

Cannon Beach Library hosts author Ellen Urbani

CANNON BEACH — The Cannon Beach Library will welcome author Ellen Urbani for its next Northwest Author Series event at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 11. Admission is free, and the public is welcome.

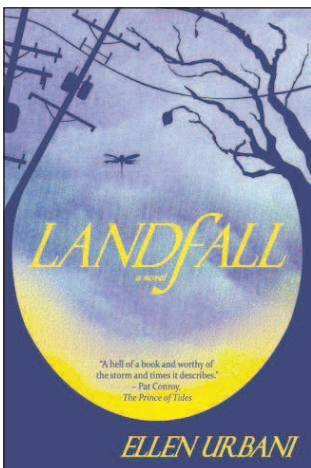
Urbani will read from her novel "Landfall," which is set in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, and sign books.

In "Landfall," Rosebud Howard almost survives. She charges through the Lower Ninth Ward, beating the wall of floodwater by a half-block. She clammers out of an attic, onto a roof, into a rowboat. But her grueling trek to Tuscaloosa, in search of help for her family, ends when she's hit and killed by a car laden with supplies for Hurricane Katrina victims. Passenger Rose Aikens, orphaned by the crash, climbs away from the wreck after lacing the dead girl's sneakers onto her own feet. When she discovers they share not only shoes but a name and a birth year, Rose embarks on a guilt-assuaging odyssey to retrace Rosebud's last steps and locate her remaining kin. The stories and destinies of these two teenagers — one black, one white — converge in "Landfall," giving voice to the dead and demonstrating how strangers, with perseverance and forgiveness, can unite to reconstruct each other's shattered family histories.

Though she now lives on a working farm near Portland, Urbani spent her formative years living in Alabama and Virginia. As a former mental health specialist for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and advisory board member at the Annenberg Center for Health Science Research, she focused on addressing the emotional



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Author Ellen Urbani will be featured at the Cannon Beach Library on March 11.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
"Landfall" by Ellen Urbani.

repercussions of disease and disaster. This therapeutic perspective informs her characterization of the victims of Hurricane Katrina in "Landfall," allowing for a nuanced fictional interpretation of historic events.

Urbani is also author of the memoir "When I Was Elena," a Book Sense Notable selection documenting her life in Guatemala during the final years of that country's civil war. Her autobiographical essays and short stories have appeared in a variety of bestselling pop-culture anthologies as well as The New York Times.

Ever wanted to hike from Portland to the coast? Author James Thayer can show you the way

Astoria Public Library hosts author event

ASTORIA — For its next Meet the Author event at 6 p.m. Friday, March 10, Astoria Public Library will present Portland author James Thayer, who will give a presentation based on his new book, "Hiking from Portland to the Coast: An Interpretive Guide to 30 Trails." The event will take place at the Astoria Public Library, located at 450 10th St. Admission is free.

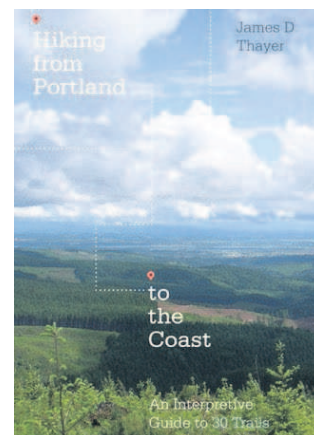
Thayer promises an entertaining and educational romp though Oregon's Coast Range as he shares stories of his seven-year efforts to survey a walking route from Portland to the coast.

His book and presentation are as much about the region's legends, yarns, family histories and folklore as they are about hiking trails. Thayer has paired each trail with a local story that helps hikers understand the nature of the places through which their travels take them. Hear about

how the Native Americans related to the Coast Range, how pioneers penetrated this convoluted wilderness, and about the exploits of loggers and their railroading partners.

Thayer grew up in a hamlet on the Austrian-German border until returning to the U.S. at age 12. His father, Charles W. Thayer, was a U.S. diplomat known for his memoirs about the early years of the Foreign Service. Thayer graduated from Reed College in 1975, at which point he was smitten by Oregon's vast beauty. He currently teaches international marketing at Portland State University and writes historical accounts and hiking guides about the many beautiful and isolated places hidden in the Oregon Coast Range.

Thayer's first book, "Portland's Forest Hikes" (Timber Press, 2007) explores Forest Park and the wooded slopes leading almost to Scappoose. "Hiking from Portland to the Coast" (OSU Press, 2016) is the extension of that book, beginning above Scappoose and penetrating through the



SUBMITTED PHOTO
"Hiking from Portland to the Coast" by James D. Thayer.

welter of peaks and valleys that make up Oregon's Coast Range.

A guidebook for both experienced and casual hikers, "Hiking from Portland to the Coast" explores the many trails and logging roads that crisscross the northern portion of the Coast Range. While showcasing convenient looped routes, the book also describes complete throughways connecting Portland to the coastal communities of

Seaside and Tillamook.

While suitable for hikers, equestrians, and bikers, many of the 30 trails in the book had never before been surveyed for recreational use. All are meticulously surveyed and described in Thayer's book, alongside detailed and annotated maps — as well as a "backstory" highlighting the rich histories of Native Americans, white settlers, loggers and railroad operators. Some trails are located on private timber holdings, accessible only by paid permit, while access to others is free. In most cases vehicular traffic is not permitted; neither is camping, littering, or making fires. From time to time, access may be restricted due to fire danger or commercial activity.

Meet the Author is a free series readings and presentations by Oregon authors. For more information about library programs and services, contact library staff at 503-325-7323 or comments@astorialibrary.org, or visit www.astorialibrary.org

Crossword Answer

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The Coaster Theatre Playhouse Presents

The MOUSETRAP

By Agatha Christie



March 3 - April 15, 2017



Tickets \$20 or \$25

Shows begin at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday shows at 3:00p.m.

Sponsored by Coaster Construction

Tickets: 503-436-1242 or coastertheatre.com

108 N Hemlock Street, Cannon Beach, OR