



## *Friends of the Pickens Library*

**A Message from  
Susan White  
President, Friends  
of the Pickens  
Library**



**YOU** have the opportunity to attend a wonderful program sponsored by the Friends of Pickens Library on Thursday, May 18 at 7:30pm at the Pickens County Library. Author Dr. James Mahaffey, who is an entertaining speaker, will speak about the Georgia Nuclear Aircraft Laboratory that was located in Dawson Forest in Dawsonville, Ga. Further information can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. There will be refreshments for your enjoyment after the program. Come and enjoy an entertaining, informative, and worthwhile evening.

The dates have been set for the annual book sale! The book sale will be held on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, September 7, 8, and 9 at the Chattahoochee Technical College. The Thursday evening sale will be for Friends members only. So put this on your calendar and be sure to plan to attend. This is the only fund raiser that

our group has each year, so we depend on your help and attendance.

The Pickens Library renovation and addition project was not included in the state budget again this year. The reason given is that the local money has not been completely collected. The SPLOST began over two years ago, but it is still being collected. Hopefully the 2 million dollars from the state will be funded next year. Your help in talking to our Representative and Senators is definitely needed in the next year to proceed with this building project.

Spring has sprung is a famous saying. There is no better time than now to visit your local library and see all that they have to offer. One can now go outside and read. Enjoy your favorite audiobook, on-line book, or regular paperback or hard-back book while taking in the wonderful sunshine and warm breezes. Have a great Spring!



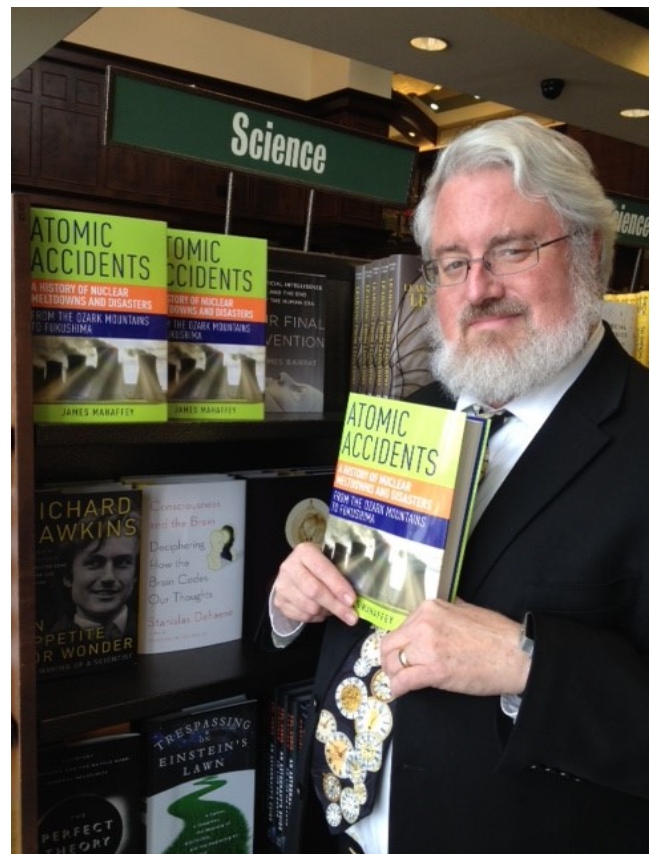
## Nuclear Energy Expert to Speak at Pickens County Library (By Nancy E. Davis)

The Friends of Pickens Library invites you to hear a talk by nuclear energy expert Dr. James Mahaffey on Thursday, May 18, at 7:30pm at the library. Jim has written two books for the general public (a third will be published June 6, 2017) about the history and future of nuclear energy. The first, published in 2009, is entitled *Atomic Awakening: A New Look at the History and Future of Nuclear Power*. The second, published in 2014, is called *Nuclear Accidents: A History of Nuclear Meltdowns and Disasters, from the Ozark Mountains to Fukushima*. The newest book is *Atomic Adventures: Secret Islands, Forgotten N-Rays, and Isotopic Murder*. Although the subjects may sound daunting, Jim's extensive research and use of lively anecdotes and intriguing scientific tidbits make his books entertaining and accessible for a wide audience.

Jim, who spoke to us a couple of years ago, has agreed to speak again, this time about the Nuclear Aircraft Lab run by Lockheed/USAF in the Dawson Forest (see below).

Jim holds a bachelor of science in physics and master of science and doctoral degrees in nuclear engineering from Georgia Tech. After a 25-year career at Georgia Tech Research Institute, Jim held positions in private industry for several years. He is now a full-time writer and consultant (he has also written a six-volume reference set on nuclear energy for high schools and colleges). He has appeared on PBS NewsHour, on Georgia Public Broadcasting's "Georgia Weekly," and on numerous radio talk shows. He is a skilled public speaker and is easy to understand, as well as entertaining.

