

Time to write

Authors take up summer residencies

BY BRIANA ALZOLA

Within a few hours of moving into the artist residency at Spotted Goat Cottage on the Long Beach Peninsula, Sarah Buckmaster said she was already looking at the water and feeling the inspiration.

She is one of two authors spending a week each in the North Coast Writer's Residency, which was developed collaboratively by the Astoria Writer's Guild and Astoria

Visual Arts, this summer. The authors will use the isolation and inspiration of the residency on their respective writing projects.

Buckmaster is first. Following her is Deborah L. Williams, who will stay at the residency in August. Williams will read her work in progress at 6 p.m. Aug. 18 at Astoria Visual Arts.

Buckmaster is no stranger to the area.

In 2016, she moved here from the United Kingdom to work in communication for an international nonprofit. What was supposed to be a couple-month stay was extended after she fell in love with the area.

Buckmaster went home to U.K. for a while to care for family because of the coronavirus pandemic. While there, she took evaluated her priorities and what she wanted. She decided to slow down a little on her work and take time to write her own personal projects.

During her time at the writer's residency, she will be working on her first novel, which tells the story of a dystopian future where depression is believed to be contagious. In the novel, anyone who shows any signs of unhappiness is sent to a government camp, Buckmaster said.

**'THERE IS A COMFORT
IN AN IMAGINARY
WORLD WHERE YOU
CAN EXPLORE AND
JUST BE YOURSELF.'**

Sarah Buckmaster

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Celebrate! July 4, 2021

Fourth of July Parade

3 p.m. in Warrenton
S. Main Ave from SW 1st to 9th

Fireworks Display

10 p.m. in Astoria
Look to the sky over the
Columbia River near downtown

With COVID safety in mind, we are asking for everyone's help to keep crowding to a minimum during this holiday weekend.

Please be courteous to those around you, and pack out what you bring in, like food containers, personal fireworks & other garbage.



Thanks for making the 4th of July a blast!

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Sarah Buckmaster