

SCRATCHPAD

Q&A with a local writer, plus a contest

By **ALYSSA EVANS**
COAST WEEKEND EDITOR



Astoria resident Ann Ornie is known locally for being a writer and podcast producer. In the last six years, her work has been published around the region in Coast Weekend, the North Coast Squid Literary Magazine, Rain Magazine and other publications. In 2019, she won the Haunted Astoria Writer's Showcase. And monthly, she hosts Coast Community Radio's podcast "Cold Coast," which explores the stories of unidentified and missing persons cases.

Ahead of a Coast Weekend fiction contest, Ornie shared some of her writing tips with Coast Weekend for those who are interested in writing.

Coast Weekend: What does your writing process look like when you're getting started on a new project?

Ann Ornie: When I'm starting a project, I don't really know it's starting. Usually I get an image in my head. Sometimes I take a picture to remember the image, then I go back over it ... As time passes, a story or poem will form. Sometimes, like with poetry, it'll appear the same day. I'll let it sit, then go back and read it. I do very little editing on my poetry.

When I'm doing non-fiction, the amount of work that goes into that and the amount of research shapes the story ... It's really stressful because you don't want to screw up. When it comes to fiction, usually those characters and settings have been with me a really long time; they're sitting in my unconscious. When I sit down to write, they'll start to bubble up. Then I'll have something with sub-

stance, like a short story or a book. I often don't know what I have until it comes up during the process.

CW: How do you find time to write?

AO: For a really long time I just worked and went to school. A few years ago, I was getting to an age where I felt that I'm not old but I have to make myself a priority now. I asked myself, 'What are the non-negotiables in my life?' Family and writing are the two non-negotiables.

About four years ago I really had to start



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our coast weekend

ON THE COVER

Haystack Rock is the most well-known natural landmark in Cannon Beach.

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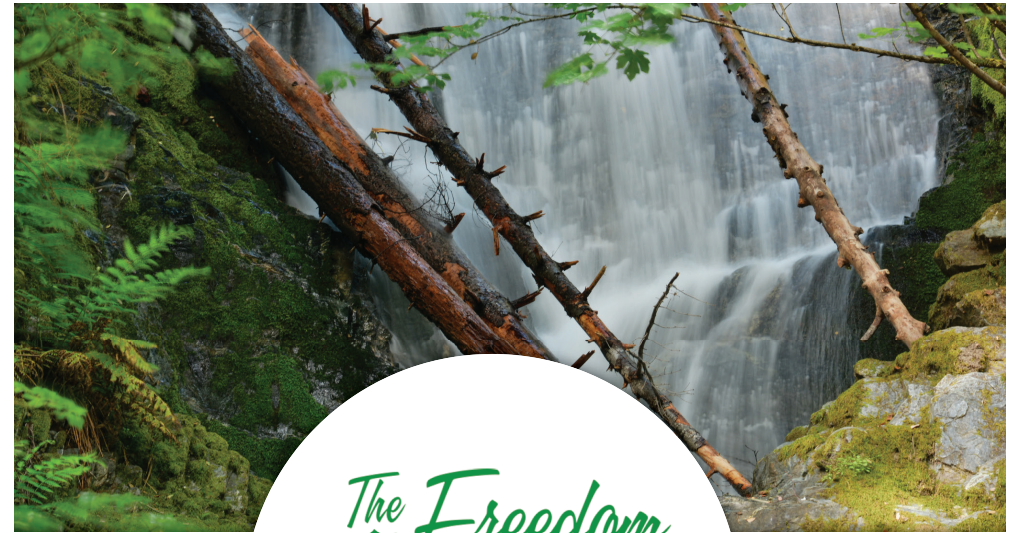
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