

Crazy Eights Author Tour coming to Cottage Grove

The "Crazy Eights Author Tour" will be in Cottage Grove for the second leg of its tour on Friday, Sept. 18 at 6 p.m., an event hosted by the Cottage Grove Public Library, 700 E. Gibbs Avenue. Books On Main will serve as the event's book vendor.



Emcee George Byron Wright

Oregon author George Byron Wright said the idea came to him while on a road trip doing research for his next novel. Wright had been considering

ways to stimulate more interest in Oregon's writing and publishing communities by connecting them with readers, booksellers and libraries in an invigorating new way.

He tested the waters with fellow writers, the Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association, and a few local bookstores and received an enthusiastic response. Once the idea jelled, he was able to interest 28 of Oregon's award winning authors, eight independent bookstores, and a number of libraries, to participate in an author tour that would bring eight authors at a time to eight separate venues across the state from mid-Sep-

tember to mid-November.

The event format will be something akin to speed dating only with authors. Each author will have eight minutes to address the audience about their life as a writer and introduce a featured book. A mixer, wherein the authors will interact one-on-one with members of the audience to discuss their work and personally sign books, will follow the rapid-fire presentations.

Authors scheduled to appear in CG:

Bill Cameron (Friends of

Mystery Award for "County Line" forthcoming title "Accelerant")

Ruth Tenzer Feldman (Oregon Book Award for YA "Blue Thread" sequel "The Ninth Day")

Lisa Ohlen Harris (Oregon Book Award finalist "The Fifth Season")

Lindsay Hill (Oregon Book Award finalist, winner PEN Fiction Award for "Sea of Hooks")

Karen Karbo (Oregon Book Award, NYT noted author for "The Stuff of Life")

Gina Ochsner (Oregon Book award winner: "The Russian Dreambook of Colour and Flight")

Alexis Smith (Oregon Book Award finalist "Glaciers" was also a World Book Night selection)

Ellen Waterston (Award winning poet and essayist, novel of verse "Via Lactea" most recent)

Emcee: George Byron Wright (Noted for Oregon-based novels: "In the Wake of Our Misdeed")



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Ellen Waterston

'Jesus Christ Superstar' opens Oct. 2 at Cottage Theatre

Cottage Theatre's largest cast of the year takes the stage starting Oct. 2 for a four-weekend run of "Jesus Christ Superstar." With 40 actor-singer-dancers, an on-stage rock band and a set that includes floor-to-ceiling steel scaffolding, this rock musical about the final week in the life of Christ is a large-scale undertaking. Jesus Christ Superstar was written in 1970, with lyrics by Tim Rice and music by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

This energetic rock musical has at its center a religious leader who is a social

and political rebel. Jesus Christ's meteor-like rise in renown provides, as the title suggests, a parallel to contemporary celebrity worship. As Christ's teachings are embraced, Judas increasingly questions the enlightened motives of this new prophet, resulting in betrayal.

Cottage Theatre's production of "Jesus Christ Superstar" is directed and designed by Tony Rust, with music direction by Jim Reinking and choreography by Lanny Mitchell. The large cast features Kory Weimer as Jesus, Melissa

Miller as Judas, Autumn Carter as Mary, Anna Petrick as Simon, Mark Anderson as Peter, Gabriel Wolfe as Caiaphas, Nick Forrest as Annas, Ward Fairbairn as Pilate, and Davis N. Smith as Herod, along with a large complement of apostles, guards, priests and ensemble members.

"Jesus Christ Superstar" runs for 15 performances at Cottage Theatre from Oct. 2-25.



When is the best time to harvest pears and apples?

BY KYM POKORNY
OSU Extension Service

Anticipation of ripe pears and apples peaks in fall as fruits hang heavily from branches and begin their gravity-aided trip to the ground.

But how do you know when it's prime picking time?

According to Steve Castagno-

li, a horticulturist with Oregon State University's Extension Service, the signs are different for apples and pears.

"It's much easier to recognize ripeness in apples," he said. "Pears typically won't ripen to eating quality on the tree, so you can't go out and taste one."

Still, there are signs. A mature pear will snap briskly and

cleanly when tilted 90 degrees, according to Castagnoli. With the most commonly grown varieties such as Comice, Bosc and D'Anjou, the fruit will typically change from green to a slightly paler color. The flesh will get lighter and have some juice on the surface when cut.

You can also go by maturity dates, which are included in

OSU Extension's publication Picking and Storing Apples and Pears. However, dates can vary.

"It depends on when the season starts," Castagnoli said. "We go by bloom time. In general, the earlier the bloom, the earlier the harvest dates."

Except for being a little smaller than perfectly ready-to-pick pears, there's no harm in taking them off the tree a few days too early, he said. The essential part of ripening pears is keeping them in cold storage for about a month, depending on the variety.

"Ideally, pears should be stored at below 40 degrees," Castagnoli said. "A refrigerator is good, but a freezer is too cold. An unheated garage usually will be too warm."

To tell when a pear is ripe, hold it gently but firmly in the palm of your hand and press your thumb just below the point where the stem joins the fruit. When the flesh beneath your thumb yields evenly to gentle

pressure, it is time to eat your pear. If you have to push more than slightly, it is not ready yet.

Determining ripeness in apples, which don't need cold storage, is much easier than for pears, he said. Color is a useful indication. Apples may be yellow, red, green or combinations of these colors at harvest. When the green has almost completely given way to yellow, a yellow variety is mature. With red blush or striped apples, the area where there is no red color usually changes from green to yellowish.

Ripe apples are easily separated from the tree, but don't pull the apple down to pick it. Rather, twist it upward with a rotating motion. Another sign is when a few sound apples drop to the ground, which means the apples on the tree are nearly mature.

"The best way to test an apple for ripeness," Castagnoli said, "is to cut it open and taste it."

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