

**No on 3A**

Northern El Paso County Lewis-Palmer School District 38 is asking its citizens to approve a \$4.5 million property tax increase that will be in perpetuity without a mill cap or sunshine clause. This tax increase would be a hefty burden on both retired citizens and business owners. School leadership failed to do a financial impact study on our community businesses. This increase will not only strangle some local entrepreneurs, but could also leave many of our senior citizens with little choice but to relocate.

Several weeks ago, hundreds of signs and banners

encouraging voters to check "yes" on the 3A box of the current ballot began to appear in the Tri-Lakes area. No connection was made to 3A being the mill levy override property tax increase. The signs and banners are sponsored by a group called "Now's the Time D38," which was specifically founded to support the property tax increase in the Tri-Lakes area. The 10.5 mill levy monies would go to the school district with little additional oversight.

In the past, the district has had oversight committees; however, when those committee members made recommendations that challenged the plodding course of the district leadership, the committee was soon disbanded

and recommendations ignored (the OAC, for example). What guarantees does the community have that this major tax increase will indeed go directly to benefit students (smaller class size, teacher wages that attract fine experienced teachers, reward those who continued to do more and more during the multi-years of pay freezes, increase the number of para-educators and intervention teachers to benefit the neediest students, etc.)?

Those of us who oppose the 3A property tax increase are not blindly anti-tax. We are anti-waste!

**Stephen Boyd**

*Between The Covers at the Covered Treasures Bookstore*

**Favorites from the book trade show**

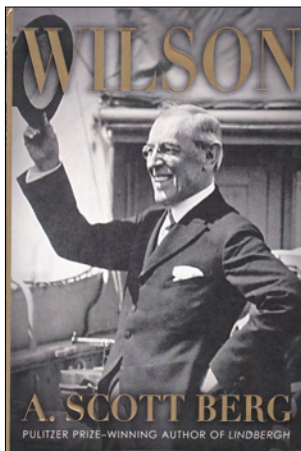
*By the staff at Covered Treasures*

Surrounded by enticing books and their enthusiastic authors, booksellers at the Mountains & Plains Independent Booksellers' Association Trade Show are like kids in a candy store. Having just returned from the show, we're excited about some of the featured titles and would like to share a few with you.

**Wilson**

By A. Scott Berg (Putnam) \$40

One hundred years after his inauguration, Woodrow Wilson still stands as one of the most influential figures of the 20th century. Handsome and charismatic, he ruled more as a prime minister than as a traditional chief executive, passing a progressive agenda that had been stalled for a generation. Berg was the first biographer to gain access to two recently discovered caches of papers, which added countless details—and several unknown events—to the most personal and penetrating biography ever written about the 28th president.



**The Signature of All Things**

By Elizabeth Gilbert (Viking) \$28.95

This sweeping novel of desire, ambition, and the thirst for knowledge comes from the author of *Eat, Pray, Love*. The story spans continents and decades as it follows Alma Whittaker, a 19th-century botanist and curator of mosses, on her life's journey, including exquisite details regarding all kinds of plant life.

**The Rosie Project: A Novel**

By Graeme Simsion (Simon & Schuster) \$24

An international sensation, *The Rosie Project* is a charming, big-hearted romantic comedy about a socially challenged genetics professor relying on scientific methods to find true love and the totally unsuitable, completely incompatible, gloriously winning woman who captures his heart.

**Spider Woman's Daughter: A Leaphorn & Chee Novel**

By Anne Hillerman (Harper) \$25.99

Legendary tribal sleuths Leaphorn and Chee are back. The talented daughter of bestselling mystery author Tony Hillerman continues the popular series with this fresh new Navajo Country mystery. Her debut novel is filled with captivating lore, startling suspense, bold new char-

acters, vivid color, and rich atmosphere.

**Ladybug Girl and the Big Snow**

By David Sorman and Jacky Davis (Dial Books) \$17.99

As Lulu and her basset hound Bingo play in the newly fallen snow, Lulu discovers that it is difficult to walk through deep snow, make a fort where the walls don't crumble, or keep wet snow from falling on her head. When she remembers that Ladybug Girl can do anything, she uses her imagination to turn her frustrated feelings into positive ones, and, suddenly, she has lots of new ideas for a snowy day adventure.

