

SWING YOUR PARTNER, DO-SI-DO



Dancers had a great time at the final Old-Time Community Dance of the season Saturday at the Hurricane Creek Grange Hall.

Steve Tool/Chieftain

Fishtrap hosting Thornton Wilder nephew for Big Read kickoff

Jan. 21 gathering to launch community celebration of ‘Our Town,’ ‘Bridge of San Luis Rey’

By Steve Tool
Wallowa county Chieftain

Fishtrap, the local organization dedicated to promoting writing of the West, is celebrating its 2016 Big Read with a kickoff event at the Hurricane Creek Grange Hall starting at 7 p.m. Thursday. This year’s Big Read features two works of author Thornton Wilder, the 1927 novel “The Bridge of San Luis Rey,” and the 1937 play “Our Town.” Both works garnered Pulitzer Prizes for Wilder.

The Big Read is an event sponsored by The National Endowment for the Arts and is intended to “broaden our understanding of our world, our communities, and ourselves through the joy of sharing a good book.”

It is Fishtrap’s 10th year of celebrating the event.

The five-week event is punctuated with plays, a film, panel discussions and presentations.

Local schools also will participate, including the Feb. 28 finale that will include student projects of “Their Town” and time capsules for the towns of Wallowa, Joseph and Enterprise.

Fishtrap arranged for the appearance of Tappan Wilder, Thornton Wilder’s nephew and literary executor, as guest speaker for the kickoff.

As literary executor Wilder is responsible for his uncle’s papers as well as copyrighted and unpublished works.

Fishtrap Program Manager Mike Midlo said the non-profit is very excited about Wilder’s Big Read appearance.

“Tappan probably knows more about his uncle than anyone. It’s going to be a



Tappan Wilder.

great night.”

Midlo said Wilder’s works were the top choices after doing a survey of the community and local schools who vetted this year’s Big Read list of works.

“Each year we try to pick a book that is a great story, shows a diversity of topics and cultures, and that we think will resonate with the people of Wallowa County,” he said. “In other words, Fishtrap picks a book that we’re excited about.”

Wilder is considered an important writer because of the longevity of his works, many of which examine aspects of the human condition through the lens of small-town life.

“Our Town” emphasizes valuing the present rather than grasping at the past as a means of fulfillment. The play examines the lives of several citizens in the fictitious town of Grover’s Corners. According to legend, the play is so popular in America that it is performed daily somewhere in the U.S., generally without props or even a set.

“The Bridge of San Luis Rey” tells the story of a South American monk who tries to fathom a tragedy he witnessed in which seven people are killed after a rope bridge collapses. He minutely examines the lives of the seven victims in attempt to make sense of the tragedy.

While Tappan Wilder’s title of literary executor may invoke images of a surly old man rummaging his way through piles of dusty volumes, the jovial Wilder, who more than faintly resembles his uncle, enjoys his work and life.

“I got this job the old fashioned way — I inherited it,” Wilder said. “As it turned out, my background and interests fit with the needs of the estate and here I am 20 years later.”

Wilder’s father, Amos Niven Wilder, was Thornton Wilder’s older brother and a distinguished writer in his own right. Tappan Wilder said he had a very close relationship with his uncle, who died in 1975.

After spending most of his life on the East Coast, Thornton currently lives in Sausalito, Calif., and enjoys living in the West. He’s relishing his upcoming Oregon experience.

“One reason I want to come is because I’ve always wanted to see this part of the country,” he said.

Wilder said he may visit local schools and a senior center during his stay as well.

He said he isn’t surprised by the longevity of his uncle’s works because of the timeless themes they address.

“My uncle once said of ‘Our Town’: ‘My play is about everybody, therefore, everybody is in my play.’ Turns out he was right.”

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THE SCENE

Wednesday, Jan. 20
Free showing of “Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory, 7 p.m. at Arrowhead Chocolate in Joseph. Free popcorn.

Thursday, Jan. 21
The Big Read Kickoff, 7 p.m. Hurricane Creek Grange Hall
Free showing of “We Ride to D.C.,” a film by David Michael Lynch, 7 p.m. at the OK Theatre in Enterprise.

Friday, Jan. 22
Brian Bovenizer & the Koa-la Cowboys, 7 p.m. at Terminal Gravity.

Saturday, Jan. 23
Great Red Shark, 7 p.m. at Terminal Gravity.

Thursday, Feb. 4
Fruition, 7 p.m. at the OK Theatre in Enterprise. Folk-Rock, Americana, Soul, Blues.

