fought for pro-business legislation and against legislation that would hurt both our businesses and our families. Whenever I have called with a question or comment, I've received a return call.

As a small-business owner, health care costs are very important to me. Since the passing of the Affordable Care Act ("Obamacare" to the rest of us), the bill that was supposed to lower health care costs, my health care pre-

miums have nearly doubled. Now, I've got "affordable" in my name and that's not affordable!

To fight against Obamacare, Amy took bold initiative and sponsored State Bill 200, which pulled our state out of some of the most onerous aspects of Obamacare and gave small businesses like mine more options for health care. Attorney General John Suthers, one of the most principled conservatives in our state government, has endorsed Amy Stephens' re-election for her leadership in

sponsoring this and other efforts to counter Obamacare.

Amy has said the only way to defeat the agenda put forth by Democrats is to elect Republicans to take back and retain the state House and Senate. It took four years, but in 2010 we did win back the House, but the work is not over. I urge fellow Republicans to re-elect Amy Stephens as our representative for House District 19!

Thomas Roddam

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Between The Covers at the Covered Treasures Bookstore

Go west, readers, go west!

By the staff at Covered Treasures

From the Rocky Mountains to Texas, the Wild West has intrigued readers for generations. Following is a sampling of Western books ranging from history to adventure.

Legends Lost

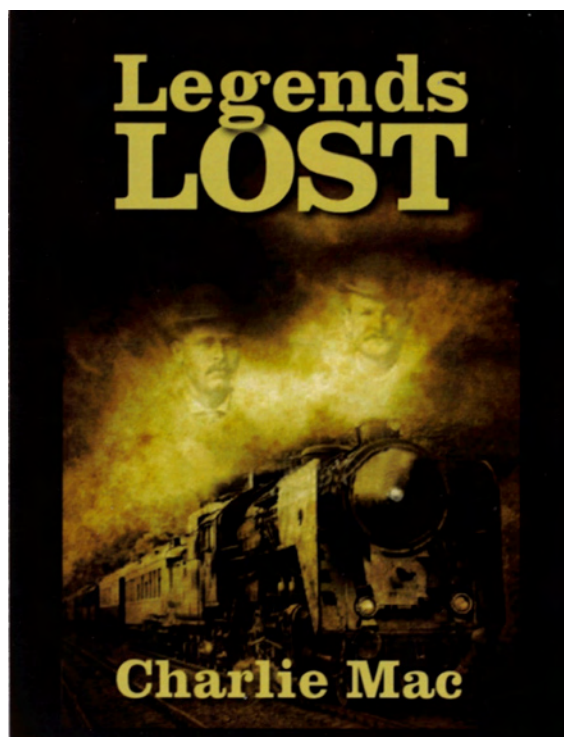
By Charlie Mac (Filter Press) \$24.95

Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid have miraculously escaped the Bolivian Army and are living quiet lives back in the United States when a journal surfaces that links railroad baron E.H. Harriman to the Lincoln assassination. The journal is traced to Butch and Sundance, and all the power of the Union Pacific Railroad is unleashed. Corporate survival is at risk, and no measure is too extreme to retrieve the journal. The action crisscrosses the country from New York City to Crested Butte, Colo.

Buried by the Roan

By Mark Stevens (Globe-Pequot Press) \$14.95

When a hunter's body is found deep in the Flat Tops Wilderness, there are enough other strange things going on to convince hunting guide Allison Coil that the death was no accident. The future of the way of life in the rugged Colorado mountains is at stake. Allison finds the killer's trail, but doesn't avoid being trapped in the simple but wicked device that murdered her client.



The Sisters Brothers

By Patrick DeWitt (Ecco Books) \$14.99

Hired guns Eli and Charlie Sisters are after Hermann Warm, but their prey isn't an easy mark, leading them from Oregon City to Warm's gold-mining claim outside Sacramento. Eli, who doesn't share his brother's appetite for whiskey and killing, begins to question what he does for a living—and whom he does it for.

