

thew Clawson, Sherry Hawkins, and Mark Pfoff for the LPSD school board.

Cynthia and Raleigh "Butch" Eversole

Continue school district's commitment and values

Lewis-Palmer School District has an excellent record of supporting, advocating, and keeping children as their number one priority. As a parent, community member for 37 years, and principal for 12 in this district, I want to see this commitment and value system continue for all children.

Mark Pfoff, Sherri Hawkins, and Kris Beasley have dedicated themselves in providing support to our community. Both Sherri and Mark have served us well as existing board members, and Kris has been active as a member of the District Safety & Security and Accountability Committees. Their dedication and record speak loudly to what they are all about. Matt Clawson, a parent of four children in our district may be new, but I was impressed with his experience with working with the Boy Scouts of America Council and the Boys/Girls Clubs of America. He too is an advocate for kids.

A vote for these candidates would clearly mean continuing the culture of doing what is best for our children, teachers, and community. I endorse these folks as they "walk the talk."

Julie Jadomski

Who's who on the ballot

As a District 38 parent, I believe voters should know who's who when those school board ballots arrive:

The union is recommending Mark Pfoff, Kris Beasley, and Sherri Hawkins. The union is openly opposing Sarah Sampayo, Gordon Reichal, and Lani Moore.

Diane MacPherson

Don't return to dysfunction

Beginning in mid-October, citizens of the Tri-Lakes Community will vote in an election that is arguably more important than any other election in our nation; we will elect four people to serve on the District-38 Board of Education. We will be voting on the future of our children.

Eight years ago I was elected to the board, the first of two terms. Prior to that election, the board was very divided and dysfunctional. While those five volunteers were outstanding individuals, solid members of the community, and very successful in private life, they were unable to work beyond their differing viewpoints, and thus unable to function as a unified board.

As a result, superintendent turnover was excessive, and expensive; budget management lacked direction, and operational debt soared. District leadership was distracted and not as supportive of our employees as it should have been. Student performance was quite good, but it fell short of potential.

Our board goals over the past eight years have been simple. Work together, tell the truth, trust each other, and be willing to compromise. And today, our district is doing exceedingly well. We are at or near the top of every performance metric out there. Employee retention and morale is extremely high. The budget is balanced, and reserve accounts are healthy. We have a world-class superintendent

who leads a dynamic staff.

During the last eight years, the community has repeatedly elected a board that was committed to working as a team. We have supported those who work with our kids each and every day—our employees. Despite the challenges of budget cuts and economic recession, we all kept a singular goal in mind—doing what's best for kids. It would make no sense to return to the dysfunction of eight years ago with this election.

So please join me in supporting our kids by voting for Kris Beasley, Matt Clawson, Sherri Hawkins, and Mark Pfoff in the upcoming election.

John Mann

Apologies to Mann

My apologies to D-38 Board Vice President John Mann. In a previous letter I stated that all five members of the current board were originally appointed, when in fact Mr. Mann was elected in November 2007.

Melinda Zark

Is this the end of the D-38 school system?

We have been fortunate to have one of the best school districts in Colorado. However, if the current union-backed board members, Sherri Hawkins, Kris Beasley, and Mark Pfoff, are re-elected to the school board, then the district will lose its special status as a top-ranking school district.

The reasons for the decline are clear. Local control and school choice will be replaced by federal educational mandates. The most threatening mandate is Common Core. Common Core testing, curriculum, and textbooks emanate from the Department of Education. This top down, one-size-fits-all approach to education will lead to the loss of local control. A homogenized educational system will make school choice meaningless. Our schools will be nothing more than educational hubs of D.C.

Concerned members of the community have tried to work with the current school board to fight against Common Core. We thought we had the school board on our side. Last February, the board issued a letter to the community opposing Common Core. This letter was a hollow gesture. Since then, the school board has complied with every Common Core demand. When community members have expressed their concerns, the board played the "we will lose our state funding if we don't comply" canard.

Last spring, many parents opted their children out of Common Core testing. Community members asked the school board to notify more parents about the opt-out option. The board not only refused, but sent out letters encouraging participation.

To stop the federal takeover of our schools, it is imperative that we elect Sarah Sampayo, Gordon Reichal, and Lani Moore, each of whom have pledged to do their utmost to stop Common Core and to preserve local control and school choice to maintain our great D-38 school district.

Michael O'Hare

A Code of Ethics

I recommend each candidate for the D-38 Board of Education election agree to this Code of Ethics. 1) Decisions must be made by the board as a whole, allowing diverse opinion to be publically expressed by board members, 2) Focus board action on policymaking, goal setting, plan-

ning, and evaluation while delegating authority for the administration of D-38 to the superintendent, 3) Make policy decisions only after full and transparent financial and impact discussions with public participation, 4) Decisions are based on facts and are not surrendered to insiders, unions, or special groups, 5) Promise to inform themselves about educational issues by individual study and participation in state and national school boards associations before voting, 6) Make certain the board remains accountable to the community, 7) Remember always that our greatest concern is the educational welfare and academic performance of all the students at all schools.

