

## HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

VOLUME 20: NUMBER 2 ..... [HILLSBOROLIBRARY.ORG](http://HILLSBOROLIBRARY.ORG) ..... MARCH/ APRIL, 2025

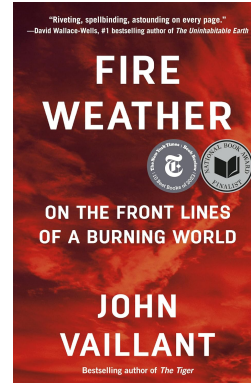
### Featured this Month

#### Fire Weather by John Vaillant

John Vaillant has written a book I think critical for anyone who lives, works, or deals with fire near the Woodland Urban Interface. Basically that is everyone reading this newsletter. This book details the events and aftermath of the 2016 Fort McMurray fire in Canada. Everything catastrophic that just happened to Los Angeles was completely predictable based on what happened in Fort MacMurray. What firefighters, residents, and community leaders learned, in the hardest ways, our communities here need to plan for now. We have been very lucky so far. Los Angeles was not. I expect this book will leave you stunned.

John Vaillant is a multi-award winning writer and storyteller known for the accuracy of his research, sensitivity to the personal experiences of those directly involved, and breadth of background. Events are placed in human, ecological, and economic context. He begins by explaining in an understandable way the basic chemistry of how our planet's atmosphere and oceans work, how fire functions, what factors control it, and which human actions changed the game for the foreseeable future due to the petrochemical economy to which we are addicted.

May 1, 2016 smoke was noticed in the forest a few miles outside of Ft. MacMurray, Alberta. At noon, May 2, the fire was on the outer edge of Ft. McMurray, the wealthy heart of the Tar Sands region. There is only one highway in or out. At noon May 3, a few outlying areas were evacuated and the fire chief was on the radio telling people to live their lives but be aware of the fire and don't panic, it's under control. Within 30 minutes the predicted wind came up, the town was in total evacuation mode, and the fire was rolling over all defenses. By 6 PM 88,000 people were evacuated directly through the flames and much of the town was burning. One family watched their home burn from their iPhones. Previous firefighting techniques did not work. Power, water systems, and communications failed. The lines and towers melted. As did bulldozers, water pipes, and streets. Every propane tank, tire, ammunition stock, vehicle exploded. Glass windows and aluminum wheels became liquid. Concrete crumbled. Emergency responders were isolated with little or no contact with command centers or support. Houses went from standing to burned out in 5-6 minutes. A new weather system only seen twice before- a firenado-



engulfed entire neighborhoods with the equal force of an EF3 tornado or Cat5 hurricane. The heat released was greater than most volcanoes or thermonuclear bombs and punched through the upper atmosphere to distort weather systems across the northern hemisphere. But, amazingly, no one died or was seriously injured except in one car wreck. Emergency responders stayed in place through it all. It was not luck. There are lessons we all need to learn.

The cause of the explosive destruction of the fire was a change in the weather patterns resulting in the highest temperatures and lowest fuel moisture ever recorded in the boreal forests of Canada added to the petrochemical based structures where many humans now choose to live. A living room constructed and furnished with natural products takes at least 30 minutes to flashover. A "modern" living room with synthetic petroleum based products takes 4 minutes to flashover. Just the fumes from a burning modern house are lethal.

Cognitive dissonance is trying to hold 2 conflicting attitudes, facts, experiences, or ideas at the same time and choosing which to deny though both may actually be true in context. That gap must be overcome for survival. And yet life finds a way. Tulips sprouted and bloomed through ash. The town is rebuilding. Hopefully both individuals and governments in Ft. MacMurray as well as California, and hundreds of towns over the entire planet are seeing this new fire regime with open eyes to build with imagineering and fire on their minds, not denial. Our species alone can apply what we learn from the past to the future of where and what we build and how we choose to live. Life will find a way and survive. Our species alone has the power of choice to decide how and if we do.

*Review by Kathleen Blair*

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## New at the Library

### DVDs

**Temple Grandin...Best in Show...Charlie Wilson's War...50 First Dates...Eat Pray Love...Focus...A Midsummer Night's Dream...Music and Lyrics...Peaceful Warrior...Pleasantville...Rent...Rounders...Sabrina...Stand by Me**

### Mystery

**The Widows of Malabar Hill**-by Sujata Massey  
**The House on Bloodhound Lane**-by Virginia Lanier  
**I Have Some Questions For You**-by Rebecca Makkai  
**The Last Devil to Die**-by Richard Osman  
**Artscape**-by Frederick Ramsay  
**Buffalo Mountain**-by Frederick Ramsay  
**Choker**-by Frederick Ramsay  
**The Eye of the Virgin**-by Frederick Ramsay  
**Impulse**-by Frederick Ramsay  
**Rogue**-by Frederick Ramsay  
**Scone Island**-by Frederick Ramsay  
**Secrets**-by Frederick Ramsay  
**Stranger Room**-by Frederick Ramsay  
**The Pot Thief Who Studied Calvin**-by Michael J. Orenduff  
**Holmes, Marple & Poe**-by James Patterson and Brian Stitts  
**The Man Who Vanished and the Dog Who Waited**-by Kate High

