



Library Tidings: News about the Siuslaw Public Library

Library Tidings, a regular feature of the Siuslaw News, features news about upcoming Siuslaw Public Library programs for adults and children, new books and videos, and other library news of interest to the community.

Library Tidings by Kevin Mittge

Book Review “Midnight in Chernobyl”

By Adam Higginbotham

Early in the morning of April 26, 1986, Reactor Number Four of the Chernobyl Atomic Energy Station exploded, triggering history’s worst nuclear accident. In the more than 30 years since then, Chernobyl has become lodged in the collective nightmares of the world: shorthand for the spectral horrors of radiation poisoning, for a dangerous technology slipping its leash, for ecological fragility and for what can happen when a dishonest and careless state endangers not only its own citizens, but those far beyond its own borders. Yet the real story of what happened remained in dispute.

Drawing on hundreds of hours of interviews conducted over the course of more than 10 years, as well as letters, unpublished memoirs and documents from recently declassified archives, Adam Higginbotham has written a harrowing and compelling story which brings the disaster to life through the eyes of the men and women who witnessed it firsthand.

From the ambitious young station director who first envisioned the plant in a snow-covered field in rural Ukraine, to the control room engineers who unwittingly prompted its destruction; from the city officials and government ministers who oversaw the mass evacuation and cleanup, to the ordinary citizens who struggled through it all to keep their families safe — the protagonists in this story confront an enemy that’s as terrifying as it is invisible.

The result is a chronicle of astonishing heroics and maddening incompetence, a study of the promise of science and also its potential to lure us into hubris and danger, and the definitive account of an event that changed history: a story that is more complex, more human, and more terrifying than the Soviet myth, “Midnight in Chernobyl” is an indelible portrait of one of the great disasters of the twentieth century, of human resilience and ingenuity, and the lessons learned when mankind seeks to bend the natural world to his will — lessons which, in the face of climate change and oth-

Summer Reading Finales This Week

We’re almost to the end of the formal summer reading program, though you can continue to read on! We have three big finales coming this week. First, today, is the Grand Finale at the Mapleton branch, which will take place from 1 to 3 p.m. Next is the Grand Finale in Florence, taking place at the main branch to-

morrow, Thursday, Aug. 1, beginning at 10 a.m. and running for four hours.

Finally, the teens are going to celebrate summer reading with a Teen Lock-In on Friday, Aug. 2, beginning at 6 p.m. and officially ending at 8 a.m. the following day. Teens can always leave earlier than that, but once they have left, they are gone for the rest of the night.

The big finales in Mapleton and Florence will

feature the ever-popular water slide, book giveaway, face painting, a picnic and lots of other family fun.

Don’t miss out at these popular summer library events!

A big thank you to all the participants — children, teens, and adults! — who signed up for this year’s summer reading program and have made it such a great success. We had approximately 1,000 individuals sign up to participate!

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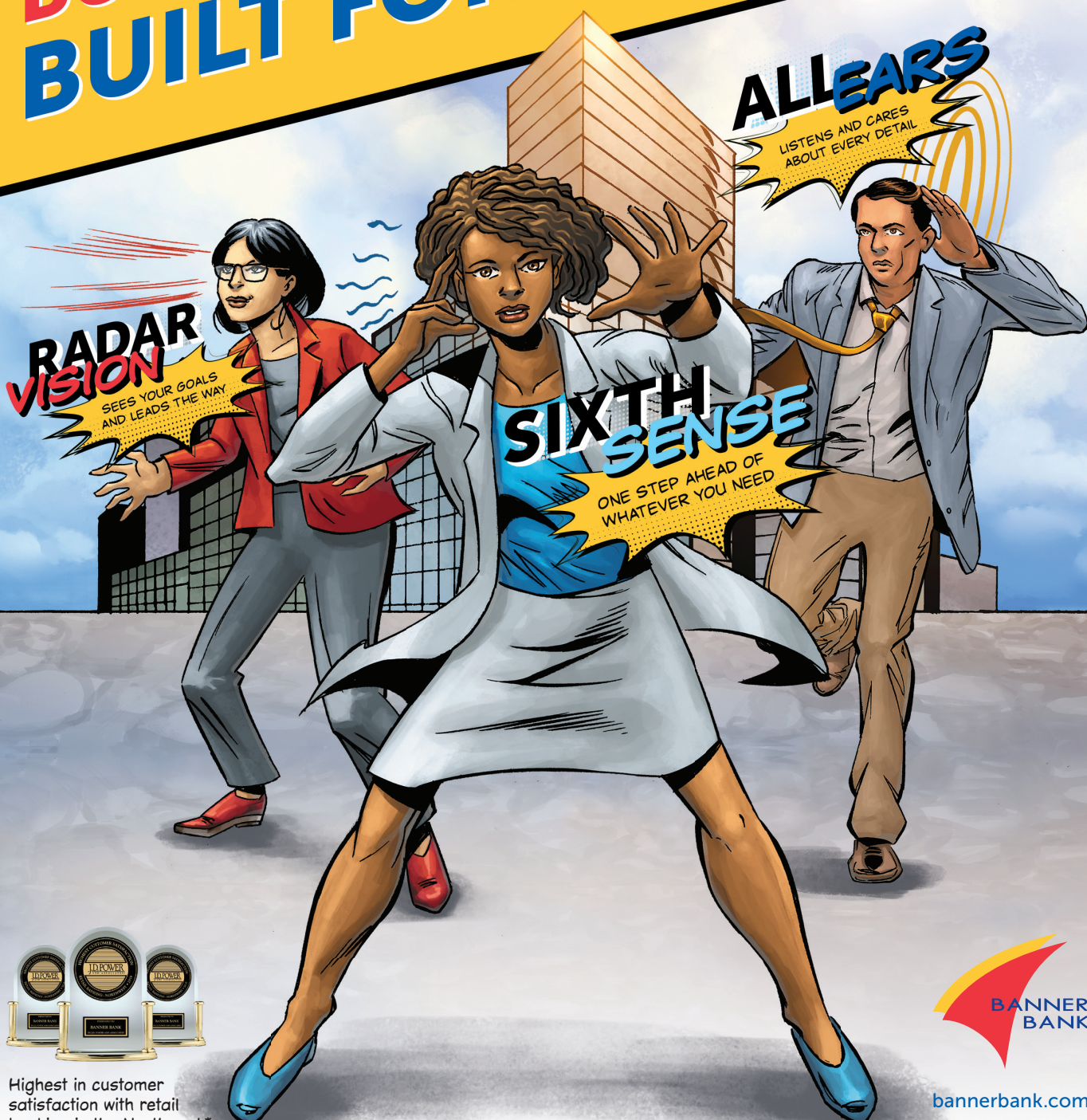
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