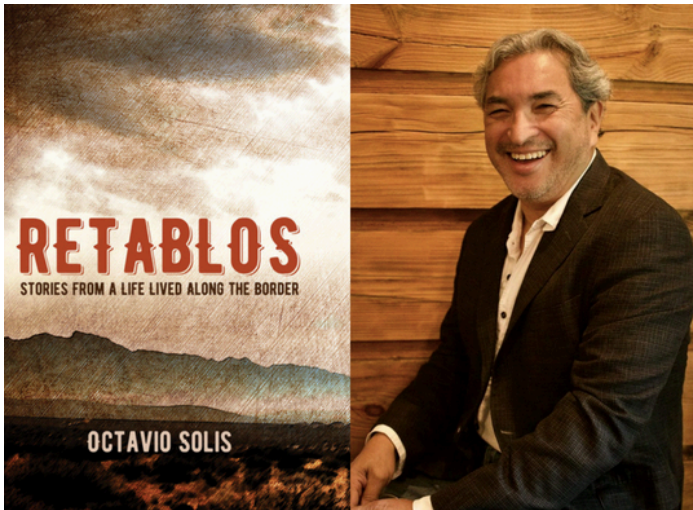


Hillsboro Community Library News

Volume 21: Number 3.....May/June, 2026



Featured this Month

Retablos by Octavio Solis

One of the best books I read last year is *Retablos*, by the acclaimed playwright Octavio Solis. Octavio, like me, was born and raised in El Paso. He's my paisano, a term of endearment we use in Mexico and the borderlands to refer to someone who is from the same place as you. When I began my job as one of two hired librarians in Hillsboro this year, I was tickled to see the audiobook version of *Retablos* included in our collection. Listening to the book, read by Octavio himself, is like being treated to a private performance of a one-man play.

A retablo is a piece of folk art adopted in colonial Mexico from Catholic Spain. Retablos tell stories of survival in the face of calamity, portrayed in simple, yet dramatic paintings placed on sheets of tin or recycled wood. These snapshots of a person's life are always imbued with some divine force. They have an edge of mystery to them.

Octavio repurposes this tradition to relive significant moments in his childhood and adolescence, memories he feared would disappear if he didn't write them down. These moments also have a sacredness to them, since time and distance allow Octavio to reflect on their deeper meaning.

Paintings aren't necessary in Octavio's retablos. His writing plunges you into every scene, transporting you to a time before the internet and pocket-sized screens, when kids rode their bikes freely and late summer rains were sometimes followed by an evening chorus of frogs.

Retablos is a collection of short stories, none longer than five pages. Each story hits a nerve, centered on subjects like racism, first crushes, juvenile delinquency, death, and marital tension. I found myself resisting reading the book too quickly, never wanting to reach the end.

As a child of the U.S./Mexico border, I understood *Retablos* on a visceral level, an experience the literary world rarely offers me. But I'm writing this review to invite others, especially those who aren't my paisanos, to immerse yourselves in a place that's grossly misrepresented by politicians looking for easy scapegoats. This is important because the militarization, violence, and civil rights abuses that occur daily on our southern border, are now spreading to the interior of our country in places like Los Angeles, Chicago, and Minneapolis. *Retablos* is also an intimate portrait of the lives of working-class people, reminding us of our shared struggles and dreams.

Hillsboro Community Library News

New at the Library

Fiction

Theo of Golden by Allen Levi
The Correspondent by Virginia Evans
Exit Strategy by Lee Childs
Three Days in June by Anne Taylor
When the Cranes Fly South by Lisa Ridze'n
Dark Angel by John Sanford

Mystery

The Angel's Game by Carlos Ruiz Zafon
Murder Bimbo by Rebecca Novak
The Harvey Girl by Dana Stabenow
Blood Betrayal by Ausuma Zehanat Khan
The Language of Secrets by Ausuma Zehanat Khan
A Deadly Divide by Ausuma Zehanat Khan
Among the Ruins by Ausuma Zehanat Khan
Blackwater Falls by Ausuma Zehanat Khan
The Cross Roads by CJ Box
What Happened to the Bennets by Lisa Scottoline
The Girl From Devil's Lake by Judith A James

Musical Notes From Your Library

We will be sponsoring a Concert with Pint & a Half on Saturday, June 6th beginning at 7 PM, at the Hillsboro Community Center Auditorium. In a recent article in the [Sierra County Sentinel](#) Pint & a Half were described as "Alt-country" and described their performances by saying "On stage, the duo's chemistry shines through energetic performances filled with heartfelt lyrics and personal storytelling." Please come join us for a wonderful, fun filled evening.

