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WEEKEND BREAK



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RIGHT: Emily Ransdell, of Manzanita, reads her poem 'Driving to Manzanita.' She also read a poem, 'Drinking Alone in Manzanita' at the Cannon Beach Library.



BELOW: At the Cannon Beach Library, Geno Leech, of Chinook, reads his story, 'Second-Hand Smoke.'



LEFT: At the Cannon Beach Library, Jennifer Nightingale, of Astoria, presents her poem 'Between the River and the Sea.'



BELOW: Victoria Stoppiello, of Nehalem, delivers her essay 'In and Out Weather' at Cannon Beach Library.



LIFE ON THE NORTH COAST

Local writers describe their experiences for the Cannon Beach Library's Writers Read event

Photos by
 Nancy McCarthy
LEFT: Katja Biesanz, of Nehalem, reads her poem 'The Commute' at the Cannon Beach Library.



RIGHT: James Dott, of Astoria, reads his poem 'A Boy Found a Body' at the Cannon Beach Library.



By **NANCY McCARTHY**
 For The Daily Astorian

When it comes to writing about life on Oregon's North Coast, all kinds of things can spring to mind: nature's beauty, changeable weather, dusky waterfronts.

Ten North Coast writers turned to poetry and personal stories to describe their experiences when the Cannon Beach Library requested essays and poems about life on the North Coast for its Writers Read Celebration.

For Debbie Simorte, who moved to Manzanita from Missouri four months ago, life on the North Coast is still new and challenging, as she writes in her essay, "Hummingbirds in January."

"What I know so far about living here is that I know nothing. I step outside and see trees and birds I don't know. I've known hummingbirds, but never in January. Elk never walked around my old neighborhood."

She discovered that there's a difference between rain and showers, researched a cannabis dispensary and practiced the pronunciations of Astoria, WiLAMette and Yachats: "Yah hots? Yah, hots."

Jennifer Nightingale, of Astoria, frequently walks along the Clatsop Spit at Fort Stevens State Park. She enjoys the nature of the North Coast, but, as she writes in her poem, "Between the River and the Sea," loud motorcycles can ruin her experience:

"Oblivious that his noise disrupts / The rhythms of the precious little finger of wilderness"

"I hope that people will understand that this finger of land is fragile and will want to be better stewards," Nightingale said in an email.

Nature was a constant theme in the entries.

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John Ciminello, of Naselle, reads his poem 'Rain' at the Cannon Beach Library.