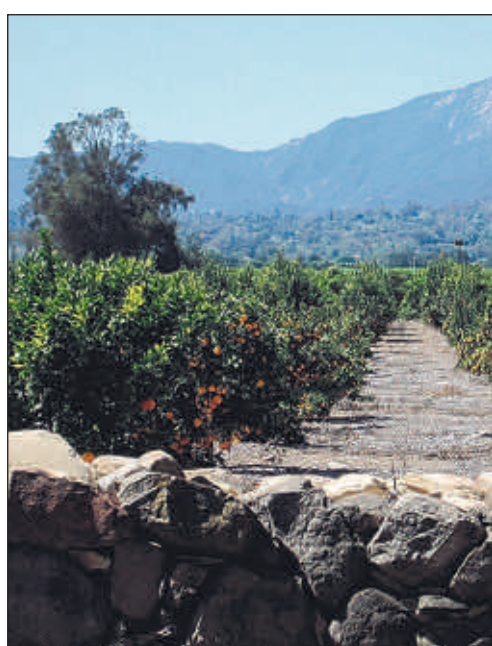




BOOK REVIEWS & LIBRARY NEWS

Hillary looks back — and forward L4 | Teen and gender issues from a Boise author L5



JOSH NOEL / Chicago Tribune
A citrus grove in quaint Ojai, Calif.

At peace in Ojai: Hippie town is 90 miles from L.A., and a world away

Tucked into a green valley surrounded by 6,000-foot mountains, this burg exists in its own slow-moving ether.

BY JOSH NOEL
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

OJAI, Calif. — It was a fading Friday afternoon in the peaceful valley northwest of Los Angeles, and that meant Marion Leeman and friends were perched along the slow-moving downtown strip with their usual signs.

“Working together for harmony and peace,” one read.

“Bring our troops home,” read another. Leeman’s proclaimed, “Jobs are the way to peace.”

It seemed so retro of them. And it was. “We do this every Friday from 5 to 6 p.m.,” said Leeman, 73. “We started after (President George W.) Bush was re-elected.”

Ten years of waving signs on the side of the road? Times 52 weeks per year? That’s a lot of standing on the side of the road.

Leeman smiled. “Some people might think we’re absolutely ridiculous,” she said. “But there’s a lot of sympathy for what we do.” Just then, a slow-moving BMW station wagon honked, and the passenger extended a peace sign out of the window.

Peace and positive vibes never go out of style in Ojai, and that has made the town of 7,500 a longtime getaway for Los Angelenos needing relief from their city’s fabled smog and traffic.

Ojai is timeless enough that cable television and the Internet might never have arrived, and it wouldn’t have been missed. Ojai is just about being — and being quietly. It’s the kind of place where a downtown grocery store bulletin board features an ad from a woman who

See **OJAI**, L12



KATHERINE JONES / kjones@idahostatesman.com

More than 13 years ago, Bruce Wetten and Michael Arment were matched through the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. Michael was 6 years old. Typically, matches don’t last that long, but theirs is an unusually deep bond. “Pretty much, he’s (like) my father; that’s how I see it,” says Michael. “If I could have created a perfect ‘Little,’ it would look like Michael,” says Bruce. “He’s just a good kid at the core. ... It was just a fabulous experience for me to help guide this little guy.” Though the program officially ended when Michael turned 18, their relationship hasn’t.

Mentors can be dads, teachers, coaches — and Big Brothers

Most matches last two or three years. For one pair, the relationship spans more than a decade.



Heart of the Treasure Valley
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The two of them have done so many things together in the last 13 years, they say, that they could go nearly anywhere in Idaho and conjure up a memory.

Skiing and snowboarding at Bogus and Sun Valley, Brundage and Tamarack. Tubing on the Boise River, and fishing all over. A raft trip down the Middle Fork of the Salmon River (a highlight, they say). There are stories that go with them all.

Bruce Wetten says: “Initially, a Big Brother’s job is just to have fun. All you’re doing is having fun.”

There was the time at Bruce’s cabin when they knocked over the barbecue playing soccer, sent the half-cooked burgers flying into the pine needles — and ate them anyway. They laugh remembering.

There were long days fishing at Brownlee, too — an annual tradition for several years where, as a little boy,

Michael Arment reeled in his very first fish. They look at each other and grin.

Michael says: “Anytime we get together, we’re both laughing, always having fun. Somehow they matched us up and it’s just been a blast.”

