

ARTS

BOOKS

Finding the magic of daily life

Local author takes readers on ‘The Bird Ride’

BY RACHEL FERGUS

Reporter

Pierce County resident Wade Bergner recently published the children’s book “The Bird Ride.” The Maiden Rock man’s book follows a young boy who learns about finding magic in everyday life.

What inspired this book? What is your goal or hope for it?

My life experiences have led to and inspired me to write these books. I’d love to think that in some small way, these books could help parents, teachers and students have open discussions around their emotions. I feel that showing our vulnerability as adults is something very good for children and students to see. They need to know that we are strong and there to protect them but that emotions will always be part of their life, and should be openly discussed.

How have people responded to the book? Have you been able to speak with readers?

I’ve received some wonderful endorsements and positive feedback from those that have purchased and read this first book. The highlight thus far has been an amazing drawing I received from a 6-year-old boy named Garrett. He drew a picture of the blue bird that he’s chosen to call on when he needs to go on his own imaginary bird ride. His special friend that will help him through turbulent times and gain a bird’s-eye view of whatever situation he might find himself in.

Receiving an endorsement for ‘The Bird Ride’ from best-selling author Dr. Robert Holden was also a very surreal moment for me.

Your book looks at finding the magic in daily life. Why did you decide to write about this? What inspired it?

After 25 years of chasing —

The details

Who: Wade Bergner

What: “The Bird Ride”

How much: \$21

Publisher: Winds of Change Press

money, success, recognition, etc. — and living a life I felt I needed to live, something needed to give. It unfortunately took the loss of a friend, the end of a marriage and a shift in career to finally force me to reinvent and rediscover my true self.

Being a very private person and also lover of the outdoors and nature, I began to notice and appreciate the simpler things in life. I loved finally not having a hidden agenda. My happiness simply could no longer depend on if I made enough sales for the day, month or year. I began to wonder if we’ve collectively been glamorizing busyness to hide or protect ourselves.

Starting a nonprofit four years ago, which was designed to help build self-esteem and build resiliency through peer-to-peer videos, was what led me toward my love of writing. I found myself creating scripts, editing and writing and rewriting over and over.

After I discovered how much I enjoyed writing in particular, I wanted to spend more of my time exclusively in that space. I’d decided that stepping away and allowing my business partner to take the reins was best for everyone.

The book has unique illustrations. Could you tell me about them and the artist?

The illustrator for this book is an aspiring 15-year-old artist named Galia Labowitz. Galia is a high school sophomore from California. The publishing company for this book sent her a copy of the manuscript and she then pro-

