

Northwest Author Series hosts Bill Hall

'McCallandia' novel envisions Gov. Tom McCall as president

CANNON BEACH — Bill Hall, author of "McCallandia: A Utopian Novel," will be the speaker for the next Northwest Author series at the Cannon Beach Library. The event will take place at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13.

"McCallandia" is a novel of alternate history that imagines the iconic Oregon Gov. Tom McCall becoming president of the United States as successor to Nixon and how the nation takes a different and better path. McCall, who served as Oregon's governor

from 1967 to 1975, is best remembered for his quip encouraging outsiders to "visit but don't stay." However, his administration saw an unmatched record of accomplishment, especially in the environmental arena — the Bottle Bill, the Beach Bill, statewide land use planning and the clean-up of the Willamette River. In his book, Hall asks the question, "What if McCall had become president of the United States instead of Ronald Reagan?"

Hall is a native Oregonian

who grew up during McCall's governorship and was inspired by his example to pursue careers in journalism and politics. He was a volunteer in McCall's ill-fated 1978 comeback campaign for the governorship. Hall lives in Newport and has served as a Lincoln County commissioner since 2005.

Hall said he hopes readers will come away from "McCallandia" with a better understanding of how McCall's leadership helped shape Oregon, how he



Submitted photo

Author Bill Hall will speak Feb. 13 at the Cannon Beach Library.

could have influenced the country for the better, and what he was like as a husband, father, colleague and friend. He also hopes readers will be inspired and look for ways to carry McCall's legacy forward. "I hope readers will have the desire to envision a



Submitted photo

"McCallandia" by author Bill Hall.

better world and see that we can still help make it happen. That's

what Tom McCall's career was all about," Hall says.

Hall had drawn on his reporting background to craft a novel with a structure all its own, combining conventional narrative with imaginary magazine and newspaper articles, diary excerpts, interviews and oral history transcripts. The book also includes an original illustration by James Cloutier, who produced the "Oregon Ungreeting" cards that were popular during the McCall years.

The Northwest Author series, offered by the Cannon Beach Library on the second Saturday of each month, September to May, is free, and the public is welcome.

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