

# Astoria schools talk Advanced Placement

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

During a study session Wednesday, Astoria School Board and staff discussed the possibility of changing some of Astoria High School's honors courses to Advanced Placement (AP).

Both attract high-achieving students to college-level courses. Staff creates the curriculum for honors courses, many of which grant credit at Clatsop Community College through the Coastal Commitment program. AP is a program operated by exam provider College Board, which creates curriculum, exams and audits classes before they get the designation.

AP is the preferred norm for many colleges and universities, some of which won't take community college or honors credits said Astoria School District Superintendent Craig Hoppes. AP courses have an exam at the end, separate from the student's grade, but required to receive college credit.

If Astoria did offer AP courses, he added, CCC would still be interested in offering students credit through Coastal Commitment.

Hoppes asked Honors English teacher Clint Hill and language arts teacher Craig Randall, who taught an AP English course at Knappa High School last year, whether they would be willing to teach an AP course. Both indicated they would.

"It feels like what my honors class is already ... and really all I'm missing is test prep," said Hill. He added that he'd have to dedicate significant time to AP exam preparation.

Randall said the AP title allows the teacher to push kids further. Even if Knappa students didn't pass the AP exam last year but got good grades, they earned CCC Coastal Commitment credit.

In other news from the Wednesday board meeting:

- Board Chairman Martin Dursse read a proclamation for Classified Employee Appreciation Week, March 2 to 6.

- Hoppes reported that staff training on the school board goal based around creating a strategic plan for the district started Thursday at Astoria Middle School. It starts next week at AHS, Feb. 26 at John Jacob Astor Elementary School and April 2 at Lewis and Clark Elementary School. A parent meeting will be organized in April, as the district works on various strategies to get as many as possible to attend the meeting.

- The district met Jan. 22 with migrant recruiters to organize an English Language Learner (ELL)/Migrant summer school. It is also working to provide more interpreters for the district.

- On the district's goal to reduce the achievement gap between students, it completed applications for Title IIA professional development funds from the Oregon Department of Education. Once approved, the district can begin providing training for staff on parts of a plan to reduce the achievement gap between the general population and underserved groups such as ELL and low-income students.

- On the district's health and wellness goal, it has created three subcommittees based around health services; health promotion for staff; and family and community involvement.

- The district continues to provide mental health services to its students through Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare, which has the state contract to service people using the Oregon Health Plan. Hoppes said the district is researching how to offer a menu of local counselors, inside and outside of CBH, to come meet with students at a designated space on campus.

## Nonprofit training planned

TILLAMOOK — The Center for Nonprofit Stewardship is holding a training for board members on North Coast nonprofits from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 7 at Tillamook Bay Community College, 4301 Third St. in Tillamook.

An initial breakout session from 10 to 11:20 a.m. covers the attorney general's guidance on board service, Fundraising 101 and meeting management. A second session from 11:30 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. covers understanding financial information, accepting charitable contributions and components of a long-range strategic plan. A third session from 1:20 to 3 p.m. covers writing financial policies, governing documents and new board member training.

Instructors include Heidi Henry, board trainer and organizational planner from Banner Non-Profits, LLC; Grady Goodall, director of development at the Oregon State University College of Liberal Arts; Katherine DeYoung, executive director of Center for Nonprofit Stewardship; and Kirk Harvey, director of programming at the Center for Nonprofit Stewardship.

The keynote presentation is "Seven Things You Should Know to Protect Your Tax Exempt Status," presented by Joe Kroll, a tax exempt audit manager with the IRS.

Early registration ends Friday. For more information, visit [www.nonprofitsteward.org](http://www.nonprofitsteward.org), call 541-929-9320 or email [TheCenter@nonprofitsteward.org](mailto:TheCenter@nonprofitsteward.org)

# Melcher tapped to lead Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

SALEM — The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission has chosen Curt Melcher to be the next director for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The decision was announced during the commission's regular meeting in Salem. Melcher has served as ODFW interim director since September. Commission Chairman Mike Finley and Melcher will meet to discuss the terms of his employment later in February.

