

Good reads in library’s new book section

BETWEEN THE COVERS

ESTHER MOBERG



For some great new fall reading, check out the new book section of the Seaside Public Library. From witches to disappearances to lost beliefs to Vikings, there is a little bit of something for everyone on the nonfiction new books shelf right now.

What could be more appropriate for fall and just after Halloween than “The Witches: Salem, 1692,” by Stacy Schiff. Not for the faint of heart, “The Witches” delves into a lot of factual information and history on the Salem witch trials. It can be a little bit dry reading at times just by the sheer amount of information, but it is fascinating for those who really want to know the details of just what happened at the Salem witch trials.

The fact that a community could get swept up into believing in something based purely on the words of a bunch of teenage girls is amazing. Even though they couldn’t see it, belief superseded reality especially given the Puritan viewpoint that all life was based on punishment including the supernatural realm.

People who were the judges, and even doctors had little to no training in anything remotely to do with law or justice as we consider it today. People believed someone could glare at them and truly give the evil eye to torment them invisibly all the next day.

What would be called hysteria today was in these teenagers taken as the literal gospel truth. It is fascinating how much of the testimonies changed over time and with coercion.

People were condemned to death

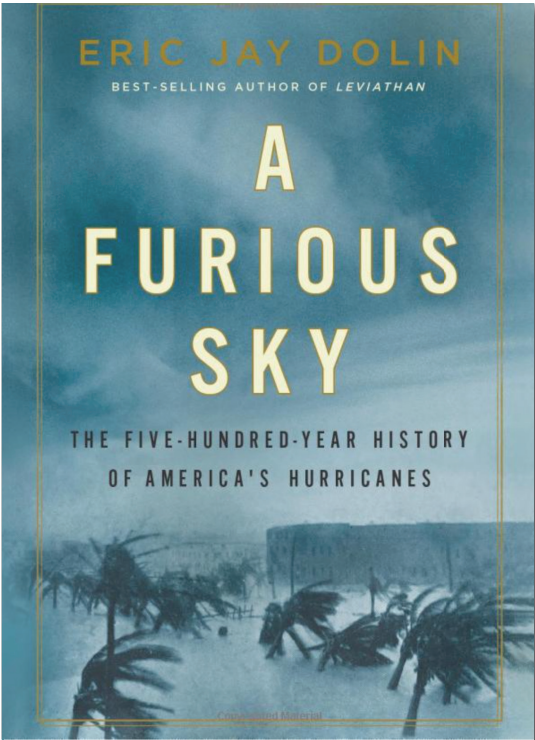
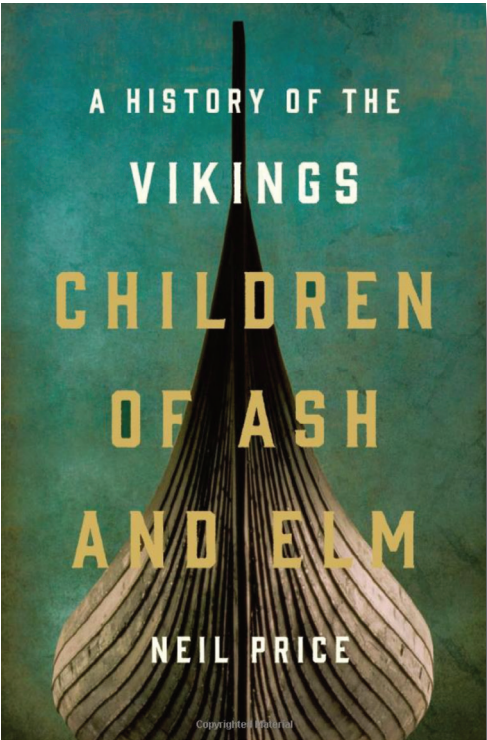
and hung, including one minister (who was unpopular) who had one of his accusers ask him for forgiveness for lying about him right before he was hung. It was interesting some of the interplay between Quaker and Puritan during this time as well as the other tensions that brought about the fulcrum of the witch trials while popular opinion swayed back and forth.

Another new book, “Boy Missing: The Search for Kyrn Horman,” revisits what has happened in the 10 years since the day in 2010 that young Kyrn Horman went missing in Portland. Many of us followed the case when it was still active but what else happened in the years following? Author Rebecca Morris lays out a compelling story including what options parents have when their child is never found.

