

Festival to kick off Friday with Author's Panel

The 30 chairs set up were not enough for the approximately 50 attendees to the first-ever Florence Festival of Books panel discussion in 2015.

It was a Publisher's Panel on the various ways to become published and was so well received that it was decided to have another panel in 2016.

It will be the same time: 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Same place: Florence Events Center.

And same admission price: Free!

This year it's an author's panel with the topic: "The Path — From Idea to Book."

Five Oregon authors will share their unique paths from the tiniest spark of an idea to the actual published book. They comprise a diverse mix of authors.

• **Tom Cheronos** began working in educational television while a

student at the University of Alabama. He later produced and directed programs for WQED in Pittsburgh before moving to Hollywood. He is most well known for his work as a television director. He directed 81 episodes of "Seinfeld" and 56 episodes of "NewsRadio." His work on "Seinfeld" earned him an Emmy, a Golden Globe and even more awards. Cheronos is the author of "The Hardly Boys," a parody of the Hardy Boys books. Cheronos divides his time between Florence, Los Angeles, and Taos, N.M.

• **Byron Dudley** is the author of a dozen books and is best known today as a poet. He is also an educational assistant for students with special needs in the Eugene School District. In the past, he spent years as a long-haul truck driver and as a photographer. He also spent years, off and on, living in Japan and

steeping himself in its culture and art.

His latest book "Up the Mtn," shows his virtuosity with the Japanese poetry form of haiku. Dudley also has a fascination with nature and lives in a cabin up the McKenzie River.

• **Ned Hickson** is an award-winning, nationally syndicated humor columnist and the editor of Florence's Siuslaw News. He is the author of two books, "Humor at the Speed of Life," a compilation of his columns that was published in 2013, and "Pearls of Writing Wisdom: From 16 Shucking Years as a Columnist."

Obviously, his humor column has been integral to his books. Ned and his family reside in Florence.

• **Duana C. Welch, Ph.D.**, is a relationship advice columnist who presents what to do, how to do it, and the science behind the advice

in her blog LoveScience. She is also the author of "Love Factually: 10 Proven Steps from I Wish to I Do," the first science-based book to take you from before you meet until you commit to The One.

Welch is also a contributor to the magazine "Psychology Today" and eHarmony.

She lives in Eugene with her family.

• **Janet Wellington** is the author of several e-book romance novels that are in her own words "heart-centered, personal and powerful." Wellington was formerly published in print, but has happily switched to self-publishing online. She refers to herself now as a "do-it-yourself e-book author."

While she holds down a day job, she looks forward to the day when

See **PANEL** page 15



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