

Austen books rippling throughout community

Written by Millicent Martin Emery Special Content Editor

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Rosamund Pike, from left, Keira Knightley and Simon Woods appear in 'Pride & Prejudice.' / Alex Bailey / Focus Features / Gannett file photo

Where to Get Your Copy

Free copies of "Pride and Prejudice" are available at Richmond Civic Theatre, The Two Sisters: Books & More, Old Book Shop, Friends Fellowship Community and these libraries: Morrisson-Reeves, IU East, Centerville, Cambridge City, Hagerstown and Preble County.

Schedule of Events

• **"Pride and Prejudice" book discussions:** 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Centerville library; 2 p.m. Jan. 21, Friends Fellowship Community; 6:30 p.m. Jan. 23, Cambridge City library; 2 p.m. Jan. 25, Eaton library; 10 a.m. Jan. 28, Hagerstown library; 6 p.m. Jan. 29, at Morrisson-Reeves Library (reservations requested); 3 p.m. Feb. 1, The Two Sisters: Books & More. • **A Jane Austen Evening:** 6 p.m. Saturday at the Gennett Mansion: \$20 admission. Contact the Richmond Civic Theatre box office for reservations by Wednesday at (765) 962-1816. • **Feb. 6:** Morning school performance of "Pride and Prejudice" at Richmond Civic Theatre. Call RCT at (765) 962-8011 to make a reservation for students. • **Feb. 7, 8, 9 and 14-15:** Performances of "Pride and Prejudice" at RCT, 1003 E. Main St. Ticket sales start on the Monday two weeks before opening night. • Movies based on Jane Austen books will be shown at 3 p.m. the second Saturday each month through May at the Centerville-Center Township Public Library. Admission is free. • **Other Austen book discussions:** March 1, "Emma,"; April 5, "Mansfield Park"; and May 3, "Persuasion," all at The Two Sisters: Books & More, 193 Fort Wayne Ave., Richmond. All discussions are at 3 p.m.

Organizers of yet another Ripple Effect project are proud to see an emphasis on Jane Austen's books this winter.

The effort is centered around "Pride and Prejudice."

Free copies of the book are available at local libraries and book stores around the Whitewater Valley, thanks to a grant from the **Wayne County Foundation**.

Ripple Effect coordinator David Cobine said store owners and librarians have been "willing and enthusiastic partners." The project expanded last year to include Preble County, Ohio.

But reading the book doesn't have to be a solitary activity.

Several book discussions are offered around the area, and readers are invited to watch Richmond Civic Theatre perform the play in February.

"There are lots of people who love that book and movie," Cobine said. "Jane Austen has lots of fans and

we hope they are excited to come to book discussions to talk about the book with others and see it brought to life on stage. ... Everyone who loves 'Pride and Prejudice' should bring a friend."

Rehearsals have been under way for the play since November, said Cobine, who is also directing the play.

"It's a wonderful cast. Everyone has such a high interest in bringing 'Pride and Prejudice' to life," he said.

Another way Austen's works will be brought to life is through a special Jane Austen Evening, which is planned at the Gennett Mansion at 6 p.m. Saturday. It features tea and sweets, music, card games and other diversions from Austen's lifetime. Guests will even have the opportunity to learn a dance.

One of the treats caterer Jen Ferrell will prepare was mentioned in Austen's correspondence.

"Pride & Prejudice" characters and "Jane Austen" will visit with those attending.

Reservations are \$20 per person and are requested by Wednesday by calling Richmond Civic Theatre.

The steering committee organizing Ripple Effect events also includes Ruthanne Bolling, Alisa Clapp-Itnyre, Kate Glenn, Patty Glenn, Ghlee Jewison, Shannon Nevels and Robyn Zitnick.