



Hardwick and her book, 'Some Stories Are Not Seen.'

Continued from Page 6

syndrome that occurs in starfish and has an extremely high mortality rate.

"What happens is they get lesions on them and literally start wasting away in front of you," said Hardwick. "They look very sick. Their skin becomes scaly, then clear and then they're gone. It only takes about a tide cycle, so about 12 hours."

Hardwick learned about the syndrome when volunteering for the Haystack Rock Awareness Program, instigating her motivation to incorporate the growing problem into her latest book.

"It is such a visible piece of something not okay with our oceans," Hardwick said.

Hardwick also wanted to incorporate other aspects of coastal living into her book, and reiterated that she wanted it to be authentic.

"The sea star thing is important but I didn't know how it all linked together," said Hardwick.

One day while substitute teaching for a third grade classroom, she told the class about one of the other books she had written. Hardwick said the student's eyes lit up when they realized she was an author, and they asked her to sign their notebooks and pieces of scrap paper.

"But in that moment I knew that this

was it, the girl in my story has to be in this school and be older for the things she has to do, but that was it," said Hardwick.

Hardwick put in a lot of research for her book in conjunction with the Haystack Rock Awareness Program, using their recommended pamphlets and books to craft her story.

"They recommended two books, they were an illustrated guide for sea life and tide pools and I used that very heavily," Hardwick said.

She also based locations in her book off of real-life places she's visited in the past.

"I came for the stormy weather festival in Cannon Beach and stayed at the hidden villa, which is where an old set of cottages are located," Hardwick said. "These cottages are actually featured in the book and are where Lucy and her mom live, I just love that connection."

Hardwick loves the unpredictability of the coast, but she also noticed that the sense of community on the North Coast is something rather special.

"I was so struck by how active my neighbors were and the people around me were all in a cause that is important to all of us, and that really struck home with me," Hardwick said. "People that just visit just don't see it."





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