Melcher was among three finalists being considered for the position following a national search for candidates. The other finalists were Edward Bowles, Fish Division administrator, ODFW; and Krystyna Wolniakowski, former director, Western Partner-

ship Office, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

"We are very pleased at the prospect of having Curt as the new director and are confident he is the right person to lead this premiere fish and wildlife agency," said Finley. As director, Melcher would report to the commission and manage a department with more than 1,100 employees, and a biennial operating budget of \$345 million. Melcher replaces Roy Elicker, who retired in September after serving seven years on the job.

Melcher is a native Oregonian, who graduated from the University of Oregon with a bachelor's degree in biology. He has devoted 28 years of his career to the protection and management of Oregon's fish



Curt Melcher

and wildlife. He has served as the deputy director for ODFW, accountable for all Fish and Wildlife programs leading over 1,200 employees. He was appointed the interim director in September.

"I'm excited and humbled at the thought of this opportunity," Melcher said. "It would be a great honor to lead the dedicated, professional staff at an agency that has so much to offer the state of Oregon." Background on Melcher can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/odfwmelcher>.

In other business, the commission amended rules for ODFW's annual art contests for habitat conservation, waterfowl and upland game bird stamps so the rules are now all within the same administrative rule division. Commissioners were also briefed on the Mule Deer Initiative, an effort to address Oregon's declining mule deer populations through habitat improvement, predator and travel management and other strategies.

## Coast Guard rescue turns into drug arrest

SEATTLE — U. S. Coast Guard crews responded to a report of a disabled vessel and assisted local law enforcement personnel with the arrest of a mariner in Ilwaco, Wash., Friday.

After locating the disabled vessel and towing it to Station Cape Disappointment, Coast Guard personnel discovered safety and possible criminal violations aboard the mariner's vessel during a search and rescue boarding, prompting the involvement of both Wahkiakum and Pacific County Sheriff personnel re-

sulting in the mariner's arrest.

Sector Columbia River watchstanders diverted two 47-foot motor lifeboat crews from another mission after receiving a report from the mariner stating that his 40-foot cabin cruiser, the Deano's Dream, was disabled off of North Head Lighthouse around 11 a.m. He stated he believed a crab pot had fouled the propeller.

The crews arrived on scene, took the vessel in tow and returned to the station in Ilwaco. During the routine search and rescue boarding multiple safe-

ty violations were discovered. When the crew came across firearms and small quantities of methamphetamine, local law enforcement and Coast Guard Investigative Service personnel were called in for assistance.

A combined agency search of the vessel was conducted around 7:30 p.m., including the use of a Wahkiakum County Sheriff canine unit, with nothing additional found. The mariner was then arrested and taken in by Pacific County Sheriff's personnel on drug and weapons charges.

"The Coast Guard values our partnerships with our local law enforcement agencies including the sharing of resources and expertise to perform our missions and serve the people of the Pacific Northwest," said Petty Officer 1st Class John Bennett, the search and rescue controller at Sector Columbia River. "These joint efforts provide a level of effectiveness and mission flexibility in responding to dynamic and unique situations often faced by our crews."

## Planning grant secured by Hispanic council

The Lower Columbia Hispanic Council has been awarded a planning grant of \$30,000 through the Northwest Health Foundation's Healthy Beginnings + Healthy Communities initiative. As one of 25 communities selected throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington, the LCHC will work with its

partners, the Astoria and Seaside school districts, Sunset Empire Parks and Recreation, Astoria Parks and Recreation and the Northwest Regional Education Service District Migrant Education Group, to develop a long-term plan to improve health and education outcomes for Latino youth from birth through college.

## Ceremony for new ferry set

CATHLAMET, Wash. — The arrival of the Oscar B, the \$5.7 million ferry replacing the Ferry Wahkiakum on the Columbia River, will be celebrated with a commencement ceremony next month.

Wahkiakum County will host the celebration of the Oscar B, named after former skipper and owner Oscar Bergseng, at 1 p.m. March 14 at the Wahkiakum Ferry Terminal, 785 SR 409, Cathlamet, Wash.

