

‘Words on the Coast’ to offer author workshops



From left: Keynote speaker, publisher and best-selling author Ellen Traylor; mystery novelist Ron Lovell; nationally syndicated humor columnist and author Ned Hickson; screenwriter Nick Sharma.

Aspiring writers, novelists, columnists and screenwriters will have a chance to learn the ins and outs of successful writing from nine authors who have published in a wide range of genres.

The “Words on the Coast Author Symposium,” sponsored by Port Hole Publishing, will offer eight workshops on Sept. 25, with participants choosing four to attend, from how to spark your creativity and mapping out an engaging plotline, to finishing that memoir or writing for the screen.

The symposium will begin with breakfast at 8 a.m., followed by seminars, then a lunch presentation by keynote speaker Ellen Traylor, a best-selling novelist and Port Hole Publishing owner. Traylor will discuss the rumors and realities of today’s publishing landscape. Afternoon sessions will be followed by a panel discussion and book signing party, with a light dinner.

Workshops include:

- **Detecting the Great Story:** Mystery novelist Ron Lovell will give insights and tips on the elements of creating a great mystery plot.

- **Laughter at the Keyboard:** Award-winning nationally syndicated humorist Ned Hickson will explain how to inject humor into writing and why it’s

important, as well as a look at writing effectively for today’s media — online and in print.

- **Facing the Blank Page:** The author of several books, Karen Nichols will discuss how to spark creativity and turn those blank pages into a finished manuscript.

- **Starring Words — The Art of Screenwriting:** The elements of effective screenwriting are vastly different than novel writing, and successful screenwriter Nick Sharma will take attendees through the process of learning how to “show” instead of “tell” a story.

- **Books without Trees — The Art of eBook Publishing:** Electronic books (eBooks) are increasingly popular with readers and a great venue for aspiring authors. But how do authors get their work digitized? eBook-savvy author Suzanne Parrott will take attendees through the process.

- **Writing the White-Knuckle Thriller:** Medical suspense author and speaker Tim Browne will give an insider’s look at the tricks of the trade to creating a page turner that will leave readers wanting more.

- **Here’s What Happened — Writing the Memoir:** Published memoir writer Diana Weinberger will explain how to compose a memoir that is engaging for family and com-

plete strangers alike.

- **Books for the Listening Ear — From Print to Audio:** Thanks to platforms like Soundcloud and others, authors can share their words in voice as well as print. Audio book creator Robert Grothe will give advice on how to make the most of this growing genre.

The “Words on the Coast Author Symposium” will take place Sunday, Sept. 25, at Port Hole Center, 77567 Highway 101 in Gardiner, Ore., 18 miles south of Florence.

The cost of the all-day event, including meals, is \$69.

Register by Sept. 10 and receive a 10 percent discount. Seating is limited and registration deadline is Sept. 20.

To register, visit www.portholecenter.com

Come to “Words on the Coast” for a chance to enhance your writing skills and learn tips from veteran authors throughout the Northwest.

For more information, call Port Hole Center at 541-999-5725.

SWC to learn about Tahkenitch Landing Site

During the next Siuslaw Watershed Council (SWC) meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 31, the topic will be tools of the trade and geospatial investigations at the Tahkenitch Landing Site.

The Siuslaw Watershed Council’s general meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Mapleton High School library, 10868 East Mapleton Road.

Doors open at 6 p.m. Jesse Beers, Culture Director of the Confederated

Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, will explain Siuslaw cultural history and show everyone a traditional canoe.

Molly Kirkpatrick, from Pacific Slope Archaeology Laboratory, Dept. of Anthropology, Oregon State University, will discuss the Tahkenitch Landing Site, which is located inland from the modern day shoreline and dates occupation as early as 8,000 years ago.



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If you would like to meet Butch or any of his friends, please visit us at:

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It Makes a Difference

It's Election Day. Do you know where your vote is? If you're keeping it in your back pocket, you may be doing yourself and those around you a civic disservice.

The fact is that your vote could make all the difference in not only swaying an election, but in fulfilling your duty as a proud American citizen.

