

Firing up the fun



Kyle Miller, left, age 9, and Leo Fitzgerald, 10, throw beanbags at a “flaming” house Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022, during the Fun Fire Festival at the Pilot Rock Fire Station.

Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

First Draft series takes a ride with Judy Garland

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Poet David Pickering is the featured author during the February First Draft Writers’ Series.

Pickering will read from his new book, “Jesus Comes to Me as Judy Garland,” which explores themes of sexual orientation, spirituality, family and aging, often using humor and sharp observation. The book’s publisher, Airlie Press, describes the poems as, “... much like the old Cadillacs that Pickering clearly loves, big and powerful and roomy, and ... full of interesting companions kibitzing in the back seat — Bette Davis, Bob Ross, Judy Garland, Lucille Clifton, Marlene Dietrich, Vincent Van Gogh, and yes, Jesus.”

Presented by Pendleton Center for the Arts, the event will be held via Zoom Thursday, Feb. 17, 7 p.m. It is free and open to everyone. The link and login information is available at www.pendletonarts.org/first-draft or by emailing director@pendletonarts.org.

While he doesn’t like to be thought of as a gay poet,

living as a gay man and growing up gay in a small working-class town is a theme that runs through his book. Other themes include aging, spirituality and humor. In addition, Pickering encourages people to have an open mind about poetry.

“A lot of folks turn up their noses at poetry because they think it’s hard to understand or it’s written for those who have an advanced degree in literature,” he said. “My work uses everyday language and humor to ‘humanize’ the poetry while illustrating some tough truths about the world.”



Pickering

Hailing from the northern Oregon coast, Pickering is a native Oregonian who currently lives in The Dalles. His poetry has been featured in a variety of publications. Employed as a human resources director, Pickering makes time on Saturdays to write in the best coffee shop he can find.

In its ninth year, First Draft features notable authors from the Pacific Northwest. For more information, visit www.pendletonarts.org or call 541-278-9201.

Shows at arts center offer eclectic views

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Brightly printed accordion pages cascading down from above, strips of color bouncing off the walls and a sea of complex patterns reflecting on the floor are featured in the main gallery exhibition at Pendleton Center for the Arts. Also, the new exhibit in the auxiliary gallery utilizes methods of painting, printmaking and sculpture to examine the mind.

Both will remain on display through March 31 at the arts center, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. Regular hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays, noon to 4 p.m. In addition, after hours viewing is available by appointment. There is no admission charge.

East Oregonian Gallery

“Nicole Pietrantoni: The Slow Current,” which is in the larger of the two galleries, includes works on paper, artists’ books and installations that explore the representation of beauty in times of loss, photography’s role in producing memory and human’s relationship to the environment. Pietrantoni will share about her work during an artist talk via Zoom on Friday, Feb. 18, 11 a.m. For the link, meeting ID and passcode, visit www.pendletonarts.org/exhibits/current.

Currently on a one-year leave of absence as an associate professor of art at Whitman College, Walla Walla, Pietrantoni is living in Prague, Czech Republic, with her family. During the virtual presentation, she also will share some images and insights about life in Prague.



Ali Pope/Contributed Photo

The works of Walla Walla artist Ali Pope is on display through March 31, 2022, at the Lorenzen Board Room Gallery at the Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton.



Pendleton Center for the Arts/Contributed Photo

The work of paper artist Nicole Pietrantoni is on display through March 31, 2022, in the main gallery space at Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St., Pendleton.

Pietrantoni’s works are inkjet-printed, large-scale book installations that urge

viewers to negotiate the tension between image, text and form. She often paints

the back of each piece with fluorescent neon red paint that reflects and glows against the white walls of galleries.

The color, she said, provides the natural pinkish-orange light of dawn, as well as a highly artificial contrast of traffic cones and hazard tape. The individual books, strips of color, images, and bits of text invite viewers to pause for meditation.

Lorenzen Board Room Gallery

The exhibit space provides an opportunity to share the new work of emerging artists from throughout the region. In the current display, a Walla Walla woman contemplates questions about memory and the reliability of human consciousness.

“Ali Pope: A Fluid Mind” represents what is found and lost in the gaps of people’s recollection. Memories, she said in her artist’s statement, are fluid.

“They flow in and out of our minds like vapor slipping between the cracks of our subconscious,” Pope said. “They reach out to connect us with our past like shadowy fingers extending into space.”

Pope was born in Portland, Maine, and moved to Walla Walla to complete her undergraduate degree in biology at Whitman College. She currently works in the wine industry and continues to explore nature, beauty, and humanity through her artwork.

Support for the current exhibits is provided by Coldwell Banker Farley Company. For more information, contact 541-278-9201, director@pendletonarts.org or visit www.pendletonarts.org.

COMMUNITY BRIEFING

SAGE Center to screen ‘Cruella’

call 541-481-7243 or visit www.visitsage.com.

BOARDMAN — Movie Night at the SAGE Center features “Cruella.” The live-action movie about one of cinema’s most notorious — and notoriously fashionable — villains, the legendary Cruella de Vil, stars Emma Stone. The film already has received several costume design and makeup/hair-styling awards. And it garnered nominations in both categories for the 94th annual Academy Awards, which will be announced March 27. The film is rated PG-13.

See what the hype is all about on Friday, Feb. 18, at the SAGE Center, 101 Olson Road, Boardman. Doors to the theater open at 5:30 p.m. for the 6 p.m. screening. Come early and check out the interactive visitor’s center. Your \$5 SAGE Center admission includes the movie, popcorn and bottled water.

For more information,

Dance provides opportunity for special memories

BOARDMAN — It’s time to get ready to kick up your heels because the Boardman Daddy Daughter Dance is just around the corner.

The popular event, which began in 2018, includes a night of dancing, music, photos, crafts, refreshments and prizes. With the theme A Night Under the Stars, it is open to daughters under 18 and their fathers/father figures.

The dance is Saturday, March 5, 5:30-8 p.m. at the Boardman Pool & Recreation Center, 311 N. Olson Road. Tickets are \$30 per couple and \$10 for each additional daughter. For more information, call 541-616-1050 or visit www.boardmanparkandrec.com.

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