**The Snatchabook**

By Helen Doeherty (Sourcebooks Jabberwocky) \$16.99

Where have all the bedtime stories gone? This delightful, sing-song read-aloud celebrates the love of reading as the animals of Burrow Down search for the Snatchabook, a little creature who becomes a misunderstood book thief, because he has no one to read him a bedtime story.

**Theft: A Novel**

By BK Loren (Counterpoint Press) \$16

In this remarkable debut, lyrical prose gives voice to the wildlife and land surrounding beautifully flawed characters struggling to piece together the fragile traces of what has been left behind. Willa Robbins is a master tracker working to reintroduce the endangered Mexican wolf to the American Southwest. But when Colorado police recruit her to find her own brother, a confessed murderer, she knows that skill alone will not sustain her. She must reconcile her desire to reunite with her brother with her own guilt about their violent past. Theft has been awarded Mountains & Plains' Reading the West Award for fiction for 2013.

**Songs of Willow Frost**

By Jamie Ford (Ballantine Books) \$26

From the author of *Hotel at the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* comes a powerful tale of two souls—a boy with dreams for his future and a woman escaping her haunted past—both seeking love, hope, and forgiveness. Twelve-year-old William Eng, a Chinese American boy, has lived at Seattle's Sacred Heart Orphanage ever since his mother's lifeless body was carried from their apartment when he was 7. When William glimpses an actress on the silver screen, he is convinced that the movie star, Willow Frost, is his mother, Liu Song, and he escapes from the orphanage on a quest to find her.

As the nights grow longer and colder, it's a good time to settle in with a new book. Until next month, happy reading.

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

*Bird Watch on the Palmer Divide by Elizabeth Hacker is taking a hiatus this month.*



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**Christmas Cookies for Colorado!**  
 Saturday Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 10 am - 2 pm

The annual Tri-Lakes United Methodist Church Cookie Walk is back in downtown Monument

We bake 'em by the dozens  
 You buy them by the pound!  
 Crafts for sale too.

Follow the cookie crumbs to the Fire Administration Building at 166 Second St.

All proceeds benefit Colorado's 2013 Fire & Flood Relief administered by the United Methodist Committee on Relief

**Support Our Community. Shop Tri-Lakes!**

**Covered Treasures**  
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**Saturday Signings in November**

**Nov. 2**  
 11 a.m.-2 p.m.—Roger Hadix will talk baseball and sign his book, *Baseball in Colorado Springs*. Filled with black and white photos, the book covers players from the late 1800's through "Goose" Gossage's induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2008.

**Nov. 9**  
 11 a.m.-1 p.m.—One of our favorite Colorado authors, Sandra Dallas, will sign her newest novel, *Fallen Women*. Filled with mystery, intrigue, and rich with historic detail, her latest book takes the reader to the Gilded Age of Denver, from the mansions of the newly wealthy to the seamy lives of desperate women.

**Nov. 16**  
 10 a.m.-noon—Local writer and editor John Blase will sign his book on "...the High Stakes Game of Fatherhood" – *Know When to Hold 'Em*, "a real look at the danger, exhilaration, fear, and joys of fatherhood." and then 1-3 p.m.—Kathy Brandt and Max Maddox will sign their book, *Walks on the Margins; A Story of Bipolar Illness*. Told in alternating chapters by mother and son, this is the story of what it's like for a family to confront mental illness.

**Nov. 23**  
 noon-2 p.m.—Welcome authors Leslee Breene, who will sign her book, *Journey to Sand Castle*, a story set in Colorado, with ties to New Orleans and Hurricane Katrina, and Jonna Turner, who will be signing her collection of short articles, *Angel Encounters; Uplifting Stories of Real-Life Experiences with Angels and Spirits*.

**Nov. 30 (Small Business Saturday)**  
 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.—Breckenridge author Beth Groundwater will sign her latest book in the Claire Hanover mystery series, *A Basket of Trouble*, in which Claire tries to solve a murder at her brother's stable. Michael Madigan will sign his riveting novel of human endurance, greed, and revenge set in the San Juan wilderness, *Double Dare*. This is an outdoor adventure for adrenaline junkies!

**(719) 481-2665 (BOOK)**  
 November hours: 9-5 Mon.-Sat.  
 105 Second St., Historic Downtown Monument  
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