

Lifestyles

Novels combine horror and western genres, Plush setting

By Ryan Bonham
Lake County Examiner

A unique melding of literary genres — as well as a Lake County setting — can be found in the co-authored novel, "Blood and Whiskey: A Cowboy and Vampire Thriller."

The novel, released on Tuesday, May 1, is the follow-up effort to husband-and-wife duo Clark Hays and Kathleen McFall who broke out onto the fiction scene in 1999 with their first effort, "The Cowboy and the Vampire," which first set the stage of a unique pairing of familiar genre icons.

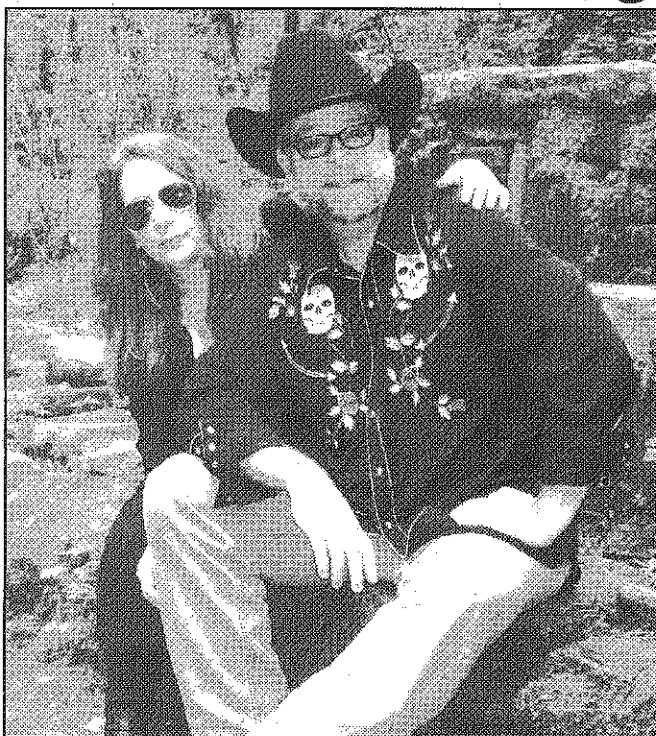
"Blood and Whiskey" is furthermore unique in that the authors included the Warner Valley community of Plush as part of the novel's setting. Hays said that the couple, who live in the Portland area, first became acquainted with Lake County after discovering the sunstone mining areas during one of their annual visits to the Steens mountains.

"We just had such a great time there we felt obliged to include that area in our book," Hays said.

As a native of Montana, Hays said that the Plush area harkened as a reminder of his former home. Both Hays and McFall work in communications in Portland, with Hays working for an insurance and financial services firm. McFall is the director of communications for Oregon Health Sciences University.

The duo shared writing duties on both their efforts, which evolved from an every-other-chapter method with the first book to alternating shared ideas and workload for the newest novel.

As McFall grew up in Washington D.C., Hays



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Husband-and-wife duo Clark Hays and Kathleen McFall have published "Blood and Whiskey: A Cowboy and Vampire Thriller," the cross-genre thriller that follows up their initial book, "The Cowboy and the Vampire."

said that the idea of opposites attracting applied to their individual lives as well as the concept they developed for their books. In the literary world, it seemed there was no more extreme polar opposites than cowboys and vampires.

"It really captures

the reader's attention when you bring those two together," he said.

Hays said that the first book was published 12 years ago and, after seeing the soaring popularity of the Twilight series, sought to regain its rights, which led to its re-release in 2010 by Midnight Ink. "Blood and Whiskey" is published by Pumpjack Press, a small independent publisher, he said.

The first book was set in Wyoming, but the couple's fond recollections of Plush led to the eastern Lake County community as a setting for some of the new story's significant events. Not so coincidentally, sunstones will play a role in the plot development, as well.

"We're excited mostly because we decided to move some of the action into Oregon," he said.

Both books are available through Amazon.com. For more information, visit www.cowboyandvampire.com.

