

## Between the Bookends

By Susan Cackler, Library Assistant  
Banks Public Library



If your plans for the new year include making some resolutions, the library can be an excellent source of help. If you're thinking of improving your health, we have numerous books and DVDs on exercise, and a bevy of diet books. If you're planning on cleaning up your home, check out our

books on organizing and de-cluttering. Or if you're looking to work on your outside space, we have numerous landscaping and gardening books that can help you transform your yard.

No start date has been set for library renovations and work will most likely not start until early March, as work at the Public Works Building must be completed first. Renovation of the Public Works Building should start this month. In preparation for the renovations, the library is no longer taking donations of books until after work has been completed. Also, the community room is no longer available for rent since the library will be expanding into that space.

Soon, a floor plan of the renovation will be available at the library for anyone who wants to see what the future holds.

Winter weather can mean roads that are snowy or icy. If conditions are questionable, call the library at 503 324-1382 to make sure that we have been able to open. Also, if you are unable to come to the library to return items because of weather conditions, give us a call and we will renew them for you.

Join us for craft night Wednesday, January 11, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the community room. Enjoy some lively conversation while you work on your favorite craft. Come and meet some new friends or visit with old ones while using the library's work space and enjoying some light snacks. You may find knitters, scrap-

bookers, quilters and maybe even a tatter or two. If you would like to be on an e-mail reminder list for craft night, call the library with your name and e-mail. Craft night will be canceled if road conditions are bad.

Come to the library for story time on Wednesdays and let your kids enjoy some great stories. Our reader, Miss Cathy, picks a few stories around a theme each week and shares these stories with the children in an entertaining, engaging way. Join us for Preschool Story Time on Wednesdays at 10:15 a.m. in the community room of the library. Story Time is designed for children aged three to six, but younger siblings are welcome.

The themes for December are:

- January 4: Monkey Business
- January 11: Buddies
- January 18: Slow Pokes
- January 25: Noise Makers

The Friends of the Banks Public Library can always use your support. You can make a tax deductible donation, become a member, or volunteer. Money that the Friends raise helps the library purchase Cultural Passes, upgrade equipment and purchase books and movies. Also, we take donations of books that are in good condition.

### On the Shelf:

*The Call* by Yannick Murphy. The basic plot of this book is what happens in a family when a child is hurt by another person, but it is really about much more than that. The charm of this book comes from the way it is presented as the diary of a country vet. He lists a job for each day, but goes on to include his somewhat random thoughts on the day and how he interacts with his family. While it is the story of his day-to-day life, it is also a tale of fatherly love, family relationships and an ode to the beauty of the natural world. Many pas-

ages are worthy of being read out

loud and quoted again and again.

*The Wilder Life* by Wendy McClure. A lifelong Laura Ingalls Wilder fan, McClure sets out to find the world of the series – a realm of fiction, history and places. She traces the pioneer journey of the Ingalls family and immerses herself in all things Little House. She also makes attempts to churn butter and investigates other homesteading activities. This is a tribute to the beloved series, but also a funny, first-person account of obsessive reading.

*The Complete Guide to Green Building and Remodeling Your Home* by Martha Maeda. This guide describes many of the options available to homeowners who are trying to make environmentally sound decisions for their home. It covers topics such as watering systems, ways to incorporate solar power – whether passive or active, and even the best landscaping choices. This book is a good overview or place to start when contemplating a construction or renovation project.

*Unfamiliar Fishes* by Sarah Vowell. In 1898, the United States annexed Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Guam, as well as invading the Philippines and Cuba. Vowell argues that 1898 is a year as crucial to the nation's identity as 1776 is. Her main focus in this book is the Americanization of Hawaii. With her trademark wry insights and reporting, she discovers the odd, emblematic and exceptional history of the fiftieth state.

**Banks Public Library:** 111 Market Street.  
**Hours:** Mon., Fri., Sat., 11 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Tue., Wed., Thur., 11 a.m.-7:00 p.m.  
**Preschool Story Time:** Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m.  
**Phone:** (503) 324-1382 for information  
**Internet:** www.wccls.org Browse library resources, reserve or renew materials online.  
Call for information.

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(<http://twitter.com/washcoroads>) or like the Washington County Roads Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Washington-County-Oregon-Roads/133444601759>).

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