Margaret Verble’s richly imagined, character-driven historical fiction explores the conflicts of race and culture in the highly segregated society of the 1920s South.

Look inside for info on “When Two Feathers Fell From the Sky,” book discussions, an author visit and other events in September.

Event Guide
2023 Community-Wide Reading Program

Daniel Boone Regional Library
Author’s Talk
Margaret Verble

Thursday, September 28 • 7-8:30 p.m.
Launer Auditorium, Columbia College, 1001 Rogers St.

Live broadcast on KOPN 89.5-FM
Livestreamed to Callaway County Public Library
710 Court St., Fulton

One Read author Margaret Verble will visit Columbia for a live conversation with former KFRU radio host David Lile to talk about “When Two Feathers Fell From the Sky,” her writing process and her inspiration for the novel. After her talk, she’ll answer audience questions and sign copies of the book.

About the Book

“When Two Feathers Fell From the Sky” is an unusual, character-driven story exploring the conflicts of race and culture in the highly segregated society of the 1920s South. This richly imagined novel follows Two Feathers, a young Cherokee horse-diver on loan to Glendale Park Zoo from a Wild West show during the summer of 1926. After a dive gone terribly wrong — Two and her horse plunge into a sinkhole, killing the horse and injuring Two — strange things start to happen at the park. Fragments of the ancient past begin to surface, ghosts appear and animals begin to fall ill. Two Feathers, Black zoo employee Crawford, park manager Clive and an eclectic cast of characters work together to get to the bottom of these mysterious goings-on.

About the Author

Margaret Verble is an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation and a member of a large Cherokee family that has, through generations, made many contributions to the tribe’s history and survival. Although many of her family have remained in Oklahoma to this day, and some still own and farm the land on which two of her books are set, Margaret was raised in Nashville, Tennessee, and currently lives in Lexington, Kentucky.

Margaret’s first novel, “Maud’s Line,” was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2016. Her second novel, “Cherokee America,” was listed by the New York Times as one of the 100 Notable Books of the Year for 2019 and won the Spur Award for Best Western.

About the Program

One Read, coordinated by the Daniel Boone Regional Library, is a community-wide reading program sponsored by a task force of local media and community agencies. The program encourages lifelong learning among adults.

Each winter, the public submits suggestions for next year’s book. In January, a panel of community members reviews the suggestions, narrowing that list down to 10 titles, and then chooses two or three books to present for a public vote.

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Reckoning: One Read Flash Fiction Writing Contest

Enter September 1-23 at www.dbrl.org/flash-fiction-contest

Taking inspiration from “When Two Feathers Fell From the Sky,” we invite you to tell a story of a reckoning in 250 words or less. Your tale can be about anything or anyone, but it should include someone facing accountability or consequences in some way. Winning entries and honorable mentions will be published on this site and in the Columbia Missourian, and winners will receive a $25 bookstore gift card. Submit entries September 1-23 online or at any library or bookmobile location. Participants must be age 16 or older and residents of Boone or Callaway Counties.

Online One Read Book Discussion

Thursday, September 21 · Noon-1 p.m.
Live event via Zoom

Join us from anywhere for a virtual discussion led by librarian Seth Smith of this year’s One Read book, “When Two Feathers Fell From the Sky” by Margaret Verble.

Register to get a Zoom link: www.dbrl.org/online-book-discussion

Unearthed: One Read Art Exhibit

September 1-15
Orr Street Studios, 106 Orr Street, Columbia
Gallery open Thursday-Sunday, 12:30-4 p.m.

Inspired by this year’s One Read book, Mid-Missouri artists submitted works that explore the revelation of something buried or hidden, capture the idea of discovery, or bring to light something previously held in darkness.

Exhibit Reception

Friday, September 1 · 6-9 p.m.

View the exhibit and enjoy live music during the First Friday Art Walk. Cash prizes will be awarded for three winners, courtesy of Columbia’s Office of Cultural Affairs. Winners will be announced at approximately 6:15 p.m.
First Thursday Book Discussion
With Greg Olson
Thursday, September 7 · Noon-1 p.m.
Columbia Public Library, Children’s Program Room

Historian Greg Olson will lead a discussion of this year’s One Read selection. Olson is the author of six books including the recently published work, “Indigenous Missourians: Ancient Societies to the Present.”

Rock Walk: Missouri’s Karst Topography
Thursday, September 7 · 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Rock Bridge Memorial State Park at the Devil’s Icebox parking lot, South Highway 163

Inspired by the sinkhole in this year’s One Read book, a Missouri State Parks naturalist will lead us on a hike exploring the karst topography and historical features of Rock Bridge State Park. The hike will be moderately difficult, approx. 1.75 miles. Wear shoes for hiking and bring water. No dogs, please. If raining, the hike will be rescheduled for Sept. 14. Register: www.dbrl.org/rock-walk

Concert: Kalyn Fay
Friday, September 8 · 7-9 p.m.
Montminy Art Gallery, Boone County History and Culture Center, 3801 Ponderosa Street

Join us as we explore this year’s One Read selection through the music of Kalyn Fay Barnoski. As an interdisciplinary artist, musician, educator and curator of Native art at the Philbrook Museum of Art, Barnoski uses their art to build bridges of understanding and find intersections among people.

