

Local authors read for the public

By
Annette McGee Rasch
IVN Senior Contributing Writer

The Illinois Valley Local Author's Holiday Book Reading on December 3 at 6 p.m., at the IV Branch Library, will feature eight authors who will read from their books, and perhaps explain their writing processes.

Following the readings, people can visit with the authors and buy autographed books while enjoying live background music and free refreshments at the festive kid-friendly event.

"Hopefully this will become an annual tradition," said organizer Ryan Forsythe, who after relocating to the Valley was surprised to find "quite a large number" of published authors in the area. "It's important to celebrate our artists and authors; and to provide the community with opportunities to support them by buying their work."

"A lot of people are familiar with the concept of eating local; but I'd like to promote the idea of also reading local," Forsythe added. "Artists and writers are the lifeblood of communities. They work their craft, often thanklessly, yet they represent what makes a region unique and special. And this place has its share of interesting characters."

Also one of the featured authors, Forsythe will present "Goldilocks and the Three BARS (Beyond Available Resources)," which he co-wrote with his son.

"It's about how Goldilocks goes to the bears' house and eats their porridge and breaks a stool," said Rory Forsythe-Elder, 9. "Then

the bears call 911, but they're told there's no available resources. So then the bears call the State Troopers, but they won't help either, so the bears have to become vigilantes. They start their own neighborhood watch and do armed patrols."

Forsythe, who enjoys writing political satire, said the number of items termed "beyond available resources" in the IV News' weekly police blotter motivated him to draw attention to the issue. His other book, "Dick Cheney Saves Paris," will also be available at the event. "I released that book the same day Cheney's own memoir came out, to let people know they had a choice between two fictional memoirs," he said.

Forsythe has also teamed with local poet Michael Spring to create "Cobra Lilly," a quarterly online literary journal that reviews Southwest Oregon literature and arts, including photography, poetry, novels, short stories and essays.

Spring's poems have appeared in more than 180 publications across the globe over the past 30 years. He's written three poetry collections and five chapbooks. His latest book, "Root of Lightning," received an honorable mention for the 2012 Eric Hoffer Book Award, and his latest chapbook, "Blue Wolf," won the 2013 Turtle Island Poetry Award.

Paulann Peterson, former Oregon Poet Laureate said, "Michael Spring creates a lyric terrain in which the borders between interior and exterior worlds dissolve."

Deborah Murphy, along with two fellow teachers, wrote a series of workbooks in the 1980s called "Creative Creatures," for teaching language arts to early elementary

school kids.

Their spelling book has a pirates and seafaring theme; while a punctuation book features woodland fairies and wizards; and a writing workbook presents creatures from outer space. The books have been utilized in New York, California and Oregon schools and Murphy hopes to have the series reprinted soon.

"We took concepts that kids need to know and made them fun, to help keep kids engaged. The activities are more creative than regular workbooks," said Murphy, who has led workshops with the books. "Kids can do activities from the books at the upcoming event."

Krystal Hulsey began writing "Demons" while still in high school. "It was a way to deal with everything teenagers think of as stressful," she said. "The man I'd considered a father had cheated on my mom and abandoned the both of us. I had a lot of anger and grief and no way to deal with it. So I wrote, and took my revenge on those who hurt me by making them characters in my story. My book is a fantasy novel, with similar themes as Lord of the Rings. It contains some strong language and mild violence, but I consider it PG-13 compared to some movies and TV shows nowadays."

Kelpie Wilson's novel, "Primal Tears," provides a fascinating glimpse at the similarities between humans and bonobo chimpanzees.

"Bonobos resemble us in uncanny ways, and why not? Humans share nearly 99 percent of our genetic material with chimpanzees," Wilson said. "I thought that the birth of a human-chimp hybrid was not only physically possible, but that it would

radically shake up society. The mere existence of a hybrid would force humans to recognize that we are not separate from other animals, but part of a continuum of life."

The story follows Sage, a human-bonobo hybrid girl navigating a world that isn't sure what to make of her. Eventually retreating into the Kalmiopsis Wilderness, Sage's intriguing adventures draw both from Wilson's own backpacking experience and her extensive knowledge of environmental threats facing the region.

"Primal Tears" is a novel of tremendous power. Passionate and erotic, at times tenderly lyrical, it confronts head-on, without flinching, brutal environmental and feminist politics. Its protagonist, Sage, is unique, magical, and haunting," said Kate Wilhelm, author of The Unbidden Truth, Clear and Convincing Proof, and Skeletons.

In another review, well-known author David Rains Wallace said: "...It is a clear-eyed, courageous look at some of the most denied and neglected threats to the biosphere and the place of humans in it." Learn more about this fascinating book at PrimalTears.com.

Another backcountry enthusiast, Justin Rohde, published his first book this year, "Hiking Oregon & California's Wild Rivers Country." The easy-to-use guide book is designed to help people explore the region and discover some lesser known hiking opportunities. Rohde, who professionally conducts fish surveys and habitat assessments, used his proficiency with geographic information systems to create elevation profiles and superimpose

useful information onto topographical maps. The book, which can be ordered at www.rogueliving.com, also offers engaging natural history tidbits about each hike featured.

Over the winter of 2012, Kindi Fahrnkopf wrote the 22-part series: "Hippie History of Takilma, Oregon" for the *Illinois Valley News*. Feeling that "someone needed to record our history," she expanded this work into her now-published book: "Takilma Tales," which features candid personal interviews with many longtime residents and aims to help readers better understand hippy philosophy.

"I've been selling my books all over and enjoying the feedback I get from readers," Fahrnkopf said. "The project was a good test of my skills as a writer and I hope to write another book in the future." Her popular book is available at www.takilmatales.com.

"Buckwheat" Bob Harrison, approached the same topic from a different angle by writing his colorful memoir: "Hippy Tales of the Northwest Woods." This excerpt describes a perilous backcountry trip: "...It was snowing, cold as hell, we were hippies in redneck country, and we didn't have any money. We had the slightly dubious prospect of getting down river by riding in the back of an open pickup with a bunch of deep-woods maniacs, being driven by a major lunatic by the name of Big (and big he was, indeed), at night, in a snow storm. Why were we doing this? To go visit some more really crazy lunatics. Cabin fever must have been a terrible thing that winter."



The Kerby
Transfer Station

is open to
help you...

Hours: Mondays - Saturdays
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



0235



Winter term begins Jan. 5
RCC class schedules now online



— Kimberly Chaplin, Terry Toner, and Sheri Murphy with Tim Busald, instructor at the Avista Center for Entrepreneurship at Rogue Community College.

For credit classes, call 541-956-7306
or visit www.roguecc.edu

For continuing education classes, call 541-956-7303
or visit www.roguecc.edu/ContinuingEducation



**OPEN HOUSE
QUILTERS SALES EVENT
BY: THE VALLEY GIRLS QUILTING CLUB**

10:00am to 4:00pm

SATURDAY, the 29TH of NOVEMBER 2014

@ Seasons n Time, 24342B Redwood Hwy., Kerby
(next to Kerby Mart, across the street from RCC bldg.)

**If you are looking for a *Special Gift* for a loved one...
these *Quilts* may just be, the *Perfect Gift* ☺**

**What a great time to come and check out all the
wonderful quilts and wall hangings, these ladies have
made, putting many hours of time and love into them <3**

**Seasons n Time...also features: Handmade Gifts,
Quilts, Local Art, Fabric, Arts & Crafts, Yarn &
Coffee☺**

**Each Quilt or Wall Hanging, will bring much warmth
into any home <3**
PH# 541-592-5373