Young Readers

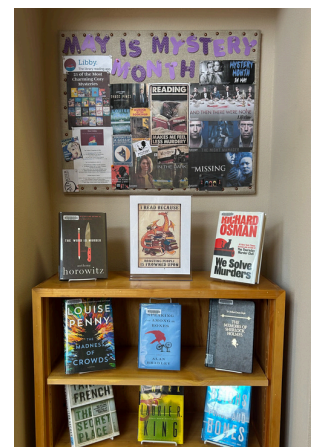
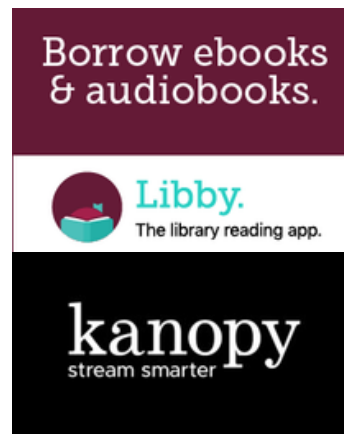
Are You My Mother by PD Eastman
Creole by Stephen Cosgrove
Clara and Asha by Eric Rohmann
The King's Equal by Katherine Paterson
Ledgerbook of Thomas Blue Eagle by Jewel H Grutman
The Muffin Muncher by Stephen Cosgrove
Vacation Under the Volcano by Mary Pope Osborne
Dingoes at Dinnertime by MaryPope Osborne

Do you like to read while on vacation?

Your friendly Librarians suggest that you check out the many free online books available with your Library membership through **OverDrive/Libby**. No matter what your reading interests are; Mystery, History, General Fiction, Biographies, Classics, Humor, you are bound to find online books to please, without having to lug heavy books around. Your phone or tablet can carry your books for you.

New Library Feature

There is a new bulletin board and book display in the hallway of the building. The display will change each month. May is Murder Mystery month! You will find a selection of books from our collection plus recommendations for ebooks from Libby and movies from Kanopy.



Hillsboro Community Library News

For a complete listing of
HCL materials, visit:

<https://hillsborolibrary.org>

Library Hours:

Sunday, Monday: Closed
Tuesday - Saturday: 10:00am - 3:00pm

Wi-Fi available 24 hours a day

Notes from the Library Board

In addition to the **free online books and movies** available through Kanopy and OverDrive/Libby, the Library has added an iMac computer in the reading room for those used to Apple computers. We are currently adding software, so if you have any software you would like added, you may make a request by emailing the Library at hbolibrary@gmail.com. And please remember that if you need tech help in general you can use Getsetup, where you can take online classes from our website. To get access to these new features all you need is a free Hillsboro Community Library membership card. This can be obtained by 1) Visiting the Library during the regular business hours of 10 AM – 3 PM Tuesday thru Saturday 2) Calling the library during the above days and hours at (575) 895-3349, or 3) Email the Library at hbolib@gmail.com.

Also, monthly movies in the Hillsboro Community Center auditorium begin with “Loving Vincent”, the first animation film where every frame is an oil painting on canvas, featuring Chris O’Dowd, Saoirse Ronan, Aidan Turner and Douglas Booth, on Sunday, May 24th at 3 PM. The plot involves an investigation of the death of artist Vincent VanGogh. There will be a **free** snack bar during the movie.

Bake Sale

The **Library Bake Sale** on Saturday
May 9 is from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
and Saturday June 6
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Come and get your goodies!

Bookmobile Schedule

Caballo at Caballo Country Store and RV Park

Tuesdays May 12 and June 2
10:30 until 11:15

Kingston at Fire Station
Fridays May 22 and June 26
10:30 until 11:15

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

Published by

Hillsboro Community Library ----- hillsborolibrary.org
P.O.Box 205, Hillsboro NM 88042(575-895-3349)