

Enjoy some books that will stir your emotions

Has a book ever made you cry, laugh, or stirred you in some way emotionally? If it did, do you remember just the book, the setting, or even an auditory and sensory experience as well. Many people who read a

BETWEEN THE COVERS
ESTHER MOBERG



A selection of emotion-stirring books includes (from left) "Old Yeller," "How Fletcher was Hatched," "Once Upon a Wardrobe," "Taste: My Life Through Food" and "Garfield."

book that creates a tangible emotional experience in their memory often tie that book to the experience as well. Not only do they remember where they were in life but crystal-clear details about it. For example, I still remember sitting sideways in my parent's Danish modern chair from the 60's while reading books. In my memory, it feels like I was constantly surrounded by sunshine or warmth next to the fire. I would often read 3 books a day until my mom would kick me outside to get some exercise.

Many of us had a favorite childhood book that you either read yourself or had your parents read to you until the book wore out, a few of my favorites were a Disney Cinderella book, "How Fletcher was Hatched," by Wende Devlin, and "Chameleon was a Spy," by Diane Redfield Massie. If you had a favorite childhood book, did you read it many times or just once. For me, I read books repeatedly.

On the theme of books that inspire me or just flat out make

me hungry. Lately I've been reading the adult version of comfort books, Food memoirs are often memories connected to food that can also stir up emotions in a very strong way. People often connect food to feelings of comfort or memories. Remembering your favorite meal and who you shared it with can be a very poignant moment. I can still remember the smell of the salsa a waitress accidentally threw all over my dress while I was celebrating my graduation from college at a Mexican restaurant.

Ruth Reichl is a great food memoir writer. If you haven't read any of her books, start with "Tender at the Bone: Growing Up at the Table." As a former food magazine editor, her journey through food makes you want to immediately want to drop everything and enroll

in some sort of cooking school. Or become a food critic, or maybe even both.

I just finished Stanley Tucci's food memoir "Taste: My life Through Food." For the gentle reader, he does swear quite a bit, but reading through the different Italian recipes and a very Italian childhood in New York, one gets the urge to pull out and eat copious amounts of bread, pasta, or everything carbs in the very near future if not immediately.

On the theme of books that make me sad, I'm not always a big fan of books that make me cry but here are a few I would still recommend. One I read just recently is called "Once Upon a Wardrobe," by Patti Callahan Henry. This one I would definitely read again. The story is about a young boy who is dying but he wants his older sister

to find out from C.S. Lewis where Narnia came from and if it is a real place. The author does a beautiful job of merging the story of the boy and his terminal illness with the story of the girl's interactions with Clive Lewis and his brother.

Another book that made me cry is "Charlotte's Web," by E. B. White. If you aren't familiar with it, read it. Perhaps that book is the reason I became interested in hobby farming. I don't know why but a lot of author's wrote sad kids books when I was growing up. "Old Yeller," by Fred Gipson is another one. "Little Women" by Louisa May Alcott when Beth dies. Or "Les Misérables" by Victor Hugo. As I write this, I wonder if I should include descriptions of the sad scenes, or, if you have already read these books, whether immediately certain scenes are

springing to your mind.

Finally, on the theme of books that lighten your mood, or make you laugh. I was a huge fan of comic books and comic book collections growing up. Garfield, Calvin and Hobbes, the Far Side collections all made me laugh. Just as music can shift your mood, so also books are a form of escapism that can lift you out of a mood or current situation and change how you feel overall not just about your situation but life. "The Dog Who Wouldn't Be," by Farley Mowat or "The Egg and I" by Betty MacDonald are all funny stories of animals not quite behaving how you would expect them to.

So, the next time you read a book, think about how it might both pull you out of where you are, but also that it just might be creating a memory as well.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gearhart firefighters deserve station appropriate for needs

Most of us don't give much thought to how quickly a good day can turn into a bad day. If our house catches on fire or someone in our family has a medical emergency, we rely on our first responders to help us on one of the worst days of our lives.

