

TV listings to change format

East Oregonian subscribers will see some changes to our television schedule beginning in today's edition of the newspaper.

The EO will print a daily full page of television schedules for our readers. This is in lieu of the TV Time insert, which we are no longer publishing.

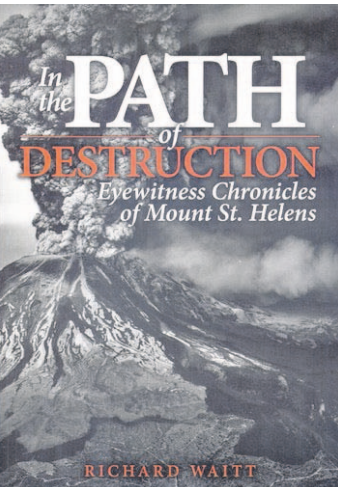
The decision to discontinue TV Time does not come easily. For several years, we have not had enough support from our advertisers to cover the costs of producing TV Time. Advertisers recognize that TV viewers now use the on-screen TV listings provided by the cable company, rather than newspaper listings, and are not willing to advertise on pages that few readers will see.

Because we know some of our customers do depend on TV listings in the newspaper, we will continue to print abbreviated listings in the paper each day. Listings for Saturday, Sunday and Monday will be printed in the weekend EO Lifestyles section and the daily listings will be printed on Page 6A.

This will expand the A section and provide room for more news from the Capital Bureau and other national and international stories.

We realize this is a big change for readers to become accustomed to, and we invite customers to contact us for more information or to share their thoughts on both the TV listings offered and the additional comics and puzzle features. Our number is 1-800-522-0255.

BOOK REVIEW



St. Helens book weds science, personal stories

By RENEE STRUTHERS

May 18, 2015, marks the 35th anniversary of the most recent volcanic eruption in Pacific Northwest history. “In the Path of Destruction: Eyewitness Chronicles of Mount St. Helens,” penned by geologist Richard Waitt, marries scientific observations beginning with the first tremors on the mountain to eyewitness accounts of people who were caught in the cataclysmic blast that decimated 235 square miles in southwestern Washington state — and survived.

Waitt, a geologist with the United States Geological Survey based in Vancouver, Wash., was one of the first scientists assigned to monitor the dormant volcano when earthquakes began jittering the ground in March of 1980. The first part of the book documents the efforts by the scientific community to determine when, or if, the mountain would erupt, what kind of eruption could be expected and what, if any, communities were in danger. Waitt’s spare writing style only enhances the tension in the days and weeks leading up to the event, revealing efforts by local politicians, scientists and law enforcement to balance the rights of landowners, businesses and recreation enthusiasts with the unknown dangers of the awakening volcano and their responsibility to safeguard the public.

The remainder of the book documents the personal stories of people caught in the wrong place at the wrong time — scientists within the danger zone, campers, hikers, a school group on an outing, and the famous Harry Truman, who stubbornly insisted he would be safe if the mountain blew. Waitt realized, after interviewing a couple who had barely escaped with their lives, that the personal stories of the survivors could give geologists information about the eruption that couldn’t be elicited by studying the aftermath. Hundreds of interviews later, a more complete picture of the disaster can be told through the eyes of those who experienced it.

Waitt’s book reads like a thriller for the scientific set, but non-scientists won’t be able to put it down either.

“In the Path of Destruction: Eyewitness Chronicles of Mount St. Helens,” by Richard Waitt. © 2014, WSU Press.

Zacharias’ award-winning novel to take the stage

By TAMMY MALGESINI
East Oregonian

The debut novel by Hermiston author Karen Spears Zacharias will be adapted as a play for the 2015-16 season at the Springer Opera House in Columbus, Georgia.

Coming on the heels of winning a Weatherford Award for Best in Appalachian Fiction for “Mother of Rain,” Zacharias was surprised when she received a recent phone call from Paul R. Pierce, producing artistic director of the Springer Opera House.

“When Paul called me and told me he wanted to produce the play, I about fell out,” Zacharias said. “This is a wonderful honor, the kind of thing authors dream about.”

“Mother of Rain” is the World War II love story of Zebulon and Maizee Hurd and the Appalachian community devoted to protecting the young couple and their deaf son, Rain. The book addresses many issues, including mental illness.