With these ethical standards, elections can be based on a candidate's vision for the future. I ask for your vote to implement these standards of conduct for the D-38 school board. As to the above, I do so promise and I hope all candidates will agree as well. Pay it forward!

Gordon O. Reichal

Re: Unaccounted-for water 37 percent?

Reid Bolander and Triview Metro District are perplexed by the stealing of water? Oh my goodness. Why does every Jackson Creek resident know what's going on but the vice president does not? It is not leaky pipes, it is not open space irrigation, it is not new houses prior to meters. ... It is Classic, Vantage and the other builders tapping into fire hydrants and filling their 10,000 gallon water trucks several times a day!

Yes, I have seen it with my own eyes by Promontory Point near Saber Creek Drive. Mystery solved! Now you don't need to hire another \$250,000 per year water expert!

Don Russo

Editor's note: At the Sept. 8 Triview meeting, District Manager Valerie Remington said unaccounted-for water was 11 percent. See related Triview article on page 19.

Remember Chief Truty's projections

I would like to remind Palmer Lake voters of a quote in July 2015 OCN:

"... [TLMFPD Chief] Truty said that over the past months, the discussion of projected revenues and expenditures for capital projects and operations indicate annual shortfalls from \$2.1 million to \$3.5 million per year, including annual budget increases but excluding a training center. He said the total mill levy increase required to cover all the projected costs could be from 4.5 to almost 9 mills with an average of about 6.75 mills. The current mill levy is 11.5"

On Nov. 3, 2015, the Town of Palmer Lake will be voting on a ballot issue to raise property taxes by 10 mills in support of Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department. Before anybody votes "no" to 10 mills this November, with an expectation of voting to join TLMFPD next year for 11.5 mills, Chief Truty's projections should be considered, because if we become part of Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District, we'd also become part of their annual shortfalls at an additional cost of up to 9 mills (or 11.5 + 9 = 20.5 mills)—possibly more once Palmer Lake were included.

I hope Palmer Lake voters will keep these thoughts in mind when voting on the mail-in ballot coming soon.

Bob Wickham

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Books you'll want to talk about

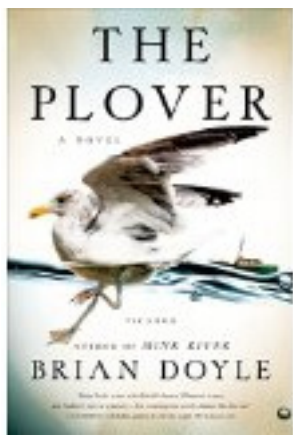
By the staff at Covered Treasures

If you're in a book club, these titles may be intriguing to you. These selections are book club favorites for their many facets and issues ripe for discussion.

The Plover

By Brian Doyle (Picador US) \$16

Declan O'Donnell has sailed deep into the vast, wild ocean, having finally had "enough" of other people and their problems. He will go it alone. He will be beholden to and beloved of no one. But fate soon presents him with a string of odd, entertaining, and dangerous passengers, who become companions of every sort and stripe. The Plover is the story of their adventures and misadventures



in the immense blue country one of them calls "Pacifica." Hounded by a mysterious enemy, Declan's lonely boat is eventually crammed with humor, argument, tension, and a resident herring gull. This is a sea novel, a maritime adventure, the story of a cold man melting, a compendium of small miracles, an elegy to Edmund Burke—and a heartfelt celebration of life's surprising paths, planned and unplanned.

All the Light We Cannot See

By Anthony Doerr (Simon & Schuster Inc.) \$27

Marie-Laure is a young blind girl living in France during World War II, and Werner is a German orphan who serves as a Nazi radio specialist. On a special assignment to track the resistance, Werner passes through Saint-Malo, where his story and Marie-Laure's converge. Deftly interweaving the lives of Marie-Laure and Werner, Doerr illuminates the way, against all odds, people try to be good to one another, in this deeply moving and beautifully written novel.

The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry

By Gabrielle Charbonnet (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill)

\$14.95

A.J. Fikry's life is not what he expected it to be. He lives alone and his bookstore is experiencing the worst sales in its history. But when a mysterious, unexpected arrival appears at the bookstore, it gives Fikry the chance to make his life over—and see everything anew. This novel references fine literature, with an excerpt from one of Fikry's favorite works at the beginning of each chapter. His love of books and bookish people and, really, all of humanity, comes through in this endearing story of redemption and transformation.

Our Souls at Night

By Kent Haruf (Alfred A. Knopf) \$24

Kent Haruf's latest—and last—novel is a spare, yet eloquent, bittersweet, yet inspiring, story that reveals quiet, often heartbreaking truths about regret and growing old; and it is the way this short book ends that has many Haruf fans debating whether or not this was his preferred ending. In the familiar setting of Holt, Colo., Louis and Addie, both widowed, familiar to each other, yet not close enough to be considered friends—meet each evening at her house.