

Workshop

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Kelly Holstine, owner of Wordhaven BookHouse, thinks humor writing can be a little tricky and take a different level of confidence for some people.

"Because people might not find it funny, and not everyone's going to find the same thing funny," she said. "I feel like at some point, you sort of just go for it, knowing that some might dig it, and some might not.

"But I think as with any writing it takes a certain level of confidence to put yourself out there and try things," she continued. "I think having Chris's experience and confidence will help folks maybe feel more ready to take that risk."

Brethwaite said humor writing can be challenging for some, but one of the first things he will talk about at the workshop is that you can't be afraid to fail.

"If something funny comes to mind, you've got to throw it out there," he said. "And humor is subjective, so you're not going to make 100% of the people laugh 100% of the time. If you can make 70% of people laugh 70% of the time, you're going to be on the comedy circuit raking in a ton of money."

Humor can take several forms, from spoken to written word. Brethwaite said while there's a difference, it doesn't play a huge role.

Whether writing a column or being a stand-up comedian, Brethwaite said, "It still comes down to you having this innate ability to say or write something funny, and there's ways to enhance that ability."

While Brethwaite said he always thought he had a good sense of humor, he didn't think he was funny until he was 17 years old, working at a pizza parlor in Phoenix, Arizona.

"I found out I had the ability to make my co-workers laugh," he said. "I remember one night my manager telling me, 'You know, Chris, someday if you had some really good writers, you could be a famous comedian.' Well, it turned out that I became the writer rather than the comedian."

Brethwaite began working at Hallmark in 1988 and was the lead writer for the character Maxine from 2003 to 2015.

He said Maxine is so popular because she's all of us, talking about pet peeves



A used fiction section at WordHaven BookHouse in Sheboygan. GARY C. KLEIN/USA TODAY NETWORK-WISCONSIN

we may share like poor customer service and waiting in lines for hours at the DMV.

Being retired and having no family living with her, Brethwaite said Maxine has "total freedom to say whatever is on her mind, and she will. And in writing, personally, a lot of my own pet peeves have gone right down my arm into my pen and turned into 'Maxine-isms,' so to speak."

The humor writing workshop is just one of many events Wordhaven has hosted since opening in April, including open mic nights, poetry workshops, reflective writing workshops and readings by local authors.

Holstine is working to partner with business owners, organizations and writers for events at Wordhaven Bookhouse through several ways, like selling Whisk bakery items in the store, hosting a fundraiser with the Humane Society and inviting writers like Brethwaite to host workshops.

"I just want to keep sort of celebrating all the local talent," Holstine said. "I want to keep helping folks to understand themselves better and understand each other better, and I want to keep partnering with all of the awesome folks in Sheboygan."

"I just feel like it's so awesome to get to know all these people and just see all the cool things people are doing," she said. "And the more that we can lift each other up and support each other, I think it's good for the community."

More about the Sept. 22 humor writing workshop and other upcoming events for September can be found at www.kellydholstine.com/wordhaven.

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Packers

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Sunday's game isn't the highest-priced matchup in the next five weeks for Packers fans: The game in London against the Giants on Oct. 9 remains far more expensive than any other contest this season, coming in at \$531 for an average of lowest-priced seats.

Next-highest is the game in Tampa on Sept. 25 at \$289, followed by the New England game at Lambeau Field on Oct. 2 at \$268. The New York Jets game at Lambeau Field the Sunday after the London game is \$200. The Jets aren't a particularly promising team, or a traditional Packers rival, but it is the only noon game at Lambeau this year and mid-October can be a particularly fine time to be watching football outdoors.

"Demand has been excellent for the first four home games for quite a while," said Dennis Garrity, president and CEO of Event USA in Ashwaubenon. "I don't expect one disappointing road loss to change that significantly. It seems the Packer have developed a bit of a tradition of starting slowly, so perhaps yesterday is taken in stride by Packers fans."

Next week, the Packers travel to Raymond James Stadium in Tampa for a GOAT (Greatest of All Time) vs. GOAT matchup with Tom Brady and the Buccaneers, who dismantled Dallas on Sunday night. Florida is traditionally an attractive destination for Midwestern Packers fans, even in warm weather. The game has had high demand all year and this week is \$13 more per ticket than 10 days ago.

New England comes to town on Oct. 2, with the average get-in price a healthy \$268, \$4 higher than the last survey. The game against the Patriots is the best of two Gold package games on the schedule, the other being on a Thursday night against Tennessee. Gold package fans mostly reside in southern Wisconsin, so games on weeknights are problematic. The Patriots game at 3:25 p.m. on a Sunday much less so.

A limited number of standing-room-only tickets are available for all Packers home games this year. Face value of the tickets is \$89, plus fees. The standing-room-only section is on the fourth level of the south end zone. The first game for which tickets appear on the official Ticketmaster site is Tennessee on Nov. 17, although they are showing up on some secondary market sites for earlier

games at about 50% more than face value.

Ticket prices

The following are secondary market ticket prices as of Monday.

For our look at Packers' tickets prices, we averaged the lowest ticket prices at 10 secondary market websites: Event USA, Gametime, Green Bay Ticket Service, SeatGeek, StubHub, TicketIQ, Ticketmaster, TickPick, Ticket King and Vivid Seats.

Note that ticket marketplaces can add fees on top of listed prices, so actual costs might be higher.

Sept. 18, 7:20 p.m. Lambeau Field, Chicago Bears, NBC

Face-price range: \$123-\$156
Average lowest-cost seat: \$232
Range of lowest-cost seats: \$176-\$252

Sept. 25, 3:25 p.m., Raymond James Stadium, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Fox

Face-price range: N/A
Average lowest-cost seat: \$289
Range of lowest-cost seats: \$240-\$352

Oct. 2, 3:25 p.m., Lambeau Field, New England Patriots, CBS

Face-price range: \$123-\$156
Average lowest-cost seat: \$268
Range of lowest-cost seats: \$245-\$329

Oct. 9, 8:30 a.m., Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, London, New York Giants, NFL Network

Face-price range: N/A
Average lowest-cost seat: \$531
Range of lowest-cost seats: \$420-\$605

Oct. 16, noon, Lambeau Field, New York Jets, FOX

Face-price range: \$123-\$156
Average lowest-cost seat: \$200
Range of lowest-cost seats: \$168-\$259

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