Michael, 19, is a “Little” — as they are called in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program — and Bruce, 62, is his “Big.” They’ve been paired up since Michael was 6.

Michael: “Mostly it was my mom’s idea, but I just kind of agreed to it ... and now I’m really, really happy that I did try it out. Now I have this relationship that is like father and son. Well, it pretty much is father and son.”

Michael was just a couple of years old when his mother divorced. Having

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Nationally, more than 90 percent of kids in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program graduate on time in their class. In Boise, the statistic is 98 percent. Nationally, their peers who don’t participate have a rate of 60 percent. “I think that statistic alone says, ‘Yeah, it’s a program that helps launch kids,’” says Bruce Wetten.

grown up with brothers, she knew there would come a time when her two boys would need the guidance of men.

Catherine Arment: “You’ve heard that phrase ‘it takes a community to raise a child.’ Well, this is exactly how I felt about the Bigs. Whether they knew it or not, they were helping to raise (my sons) because of their positive influence. ...

“As I saw the boys grow and mature, I could see that influence from their Bigs. And it wasn’t so much that they always

See **HEART**, L7

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BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS
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Jimmy Webb: Every hit song is a ‘miracle’

Songwriter to sing, share stories behind “MacArthur Park,” “Highwayman,” more



Entertainment
MICHAEL DEEDS
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To comprehend the mathematical improbability of Jimmy Webb’s career as a writer of chart-topping songs, envision a 14-year-old kid perched atop a tractor in the Oklahoma Panhandle circa 1961.

That’s where Webb first heard country singer Glen Campbell. The warm voice emanated from a transistor AM radio dangling from an umbrella, beckoning with the lyrics of its title, “Turn Around, Look at Me.”

Those words might as well have come from a parted sky. Webb, who had begun writing on piano at 13, could only dream of the possibilities.

“I want somebody like that to sing my songs,” he remembers thinking while harrowing wheat.

Webb, who will perform and share anecdotes June 16 at the Riverside Hotel’s Sapphire Room in Boise, didn’t have to wait long.

Six years later, Campbell record-

ed Webb’s song “By the Time I Get to Phoenix.” Around the same time, Webb scored a smash with “Up, Up and Away” by The 5th Dimension, which took Record of the Year and Song of the Year awards at the 1968 Grammys. And he’d already written the unmistakable “MacArthur Park.” That song — about a “cake left out in the rain” — eventually became the first No. 1 single for disco queen Donna Summer, not to mention the worst song ever recorded, according to humor writer Dave Barry’s “Book of Bad Songs.”

Webb actually did witness picnicks with cakes in Los Angeles’ MacArthur Park, he says, which is where he used to spend time with a



Jimmy Webb calls his journey from a kid in Oklahoma to a hit-making songwriter “stuff that dreams were made of.”

girlfriend: “There’s nothing in that song that I did not physically see with my own eyes.”

Now 67, Webb sounds equally amazed and amused by his life’s path. I spent nearly an hour with him on the phone, and I gladly would have spent another. His Boise show should be entertaining not just for the classic music, but for the stories.

It was sheer fate that Webb’s father, a Southern Baptist minister, moved the family cross country to California for a church job. The

West Coast location opened the door to the music industry for the eager, teenage songwriter. When Webb’s dad decided to move the family back home to Oklahoma, the 17-year-old stayed.

“I’ll never forget the confrontation when we stood by the same old station wagon, and I said, ‘Dad, I’m not going back to Oklahoma. There’s no way I can possibly do that,’” Webb says. “He tried to talk me out of that a couple of times, and then finally he reached into his pocket and he said, ‘Son, I’ve only

got 44 dollars, but here it is.’”

Webb’s first job was with Motown Records, where he wrote dozens of songs and learned how to make records. Achieving this kind of success at such a young age seems crazy, but Webb quickly mentions modern names such as the Jonas Brothers and Justin Bieber. “There’s always been a demand for young people.”

Songs poured out of Webb — three or four a week — and he

See **DEEDS**, L6

DEEDS

CONTINUED FROM L1

became a sought-after song-writing prodigy. But as a singer, Webb never sold many albums. "I think one of my records might have sold 20,000 to 25,000 copies," he says. "In those days, it was chump change."

Still, recording songs increased the odds that they would be heard and covered by someone famous. "The Moon is a Harsh Mistress," sung by Campbell, as well as

Joe Cocker, and "Highwayman," a No. 1 country hit for The Highwaymen, both came from Webb albums.

"I used to refer to them disparagingly as expensive demos," he says. "And it worked out that way a lot of times."