Book Discussion With Daren Dean
Saturday, September 9 · 10-11 a.m.
Barnes & Noble, Columbia Mall, 2300 Bernadette Dr

Please join us at Barnes and Noble for a discussion of “When Two Feathers Fell From the Sky” by Margaret Verble, led by local historical fiction author Daren Dean.

The Unquiet Past and the Cursed Burial Ground
Tuesday, September 12 · 4-5 p.m.
Stafford Library Classroom, Columbia College, 703 Rangeline

Join Columbia College’s Dr. Jack Holcomb to discuss this year’s One Read selection, especially the way the book approaches the historical desecration of burial sites and the narrative motif that arises from that. The trope of the haunted Indian graveyard appears all over popular culture of the last century. How is Margaret Verble transforming and re-interpreting this trope?

One Read Panel Discussion
Wednesday, September 13 · 7-8 p.m.
Columbia Public Library, Friends Room

Former KFRU radio host David Lile moderates a lively discussion with local experts on themes from this year’s One Read selection. Panelists will be: Galen Gritts from the Center for American Indian Studies at Washington University and a registered member of the Cherokee nation; horse trainer Sharon Marohl; and English professor Jaquetta Shade-Johnson.
An Evening of Ghost Stories
Thursday, September 14 · 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Skylark Bookshop, 22 S. 9th Street

In this year’s One Read book, spirits rise and disturb the veil between the living and the dead. Building on this theme, Skylark Bookshop is pleased to host KBIA announcer/producer Darren Hellwege, who will read ghost stories that will tingle your spine. Dim lights and spooky corners required.

Free Film: “Kanehsatake: 270 Years of Resistance”
Monday, September 18 · 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Ragtag Cinema, 10 Hitt St.

From distinguished Abenaki filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin, “Kanehsatake: 270 Years of Resistance” captures the story of Kanien’kéhaka (Mohawk) activists fighting against the local government’s proposal to develop a private golf course on sacred burial grounds. (Not rated; 119 min.) Pick up free tickets to this show at Ragtag starting at 10 a.m. the day of the show. For details see Ragtag free event policy at www.ragtagcinema.org/cinema/policies.

One Read Goes to College
Tuesday, September 19 · 7-8 p.m.
Columbia Public Library, Friends Room

Scholars from each of Columbia’s college campuses will discuss the One Read book from their academic perspectives and invite discussion. We’ll have Tyler Corbridge, visiting assistant professor teaching writing at Columbia College; Eric Marx, associate professor of psychology at Stephens College; and Jerritt Frank, associate professor of history at the University of Missouri.

Film Screening: “Wild Hearts Can’t Be Broken”
Saturday, September 23 · 2-4 p.m.
Columbia Public Library, Friends Room

As a part of this year’s One Read program, join us for a free screening of “Wild Hearts Can’t Be Broken.” Based on a true story, this coming-of-age film follows a runaway orphan in the 1930s as she becomes a horse diving girl. (1991, rated G, 88 minutes.)

Book Discussion With Mayor Buffaloe
Tuesday, September 26 · 6-7 p.m.
Columbia Public Library, Children’s Program Room

Be a part of this annual One Read tradition as Columbia Mayor Barbara Buffaloe and spouse Luke discuss “When Two Feathers Fell From the Sky” by Margaret Verble.

First Thursday Runner-Up Book Discussion: “Why Fish Don’t Exist”
Thursday, October 5 · Noon-1 p.m.
Columbia Public Library, Children’s Program Room

Educator and One Read reading panelist Gwen Struchtemeyer will lead a discussion of this year’s runner-up, “Why Fish Don’t Exist: A Story of Loss, Love, and the Hidden Order of Life” by Lulu Miller.