We’ve all heard about things “going viral.” But how does it actually work? In “The Rules of Contagion” by Adam Kucharski, he explains why and how things spread and also why they stop. An interesting book in understanding how much of social media works and what drives human social behavior.

“Leaving the Witness” by Amber Scolah is the story of a third generation Jehovah’s Witness who went to China on a missionary trip and lost her religion instead. The book is a fascinating read about a woman’s journey of finding herself (and a new love) while losing her previous life including family, her husband and friends.

Is this anything, is what comedians ask each other about their new jokes and comedic material they want to try. Jerry Seinfeld’s book, “Is This Anything,” is like reading a Jerry Seinfeld live performance. It is a compilation through the decades of comedic material he used. If you enjoy comedy and Jerry Seinfeld, a great book for revisiting and remem-



“Children of Ash and Elm” and “A Furious Sky” are among the new books at the Seaside Library.

bering some of his jokes through the years.

We don’t hear much about coal miners and coal mining anymore, but the book “Soul Full of Coal Dust: A Fight for Breath and Justice in Appalachia,” by Chris Hamby, chronicles how coal miners went up against big coal mining companies and finally won a little recognition of the health hazards they faced, after decades of black lung from working in the coal mines in West Virginia and throughout the United States.

Some of them contracted the disease in the 1970s but are still fighting for benefits and reparation in the last few years and beyond. Their lives were controlled by the companies and their health suffered as a result of working deep underground. A fascinating look at the little guy going up against big corporations.

“A Furious Sky: The Five-Hun-

dred-Year History of America’s Hurricanes,” by Eric Dolin, traces the past 500 years of hurricanes in North America and recounts some of the most tragic historic accounts including the Galveston hurricane of 1900 which killed over 6,000 people.

Hurricanes impacted many things including pivotal moments of the American Revolution and the conquistadores of Spain moving up into North America beyond Florida. The science of tracking and understanding hurricanes is also described, including weather satellites and other ways humans attempt to decode and understand hurricanes.

Last, but not least, if you count all the pages, weighing in at well over 500 pages is the book, “Children of Ash and Elm: A History of the Vikings,” by Neil Price.

Based on archaeological evidence and written word, this book seeks to

tell a different version of the Vikings we know. Beyond vicious marauders, the Vikings also brought new ideas, belief systems and practices to the lands they came to. All who came into contact with the Vikings were changed because of it and the Vikings were changed as well. The author tries to explain the Vikings “from the inside out.”

While most of our history recounts Vikings as the outsiders and pillagers, this is about the Vikings from within and how they viewed themselves as adventurers, conquerors and explorers. A lot of old Norse beliefs are woven throughout the book, along with poetry and other literature.

You can find these books and more at the Seaside Library. Stop by or reserve your next factual read online. The library’s catalog and website can be found at www.seasidelibrary.org.

Seaside students help Phoenix rise from wildfires

By KORA CARELOCK AND ABBY NOFIELD

In the midst of all of the darkness that the year 2020 has brought us, the students from Seaside High School found the light.

In September 800,000 acres of land burned in Oregon. Many people lost their homes.

The students of Seaside High School decided that they wanted to help stu-

dents from around the state that were affected by the fires. Phoenix High School had more than half of its students lose their homes, so that is where the Seaside students decided to direct their efforts.

On Saturday, Oct. 17, Seaside High School Associated Student Body raised \$2,540 for Phoenix High School. Seaside High School students would not

have been able to achieve this without the help of the local coffee shops, Divine Grounds, Seaside Coffee House, Burly and the Bean, Brew 22, Sleepy Monk, and donations from Bruce’s Candy Kitchen and the Dugan family.

The coffee shops all donated \$1 per drink to help raise money for the cause. Students from Seaside High School held up

signs by the coffee shops and waved at cars passing by in hopes of bringing in more people.

This was a great way to start off the new school year, and to show the community what Seaside High School is all about.

Kora Carelock and Abby Nofield are communications co-directors for the Seaside High School Associated Student Body.



Associated Student Body communications codirectors Abby Nofield and Kora Carelock.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gearhart school sale a slap in face

When the Seaside School District No. 10 Board decided to sell the Gearhart Elementary School property for \$750,000, I thought: “What a horrible giveaway of taxpayer money!”

