

RPA student wins writing prize

By Ceili Cornelius
Correspondent

Al Lehto is the recipient of the inaugural student writing prize from the Waterston Desert Writing Prize competition. The winning piece, titled "The Badlands," reflects Lehto's passion for storytelling and experiences in the high desert of Central Oregon.

Lehto (preferred pronouns: they, their, them) is a graduating senior from Redmond Proficiency Academy and will be attending the University of Oregon in the fall to study early education. Lehto chose to study early education, hopefully teaching in the humanities and literature department, because of the mentors they had in high school.

"I had wonderful mentors from RPA and they inspired me to be a mentor and were helpful in assisting me in taking the leap," Lehto said.

Lehto has had many life experiences that led to find writing as a passion.

"I have a true passion for telling stories, it is how I express myself and writing helps me arrange my thoughts," Lehto said.

Lehto was one of a number of young writers who submitted an essay to the contest, including several from Sisters High School.

As a graduating senior, Lehto was always on the lookout for scholarship opportunities and would generally gravitate towards writing contests. The Waterston Desert Writing Prize was

listed as a contest to enter and they saw it as an opportunity to offer a part of their personal life that other contests didn't accept. The prompt for the student prize was a memoir piece about the high desert. Their relationship with their mother is based off experiences in the desert, so they wrote the piece called "The Badlands." Lehto's mother is an artist and would spend most days when she was off work, out in the Central Oregon badlands, painting and sketching. When Lehto was young, they resented the desert environment because they moved from the warm and green valley that was home, and "I had a very flawed view of the desert. But it was my mother's favorite environment to be in and when I was younger I often didn't understand why she would choose to go out there on her own and be away from family."

In the piece Lehto describes beginning to understand that people need emotional support from nature and not just from people, and that the desert was that support for their mother.

"I regret the way I treated my mother when I was younger, but as I began to understand her connection to the Badlands and its created more of a connection between her and I and I am proud of that," Lehto said.

Their mother has now completed a sketched map of the Badlands and continues to paint and sketch out there.

It was important to Lehto to write this piece because it

was on a "tentative" subject from their life and the relationship with their mother.

"I wasn't sure I wanted to put this piece out there at first because it is so personal and the relationship is flawed and it was a tough time in our life," Lehto said.

They decided to submit the piece with the support of their mother.

"My mom is supportive of the success and that is what means the most to me right now," Lehto said.

The Waterston Desert Writing Prize's mission, as stated by their website, "is to strengthen and support the literary arts and humanities in the high desert region of the Northwest through recognition of literary excellence in nonfiction writing about desert landscapes, through community interaction with the winning authors of the annual prize, and presentations and programs that take place in association with the prize."

Lehto had a connection to the prompt because they knew it was an opportunity to write about their relationship with their mother, while also still writing about a connection the high desert in which they live.

"I generally gravitate towards writing prompts that I have some sort of personal connection to. I enjoy writing with some sort of structure," Lehto said.

Lehto's writing process is simple: "I write the piece in one swoop after organizing

See **WRITING PRIZE** on page 19



PHOTO PROVIDED

Al Lehto won the inaugural Waterston Desert Writing Prize student competition.

Cloverdale Rural Fire Protection District NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

A public meeting of the Cloverdale Rural Fire Protection District, Deschutes County, will be held Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 7 PM at Fire Station No. 2, 67433 Cloverdale Rd., Sisters, OR 97759. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019, as approved by the Cloverdale Rural Fire District budget committee. A summary of the budget is presented below. A copy of the budget may be inspected or obtained at Fire Station No. 2, located at 67433 Cloverdale Rd., Sisters, OR 97759 between the hours of 1 and 5 PM. This budget is for an annual budget period. This budget was prepared on a basis of accounting that is the same as the preceding year.

Contact: Thad Olsen, Fire Chief Telephone: 541-389-2345 Email: tolsen@cloverdalefire.com

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - RESOURCES			
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS	Actual Amount 2018-2019	Adopted Budget This Year 2019-2020	Approved Budget Next Year 2020-2021
Beginning Fund Balance/Net Working Capital	478,991	488,000	524,167
Fees, Licenses, Permits, Fines, Assessments & Other Service Charges	16,163	15,500	14,500
Revenue from Bonds and Other Debt	0	0	0
All Other Resources Except Current Year Property Taxes	15,898	6,700	27,700
Current Year Property Taxes Estimated to be Received	589,242	583,350	613,295
Total Resources	1,100,294	1,093,550	1,179,662

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS BY OBJECT CLASSIFICATION			
Personnel Services	274,442	294,825	327,255
Materials and Services	126,778	174,150	200,150
Capital Outlay	41,600	157,600	101,776
Debt Service	211,097	192,000	203,500
Interfund Transfers	0	50,000	0
Contingencies	0	40,000	40,000
Total Requirements	653,917	908,575	872,681

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES (FTE) BY ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT OR PROGRAM *			
Name of Organizational Unit or Program			
FTE for that unit or program			
General Fund/Operations	274,442	294,825	327,255
FTE	2.38	2.28	2.28
Total Requirements	274,442	294,936	327,255
Total FTE	2.38	2.28	2.28

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACTIVITIES and SOURCES OF FINANCING *

On November 04, 2014, the electors of the Fire District approved by vote, the issuance of General Obligation Bonds be issued in compliance with Oregon Revised Statute section 478.410, and Board Resolution 2015-02, for paying capital costs for the replacement of fire engines and emergency vehicles, replacement of the Cloverdale Road fire station, the renovation of the George Cyrus Road fire station, replacement of emergency response equipment and paying the cost of issuance for the bonds.

PROPERTY TAX LEVIES			
	Rate or Amount Imposed 2017-2018	Rate or Amount Imposed This Year 2019-2020	Rate or Amount Approved Next Year 2020-2021
Permanent Rate Levy (rate limit \$1.0924 per \$1,000)	\$1.0924 per \$1,000	\$1.0924 per \$1,000	\$1.0924 per \$1,000
Levy for General Obligation Bonds	\$170,000	\$168,000	\$175,000

STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS		
LONG TERM DEBT	Estimated Debt Outstanding on July 1,	Estimated Debt Authorized, But Not Incurred on July 1
General Obligation Bonds	\$2,140,000	\$0
Other Borrowings (SDAO Flex Lease)	\$200,000	\$0
Total	\$2,340,000	\$0