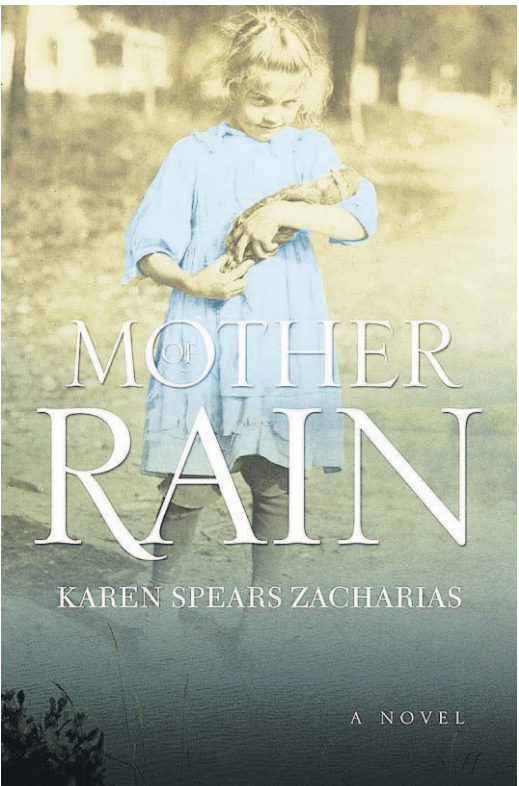
Raised in the South, Zacharias wrote the novel using Appalachia dialect. Pierce said the novel’s characters and dialogue make it compelling for the stage.

Zacharias said literary traditions run deep in the city of Columbus. Her alma mater — Columbus High School — also boasts notable author Carson McCullers.

“Carson and I also share this affinity for grotesque characters,” Zacharias said. “She, however, wrote from a place of isolation and alienation,



Zacharias



Cover photo courtesy Mercer University Press

“Mother of Rain,” by Hermiston author Karen Spears Zacharias, will be adapted as a play and will be staged during the 2015-16 Springer Opera House season in Columbus, Georgia.

which may have been her experience with her hometown. Whereas, I have always written from a place of belonging, which has been my experience with my hometown.”

WHAT TO DO

Festivals

Beerex Fest
•Saturday, Feb. 28, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.;
•Hermiston Brewing Co., 125 N. First St., Hermiston
www.hermistonbrewing.com
\$10 per person, \$15 with event glass (supplies limited). Bottoms Up tasting party features beer, food, games and more beer. Many breweries have been invited to pour their best.

Tri-Cities Great Outdoors Expo
•Feb. 28, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.;
-March 1, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
•TRAC Center, 6600 Burden Blvd., Pasco
www.tcgreatoutdoorexpo.com
\$5/adults, \$3/juniors, seniors, military, free/5 & under. Admission good for both days. Features products, services and information for the outdoor enthusiast. Back by popular demand, A Walk on the Wild Side, featuring exotic animals.

Art

ArtWORKz
•Saturday, Feb. 28; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Last day
•Tamastlikt Cultural Institute, near Wildhorse Resort & Casino.
www.tamastlikt.org
\$10/adults, \$9/senior citizens, \$6/youths, free/5 and under or \$25/family of four. In its fourth year, the youth art show highlights area youth artists. Runs through Feb. 28.

Hearts in Motion
•Saturday, Feb. 28; 1 p.m.
•Pendleton High School, 1811 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton
\$8/adults, students. Doors open at noon for dance competition, which features 350 dancers and serves as fundraiser for Pendleton High School’s Rhythmic Mode dance team.

Heritage Station Museum

•Tuesday-Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
•108 S.W. Frazer Ave., Pendleton
www.heritagestationmuseum.org
\$5/adults, \$2/student, \$4/seniors, \$10/family.

Music

Cello recital
•Saturday, Feb. 28; 2 p.m.
•Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St.
Free. Students of Loree McKenna and Rebekah Facciuto

Jayme Stone’s Lomax Project
•Saturday, Feb. 28; 7:30 p.m.
•Power House Theatre, 111 N. Sixth St., Walla Walla
www.phtwww.com
\$23-28. Jayme Stone’s Lomax Project performs original arrangements folk songs collected from sea captains, cowhands, fishermen, homemakers, prisoners and farmers. Beer, wine and concessions available for purchase.

