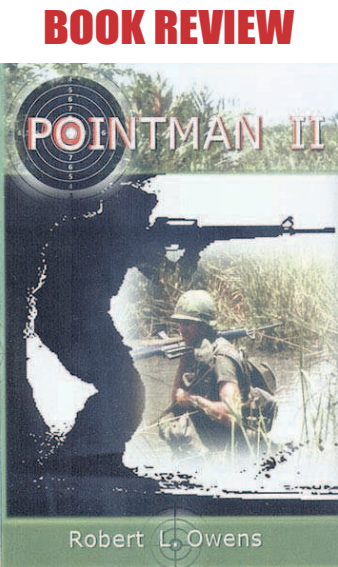




Bringing the war home

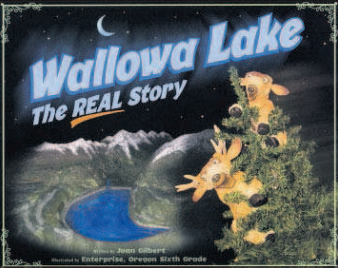
Robert L. Owens has returned to Vietnam in his second book, “Pointman II,” which continues the story of the surviving members of a platoon decimated by a deadly mission in Cambodia. Mike Brooks and Pat Graves are friends as only war can produce, but they will take different paths home.

Brooks, angry and bitter after a pair of tragic losses, returns to California to find that civilian life is incomprehensible. Survivor’s guilt and post-traumatic stress take him to the edge of sanity. Back in Vietnam, Graves relies on his famous “luck” to buoy his spirits and those of his comrades — until it runs out.

Veterans of “the forgotten war” returned home with the same battle scars, physical and mental, as did the survivors of the wars that came before, but without the support and understanding they needed to cope. Many returnees struggled to find forgiveness, both from the people they left behind and from themselves. In the face of uncertain survival, Brooks and Graves find hope, and a kind of peace, in their own way.

The “Pointman” series is based on Owens’ own experiences as a medic serving in the Mekong Delta and Cambodia as part of the Ninth Infantry Division and the First Air Cavalry Division during the Vietnam War.

“Pointman II,” by Robert L. Owens. © 2015, Delizon Publishers.



New children’s book tells story of Wallowa Lake’s beginning

By SCOT HEISEL
Wallowa County Chieftain

What did two ambitious and inquisitive deer and one very annoyed pine tree have to do with the formation of a local gem of nature, Wallowa Lake?

The answer lies in a new children’s book that is the culmination of a sixth-grade art project that started in 2011.

“Wallowa Lake — The Real Story” (Mt. Emily Press, 2015) by Joan Gilbert offers a whimsical legend of how the lake came to be, followed by a few science lessons that provide an actual, geological explanation of the forces that carved it into our landscape.

Gilbert wrote the book’s storyline, but the illustrations were pulled from a short claymation film by the same name that was produced four years ago with her guidance by Colby Knifong’s sixth-grade class at Enterprise Elementary.

“My son was in sixth grade,” Gilbert said. “I knew it probably was my last art project with them, so I wanted to do something really big. Before that, I had been teaching animation to kids at Chief Joseph Summer Camp.”

Gilbert, who is a graphic designer as well as an author, had been involved with her kids’ school art projects for years before the Wallowa Lake film. Each of the projects ultimately was sold at the Enterprise Education Foundation dinner auction, with all proceeds going to programs that support arts and music. All proceeds from the new book will go to the foundation as well.

The 2011 project was ambitious, to say the least. The students created and designed the characters, built the sets, and took every shot of the tedious

Oregon Zoo illuminates holiday season

East Oregonian

A holiday tradition returns with the 28th annual ZooLights at the Oregon Zoo.

When the sun goes down, more than 1.6 million brightly colored lights illuminate the zoo. The popular holiday light experience began Friday and runs through Sunday, Jan. 3 at the Oregon Zoo in Portland.

Over the decades, a visit to ZooLights has become a holiday tradition for many Oregonians and out-of-state visitors. Last year, a record 214,000 people strolled through forests of lighted trees, viewed dazzling life-size illuminated animal silhouettes and rode the lighted zoo train.

About 95 percent of the lighted displays can only be viewed as a walk-through experience. The paths are wheelchair accessible.

All aboard, purchase a ticket for the zoo train for an eight-minute ride, which includes a brief winter-themed interlude and performance near the Family Farm. The ride includes lights not visible from the walking paths. The first departure is at 4:45 p.m.

New this season is a scavenger hunt. Visitors should be on the lookout for some bright new broleys — six umbrella silhouettes placed



Contributed by Oregon Zoo/photo by Michael Durham

Sarah Johnson, along with her children, Samantha and Philip, marvel at the light tunnel at ZooLights at the Oregon Zoo. The light display runs through Jan. 3 at the zoo in Portland.

around the zoo. Sharp-eyed guests can win a prize at the zoo gift shop. Some animals can be seen during the ZooLights hours, but many are not viewable.