When the call comes, Gearhart volunteer firefighters drop whatever they are doing, show up quickly and professionally help us in our time of need. Firefighters miss birthday parties, dance recitals, soccer games and family dinners to help us. Firefighters volunteer to serve and train every week so that they can help us.

Our volunteer firefighters are members of our Gearhart community — they are our friends and neighbors. They deserve our thanks and respect. And they deserve a fire station that is appropriate for their needs.

How can we be satisfied with the small, inadequate, 64-year-old badly aging fire station that is currently used for the Gearhart fire department? There are no decontamination areas or showers to allow firefighters to remove the toxins and soot from fighting fires.

There isn't adequate space for training. The building is literally crumbling. It's time we show up for Gearhart firefighters as they have been showing up for us. We have the opportunity to come together and vote yes on Measure 4-213 for a new fire/police station in Gearhart.

Bebe Michel
Gearhart

Gearhart voters beware

Gearhart voters BEWARE! This is what Gearhart city government doesn't want you to know: Bond 4-213, if passed, will add an additional \$1.213 per assessed \$1,000 of your home's assessed market value. They leave out the following:

Currently, Gearhart has two outstanding bonds for their water treatment plant, one being retired in March 2025, the other in September 2031.

Bond 4-213, if passed, will be added to these two outstanding bonds, making the rate you pay on your assessed market value \$2.28 in year one per assessed \$1,000 until March 2025, at which time the assessed rate will be \$2.19. The rate will then drop to \$1.56 until September 2031 when the second water bond is retired.

Using the current 2021-2022 assessed market value on a \$450,000 home, an owner would have an addi-

tional property tax burden of \$545.85 for the fire and police station, with an annual total of \$1,028 when including the two water bonds. When the first water bond reaches maturity in 2025, the second water bond and the fire/police bond would remain, making your burden \$702 per year combined, or \$1.56 per assessed \$1,000. Only after the second water bond is retired will the fire/police bond of \$1.213 per assessed \$1,000 remain.

Bond 4-213 is scheduled to go for 20 years, unless it's refinanced. Remember, this is only if your assessed market value doesn't change and no new bonds are added. If the assessed market value goes up, your tax burden will also increase.

We need a new fire station, but at what expense to taxpayers? Let's be realistic about what we can actually afford! VOTE NO.

Jane Gable
Gearhart

Fire station plan doesn't make sense

As a 27-year resident of Gearhart I understand and appreciate the responsibilities the paid and volunteer firefighters are willing to assume. I think the need for a fire station with more space that is better constructed is obvious. The police chief and officers must as well.

I have two difficulties with the ambitious plan proposed. First, in most communities an effort is made to place equipment and staff in a central location for quick response time.

Annexing land to the north and locating firefighters, police officers and their equipment there seems like a bad idea to me. Rebuilding the current fire station, perhaps expanding it and relocating city hall seems to be more sensible. In addition, the resilience part of the relocation proposes that the building provide for emergency response when needed with the focus being on the tsunami that might come tomorrow or might come in 800 years.

Camp Rilea is a short distance north and a regional center for emergency response. I have no doubt that with their training, the Gearhart fire department will respond as well as it can in a disaster.

It can't replace Camp Rilea: their first responsibility will be saving their families and helping their neighbors. They might not be able to get to the station in any case. It will be some distance from most of Gearhart. Whatever the cost which is considerable it doesn't make much sense to me

Jim Casterline
Gearhart

\$14.5 million fire bond divides Gearhart

Last fall, I suggested that Gearhart will build a new fire station when the taxpayers who fund this project know their money will be well spent, and not wasted on something that they do not want, need, or understand. Now that five months have passed, what is the pulse of our community?

GUEST COLUMN

JACK ZIMMERMAN



Sadly, the answer is that we are as disaffected as ever, with city hall ignoring the anger and frustration of its constituents to forge ahead with a planned May vote for the largest bond levy in the history of the city, that would usher in the most radical change in the culture, economy, and livability of this city in its 104 years of existence.