Friday, Feb. 5
Open mic, 7 p.m. at Terminal Gravity

Friday, Feb. 12
Fishtrap Fireside, 7 p.m. at Fishtrap

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- ACROSS**

 - 1. Women (French)
 - 5. Hyrax
 - 8. Distress signal
 - 11. Trade
 - 13. Large northern deer
 - 14. The 3 Wise Men
 - 15. Marten of N Asian forests
 - 16. Hoover’s agency
 - 17. Received an A
 - 18. 2nd Islamic month
 - 20. Light brown
 - 21. Clarified butter used in Indian cookery
 - 22. Frankness
 - 25. Argentina’s capital
 - 30. Citizen of Kenya or Zimbabwe
 - 31. Noah’s boat
 - 32. Family of languages in So. Africa
 - 33. Inappropriate
 - 38. Scientific workplace
 - 41. Hungriness
 - 43. Say to talk about an annoying topic
 - 45. Sing and play for somebody
 - 47. Strike buster
 - 49. A citizen of Thailand
 - 50. Civil Rights group
 - 55. Honest Company’s Jessica
 - 56. ‘___ death do us part
 - 57. Malarias
 - 59. Claim against another’s property
 - 60. Mined metal-bearing mineral
 - 61. Dashery
 - 62. Capacity unit
 - 63. Primary color
 - 64. Indian dress
- DOWN**

 - 1. Manuscripts (abbr.)
 - 2. Netherlands river
 - 3. Italian island
 - 4. One’s own being
 - 5. More adroit
 - 6. Balkan country
 - 7. Psychologist B.F.
 - 8. Investment group Goldman ____
 - 9. Double curve
 - 10. The plane of a figure
 - 12. Ocean
 - 14. Public presses
 - 19. Civil Rights activist Parks
 - 23. Cooking container
 - 24. Arctic native
 - 25. Founder of Babism
 - 26. Bashkortostan capital
 - 27. Bulky grayish-brown eagle
 - 28. Louse egg
 - 29. About sight
 - 34. ___/Tuck: TV drama
 - 35. Black tropical American cuckoo
 - 36. Chest muscle (slang)
 - 37. Expression of disappointment
 - 39. One who assists
 - 40. Antilles island
 - 41. Served food
 - 42. Egyptian Sun god
 - 44. Performed successfully
 - 45. Cavalry-sword
 - 46. Abba ___, Israeli politician
 - 47. Jonas ___, cured polio
 - 48. The Muse of history
 - 51. Express pleasure
 - 52. Turkish leader titles
 - 53. Castro country
 - 54. Nobleman
 - 58. ___ Lanka

Church Directory

St. Katherine's Catholic Church

Fr. Roger Fernando
301 E. Garfield Enterprise
Mass Schedule
Weekdays 7:15am
Saturdays 5:30pm Sundays 10:30am
(541)426-4008
stkatherinecenterprise.org
St. Pius X Wallowa Sundays 8:00am
All are welcome

Summit Church

Gospel Centered Community
Service time: 10:30 am
Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise
Pastor Mark Garland
www.summitchurchoregon.org

Joseph United Methodist Church

3rd & Lake St. • Joseph
Pastor Cherie Johnson
Phone: 541-432-3102
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am
Children’s Sunday School meets during service

Faith Lutheran Church

409 W. Main
Enterprise, Oregon
Worship 2nd & 4th Sundays - 2 pm
Bible Study Tuesdays before the 2nd & 4th Sundays at 11 am
LCMS
(Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)

Enterprise Christian Church

207 East Main - (541) 426-3449

Worship at 8:15 & 11:00
Sunday School at 9:45
Evening Worship at 6:00 (nursery at A.M. services)

“Loving God & One Another”
David Bruce, Sr. Minister

Christ Covenant Church

Pastor Terry Tollefson
Church Office: 541-426-0301
Family Prayer: 9:30am
Sunday School: 10am
Worship Service: 11am
723 College Street • Lostine
Providence Academy

Lostine Presbyterian Church

Discussion Group 9:30 AM
Worship Service 11:00 AM
Childrens program during service
[Blog: dancingforth.blogspot.com](http://Blog:dancingforth.blogspot.com)
541.398.0597
Hwy 82, Lostine
Stephen Kliewer, Minister

Enterprise Community Congregational Church

The Big Brown Church with an open door
Sunday Worship 11A.M.
301 N. E. First Street
Enterprise
(541) 426-3044
Sunday School 11 A.M.

Wallowa Assembly of God

606 West Hwy 82
Wallowa, Oregon
541-886-8445
Sunday School • 9:30
Worship Service • 10:45
Pastor Tim Barton
wallowaassemblyofgod.com

Seventh-Day Adventist Church & School

305 Wagner (near the Cemetery)
P.O. Box N, Enterprise, OR 97828
541-426-3751 Church
541-426-8339 School
Worship Services
Sabbath School 9:30 - 10:45 a.m.
Worship Hour 11:00 a.m. - Noon
Pastor Jonathan DeWeber