

Bookbites

Bookends on Main

And the Winner Is.....

Surprise, surprise, no one bought the bookstore by August 1, but a number of people have given it a serious look and weekly someone says, "It's my dream to own a bookstore." So, toddling on. And the winner of the \$50 gift certificate is Irene Smith. Thanks and congrats, Irene, for shopping at the bookstore.



Something Downtown

On Fri, Jul 27, 2018 at

4:17 PM, Susan Thurin wrote a letter to the county manager:

I saw the article in the *Eau Claire Leader* about moving the Dunn County offices and appreciate the comment about the potential

"profound" effect on downtown. This is correct. It will mean fewer people traveling through downtown to get to work or do business at the county offices. An immediate impact will no doubt be on the Food Co-Op and the east side Kwik-Trip will be a beneficiary of the move. We had to struggle for years to get the apartment building and hotel downtown. The hotel is doing really well, thankfully, but there was so much delay and strife about the apt. building that the project didn't turn out as originally intended and the empty office space is still not fully occupied.

The Reply

Ms. Thurin,

Thank you for your input on this issue. Supervisors struggled with the idea of the potential impacts on the downtown along with many other considerations. Even with the move, the County

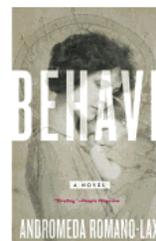
will continue to partner with the City on numerous fronts.

County Manager, Paul Miller



August 2018

From *Behave*: "Maybe after you do something—anything—a hundred time you believe there is no harm in doing it" (p.



62). The book is a scorching account of Behaviorism its champion James Watson. Among other things it describes shocking experiments on babies and the effects of raising children on the belief that mother-love is "an instrument

which may inflict a never-healing wound." What can explain the thinking of those who inflict cruelty on mothers and children in the name of science – or politics?

Midwest Connections Picks for August

The Lost Queen of Crocker County—the former Corn Queen of Crocker County goes home and finds a second chance in this funny and endearing story. This is a perfect August book.

Tacky Goblin is a coming-of-age novel based on the idea that growing up is weird, hard, and comic in its own



way. Plus, it's short and a paperback, maybe a good read for an empty-nester, or anyone who still remembers those teen

years.

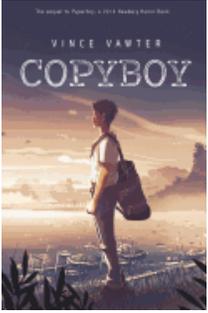
New Poets of Native Nations gathers poets of diverse ages, styles, languages, and cultures that shows the range and depth of Native poetry. The book is edited by Heid Erdrich.

The Leopold and Loeb Files is a haunting recapitulation of the haunting kidnapping and

portrait of Leopold and Loeb, brilliant college students from a privileged background, who committed the crime for the thrill of it. They were sentenced to 99-years in prison at a time when parole was still possible.

An interesting footnote: The author of this book, Nina Barrett, is the owner of an independent bookstore in Evanston, IL named *Bookends and Beginnings*.

Copyboy by Vince Vawter, rev. by Pat Trotter

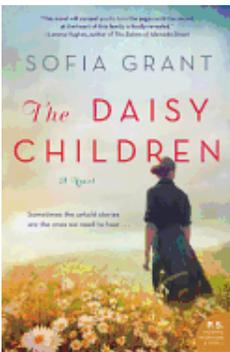


Y/A fiction. In *Copyboy*, Victor is spending the summer between high school graduation and college being a copyboy for a big city newspaper. Because he has a bit of a speech impediment, he has a hard time talking with many people. So this job, which requires him to be at the newspaper early in the

morning before anyone else arrives, seems to be the perfect job for him. When his best friend dies and makes what seems an impossible request to Victor, Victor promises to do this for his friend. Now he has to find a way to travel 400 miles to fulfill his promise. And he is determined to go without his parents. As Victor travels, he meets up with a girl who is not only helpful but becomes his friend and together they face an oncoming hurricane

in the Gulf of Mexico. Will Victor be able to fulfill his promise? Will he return home safely? How will his parents react when they find he has left on this journey without telling them? In this sequel to the book *Paperboy*, Vawter keeps the reader on the edge of the seat, racing with Victor and pulling for him as he does everything in his power to fulfill his promise to his dying friend and grows up in the process in a way that would make his friend very proud of him.

