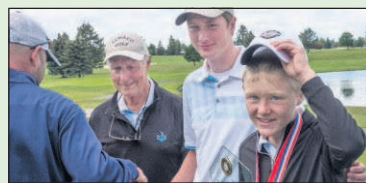


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LIBRARIAN FOR LIFE

Astoria library director retires
after a life in the stacks



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

TOP: Jane Tucker, library director at the Astoria Public Library, will retire after 17 years with the library. **ABOVE:** Patty Skinner, senior library assistant, embraces Jane Tucker, library director, during her retirement party Thursday evening at Astoria Public Library.

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

Jane Tucker, who is retiring this month after 17 years as Astoria Public Library director, isn't just leaving a job: "I'm leaving 49 years as a librarian," she said. "I won't lie — it's been deeply emotional."

Except for a brief spell in the business field, Tucker has devoted her life to libraries and literacy — to making new readers.

"I'm passionate about libraries," she said. "I found a love of them very early in my life."

Under her management, the library launched reading programs for toddlers, preschoolers and older children; a summer read-

ing program that grew from about a dozen children participating to about 400 in recent years; and Libraries ROCC (Rural Outreach to Clatsop County), which extends library services to out-of-town children without access to a tax-supported library.

At a retirement party for Tucker Thursday evening at the library, State Librarian MaryKay Dahlgreen said Libraries ROCC is "a model, an absolute model" of great librarian work.

For lifelong learners, the library has been hosting adult-oriented events, such as Oregon Humanities Conversation Project lectures, where experts and scholars discuss salient topics — from death and dying to government surveillance — with the community.

Anne Odom, a senior library assistant, will serve as interim manager while the city hires Tucker's successor.

"Jane has made an incredible difference, not just in Astoria, but in Clatsop County and in libraries around Oregon," said Dahlgreen, who was on the committee that hired Tucker.

'Turning it around'

Mayor Arline LaMear, a former school librarian who later became librarian of the Columbia Memorial Maritime Museum, said the Astoria Public Library was a "scary place to come" before Tucker arrived.

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**'I'm leaving 49 years as a librarian.
I won't lie — it's been deeply emotional.'**

Jane Tucker

retiring library director at the Astoria Public Library

Water district decides to ditch the dam

Warrenton could lose emergency access over river

By DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The Skipanon Water Control District voted Thursday to move ahead with the removal of the Eighth Street Dam after again finding that the structure does not help with flood control and poses too great a risk.

The water district's board agreed to partner with the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce to remove the dam and improve water quality and fish habitat on the Skipanon River. The project will not include an emergency access bridge sought by the city after a divided City Commission declined to renew an agreement with the water district and the task force.

"It appears after (Tuesday) night that they are not interested in a bridge," Tessa Scheller, the chairwoman of the water district's board, said at a meeting at the Pacific Grange.

See DAM, Page 9A

Come for the food, comedy, music, hikes

Cannon Beach weighs tourism grant proposals

By LYRA FONTAINE
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — The Cannon Beach Tourism and Arts Commission heard pitches this week for three new events: a night market, comedy festival and a "CoastWalk."

Candidates hoping for a share of the tourism and arts fund of about \$286,000 approached the commission seeking grants to draw visitors for extended stays. Nine applicants requested more than \$400,000, which may be used for personnel, special events, signage, attractions, promotional materials and advertising.

See PROPOSALS, Page 9A

Seventh-graders' inquisitive nature inspires teacher

Every Wednesday and Friday for the next couple of weeks, *The Daily Astorian* features an area teacher as we head toward graduation and summer break.

Annie Forman
Broadway Middle School,
life science and language arts,
seventh and eighth grades

Why did you become a teacher, and what was your biggest surprise?

While completing my undergraduate degrees at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, I spent my summers as a camp counselor in Case Inlet in the Puget Sound. This is where I began

to truly enjoy the creativity and inspiration that young people can produce when they are given the opportunity to work and learn together. This, as well as work facilitating research activities for student groups at a biological preserve in Costa Rica, solidified my decision to become an educator.

My biggest surprise came when I began teaching seventh-grade life science at Broadway. Throughout my preparation to become a teacher, I always assumed that I would only want to work with high school students. However, after watching seventh-graders grow mold on bread and extract DNA from a strawberry, I have realized that there is something truly



Teachers Talk About Teaching

remarkable about the inquisitive nature of a middle school student. They show their emotions on their sleeves; they let you know when something is awesome — and they don't hold back when they feel otherwise.

What part of the job do you enjoy the most?

I get the most satisfaction when I can watch my students operate autonomously in my classroom. I love it when we get to that point in the year that they know where to find materials

and do what they need to start the period.

What is the most challenging part of your job?

Maintaining a connection with all 108 seventh-graders (not to mention 40-plus eighth-graders later in the day) is definitely the most challenging part of the job. I try and get to know each student personally, to understand at least one thing that makes them unique. Although this is definitely the most challenging part of being a teacher, it



Annie Forman

is likewise the most crucial ... and in the end, most validating. A classroom should not be an arena with myself as the center of attention, but a community in which participants feel that they have a role and a purpose.

— Edward Stratton