Doc

By Mary Doria Russell (Ballantine Books) \$15

Born to the life of a Southern gentleman, Dr. John Henry Holliday arrives on the Texas frontier hoping that the dry air and sunshine will restore him to health. With few job prospects, Doc Holliday is soon gambling professionally with his partner, Maria Katarina Harony, a high-strung, classically educated Hungarian prostitute. In search of high stakes poker, the couple hits the saloons of Dodge City, where the unlikely friendship of Doc Holliday and a fearless lawman named Wyatt Earp begins.

True Sisters

By Sandra Dallas (St. Martin's Press) \$24.99

In a novel based on true events in 1856, Dallas delivers

the story of four women from the British Isles who come together on a harrowing journey while seeking the promise of salvation and prosperity in a new land. The women were part of a ragtag group of weary families who embarked on a 1,300-mile journey on foot from Iowa City to Salt Lake City, pushing their belongings in two-wheeled handcarts. Encouraged by Brigham Young himself to make the treacherous journey to the "promised land," the women endure unimaginable hardships, which test the boundaries of their faith, and learn the true meaning of survival and friendship.

An 1880 Victorian Mansion of the Colorado Rockies: the Estemere Estate at Palmer Lake

By Daniel W. Edwards and Roger W. Ward (Self-published) \$35 (color images); \$15.95 (black and white images)

The Estemere Estate was built by Dr. William Finley Thompson, the founder of Palmer Lake. After spending four years in England, the oral surgeon returned to the United States to establish a European-style health spa for the treatment of "consumption" (tuberculosis). Eight years into the project, Thompson was bankrupt and fled with his family to New York City. The architectural and social history of this unique 19th-century mansion is chronicled in the book through photographs, document scans, and other source material.

The Mystery in the Rocky Mountains

By Carole Marsh (Gallopade International) \$7.99

Children will be enthralled by this mystery set in Colorado from Denver to Durango. It involves one haunted hotel, two slippery slopes, three tattered books, five mountain peaks, and a Titanic discovery.

Peril on Longs Peak (Adventures with the Parkers)

By Mike Graf (Globe-Pequot Press) \$12.95

Readers 8 to 13 years old are invited to join the Parkers, a family of four, as they hike up 14,259-foot Longs Peak. Will injuries, exhaustion, and dangerous weather take their toll on the family?

The West has a romantic, rough-and-ready history, and both fiction and nonfiction set in this area can be a delight to read.

Until next month, happy reading.

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Bird Watch on the Palmer Divide

Mountain plover



By Elizabeth Hacker

Following last month's article on the northern goshawk, I heard from readers who had seen a juvenile but thought it was some other bird. One man actually sent several beautiful photos of one he saw on County Line Road. This is exciting because it may be an indication that the northern goshawk is successfully breeding on the Palmer Divide.

Last year I wrote about Joyce Hannigan and the hundreds of hummingbirds that come to her feeders each summer. On April 20, she saw two hummingbird scouts and immediately purchased 50 pounds of sugar to get ready for the hordes of hummers that would soon follow. Now that's dedication!

This month I'm featuring a bird often referred to as "the prairie ghost." I could be looking directly at a mountain plover but not see it because it stands perfectly still

and blends into the landscape. When threatened, most birds will fly off but this bird remains motionless. It typically runs a few steps and then abruptly stops and waits. When it feels the coast is clear, it will move a short distance to the next stop, dipping its head to pick up insects along the way.

Description

The first time I saw a mountain plover (*Charadrius montanus*), its shape and the way it moved on the ground made me think it might be a common killdeer. Similar to the killdeer, the mountain plover is a medium-size shorebird, about 8 inches tall. The mountain plover is a lighter color than the killdeer and it lacks the dark chest stripe. It has long, pale brownish-yellow legs, a short neck, and short black bill. Its feathers are sandy brown on top and white on its bottom and neck. It has an amber-colored eye, and