The Oscar B, is scheduled to arrive Feb. 27, from Whidbey Island, where it has been constructed by Nichols Brothers Boat Builders of Freeland, Wash.

The boat builders plan to send the ferry down by sea, not land. In preparation of the new ferry's

arrival, Legacy Contracting Inc. of Salem is upgrading the ferry landings in Westport and Puget Island.

The Oscar B will carry 23 passenger cars, nearly double the size of the Wahkiakum, which was in service since 1962 operating 365 days per year.

New features will include hydraulic steering, a captain's chair, updated electronics, ADA-accessible restrooms and overall U.S. Coast Guard approval.

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## Sign up for Medicare information class

A Get a Grasp on Medicare class is being held from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Feb. 24 in the Columbia Memorial Hospital Education Center, 2021 Marine Drive. Preregistration is required.

There are no sales presentations, and no special offers, just free nonbiased Medicare information, including: a summary of Part A and Part B benefits; Medicare choices; 2015 Medicare Updates and the Affordable Care Act; Part D benefits,

and how to enroll; avoiding health care fraud; and other helpful resources.

Plus, guest speaker Melissa Johnstone from Northwest Senior and Disability Services will discuss public programs available for seniors, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/Food Stamps) and Medicaid long-term care benefits.

For information, and to register, call NWSDS at 503-861-4200.

The family of **EILEEN WIRKKUNEN THOMPSON**

would like to express our gratitude for all the cards, donations to Suomi Hall, phone calls, flowers, food and outpouring of love at this difficult time. We would especially like to thank everyone who came to Eileen's "Celebration of Life" and shared in honoring her life. Eileen lived life to the fullest and with SISU! She is a treasured mother, grandmother and aunt.

— Lynn, Leslie, Charlotte, Austin, Nancy & Daydre —

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**ASSISTANCE LEAGUE® OF THE COLUMBIA PACIFIC**

is happy to announce that their 3rd annual "Accessorize with Assistance League®" sale held on Super Bowl Sunday is over (whew!) and it was truly the place to be. Now it's time to thank all those businesses and individuals for all the donations, financial support and other help given to ALCP to make this event our most successful sale yet.

*Thank You!*

**Holiday Inn Express of Astoria** – for use of their banquet room and help in preparing for the sale, Toni Mitchum of Toni's Boutique, Saara Mathews of Finn Ware, Peter Roscoe of Folio's, Vintage Hardware, BPOE for use of their kitchen and numerous ALCP members for Raffle items and all the time donated in preparation for this fundraising event.

The proceeds generated from this sales event will go directly to Operation School Bell®, ALCP's signature program. Our ongoing commitment is to provide much needed clothing for our school children in Clatsop County.

**Raffle prizes donated and their winners are listed:**

- 1) Spa Package – Becky Wright of Malama Day Spa – Pedicure Gift Certificate & Ter Hars for cozy lounge top – Winner: Judi McElroy
- 2) Beauty Bliss – Gift Certificate from Classic Cuts – Winner: Beth Kandoll
- 3) Savvy Shopper – Hobo Bag and Italian Leather Pouch from Ellington Handbags Retail Store of Portland – Winner: Marilyn Gillbaugh
- 4) Let It Bloom – Living Wreath by Martin Gardening – Winner: Launi Roger
- 5) Abundant Pleasures – Garden Basket from Fairweather House and Garden – Winner: Sandra Bruce
- 6) A Night Out – Ann Taylor Sweater, purse and wine donated by ALCP members – Winner: Holly Dornfeld
- 7) Be Active – 1 Month Family Pass from Empire Sunset Park & Rec – Winner: Natalie Duffy
- 8) Eat, Drink & Be Merry – Gift basket of wine, cocktail glasses and mixer, Williams & Sonoma cookbook and other delectables donated by ALCP members – Winner: Cindy Leibel

**THANK YOU EVERYONE!**

Assistance League of the Columbia Pacific is a nonprofit organization whose volunteers raise funds to assist children in our community.  
For more information contact: Mary Davies at 503-738-0313

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