

# HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

VOLUME 14: NUMBER 6.....NOVEMBER - DECEMBER, 2019

## Home Run

In our final edition for 2019, the Library Newsletter is pleased and proud to feature the debut novel of Chuck Barrett, former Hillsboro resident, community leader, and dedicated friend of the Library.

Not at all his first foray as writer, however, Chuck has many publication credits in fiction, nonfiction commentary and poetry. Now, drawing from a lifetime of amazing experiences as an activist, he has woven a tale of intrigue, humor and heart around the national pastime, baseball.

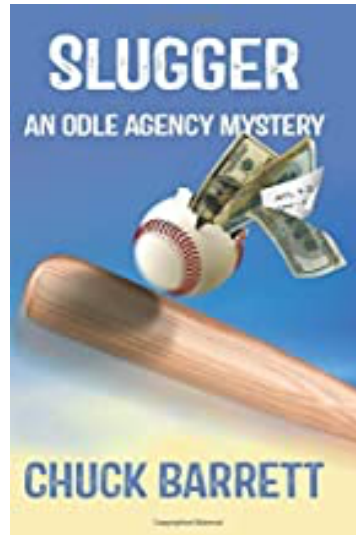
## Featured this Month

**Slugger** by Chuck Barrett

There is no joy in Louisville at the slugger plant of late, where workers are turning up dead and bats are breaking at key points in Big League baseball games. Called in to solve the murders and the mystery of the broken bats are Ray and Margaret Odle, husband-and-wife sleuths of the Odle Detective Agency.

The Odles are a couple of hillbillies from down in the holler, but don't be taken in by that "aw shucks" corn pone dialect. They're a couple of slick operators, but not à la Nora and Nick Charles or *McMillan and Wife*. Nevertheless, Ray can come back with the one-liners with the best of them, and Margaret —not some dame there to cross and uncross her legs for effect or distraction —is smart enough to put clues together and toss any red herrings to the cat.

Every private investigator must have idiosyncrasies, and Ray isn't without his. The former labor organizer from the coal wars speaks in the vernacular of Appalachia, and he may just have a point to make. When he gets preachy about the hill people, he sounds



a little like Tom Joad in *The Grapes of Wrath*, standing up and speaking for his people. That's not too bad for a first novel.

As for baseball aficionados, you'll learn everything there is to know about the manufacture and distribution of baseball bats, as you follow a four-foot piece of ash from tree to chainsaw to lathe to sander to a polisher and into the hands of a major league ballplayer.

But back to the tale ...

Ray's past as a labor organizer finally catches up with him, and if the Odles don't solve the mystery soon, the next bat that breaks may be on Ray Odle's head.

*Review by Steve Siegfried*

**Published by**  
THE HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY  
P.O. BOX 205, HILLSBORO NM 88042 (575-895-3349)

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## New at the Library

### Non Fiction

**Gorillas in the Mist** by Dian Fossey  
**Explaining Computers in Plain English for Seniors**  
by FC&A Publishing  
**The End of the Myth-From the frontier to the  
border wall in the mind of America** by Greg Grandin  
**Relativity** by Albert Einstein  
**Flying Close to the Sun: My Life and Times as a  
Weatherman** by Cathy Wilkerson  
**Ranch on the Ruidoso: The Story of a Pioneer  
Family in New Mexico, 1871-1968** by Wilbur Coe  
**Shadows at Dawn: A Borderlands Massacre and the  
Violence of History** by Karl Jacoby  
**Leaves of Grass** by Walt Whitman  
**Full Catastrophe of Living** by Jon Kabat-Zinn  
**The Way Home: Tales from a life without technology**  
by Mark Boyle  
**Voices of the Winds** by M. Edmonds and E.E. Clark

### Mystery

**A Better Man** by Louise Penny  
**The Bitterroots** by C. J. Box  
**Fool Me Once** by Harlan Coben  
**Lethal Agent** by Kyle Mills  
**The Language of Bees** by Laurie R. King  
**Land of Wolves** by Craig Johnson  
**The Off-Islander** by Peter Colt  
**Detachment Fault** by Susan Cummins Miller  
**Chasm** by Susan Cummins Miller

### Fiction

**The Dutch House** by Ann Patchett  
**My Name is Lucy Barton** by Elizabeth Strout  
**The Strange and Beautiful Sorrows of Ava  
Lavender** by Leslye Walton  
**The Island of Sea Women** by Lisa See  
**The Testaments** by Margaret Atwood  
**Olive, Again** by Elizabeth Strout  
**The Man Who Saw Everything** by Deborah Levy  
**Once Upon a River** by Dianne Setterfield  
**Bellman & Black** by Dianne Setterfield

### Audio Books

**The 9th Judgement** by James Patterson  
**Past Perfect** by Susan Isaacs  
**Act of Treason** by Vince Flynn  
**Longitudes and Attitudes. Exploring the World  
After September 11** by Thomas L. Friedman  
**Personal** by Lee Child  
**No Second Chance** by Harlan Coben  
**City of Bones** by Michael Connelly  
**The Gods of Guilt** by Michael Connelly  
**Depraved Heart** by Patricia Cornwell  
**Death Comes Silently** by Carolyn Hart  
**Sundays at Tiffany's** by James Patterson  
**2nd Chance** by James Patterson  
**Playing Dead** by Julia Heaberlin  
**The Lacuna** by Barbara Kingsolver  
**Ashes to Ashes** by Tami Hoag  
**Guilty Wives** by James Patterson  
**Plum Spooky** by Janet Evanovich  
**Secrets** by Jude Deveraux

### Films on DVD

**Cassandra's Dream ... Little Fish**  
**Breaking Bad** (the complete series)

For a complete listing of Library materials, visit  
<http://www.hillsborocommunitylibrary.com>

### Library Hours:

Sunday & Monday: closed  
Tues. 3:30 - 5:30pm    Wed. 1:00 - 4:00pm  
Thurs: 3:30 - 5:30pm    Fri: 10:00am - 1:00pm  
Saturday 10:00am-2:00pm

### Bookmobile Schedule

**November 20 & December 18**  
Hillsboro 1:00- 2:00    Kingston 2:30- 3:30