Anecdotes undoubtedly will flow at Webb's concert. Here are a few samples:

► "Highwayman" was the inspiration for the name of the supergroup of Willie Nelson, Kris Kristofferson, Waylon Jennings and Johnny Cash. Webb's lyrics are

about a soul at four different points in time and space: a highwayman, a sailor, a dam builder and a starship captain. Webb never envisioned the four verses being sung by four people. Campbell recorded it, then a twist of fate led the tune into a room with the men who would become The Highwaymen. Famously, Cash sings the last verse.

"I just want to point out that it wasn't really my fault that Johnny Cash became an astronaut," Webb says.

► Webb wrote

"MacArthur Park" for pop group The Association — hurriedly. Producer "Bones" Howe had told him pretty much exactly what he wanted, Webb says.

"It was basically on a Monday, and (Howe said) 'The band will be finishing their album on a Friday.'"

"It's like, OK, get it done by Friday or it doesn't matter. That train will be out of the station by Friday."

The Association turned it down. And the metaphoric lost-love lyrics have been much maligned over the years. Webb admits he wishes he'd spent more time putting, well, icing on that cake, so to speak.

"I think that I could have just saved myself a lot of grief by just really probably paying a little bit more attention to that song," he says. "But I was in a hurry."

Besides, who cares if some newspaper funnyman made fun of it?

"I don't really concern myself with Dave Barry,"

shrugs Webb, who now serves as chairman of the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

► Webb cranked out "Wichita Lineman," also recorded by Campbell, in a day — and never actually finished it. Campbell had asked him for another song like "By the Time I Get To Phoenix."

Musicians were waiting in the studio. So Webb wrote enough to send over to the impatient band to see if he was on the right track — and never heard back.

He ran into Campbell days later and said, "Well, I guess you guys didn't like that 'Wichita Lineman' song."

"'Wichita Lineman?' We cut that," Campbell responded.

"I said 'No! It wasn't finished!'"

"It is now," Campbell said.

"Instead of a third verse, there's now a big fat Duane Eddy guitar solo," Webb says. "And now you listen to it, and you can't really imagine any lyrics being there. So this is kind of predestination."

"It's awesome really, because it's like if this record would have been cut on any other day and if there'd been any other musician in the room, and if it had been 10 degrees hotter, it wouldn't have turned out to be a hit. There's just too many variables."

Having a song pour from a human mind onto paper, then become a hit — well, the odds are almost as long as a preacher's son from

Oklahoma winding up in L.A. writing those hits.

"I think every hit record is a miracle," Webb says. "It's a miracle! Because you change any one thing, you change the way it was mixed, and mix the drums down a little bit lower, not so high, it's not a hit."

"It's one of the places where I do get kind of metaphysical about records. Because I think that it's very odd that certain records are hits and certain other records written by great writers, sung by great singers, recorded by great producers, in the same studios, don't become hits."

"What's the difference? It's in the details, like the old saying goes."

Here are a few more details: Jimmy Webb, 7:30 p.m. June 16, Riverside Hotel, 2900 W. Chinden Blvd. \$35 general/\$45 preferred. www.brownpapertickets.com. Opening: Andy Byron, Gayle Chapman

TONIGHT IN 'THE OTHER STUDIO'

Along with co-host Tim Johnstone, I'll spin new music by Jenny Lewis, Parquet Courts, The New Pornographers and more. "The Other Studio" airs at 9 p.m. Sunday on 94.9 FM The River.

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Dorothy L. Carpenter, Boise, with her grandson Scott Carpenter, son Ken Carpenter, great-great-granddaughter Emberlin (Emmy), and great-granddaughter Shaina Minton. Ken and wife Sally and their son and family live in Michigan. Emberlin is Dorothy's first great-great-grandchild.

Anniversary

50 YEARS!

TOM & MARY KRUZICH



Thomas Richard Kruzich and Mary Elizabeth Kennedy were married on June 13, 1964 in Sioux City, Iowa.

Joining them in their celebration were their children, grandchildren and many family members.

Anniversary

50 YEARS!

GEORGE & JOAN THOMAS


JUNE 13, 2014



Happy 50th Anniversary Mom and Dad! Love, Tina, Tony and Jim.

Engagement

COLEMAN RANDALL



Darren and Sheila Coleman are thrilled to announce the engagement of their daughter Courtney Coleman to Niko Randall, son of Gary Randall and Beth Anderson. The wedding will be in June of 2015.