The Cascade Grill, Grill-to-Go, Black Rhino, BearWalk Café and AfriCafé are open most nights. In addition to burgers, sandwiches, French fries and salads, local beer and wine are available for purchase.

Also, food carts along the path feature everything from hot chocolate and popcorn to the zoo’s signature treat — elephant ears.

In addition to admission for ZooLights, there is a fee of up to \$6 for parking at the zoo. The lot can fill up during busy nights. Visitors providing proof of riding MAX to the zoo receive a \$5 discount to ZooLights.

WHAT TO DO

Festivals

Holiday Barrel Tasting

- Dec. 4-6
- Walla Walla Valley wineries www.wallawallawine.com/holiday-barrel-tasting
- Some free. Inspire your holiday spirit during the festive atmosphere of the season. Samples of the future releases straight from the barrel. Wineries participate in unique ways, offering a variety of events including art, music and more.

Art & Museums

Art of the Gift

- Tuesday-Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St. www.pendletonarts.org
- Free. Unique items created by the best craftspeople from the region and beyond. Includes functional and wearable items, just in time for Christmas shopping. Runs through Dec. 31.

American Indian bead-work display

- Monday-Thursdays; 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Friday-Saturdays; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
- Hermiston Public Library, 235 E. Gladys Ave. www.hermistonlibrary.us
- In recognition of Native American Heritage Month, beadwork by Ken May of Hermiston is on display through the month of November.

Drawn Together

- Monday-Fridays; noon-4 p.m.
- Nightingale Gallery, Loso Hall
- Eastern Oregon University, La Grande www.eou.edu/art/nightingale-gallery
- Free. Drawn Together: Contemporary Drawing in the Pacific Northwest features 13 Pacific Northwest artists. Runs through Dec. 9.

Betty Feves 25th Anniversary Exhibit

- Monday through Thursdays; 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- By appointment, 541-278-5952
- Betty Feves Memorial Gallery, BMCC, 2411 N.W. Carden Ave., Pendleton.
- Free. Exhibit honors Betty

Unique performance set at Kirkman House

WALLA WALLA — A seasonal performance features a musical adaption of “‘Twas the Night Before Christmas” at the Kirkman House Museum.

The intimate setting in the 1880s Victorian Italianate home along with the unique musical performance provides a holiday celebration from yesteryear.

Cellist Sally Singer Tuttle, Celtic harper Noah Brenner and Monica Griffin Hunter, a soprano opera singer, will share season’s greetings during two shows, including one with hors d’oeuvres and wine. The premiere is Saturday, Dec. 5 with a social time at 6:45 p.m. and the performance at 7:30 p.m. in the museum’s parlor, 214 N. Colville St., Walla Walla. The regular show is Sunday, Dec. 6 at 2 p.m.

Tickets for food and wine performance are \$45 each, while the matinee show is \$20. To purchase tickets, visit www.kirkmanhousemuseum.org. For more information, contact 509-529-4373 or khm@kirkmanhousemuseum.org.

Feves and her continuing legacy with pieces by artists who apprenticed with her. Runs through Dec. 17.

World War I Posters

- Monday - Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute, near Wildhorse Resort & Casino.

www.tamastslikt.org

\$10/adults, \$9/senior citizens, \$6/youths, free/5 and under or \$25/family of four. Features 65 original posters from the World War I era and other artifacts from the time period. Runs through Jan. 2.

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.

SAGE Center

- Monday-Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- 101 Olson Road, Boardman

www.visitsage.com

\$5/adults, \$3/students, seniors, free/under 5. An interactive visitor center highlighting sustainable agriculture and energy. On-site store features local art, jewelry, food, wine and gifts.

Music

Christmas concerts

- Friday, Dec. 11; 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 12; 4 p.m.
- Echo Community Center, 20 Bonanza St.

www.inlandnorthwestmusicians.com

Free, donations accepted. Holiday cheer with the Inland Northwest Choral. Reservations suggested; for more information, contact 541-289-4696 or inwm@machmedia.net.

Holiday Music Festival

- Sunday, Dec. 13; 3:15 p.m.
- Vert Auditorium, 480 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton www.oregoneastsymphony.org
- \$20/adults, \$15/students, seniors, \$45/family. The Oregon East Symphony’s holiday program includes an performances by community vocal groups,

including the Pendleton Men’s Chorus and the Sherwood-McKay Children’s Chorus. The symphony’s chorale will perform Ralph Vaughn Williams’ “Fantasia On A Christmas Carol.”

