



Photos by Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Trixie Bigby, an English development specialist at Lewis and Clark Elementary School, works with fifth-graders during a class Thursday.

Crab on!

Commercial crab fishing opens Jan. 4 on North Coast

The Daily Astorian

Fresh Dungeness crab is back on the catch menu after fishery managers determined the fishery is ready to open Jan. 4 along the entire Oregon coast and Washington north to Destruction Island, as well as Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay.

Fishery managers from Washington to California approved the opening Monday after a monthlong delay.

“Along with the state agencies, the Oregon commercial Dungeness crab industry has taken a very proactive and precautionary approach to the opening of this crab season in the interest of public safety,” says Caren Braby, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife marine resources program manager.

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Students learn English by staying put

Astoria teachers link language, content to keep English learners with their peers

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Fifth-grader Veronica Valadez noticed something different, while she was sitting among a group of peers at Lewis and Clark Elementary School and working on her essay about Icelandic explorer Leif Eriksson.

“It seems like this year, we work more in groups,” she said Thursday. “It feels like we’re working faster.”

Valadez’s intuition is the hope of elementary educators in Astoria School District, which formed the Co-teaching for Academic and Language Mastery coalition this year and embarked on a new “push-in” model of education.

Instead of designated English Language Learner students being pulled out their classroom for special instruction like in previous years, language supports are pushed into their homeroom.

“I think one of the biggest reasons the pullout (model) was ineffective is that what they were learning from me, I couldn’t tell if it was linking with what they were learning in their classrooms,” said Trixie Bigby, an English language development specialist at Lewis and Clark. “I think that they weren’t able to take what they learned in here back into their classroom.”

Bigby now visits each of the four classrooms with Lewis and Clark’s 34 designated English learners, providing teachers support as they incorporate Guided Language Acquisition Design, an educational model used widely along the West Coast incorporating language supports into existing curriculum. Another five classrooms have been designated to serve John Jacob Astor Elementary School’s 42 designated English learners.

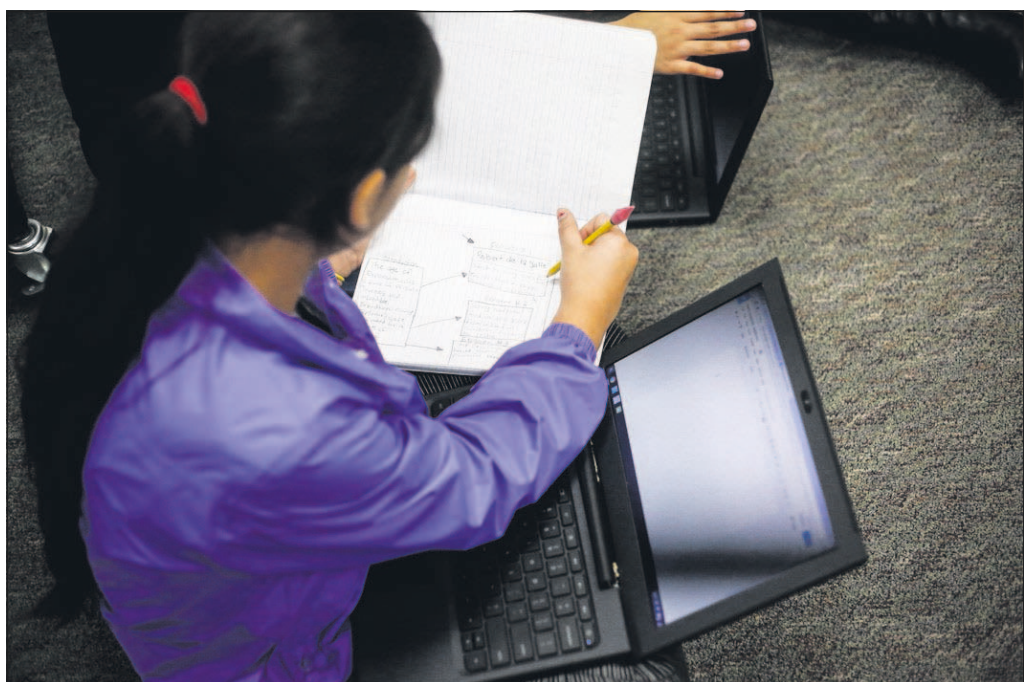
Teamwork

Thursday morning, several teams of fifth-graders were spread around work tables in Megan Jacobi’s classroom. The walls and windows of their classroom were festooned with posters created by parent volunteers, depicting key vocabulary for the early explorers unit and sentence structures to provide students an immediate reference. Students wrote their essays separately on Google Chromebooks at the work

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Oscar Jimenez works on an introduction for his essay about Leif Eriksson during class.



Kim Llamas works on an essay about Leif Eriksson.



Astoria Bridge turns 50

Pageantry, exhibits, planned for bridge bash

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

McAndrew Burns, the executive director of the Clatsop County Historical Society, has a clever idea to mark the 50th anniversary of the Astoria Bridge next summer.

He wants to recreate a ribbon-cutting dedication held on Aug. 27, 1966, that drew Oregon Gov. Mark O. Hatfield, Washington Gov. Daniel Evans, Miss Oregon and Miss Washington, a delegation from Astoria’s sister city of Walldorf, Germany, the Astoria Clowns, and throngs of more than 30,000.

So far, the Germans are coming. “It might seem strange to get excited by the anniversary of a bridge,” Burns told the Astoria City Council Monday night. “But like so many things we enjoy and appreciate about our town, we sometimes forget how

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Polluted nuclear weapons site to be tourist spot

By NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS
Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — The nation’s most polluted nuclear weapons production site is now its newest national park.

Thousands of people are expected next year to tour the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, home of the world’s first full-sized nuclear reactor, near Richland, about 200 miles east of Seattle in south-central Washington.

They won’t be allowed anywhere near the nation’s largest collection of toxic radioactive waste.

“Everything is clean and perfectly safe,” said Colleen French, the U.S. Department of Energy’s program manager for the Hanford park. “Any radioactive materials are miles away.”

The Manhattan Project National Historic Park, signed into existence in November, also includes sites at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and Los Alamos, New Mexico. The Manhattan Project is the name for the U.S. effort to build an atomic bomb during World War II.

At Hanford, the main attractions will be B Reactor — the world’s first full-sized reactor — along with the ghost

towns of Hanford and White Bluffs, which were evacuated by the government to make room for the Manhattan Project.

The B Reactor was built in about one year and produced plutonium for the Trinity test blast in New Mexico and for the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, that led to the surrender of the Japanese.

Starting in 1943, more than 50,000 people from across the United States arrived at the top-secret Hanford site to perform work whose purpose few knew, French said.

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U.S. Department of Energy/AP

The ruins of the old Hanford High School are shown near Richland, Wash. The towns of Hanford and White Bluffs were evacuated to make room for the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, which made the plutonium for the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, and the ruins of the high school and other buildings are now part of the nation’s newest national park, called the Manhattan Project National Historic Park.