### Fiction

**Crow Mary**-by Kathleen Grissom  
**Then She Was Gone**-by Lisa Jewell  
**The Girls in the Stilt House**-by Kelly Mustian  
**Conjugal Bliss**-by John Nichols  
**The Family Upstairs**-by Lisa Jewell  
**Playground**-by Richard Powers  
**The Three-Body Problem**-by Cixin Liu  
**The Dark Forest**-by Cixin Liu  
**Death's End**-by Cixin Liu  
**Pedro Paramo**-by Juan Rulfo

**Love, Stars, and All That**-by Kirin Narayan  
**Heartbeat**-by Danielle Steel  
**In the Unlikely Event**-by Judy Blume  
**The Gravedigger's Daughter**-by Joyce Carol Oates  
**Beautiful Days-A Collection of Short Stories**-by Joyce Carol Oates  
**Birnam Wood**-by Eleanor Catton  
**Future Home of the Living God**-by Louise Erdrich  
**Depraved Justice**-by Samantha Curtin  
**Stone Yard Devotional**-by Charlotte Wood  
**New American Stories**-edited by Ben Marcus

### Nonfiction

**Raising Rabbits**- by Ann Kanable  
**The Heart of Everything That Is-The Untold Story of Red Cloud, An American Legend**-by Bob Drury and Tom Clavin  
**Survival of the Spirit-Chiricahua Apaches in Captivity**-by H. Henrietta Stockel  
**Madhouse at the End of the Earth-The Belgica's Journey into the Antarctic Night**-by Julian Sancton  
**The Fire Next Time**-by James Baldwin  
**A Promised Land**-by Barack Obama  
**Pueblos of New Mexico**-by Ana Pacheco  
**How to Change Your Mind-What the New Science of Psychedelics Teaches Us About Consciousness, Dying, Addiction, Depression and Transcendence**-by Michael Pollan  
**The School of Life-An Emotional Education**-by Alain De Botton  
**The Beekeepers Handbook**-by Diana Sammataro  
**Beekeeping for Dummies**-by Howland Blackiston  
**Into the Amazon-The Life of Candido Rondon**-by Larry Rohter

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## Notes from the Library Board

### Annual Meeting (cookies!)

Mark your calendar for our annual meeting on March 8 at 2:00 in the Community Center Auditorium (there will be cookies!). There is a lot happening at your local library (there will be cookies!). We'd love to hear your suggestions (there will be cookies!).

### Want to Volunteer at the Library?

Stop by or call the library at 575-895-3349 or drop us an email at [hbolib@gmail.com](mailto:hbolib@gmail.com).

### Consider a Library Board Position for 2025

This is an exceptionally exciting time to serve on the library board. We have moved to the status of "emerging library", the first step in becoming a public library. With that status comes the opportunity to obtain funding from grants. Those grants give us money for library resources, infrastructure, and programs to enrich the lives of our community members. For more information, contact John Cornell [jcls1010@gmail.com](mailto:jcls1010@gmail.com) or 575-405-9767 (leave a message)

### Library Closure

We will be closed for 2 weeks in April for remodeling. Stock up on you favorite books and DVDs

### Tell Us...

What was your favorite book in the last year? Tell us why it was your favorite in a few sentences. We'd like to compile a list to share with all our readers in an upcoming newsletter. Send an email to [hbolib@gmail.com](mailto:hbolib@gmail.com).

### Bookmobile Schedule

#### Thursday Mar 20

Kingston Fire Station 4:15-4:45 pm

#### Friday Mar 21

Hillsboro Post Office 8:30am – 9:00am

Lil Abner's, Caballo 9:30am- 10:00am

<https://nmstatelibrary.org/bookmobiles/west-bookmobile/>

### Bake Sale

The Library Bake Sale is on for

**Saturday**

**March 1 and April 5 from 10:00am-1:00 pm**

Come and get your goodies!

### Library Hours:

**Sunday, Monday:** closed

**Tuesday** ~ 2:00pm - 5:00pm **New Hours!**

**Wednesday** ~ 10:00am -1:00pm

**Thursday**~ 2:00pm - 5:00pm **New Hours!**

**Friday** ~ 10:00am -1:00pm

**Saturday** ~ 9:00am - 2:00pm

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P.O. BOX 205, HILLSBORO NM 88042 (575-895-3349)