



MAKE MATTERS VERSE

KENDRICK MOHOLT PHOTO

Kim Stafford, named Oregon's Poet Laureate in 2018.

Oregon Poet Laureate Kim Stafford reads, discusses craft at Cannon Beach Library

By **ERICK BENGEL**
FOR COAST WEEKEND

As Oregon's Poet Laureate, Kim Stafford wants nothing less than to save the world.

His means: bringing forth people's voices — by “doing all I can to abolish reticence, and help people tell their stories, their feelings, their dreams and ideas,” he said in an email exchange with Coast Weekend.

Stafford will drop by the Cannon Beach Library on Sunday, Oct. 21,

as part of the Northwest Author Series.

He plans to read from books he's published on “reconciliation, earth connection, consolation, and blessing,” he said. He'll also discuss “the process of writing to enhance the life of the writer, and the health of the community.”

Stafford, an assistant professor at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, is director of the college's Northwest Writing Institute. His father, William Stafford, served as the state's Poet Laureate from 1975

to 1990, and, before that, as U.S. Poet Laureate from 1970 to '71.

A prolific author of poems, essays, fiction and nonfiction, Kim said he prefers to write about relationships: “who I am to who I think I am ... who I am to who I was ... who I am to where I am ... who we are to who we might be,” he said. “Along the way, images and processes from the natural world often help me tell human stories.”

Calling Kim Stafford one of Oregon's “most generous literary teachers,” Gov. Kate Brown

said when she appointed him last summer: “There are many ways to serve this state and among them is clarity of language and passion of purpose, which may travel from one soul to another through poetry.”

Serving the human story

Growing up, Kim was more privy to his father's product than his process. The elder Stafford would write early in the morning — at 3 or 4 a.m. — “so I only saw

Northwest Authors Series presents Kim Stafford, Oregon's Poet Laureate

When: 2 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 21

Where: Cannon Beach Library,
131 N. Hemlock St.

Free and open to the public

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