Nuketown
•Saturday, Feb. 28, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. No cover
•Wildhorse Sports Bar at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission.

Dan Haug
•Saturday, Feb. 28; 9 p.m. to midnight. 21 and over. No cover
•Hamley Saloon, 8 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton

Stone Country
•Saturday, Feb. 28; 9 p.m. No cover
•Midway Tavern, 1750 N. First St., Hermiston

Herrick
•Friday, March 6; Saturday, March 7, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. No cover
•Wildhorse Sports Bar at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission.

Young Artists Competition
•Saturday, March 8; time TBA

•Hermiston High School auditorium, 600 S. First St.
www.inlandnorthwestmusicians.com
Sponsored by Inland Northwest Musicians, young artists vie for cash prizes and an opportunity to perform with the Inland Northwest Orchestra.

Navy Band Northwest ensembles
•Monday, March 9; 7 p.m.
•SAGE Center, 101 Olson Road, Boardman
www.visitsage.com
Free. Features Passage, a rock band, and the Five-Star Brass quintet.

Vibe Central
•Friday, March 13; Saturday, March 14, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. No cover
•Wildhorse Sports Bar at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission.

Night life

Thursday Night Comedy
•Thursdays, 8 p.m.
•March 5: Ryan Wingfield, Kaz Gable
•March 12: Njaio Bealum
•Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission.

Digital Karaoke
•Thursdays and Saturdays, 8 p.m.
•The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

Mac’s Trivia Night
•Thursdays, 8 p.m. No cover
•Mac’s Bar & Grill, 1400 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton
21 and older. Teams of 2-8 compete in trivia contest with other teams. Live host and prizes.

Wine tasting
•Fridays, 4-8 p.m.
•Sno Road Winery, 111 W. Main St., Echo.

Open Mic
•First/third Friday each month, 8 p.m. to midnight
•The Packard Tavern, 118 S.E. Court Ave., Pendleton

www.facebook.com/groups/pendletonopenmic
Karaoke
•Fridays 8 p.m. (9 p.m. if game on)
•Riverside Sports Bar, 1501 Sixth St., Umatilla

DJ and dancing
•Fridays, 8 p.m.
•The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

Theater, stage & film

“Rapunzel”
•Saturday, Feb. 28; 3 & 5:30 p.m.
•Stanfield Elementary School, 1120 Main St.
\$5/adults, \$1/students, seniors. Missoula Children’s Theatre production featuring local students.

“The Sleeper”
•Feb. 28; 8 p.m.
•March 1; 2 p.m.
•Players Theater, 608 The Parkway, Richland, Wash.
www.richlandplayers.org
\$15/adults; \$12/students-seniors. The dark comedy follows a suburban housewife who is shell-shocked with post 9-11 reality. A bizarre series of events blow the lid off her previously sheltered existence and change the lives of all around her.

Auditions for “The Orphans”
•March 3-4; 7 p.m.
•Bob Clapp Theatre, BMCC, 2411 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton
College Community Theatre production to be staged May 14-17 and 21-24. Craig McIntosh 541-278-5928 or cct@bluecc.edu.

“Chitty Chitty Bang Bang”
•March. 7, 13-14, 20-21, 28, April 3-4; 7:30 p.m.
•March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4; 2:30 p.m.
•Elgin Opera House, 104 N. Eighth St.

www.elginoperahouse.com
Reserved \$17/\$8. Take a musical adventure with an out-of-this-world car that flies through the air and sails the seas.

“Theatresports”
•Friday, March 13; 7:30 p.m.
•Power House Theatre, 111 N. Sixth Ave., Walla Walla
www.phtwww.com
\$25/general admission. Recommended for ages 18 and up. Relying on years of experience, wicked-sharp wit and lightning reflexes, two teams face off for competitive improvisational theater. Using audience suggestions, they create scenes and situations on the spot with a panel of local judges deciding the winner. Beer and wine available for purchase.