‘BUT, MY VOTE DOESN'T COUNT’

We've all heard the claim from nonvoters that their one vote simply doesn't mean much in the grand scheme of things, especially in the presidential election that is determined by the Electoral College.

Not so fast, say politicians and pro-voting organizations.

Here are some important events in U.S. history that were decided by just a few votes, according to the State of Illinois:

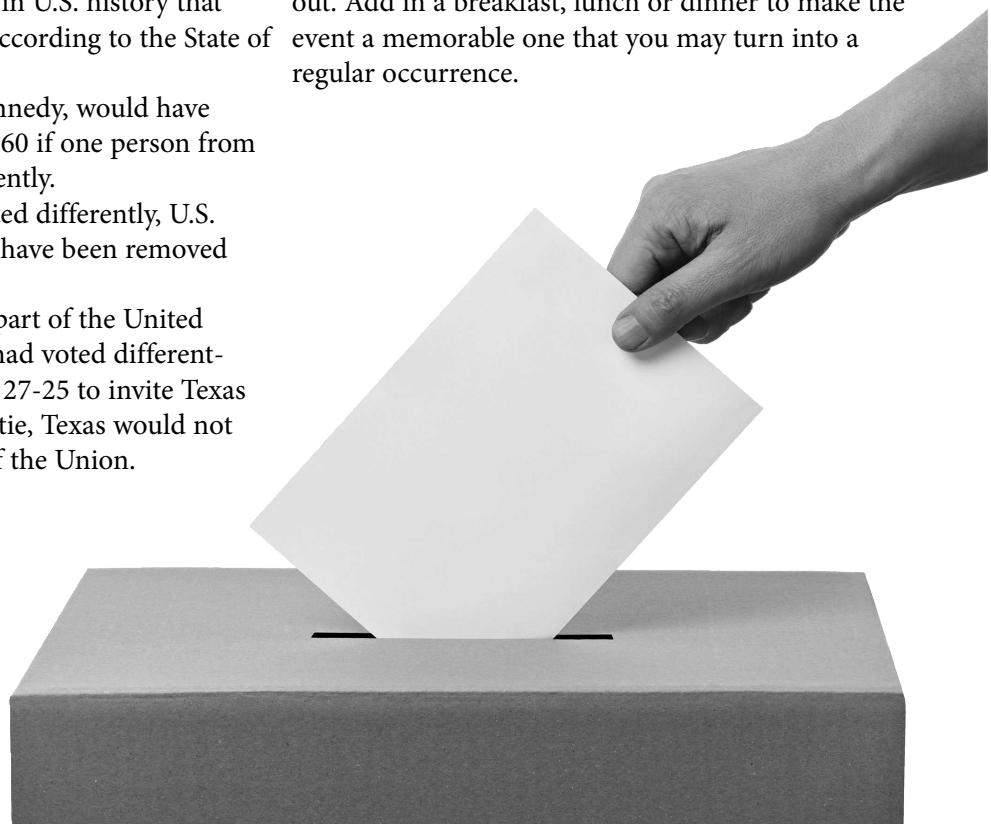
- Richard Nixon, not John F. Kennedy, would have become President of the U.S. in 1960 if one person from each voting place had voted differently.
- If just one U.S. Senator had voted differently, U.S. President Andrew Johnson would have been removed from office in 1867.
- Texas might not have become part of the United States in 1845 if one U.S. Senator had voted differently. The vote in the U.S. Senate was 27-25 to invite Texas to become a state. If it had been a tie, Texas would not have been asked to become part of the Union.

‘BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO VOTE’

General discomfort can be a major factor in keeping many people away from the voting booth.

If voting intimidates you or you need motivation in keeping it on your schedule, involve a family member or acquaintance in your planning process. Coordinate to meet the morning of the election and head to the polls together.

Voting with a significant other, parent or close friend can help calm any nerves and also help you from backing out. Add in a breakfast, lunch or dinner to make the event a memorable one that you may turn into a regular occurrence.



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