

Writers find inspiration at 'Words on the Coast'

"Inspiring," "excellent," "worth the trip," "helpful," "positive," "would recommend," are just some of the comments made by attendees about this year's Words on the Coast writers conference held at Port Hole Center in Gardiner this past Saturday.

About 20 writers registered from as far away as Monterey, Calif., to hear four local presenters share how to "Write What You

Love," which was the theme of this year's conference. Ned Hickson, author of an award-winning book on writing and the event's keynote speaker, along with bestselling author Ellen Traylor, prolific novelist Karen D. Nichols and longtime journalist Bob Keefer, encouraged the group to set aside their doubts and "just do it."

Hickson held a workshop on humor writing, Traylor

on history research, Nichols on romance and Keefer on how to make a success from writing what you love.

The conference was sponsored by Live Culture Coast, a 10-day extravaganza with more than 90 events taking place on the southern Oregon coast beginning Oct. 18.

"Words on the Coast was honored to be the kick-off headliner event for this series of cultural experi-

ences," said Traylor, whose Port Hole Center hosted the event.

Food was catered by Bedrock caterers of Reedsport, and the day included classes, panel discussion, a Ned Hickson video and book signing party.

Plans are already being discussed for another WOTC, said Traylor.

Annual Hang-It-All to begin at library Nov. 1

November is "Hang it All" month at Siuslaw Public Library. This non-juried public art display is open to all.

Entries must be hand-delivered to the main library's Bromley Room in Florence on Thursday, Nov. 1, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Alternately, entries can be dropped off the day before, Oct. 31, at Frames of Florence, 2285 Highway 101 in the Coastal Fitness Plaza.

One entry is allowed per person. Unfortunately, shipped items cannot be accepted. Entries must be available for public display from Nov. 1 through 30 and must be picked up on Saturday, Nov. 30, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

All mediums are welcome.

Two-dimensional items (paintings, photos, etc.) must be framed and wired for hanging. The library is unable to hang items with sawtooth hangers and can

help with wire hangers at drop off time if needed.

The size of two-dimensional entries cannot exceed 38" x 38" square. Any three-dimensional submissions (pottery, altered books, fiber arts, etc.) will be displayed in the lobby display case and can be up to 12" deep and 12" by 24" (length/height) in order to fit the display area.

Everyone is invited to bring a favorite art piece to this month-long eclectic public art display.

All entrants are eligible to win the Bob Kutsch award for Best in Show as selected by the Siuslaw Public Library's Art Committee. Also, one artist will be awarded the "People's Choice Award."

Everyone can vote once a day for their favorite piece. Information is available at the library (Florence and Mapleton), on the library's website at www.siuslawlibrary.org, or call 541-997-3132.



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Moser and Orr were quick to point out that available scholarships are not sufficient to meet the needs of all Siuslaw students who wish to attend college. There are two key reasons for this.

"First," according to Moser, "the costs of college tuition and other expenses have risen faster than inflation, so it has been necessary for scholarship awards to grow just to keep up with costs."

Secondly, Moser said the median income for households in the Florence area is well below the state average — with many local families simply not having the means to pay for college even with scholarship help.

"Even if our students are able to get their first year of college paid through grants and scholarships, many of those scholarships cover only the first year and that leaves our students with insufficient financial support in the second, third, and fourth years of college," added Orr. "We don't want any student to leave college for financial reasons, but it happens."

Which is why Moser and Orr continue to seek new scholarship providers in the community. "We want to talk with any interested individual or business about establishing a new scholarship fund," said Orr. "Many people want to help our students while leaving a legacy that will carry on for years to come, and it's easy to do through the establishment of a perpetual scholarship." Likewise, businesses may wish to demonstrate community support and involvement through named scholarships.

"There are organizations already in place locally to make the process simple."

The rewards of offering financial support to students are huge, according to Moser.

"One of the best events of the year is our Scholarship Awards Night each May, when we get to see the excitement of students who find that they will be able to attend college thanks to the support of our community," Moser said. "It's a wonderful event."

Anyone interested in creating or contributing to a scholarship can contact Moser or Orr by calling 541-997-3448.

— Submitted story

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