Points, Pots, Pipes and Powwows: Author and Historian Greg Olson
Monday, October 9 · 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Launer Auditorium, Columbia College, 1001 Rogers Street

In honor of Indigenous Peoples’ Day, historian Greg Olson, author of “Indigenous Missourians: Ancient Societies to the Present,” will talk about the centuries of Indigenous presence in the state. Enjoy a cultural dance demonstration at 6:30 p.m. before the author talk at 7. Books available for sale and signing afterwards. Register to get a Zoom link: www.dbrl.org/powwows
Film Screening: “Wild Hearts Can’t Be Broken”
Monday, September 4 · 3-5 p.m.
Kemper Center for the Arts, Room 112, William Woods University, Fulton

As a part of this year’s One Read program, join William Woods Professor Emeritus of Equestrian Studies Gayle Lampe for a free showing of the film “Wild Hearts Can’t Be Broken.” Based on a true story, this coming-of-age film follows a runaway orphan in the 1930s as she becomes a horse diving girl. (1991, rated G, 88 min.)
Register: www.dbrl.org/one-read-film

Deciphering Haunted Novels
Monday, September 11 · 4-5 p.m.
Center for Human Performance, Room 100, William Woods University, Fulton

This year’s One Read book is part of a celebrated group of novels that feature ghosts as characters. This presentation, led by William Woods University English professor Matt Dube, will explore the role of ghosts in novels, how they develop plot and their limitations as carriers of the novelist’s themes.

Music in the Native American Tradition With Jay Hickman
Tuesday, September 12 · 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Callaway County Public Library, Fulton

As a complement to our One Read book, enjoy the original music of Jay Hickman, performed on his hand carved flutes made from wood from his family farm near Williamsburg. Through his art, Jay experiences a spiritual connection to his family’s Cherokee heritage. As you listen, travel down the same path with Jay to the “Spirit World” of music and add your own story to the melody.

Free Screening of PBS’ “Iconic America”
Thursday, September 14
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Reeves Library Westminster College, 501 Westminster Ave, Fulton

As part of a grant through PBS and in conjunction with this year’s One Read program, join us at Westminster College for a showing of parts of the PBS docuseries “Iconic America: Our Symbols and Stories.” A discussion will follow about themes from the first half of the One Read book.

“The Iconic America” examines the history of America through some of its most iconic symbols, objects and places, using them as a gateway to understanding America’s past and present.

The Trail of Tears in Missouri: Geospatial Science Uncovers a New Story
Monday, September 18 · 4:30-6 p.m.
Holts Summit Public Library

What role did early Missourians play in the Cherokee removal story? Was it a story of racism, indifference, hunger, violence and greed? Come find out at this One Read presentation as Dr. William Ambrose and Chris Dunn discuss new science and historical research. Co-sponsored with the MO Humanities Council, the State Historical Society and the MO Trail of Tears Association.
Women Living Together
Thursday, September 21 · 7-8 p.m.
Center for Human Performance, Room 100, William Woods University, University Ave, Fulton

In this year’s One Read book, the title character, Two Feathers, lives in a women’s residence hall at the park where she works. Both Fulton’s William Woods and Columbia’s Stephens College have long experience of all-female living spaces. At this program, professor of English Matt Dube will explore what, if anything, is different when women live together without men.

Snack and Chat
One Read Book Discussions
Tuesday, September 26 · 4-5 p.m.
Holts Summit Public Library

Wednesday, September 27 · 4:30-5:30 p.m.
Callaway County Public Library, Fulton

Join us for a lively book discussion of this year’s One Read selection. We will explore how the numerous themes in the novel relate to our individual lives and personal experiences.

Unearthing History: An Interactive One Read Discussion
Thursday, September 28 · 11 a.m.-Noon
Reeves Library, Westminster College, Fulton

A panel of faculty from Westminster College will help conclude a month of One Read events with an interactive discussion and hands-on activities related to “When Two Feathers Fell From the Sky” by Margaret Verble. Panelists specializing in American literature, history and the arts will lead discussion and offer hands-on activities to help us think more about the real world elements of this year’s novel and how it connects to where we live today.

Tom Bass and Saddlebred Horses in Missouri: Presentation by the Saddlebred Horse Museum
Thursday, September 7 · 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Southern Boone County Public Library, Ashland

Inspired by the role of horse training in the One Read selection, we’ll explore the history of horse training in Missouri. Learn about Tom Bass, who was born into slavery in Boone County, and became one of the world’s greatest saddle horse trainers and riders. Presented by the Audrain County Historical Society and the American Saddlebred Horse Museum.
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### One Read Task Force

- **Barnes & Noble Booksellers**
- **Boone County History & Culture Center**
- **City of Columbia Office of Cultural Affairs**
- **Columbia Art League**
- **Columbia College**
- **Columbia Daily Tribune**
- **Columbia Missourian**
- **Fulton Sun**
- **KBIA-FM**
- **KFRU-AM**
- **KOPN-FM**
- **Museum of Art & Archaeology**
- **Orr Street Studios**
- **Ragtag Cinema**
- **Skylark Bookshop**
- **Stephens College**
- **Well Read Books**
- **Westminster College**
- **William Woods University**

### Daniel Boone Regional Library

- **Callaway County Public Library**
- **Columbia Public Library**
- **Holts Summit Public Library**
- **Southern Boone County Public Library**

[www.dbrl.org/one-read](http://www.dbrl.org/one-read)