The Daisy Children by Sofia Grant, rev. by Pat Trotter



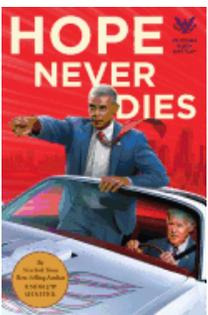
The Daisy Children is about four generations of women in the same family bound together by a horrible tragedy that will not be forgotten. Every year the little town in Texas comes to-

gether and remembers when a school explosion killed several hundred children and they celebrate the group of young people dubbed the "Daisy Children," born to replace those lost chil-

This book is inspired
by true events.

dren. Sofia Grant draws the reader into this family by getting inside each of these women as she so very skillfully taps into their inner beings; their likes and dislikes, their loves and hates, their secrets and the masks they wear in public. This is a book that is hard to hard to put down once you start reading it. It is inspired by true events.

Hope Never Dies by Andrew Shaffer



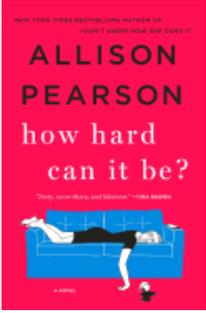
Hope Never Dies is billed as "An Obama Biden Mystery." Joe Biden is the main character but Pres. Obama is a significant supporting

conductor on the train he took from his home in Delaware to Washington for decades. Biden is presented as fast-talking, overdosed on doughnuts, and slangified, who has gotten his crime-solving skills from watching *Law and Order*. He's a foil for the health-food, exercise-conscious, cerebral former President.

Along the way there are a lot of

details about the Biden-Obama friendship, the secret service, and Washington politics. There is also a certain amount of comedy that plays off the routine Pres. Obama and Vice President Biden did for their last White House correspondents fundraiser gala. Whether there will be a sequel probably depends on whether Biden runs in 2020, not to mention the sales of this book.

How Hard Can It Be



Publicity wisdom from the book: “Our disasters are small gifts we can give to our friends who suffer because they believe our lives are easier than their own.”

Two rave reviews:

“Pearson is fiercely funny and keenly observant. But it is her poignant and

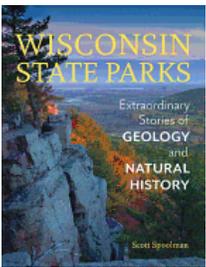
powerful statements about serious topics like aging, the invisibility of older women and the impact a paycheck has on a woman’s psyche that make this novel a must-read.” –Patty Rhule, *USA Today*

“The book’s cover offers fair warning of the explicit content inside: ‘Teenage kids. Ageing Parents. Marriage in Meltdown.’ –Isabelle Berwick, *The Financial Times*

Brief description: Kate Reddy is facing her 50th birthday. Her children have

turned into impossible teenagers; her mother and in-laws are in precarious health; and her husband is having a midlife crisis that leaves her desperate to restart her career after years away from the workplace ... Will Kate reclaim her rightful place at the very hedge fund she founded, or will she strangle in her new 'shaping' underwear? Will she rekindle an old flame, or will her house burn to the ground when a rowdy mob shows up for her daughter's surprise (to her parents) Christmas party?

Parks . . .