Meanwhile the questions and concerns of Gearhart citizens remain ignored by those elected to serve them. Let's review.

- City hall says we need this station to rescue Gearhart in case of a catastrophic earthquake and tsunami. But the station would be useless in the aftermath of a large tsunami. Camp Rilea, the U.S. Coast Guard and Clatsop County in contrast, are poised to spring into action with 10 times the personnel and equipment.

- City hall and the firehouse committee already in 2018 concluded that the Highlands location would be isolated and impotent after a tsunami, with access in and out blocked by two flanking lakes. Moreover, there is no guarantee the station

would even survive the feared mega-earthquake, perched as it would be on top of a steep sand dune. Have the councilors and the mayor forgotten their vote in 2018, and the expert advice from the state of Oregon that informed it?

- The mayor and councilors also rejected the Highlands location because it is too far away from the center of Gearhart, and would leave emergency victims downtown at risk of death while waiting for responders to arrive. Plus the distance exceeds the maximum allowed for many homeowner insurance plans. Why suddenly are these facts forgotten?

- The mayor and councilors also rejected the Highlands location because it is too close to the satellite Hertig station, which already serves northern Gearhart and Warrenton, and is outside the tsunami hazard zone. Not only is the proposed new location inside the zone useless in the aftermath of an extra-large tsunami, it's too far away from Gearhart and duplicates the service of the Hertig station. It is redundant. Have the councilors also forgotten these truths?

- Citizens still find the proposed size of the new station unfathomable. Why does Gearhart, a small rural city of sleepy retirees and struggling working class families, need the one of the largest stations per taxpayer, in the entire county? Maybe in the entire state of Oregon? There are already two fire stations within a couple miles of the town's city limits, at both ends. If a third is needed, it is needed at the center of town, not beyond city limits out near the Hertig station. Gearhart has

been waiting for an answer to these questions every day for the last several years.

- The city has been reassuring Gearhart for three years that the lion's share of the cost will be covered by donations and grants. But here we are, with no more knowledge than before. What are the granting agencies? Where are the grants? What are their requirements and restrictions? Instead city hall is inexplicably planning a bond levy for 100% of the cost of the project. If it passes there will be no grants given, because granting agencies will assume that Gearhart is willing and able to shoulder the entire cost. If we are serious about asking for grants, our bond levy should ask for no more than 30% of the total cost, to demonstrate to granting agencies that we are both in need (as we certainly are), but also willing and able to match funds. Who in city hall has any experience writing \$15 million federal grant proposals?

- I and others have attempted, in good faith, to find answers to these questions in social media and at coffee with the mayor. The responses have been a combination of weak deflection, insults and shaming at our impertinence for even asking the questions.

I repeat: Gearhart will build a new fire station when they know their money will be well spent, and not wasted on something that they do not want, need or understand. The taxpayers who will have to tighten their belts to fund this project in this shaky economy deserve consideration, transparency and respect.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Contact local agencies for latest meeting information and attendance guidelines.

MONDAY, March 14

Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., 989 Broadway.

TUESDAY, March 15

Community Emergency Response Team, 5 p.m., 989 Broadway.

Seaside School District, 6 p.m., <https://www.seaside.k12.or.us/>.

Planning Commission, work session 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

WEDNESDAY, March 16

Tourism Advisory Committee, 4 p.m., 989 Broadway.

Seaside Tree Board, 4 p.m., 989 Broadway.

THURSDAY, March 17

Transportation Advisory Commission, 7 p.m., 989 Broadway.

MONDAY, March 28

Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., 989 Broadway.

TUESDAY, March 29

Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District Board of Directors, 5:15 p.m., 1225 Ave. A.

Seaside Airport Advisory Committee, 6 p.m., 989 Broadway.

Gearhart City Council work session, 6 p.m., www.cityofgearhart.com.



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