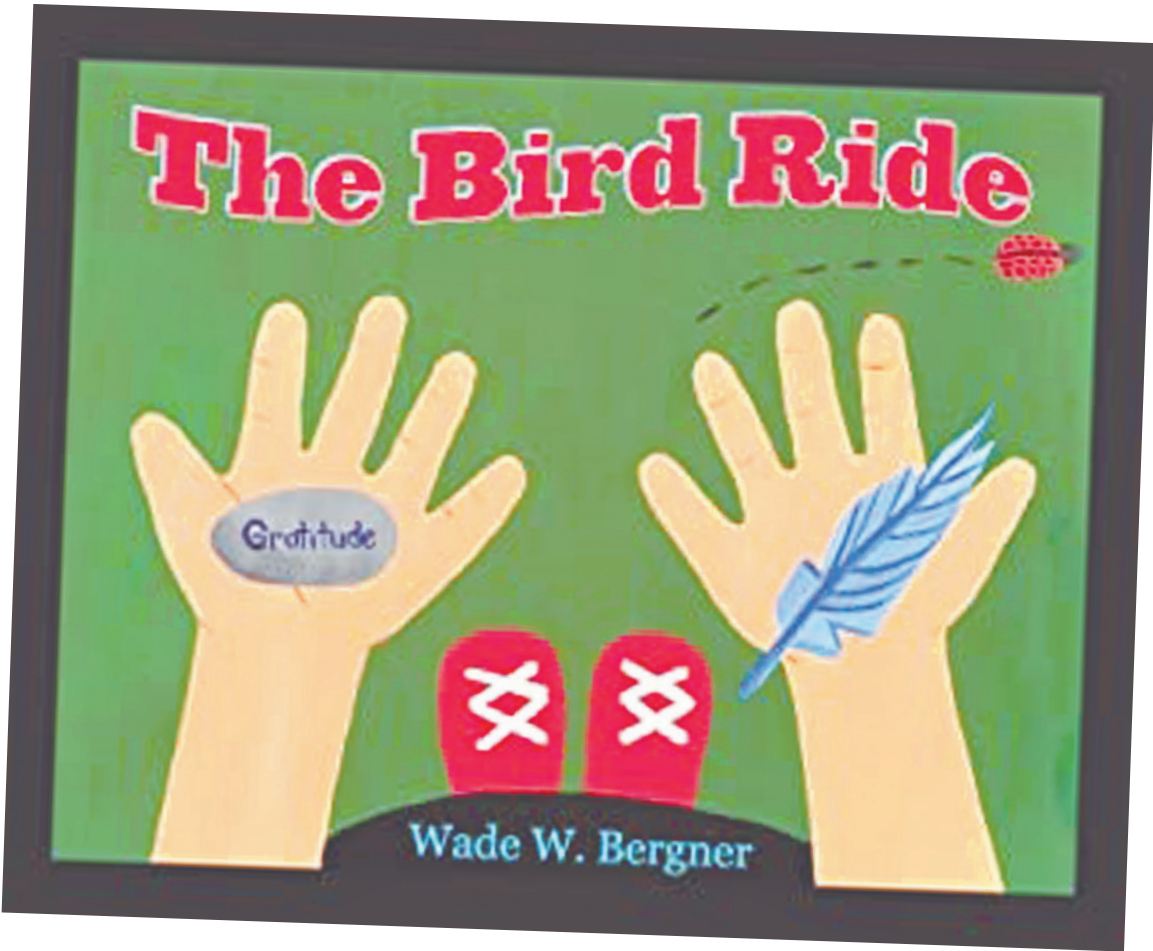


PHOTO PROVIDED BY BERGNER

The Bird Ride, by Wade Bergner.

ceeded to submit her illustrations for us to review. We liked her style and vibrant colors.

What are you working on now?

I’m in the final stages of editing book No. 1 from The Emotional Agility Matters Series “Let Go.” This is a special story that emphasizes the importance of letting go of the past and always learning and building off of both good and bad experiences in life. Like all the other stories, this is drawn from my life experiences.

When I’m not writing, I thoroughly enjoy serving as a teacher’s aid in the Ellsworth School District and love being an Airbnb host with my home in Maiden Rock. I’ve taken on a number of different roles over the past four years, each and every one has served me well.

If a reader is interested in writing for fun or professionally what advice would you give them?

If there’s one underlying

message I’d love to share regardless of your age or interest, it would be to pay attention to what feels good. Don’t let your chattering busy mind, outside influences or self doubt stop you from doing something that feels right and good. I emphasize and want you to be really true about what the word “good” means and feels like to you personally.

What else should I know about you and your book?

I’d like to emphasize that this book is a read along book. Finding time to discuss and give children this one-on-one time is vitally important — now more than ever. Technology cannot simulate what parents or teachers undivided attention can do for a child or student. You’ll probably find like I have, that children’s stories are not just for children.

I’d like to remind parents, teachers and coaches of the amazing responsibility and

opportunity they have to positively influence a young child’s life. I had great parents and an amazing coach that stepped up and got me to believe in myself. These people altered the entire trajectory of my life.

School was very difficult for me. I was labeled with a reading disability and without athletics my self-worth could have easily plummeted into nothing. A coach that believed in me made me believe in myself. I was humbled to even have been accepted into college. It was almost unthinkable that I went on to graduate from Winona State University, where I earned all-American honors and then eventually was inducted into their Athletic Hall of Fame (2019). This would never have occurred if I hadn’t had someone lift me up when I was down.

Readers can reach Rachel Fergus at rfergus@orourkemediagroup.com.

ART

Extending the reach of the arts

Day camps and evening session offered

Art isn’t simply for the classroom and the professionals.

ArtReach of Red Wing, whose mission is to promote creativity and to provide quality visual arts opportunities for people of all ages and abilities, will offer art camps for children and sessions for teens and adults this summer.

COVID safety protocols will be followed.

Classes will be at 436 W. Third St. Register at artreachredwing.org.

Camps

Four ARTScool Multi-day Art Camps are planned.

► Preschool-Kindergarten is for students in preschool and/or entering kindergarten in fall 2021. Sessions are June 9-11 from 9 a.m. to noon each day. Cost is \$90.

► Grades 1-2 is for those entering those grades. The four-day camp will run June 6-9 from 9 a.m. to noon. Cost



PHOTOS FROM ARTREACHREDWING.ORG

The elements made of macramé continue to be a trend in 2021, according to newdecortrends.com.

is \$90.

► Grades 3-4 is for students entering those grades. The



ArtReach Executive Director Anna Ostendorf will teach “Art of Mehndi” on June 18.

five-day camp will run from noon to 4 p.m. June 14-18. Cost is \$200.

► Grades 5-6 camp also will run five days, from noon to 4 p.m. July 12-16. Cost is \$200.

Macrame

Macrame is back. Join ArtReach to learn the basic knots and complete a plant hanger. People also will leave

with the knowledge to make more projects on their own.

Class will be 6:30-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 16, with additional help Saturday, June 19, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Open to ages 12 and up. Cost is \$20.

Art of Mehndi

Learn how to make your henna paste and create beau-

tiful (temporary) skin art.

All participants will receive ingredients and instructions to mix henna paste, a design sheet, and enough pre-mixed henna paste to create several designs. They also will learn a bit about the history of mehndi and its applications.

Open to ages 12 and up, the class will be 5-7 p.m. Friday, June 18.

Cost is \$25.

Gelli plate printing

Learn about the gelli or gelatin plate medium which allows people to create layered art prints. Class fee includes all the materials necessary to create dozens of prints to take home using ArtReach gelli plates.

The class will be Aug. 3 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. and is suitable for ages 12 and older.

Cost is \$10.

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