

And the 2019 Spur Award winners and finalists are ...

From Staff Reports

Francisco Cantú won two Spurs Awards in the 2019 competition, John D. Nesbitt and Mike Blakely won their fourth and third Spurs, respectively, and Johnny D. Boggs became the all-time leader in WWA's 66-year history with his eighth Spur Award.



Francisco Cantú

Winners and finalists, announced during the Tucson Festival of Books in March, will be honored June 19-22 during the WWA convention in Tucson, Arizona.

WWA promotes and honors the best in Western literature with the annual Spur Awards, selected by panels of judges. Awards, for material published last year, are given for works whose inspiration, image and literary excellence best represent the reality and spirit of the American West.

"Congratulations to all the 2019 Spur Award winners and finalists," Spur Awards chair Quackgrass Sally said. "I would also like to thank everyone who entered this year. We had almost 500 entries, several from foreign countries, which is a credit to the continued allure of Western literature, drama and song. Historic, contemporary, adult or juvenile, the spirit of the West is alive because of you."

Boggs's *Taos Lightning* (Center Point) won for juvenile fiction. He tied Elmer Kelton (1926-2009) with seven Spurs in 2017. Historian Paul Andrew Hutton and Richard S. Wheeler, the Montana author and Western Writers Hall of Fame inductee who died in February, have six. Boggs's previous Spurs were for the short story "A Piano at Dead Man's Crossing" (2002), novels *Camp Ford* (2006) and *Legacy of a Lawman* (2012), juvenile novels *Doubtful Cañon* (2008) and *Hard Winter* (2010) and original mass-market paperback novels *West Texas Kill* (2012) and *Return to Red River* (2017). He has also been a finalist 13 times.

Cantú's *The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches from the Border* (Riverhead) won for contemporary nonfiction and best first nonfiction book.

Nesbitt's "Prairie Center" (R.R. Productions) won for poem. His previous Spurs have been for original mass-market paperbacks *Trouble at Redstone* (2009) and *Stranger in Thunder Basin* (2010) and the short story "At the End of the Orchard" (2010).



John D. Nesbitt

Blakely, whose "The Outside Circle" (Quien Sabe Music), written with Damon Rogers, won for song, was also a song finalist for "The Ballad of Josiah Wilbarger" (Quien Sabe Music), which Blakey wrote by himself. Blakely's other Spurs came for his song "The Last Wild White Buffalo" (2008) and his novel *Summer of Pearls* (2001).

In other fiction categories, G.K. Aalborg's *River of Porcupines* (Five Star Publishing) won for historical novel; C.K. Crigger's *The Woman Who Built a Bridge* (Wolfpack) won for romance novel; Susan Henderson's *The Flicker of Old Dreams*



C.K. Crigger

(HarperCollins) won for contemporary novel; Ellen Notbohm's *The River by Starlight* (She Writes Press), a finalist for traditional novel, won for best first novel; Brad Smith's *The Return of Kid Cooper* (Arcade) won for traditional novel; and Reavis Z. Wortham's *Hawke's War* (Pinnacle) won for original mass-market paperback novel.



Reavis Z. Wortham

Nonfiction book awards went to Francie M. Berg's *Buffalo Heartbeats Across the Plains: The Last Great Hunts and Saving the Buffalo* (Dakota Buttes

Visitors Council) for juvenile nonfiction, Mark J. Nelson's *White Hat: The Military Career of Captain William Philo Clark* (University of Oklahoma Press) for biography and Brenden W. Rensink's *Native but Foreign: Indigenous Immigrants and Refugees in the North American Borderlands* (Texas A&M University Press) for historical nonfiction.

Allen Morris Jones' *Montana for Kids: The Story of Our State* (Bangtail Press) won the Storyteller Spur for best illustrated children's book; Therese Greenwood's "Buck's Last Ride" (Coffin Hop Press) won for short fiction, and Peter H. Hassrick's "Art, Agency, and Conservation: A Fresh Look at Albert Bierstadt's Vision of the West" (*Montana the Magazine of Western History*) won for short nonfiction.

The Rider (Sony), written and directed by Chloe Zhao, won for drama script. No award was given for documentary script.