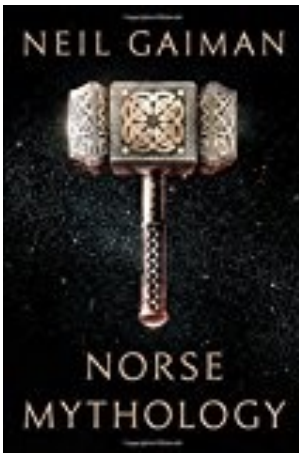
(From Wikipedia): The Georgia Nuclear Aircraft Laboratory, also known as AFP No. 67, for Air Force Plant 67 was a United States Air Force test facility located in the Dawson Forest in Dawsonville, Georgia. It was the site of Lockheed's lab for investigating the feasibility of nuclear aircraft. The site was used for irradiating military equipment, as well as the forest to determine the effect of nuclear war, and its effects on wildlife. The area was closed in 1971 and acquired by the city of Atlanta for a second airport, but its topography was determined to be ill-suited for an airport. Documents explaining what went on at the site remain highly classified, and the entrance to the underground portion of the facility has been buried. The only objects left above ground were the concrete foundations on which the buildings and reactors were placed.



**Dr. James Mahaffey holding a copy of his first book. His third book, which he will speak on, is due out this June.**

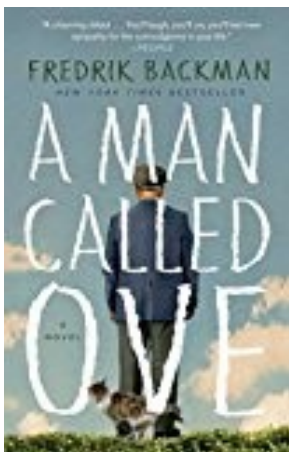


## Book Reviews



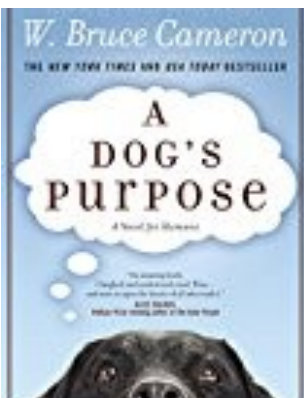
Introducing an instant classic—master storyteller Neil Gaiman presents a dazzling version of the great Norse myths.

Neil Gaiman has long been inspired by ancient mythology in creating the fantastical realms of his fiction. Now he turns his attention back to the source, presenting a bravura rendition of the great northern tales. In *Norse Mythology*, Gaiman fashions primeval stories into a novelistic arc that begins with the genesis of the legendary nine worlds; delves into the exploits of the deities, dwarves, and giants; and culminates in Ragnarok, the twilight of the gods and the rebirth of a new time and people. Gaiman stays true to the myths while vividly reincarnating Odin, the highest of the high, wise, daring, and cunning; Thor, Odin's son, incredibly strong yet not the wisest of gods; and Loki, the son of giants, a trickster and unsurpassable manipulator. From Gaiman's deft and witty prose emerges the gods with their fiercely competitive natures, their susceptibility to being duped and to dupe others, and their tendency to let passion ignite their actions, making these long-ago myths breathe pungent life again.



A grumpy yet loveable man finds his solitary world turned on its head when a boisterous young family moves in next door.

Meet Ove. He's a curmudgeon, the kind of man who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. He has staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. People call him *the bitter neighbor from hell*, but must Ove be bitter just because he doesn't walk around with a smile plastered to his face all the time? Behind the cranky exterior there is a story and a sadness. So when one November morning a chatty young couple with two chatty young daughters move in next door and accidentally flatten Ove's mailbox, it is the lead-in to a comical and heartwarming tale of unkempt cats, unexpected friendship, and the ancient art of backing up a U-Haul. All of which will change one cranky old man and a local residents' association to their very foundations.



A first novel that follows the spiritual journey of a dog through four incarnations.

"Toby" is first born in a litter of four to a mother who lives in the wild away from humans. But soon the family is captured. Although his mother wants only to escape, Toby—who understands human language as soon as he hears it—is immediately drawn to the human kindness of the woman who has made it her mission to care for strays. Toby ends up in a pound where he is put down. He is reborn as "Bailey," a golden retriever who becomes the beloved pet of "the boy" named Ethan. Ethan lives with his parents in town but spends summers on his grandparents' farm, where both Ethan and Bailey form a special bond with a little girl named Hannah. When Ethan is a teenager, a jealous, frankly evil schoolmate burns down Ethan's house. Bailey helps the police catch the perpetrator, but Ethan is badly injured. By now Bailey has realized that his purpose is to comfort Ethan. Ethan goes off to college and eventually Bailey dies of old age to be reborn as Ellie, a female dog who becomes the star of a K-9 unit until she loses her sense of smell. Although her owners love her, she never forgets her special bond with Ethan.

*Friends of the Pickens Library*  
100 Library Lane  
Jasper, GA 30143

**Membership Application**  
**Friends of the Pickens Library**

I am a new member \_\_\_\_ I am a renewing member \_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Street or PO Box Number \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

If a family membership, please provide one additional name. \_\_\_\_\_

Please send newsletter by email \_\_\_\_ Please send newsletter to above address OR to:

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Membership categories: Student: \$5 Individual: \$15 Family: \$30

Contributor: \$50 to \$99 Sponsor: \$100 to \$199 Benefactor: \$200 or higher

Please make your check payable to Friends of the Pickens Library and mail or deliver it to 100 Library Lane, Jasper, GA 30143. We are a 501(c)(3) organization.

You are invited to visit the Friends of the Pickens Library website at: [friendsofpickenslibrary.org](http://friendsofpickenslibrary.org)

I would like to volunteer for: Annual Book Sale Hospitality Membership Newsletter