Night life

DJ music

- Saturdays, 8 p.m.
- The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

Sunday Fundays

- Sundays; 4 p.m.
- Riverside Sports Bar, 1501 Sixth St., Umatilla

No cover. Food/drink specials

Whiskey Wednesday

Game Night

- Wednesdays; 3-7 p.m.
- The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

No cover. Drink specials and games, including Xbox 360, Nintendo Wii, PlayStation 3 and Nintendo 64.

RockKaraoke

- Third Wednesdays, 8 p.m.
- Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission.

ZooLights

Oregon Zoo, Portland
SEASON: Nov. 27-Jan. 3
VALUE: Monday-Thursday, Nov. 30-Dec. 17, 5-8 p.m.
REGULAR: Sunday-Saturday, 5-9 p.m.
CLOSED: Dec. 24-25
\$14.95/general, \$12.95/seniors, \$9.95/ages 3-11, free/2 and under
•\$5 discount on value nights
•\$5 off regular nights with MAX ticket
•\$4 zoo train

People may enter the grounds for ZooLights beginning at 4 p.m. The lights are fully illuminated by 5 p.m. Tickets for ZooLights and the train can be purchased at the gate or at www.oregonzoo.org/zoolights.

Regular zoo hours begin daily at 9 a.m. Separate tickets must be purchased to enter during the day. Admission is \$11.50/general, \$10/seniors, \$8.50/ages 3-11 and free/ages 2 and under.

The Oregon Zoo is located near downtown Portland, just off Highway 26. For more information, visit www.oregonzoo.org or call 503-226-1561.

No cover. Live band karaoke the third Wednesday of each month through December.

Thursday Night Comedy

- Thursdays, 8 p.m.
- Wildhorse Sports Bar, Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission.

Digital Karaoke

- Thursdays and Fridays, 8 p.m.
- The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

Mac’s Trivia Night

- Thursdays; 8 p.m.
- Mac’s Bar & Grill, 1400 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton

No cover. 21 and older. Trivial Beersuit is weekly through Dec. 17. Teams of 2-8 compete in trivia contest. 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.-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

Stage & film

Holidayed & Confused

- Wednesday, Dec. 3; 7 p.m.
- Hermiston High School auditorium, 600 S. First St. www.desertartscouncil.com
- \$40/adults, \$22.50/youths (\$5 discount if purchased in advance). Desert Arts Council presents the Second City Comedy Tour.

Hot tickets

•Trans Siberian Orchestra The Ghosts of Christmas Eve Tour. Nov. 28, Key Arena, Seattle; Nov. 29, Moda Center, Portland. Tickets (\$34-\$73) available via www.ticketmaster.com

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

MOVIE REVIEW

Yo Rocky! Gritty, soulful ‘Creed’ goes the distance

By JOCELYN NOVECK
AP National Writer

Admit it. When you heard another “Rocky” movie was coming out — a seventh — you thought, really? How many “Rocky” movies do we need?

Well, it turns out we needed seven. At least.

From its very beginning in 1976, the “Rocky” story has been about proving you belong in the ring — not winning, necessarily, but showing you have the cred to be there in the first place. That’s why Rocky told Adrian: “All I wanna do is go the distance.”

And so “Creed,” directed by the talented Ryan Coogler and starring a fairly irresistible team of Michael B. Jordan and (of course) Sylvester Stallone, shows it belongs in the ring from the first moments. With a deftly crafted blend of smarts and corn — of course there’s corn, people, this is Rocky! — it earns our trust: It’s gonna go right to the edge with the heartstring-tugging, but it won’t go over. And so we can relax. We won’t hate ourselves in the morning. And when the old “Rocky” music starts playing, as it inevitably will at a key moment, we’ll be able to laugh — happily, and not scornfully. The movie’s earned it.

Stallone is now 69, and “Creed” wisely doesn’t attempt to get Rocky Balboa back into the boxing



Barry Wetcher/Warner Bros. Pictures via AP

This photo shows Michael B. Jordan, left, as Adonis Johnson and Sylvester Stallone as Rocky Balboa in “Creed.”

“Creed”

★★★★☆

PG-13, 132 minutes

gloves. This film’s about another fighter: young Adonis Johnson, whom we first meet as a child in a LA juvenile detention center. Life has been hard; he’s the secret illegitimate son of boxing great Apollo Creed — Rocky’s former nemesis, of course — who died before Adonis was born. But fate smiles on the boy when Creed’s widow (Phylicia Rashad) takes him in.

Some 17 years later, Adonis (Jordan, exuding charisma and star power at every turn) is living in a mansion with mom and thriving at a finance job. But he can’t shake his passion for boxing. He heads to Philadelphia to find the Italian Stallion. Adonis wants to train with the best.

Jordan deserved a good movie after the terrible “Fantastic Four,” and he gets one here; he remains on course to become Hollywood’s Big New Thing. Stallone gives a moving turn as a fading legend with one last big fight in him. (Or will there be more?) Together with director Coogler, you could say this trio knocks it outta the ring.