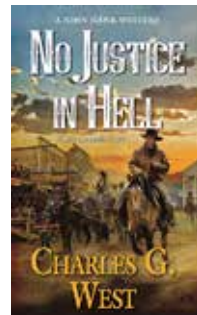
Other finalists are:

Contemporary Novel: *Deep Fire Rise* by Jon Gosch (Latah Books); *Broken Field* by Jeff Hull (Arcade).

Historical Novel: *This Scorched Earth: A Novel of the Civil War* by William Gear (Forge); *Line of Glory: A Novel of the Alamo* by Thomas D. Clagett (Five Star Publishing); *The Long Shadow* by Beth Kanell (Five Star Publishing).



Original Mass-Market Paperback Novel: *No Justice in Hell* by Charles G. West (Pinnacle); *Where the Bullets Fly* by Terrence McCauley (Pinnacle).

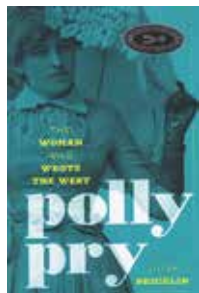


Romance Novel: *Out of the Ashes* by Tracie Peterson and Kimberley Woodhouse (Bethany House); *The Kitchen*

Marriage by Gina Welborn and Becca Whitham (Zebra).

Traditional Novel: *Born to the Badge* by Mark Warren (Five Star Publishing).

Biography: *Polly Pry: The Woman Who Wrote the West* by Julia Bricklin (TwoDot); *The Cowboy President: The American West and the Making of Theodore Roosevelt* by Michael F. Blake (TwoDot).



Contemporary Nonfiction: *The Last Cowboys: A Pioneer Family in the New West* by John Branch (W.W. Norton); *Folly Cove: A Smuggler's Tale of the Pot Rebellion* by Kermit Schweidel (Cinco Puntos Press); *Acid West: Essays* by Joshua Wheeler (MCD x FSG Originals).

Historical Nonfiction: *Bonanza King: John Mackay and the Battle Over the Greatest Riches in the American West* by Gregory Crouch (Scribner); *West Like Lightning: The Brief, Legendary Ride of the Pony Express* by Jim DeFelice (William Morrow).

Juvenile Fiction: *Rawhide Robinson*

Rides a Dromedary by Rod Miller (Five Star Publishing); *Hardscrabble* by Sandra Dallas (Sleeping Bear Press).

Juvenile Nonfiction: *Lust For Glory: An Epic Story of Early Texas and the Sacrifice that Defined a Nation* by Stephen L. Hardin (State House Press).

Storyteller: *Fergus and The Night Before Christmas* by author-illustrator Jean Abernethy (Trafalgar Square Books).

Short Fiction: "Wren's Perch" by Vonn McKee (Five Star Publishing); "Byrd's Luck" by Jeffrey J. Mariotte (Western Fictioneers).

Short Nonfiction: "Railroad Man" by Clay Reynolds (*New Madrid: Journal of Contemporary Literature*); "The Piikuni and the U.S. Army's Piegan Expedition: Competing Narratives of the 1870 Massacre on the Marias River" by Rodger C. Henderson (*Montana the Magazine of Western History*).

Poem: "Americana West, 1911: Sidney, Montana" by Red Shuttleworth (Blue Horse Press).

Song: "And the River Ran Red" by Brenn Hill and Rod Miller (Defenders Recording Co.).

New Spur deadlines

From Staff Reports

Entry deadlines for the 2020 Spur Awards for material published or released for the first time in 2019 are as follows:

√ For entries first published or released between January 1 and August 31, 2019, all material (books, etc., and entry forms) must be received by the category judges and Spur chair no later than October 1.

√ For entries first published or released between September 1 and December 31, 2019, all material must be received no later than January 15, 2020.

Entries received after either deadline will be disqualified.

The rule changes "will make both the entry process and judging much smoother," Spur Awards chair Quackgrass Sally said. "I encourage everyone to send in their work."

Rules and entry forms are scheduled to be published in the August issue of *Roundup Magazine* and posted on the WWA website, WesternWriters.org, in August.

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THE WOMAN WHO BUILT A BRIDGE

C.K. CRIGGER