

COAST: Clackamas biology class



Students leave the lighthouse at Cape Disappointment on the way to the next destination.



The class walks down a pathway surrounded by long grass to the beach in Seaside to take water samples for further experimentation.

All photos by John Shufelt Clackamas



After an initial introduction, Jennifer Bown examines barnacles growing on the remains of the shipwreck.

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Take her into her element and she becomes another person.

The long drive was made possible by the company of Stan Kelsey, a biology instructor at Clackamas and frequent volunteer driver on these trips. From the few periods when passengers were dozing, Kelsey kept the conversation lively and several students enjoyed sharing stories about everything from pets to former trips to the Coast.

Our first official stop was at Cape Disappointment in Washington. After a fair hike through lush trees and a quick look at the Cape Disappointment Lighthouse, the class hiked to the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center where Bown told the story of how the cape got its name.

In 1788, a British fur trader by the name of John Bown was in search of trade in the middle of the dense fog that usually settles around the cape. He just missed the opening of the Columbia River.



Biology students take a few moments to catch their breath at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center.



A small cove near Cape Disappointment provides a great opportunity for students to experience the local beauty.