Hot tickets

•“Mama Mia.” Thursday, March 19, Toyota Center, Kennewick. Reserved seats (\$59.50-\$82) via www.ticketmaster.com.
•So You Think You Can Dance-Live Season 11 Tour. Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2015, Toyota Center, Kennewick. Reserved seats (\$50-\$65) via www.ticketmaster.com.
•Sasquatch Music Festival. Memorial Day weekend, Gorge Amphitheater, George, Wash. Reserved seats (\$325 and up for 4-day pass) via www.livenation.com.
•Creation Festival. July 30-Aug. 1, Benton County Fairgrounds, Kennewick. Reserved seats (\$45-\$150, plus camping packages) via www.creationfest.com.
•Foo Fighters. Saturday, Sept. 12, Gorge Amphitheater, George, Wash. Reserved seats (\$45-\$75) via www.livenation.com.

Want to get your event listed in our calendar? Send information to tmalgisini@eastoregonian.com, or c/o Tammy Malgisini, 333 E. Main Street, Hermiston, OR, 97838.

MOVIE REVIEW

Smith, Robbie pour on the charm in sharp ‘Focus’

By JOCELYN NOVECK
AP National Writer

If the mark of a good con artist is that he or she makes you think you know exactly what’s going on — when of course you haven’t a clue — that’s also the mark of a good con-artist movie, isn’t it? To make you feel like you totally get what’s about to happen — “Oh yeah, I’ve seen this in tons of movies,” you think — and then, boom. That’s not what happens at all. See, you lost your focus for a second.

“It’s about distraction,” explains Nicky, the con artist played by Will Smith in the “Focus,” the consistently entertaining new film by Glenn Ficarra and John Requa (“Crazy, Stupid, Love.”). And that’s what the filmmakers do to us, too — they distract us more than once by making us think we’re watching a predictable, even silly story. We’re lured into feeling smarter than the movie — until we’re not. Damn! How did we miss that?

Of course, deft plot twists aren’t enough. A con-artist movie has to make you find something sympathetic in the artist. And here, the film centers on a romance, so we need to be able to invest in that as well. Luckily, Smith and relative newcomer Margot Robbie (“The Wolf of Wall Street”) generate believable heat together while also appealing to us individually, and so we care what happens to them — even as we keep changing our minds as to



AP Photo/Warner Bros. Pictures, Frank Masi

In this image released by Warner Bros. Pictures, Will Smith and Margot Robbie, right, appear in a scene from “Focus.”

“Focus”

★★★★☆

R, 104 minutes

which one we should care about most.

Smith’s Nicky and Robbie’s Jess meet cute in New York, where the gorgeous Jess is trying to escape from a creepy guy at the bar. They end up in Jess’ hotel room, where suddenly they’re caught in the act by Jess’ jealous, gun-toting “husband.” Only, Nicky figures out right away it’s a scam (“You should have

waited until my pants were off,” he admonishes the amateur pair). Jess realizes she’s met a real pro. “Tutor me,” she pleads.

We next find the two at a football championship in New Orleans, where Nicky and his crew are planning to scam as many fans as possible. Jess shows up, and wants in. In an extended street pickpocketing sequence, she shows herself to have not just ambition and gumption, but also real talent.

Everything goes swimmingly for the two — and they’re falling for each other, besides. But romance is a tricky thing when you’re a lifelong trickster. That becomes clear when, in one of the film’s most entertaining scenes,

Nicky has to keep Jess in the dark as it appears that he’s totally self-destructing. You can’t show all your cards, even to the person you love. The person you MAYBE love, and who MAYBE loves you. Unless you’re playing them, or they’re playing you.

The film’s second act jumps ahead three years and takes us to lovely Buenos Aires, where Nicky, having long ago lost track of Jess, is setting up his latest operation. And this one’s bigger than stealing a bunch of wallets.

Nicky’s been hired by a car racing magnate, Garriga (Rodrigo Santoro) to help ensure a win for his team in a high-stakes championship. Despite the suspicions of Garriga’s heavily sarcastic henchman, Owens (an amusing Gerald McRaney), all begins according to plan, until Jess suddenly appears out of nowhere, walking down a staircase in a killer red dress and matching lips. Uh oh.

Is Jess, as it appears, retired from the scamming life and living in luxury with Garriga? Or is she, too, up to something? Do Jess and Nicky still have it for each other? Or do we just think they do?

As the plot twists and turns, it’s best to stop wondering who’s doing what to whom and just, er, focus on watching Smith, wily and vulnerable at the same time, match wits (and hearts?) with Robbie, who makes a case here for more leading-lady roles. It would be fun to watch these two together again. Maybe a sequel called “Re-focus”?