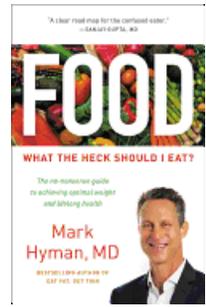
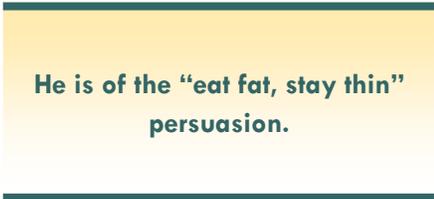


For anyone vacationing in our state, *Wisconsin State Parks* offers a wonderful overview of the geology and natural history of our state parks. In addition, there are trail guides and beautiful colored pictures that make this both a nice reference and keepsake book.

Food What the Heck Should I Eat

Dr. Hyman’s *Food* and diet book offers the kind of no-nonsense advice that should be much appreciated by most people. He is of the “eat fat, stay thin” persuasion.

The book is divided into great bite-sized



portions which makes it easy to digest. Sections are short, there are question-and-answer segments, nice “Toss these” and “Purchase these” pages. The book ends with some meal plans and recipes. It’s a great comprehensive book on food.

History Books



Found in a bookstore in Portugal, trans-

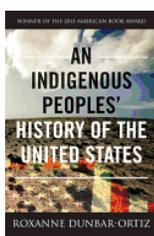
lated into Portuguese, an American history featuring the results of the discoveries of Christopher Columbus: *1493 Uncovering the New World Columbus Created*. Presenting the latest research by ecologists, anthropologists, archaeologists, and historians, Mann shows how the creation of the Colum-

bian exchange fostered the rise of Europe, devastated imperial China, convulsed Africa, and for two centuries made Mexico City the center of the world. Both *1493* and Mann’s first book, *1491 New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus* have been in the bookstore—in English of course.

In *1494*, author Stephen R. Brown tells the untold story of the explosive feud between monarchs, clergy, and explorers that split the globe between



Spain and Portugal and made the world's oceans a battleground.



Also of interest on the Columbian and post-Columbian subject is *An Indigenous People’s History of the United States*, an impassioned account. “The American Indians' perspective has been absent from colonial

histories for too long, leaving continued misunderstandings of our struggles for sovereignty and human rights.” – Peterson Zah, former president of the Navajo Nation –Peterson Zah, former president of the Navajo Nation

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Guitar Strings, Journals, Etc.

California Hills In August - by Dana Gioia

**I can imagine someone who found
these fields unbearable, who climbed
the hillside in the heat, cursing the dust,
cracking the brittle weeds underfoot,
wishing a few more trees for shade.**



**An Easterner especially, who would scorn
the meagerness of summer, the dry
twisted shapes of black elm,
scrub oak, and chaparral, a landscape
August has already drained of green.**

**One who would hurry over the clinging
thistle, foxtail, golden poppy,
knowing everything was just a weed,
unable to conceive that these trees
and sparse brown bushes were alive.**



**And hate the bright stillness of the noon
without wind, without motion.
the only other living thing
a hawk, hungry for prey, suspended
in the blinding, sunlit blue.**

Forthcoming Books



Publisher's Weekly has a page and a half spread on

books forthcoming, already in print or rumored by seven people formerly in the Trump administration. Books by James Comey and Sean Spicer are out, Anthony Scaramucci's is due in the fall.

In the "no surprise" category is a rumored \$10 million tell-all by Hope Hicks and in the same category one by Omarosa coming out in August.

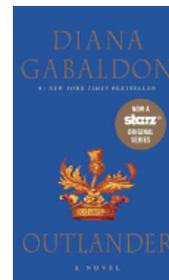
Also no surprise, Reince Priebus is not doing a book as he plans to continue his career in GOP politics.

In the rumored and surprise category is a book by the president's friend Roger Stone about the possibility that Trump's own staff will force him out of office. We shall see, as the president says.



Our new Traveling Book Club will meet at the bookstore at 6:30, Wednesday, September

Traveling Book Club



18. We decided to read *The Outlander* by Diana Gabaldon. It's an older book which none of us had read but was really popular

and is on the Great American Read list of Best 100 books. The book combines time travel, humor, and passionate romance. The story shifts between 1743 and 1945 England. It is the first in a three-part series.