

BOOK TALK : area authors and events

King Richard III is love interest in time-traveling romantic novel

In *Rings of Passage*, a romantic fantasy by Barberton native Karla Tipton, King Richard III is not the bitter hunchback of Shakespeare's tragedy; he's a handsome, maligned hero, and a time-traveling woman may be able to save him from his fate on Bosworth Field.

Anise Wynford has inherited the Massachusetts home of the father she never knew, but she has little time to live there before she is transported, dazed, into 15th century England amid the Wars of the Roses. A concerned Richard and his mother care for her, and Anise notices that Richard wears a ring that's identical to her own — one she doesn't remember acquiring.

Anise and Richard fall in love, but Annie has read the play; in fact, she has a copy in her tote bag, and it details just how the future Henry VII takes the crown. There are elaborate plots among the king's household as well as wizards who want to use the power of the rings to overthrow Richard and discredit Anise.

Rings of Passage (434 pages, softcover) costs \$15.50 from online retailers. Karla Tipton is a former writer and editor for the Antelope Valley (Calif.) Press, and now works at Edwards Air Force Base.

'Akron Aviation'

The history of Akron aviation is more than blimps. *Akron Aviation*, a pictorial history by James I. Pryor II, demonstrates the Rubber City's place in the industry.

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. made airplane tires and rubber-coated fabric for airplane wings in the first decade of the 20th century. There are, of course, many pictures of blimps, beginning with Navy craft in World War I, and shots of the 1927 National Balloon Race at the former Akron-Cleveland Speedway in Northampton Township.

Pryor covers Akron's contributions to the defense effort in World War II, with Goodyear's production of more than 4,000 FG-1D Corsair airplanes for the Navy. Also included is the striking 1927 art-deco terminal at Akron Municipal Airport.

Akron Aviation (127 pages, softcover) costs \$21.99 from Arcadia Publishing. James I. Pryor II is retired from Goodyear.



Rings of Passage by Karla Tipton



Images of Aviation: Akron Aviation by James I. Pryor II



The Good Lord Bird by James McBride

'The Good Lord Bird'

Oberlin College alumnus James McBride will read from and sign *The Good Lord Bird* at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Hudson Library & Historical Society, 96 Library St., followed by a performance by his jazz combo, with which he plays saxophone.

The 2013 National Book Award winner for fiction is the story of momentous events told with just enough lampoonery to qualify as a farce, while retaining the impact of history.

Henry Shackleford, a slave boy in the Kansas Territory, is liberated from his owner by John Brown just before the Pottawatomie Massacre of 1856. Henry is wearing a potato sack, common attire of young boys; Brown assumes him to be a girl, and Henry does not correct him. Brown names his new companion Little Onion, and they reunite with Brown's Northern Army militia.

Onion acknowledges that he continues the charade because he doesn't want to fight, but he also comes to respect Brown, who is kind to him, although he never changes his opinion of Brown as a lunatic. Onion follows Brown to Boston for a comic visit to Frederick Douglass, and to Virginia for the disastrous raid on Harpers Ferry.