Then the offer was withdrawn and I wondered why. Now I read that the property was sold for \$500,000.

I believe the Gearhart school property, the literal dirt alone, is worth more

than the original asking price of \$1.9 million. To me, \$750,000 was a fire sale, a giveaway, and a slap in the face to district taxpayers. I keep asking myself why and I keep coming back to the same suspicions.

Are they desperate to plug budgetary holes created by the incompetent handling of the new school construction project? I know what I’m hearing from far too many trustworthy sources. The stories coming out of there

of cost overruns, delays and repeated redos due to poor initial planning and design are extremely concerning.

I’ve grown tired of the local media’s “Kumbaya” approach to school district coverage. This is taxpayer money being wasted or given away in tough economic times.

I challenge local media to look into the construction project at the new school and the refurbishment of Seaside Heights Elementary School. Find out why the

board seems so anxious to sell valuable district assets at what appear to be bargain basement prices.

Please, prove my suspicions wrong.

**Bill Graffius
Gearhart**

SEPRD should be transparent

As taxpayers living within the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District, we are concerned with the proposed

purchase of the Broadway Middle School property.

In November of 2018, voters rejected a \$20 million bond to expand and update facilities. Now the SEPRD, without community approval, wishes to purchase a property that has already been purchased once by taxpayers. Why do taxpayers have to buy it a second time?

We are concerned that our taxes again will be raised in order to support this purchase and remodel, in a building that has been deemed too haz-

ardous to operate as a school. As senior citizens on fixed incomes, we cannot absorb these increases in our property tax. We would much prefer to see this property added to the tax rolls, increasing county funds rather than consuming them.

We urge the SEPRD board to be transparent with the entire costs that would be incurred and to reconsider this expansion.

**Bill Teeple
Kathleen Teeple
Seaside**

BRIEFS

‘Party in Your PJs’ enables projects

The Seaside Rotary Foundation hosts the virtual fundraiser, “Party in your PJs,” with the Seaside Rotary Club now through Sunday.

Post a photo of yourself in sleepwear and donate to support local projects. Guests are invited to be comfortable and safe at home and to consider donating what they would have

budgeted for a live dinner-auction, for example, the price of food, tickets, auction bids or a babysitter. Suggested giving levels range from \$100 to \$1,000.

Foundation projects supported financially by the community over the years include Seaside High School college scholarships, the signature youth exchange program, Santa’s Workshop, Adopt a Family, Shop With a Cop, the South

County Community Food Bank, the new outdoor lights at the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District basketball courts, senior meals and international water projects.

To donate, go to seasiderotaryclub.org or mail checks to Seaside Rotary Foundation, PO Box 634. Seaside, OR., 97138.

For more information, contact Seaside Rotary Foundation President Kevin Leahy at

kleahy@clatsopcc.edu or call 503-338-2342.

Providence to partner for scholarships

Providence Seaside Hospital announced a partnership with Clatsop Community College to provide health care scholarships for underrepresented students over the next

three years. Beginning winter term for the 2020-2021 school year, eight scholarships will be awarded each term. Students may apply for subsequent terms with an annual cap of \$2,000.

In all, \$30,000 will be awarded to students pursuing education in health care and who are of a diverse background, including students of color, indigenous-first nation and LGBTQ.

Clatsop Community Col-

lege has a robust nursing program in addition to their medical assistant and certified nursing assistant programs.

The funds and allocation will be managed by Clatsop Community College Foundation.

Applications will be available with financial aid and posted on their website: <https://www.clatsopcc.edu/admissions/financial-aid-scholarships>.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Contact local agencies for latest meeting information and attendance guidelines.

MONDAY, Nov. 23
Sunset Empire Park and

Recreation District, work session, 4:15 p.m., livestream, sunsetempire.com.

Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., livestream, cityofseaside.us.

TUESDAY, Nov. 24
Seaside Airport Advisory Committee, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

TUESDAY, Dec. 1

Community Center Commission, 10 a.m., Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A.

Seaside Library Board, 4:30 p.m., Seaside Public

Library, 1131 Broadway.

Seaside Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 2

Seaside Improvement Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Gearhart City Council, 7 p.m., 698 Pacific Way.

SEASIDE
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