

Local author guilty of luring former student

Love sentenced to 30 days in jail

By **DERRICK DePLEDGE**
The Daily Astorian

Matt Love, an author and longtime high-school teacher, has pleaded guilty to luring an underage former student for sex.

Love met the girl when she was 15 and acted as a father figure and mentor who encouraged her writing. The relationship took an abrupt turn in May after Love drove the girl — then 17 — back to her home after an event. In Facebook messages afterward, Love confessed that he had sex with former students in the past but thought this pursuit was different, professed his love, and made clear he wanted to have sex with her.

Dawn Buzzard, the prosecutor, called the messages “a perfect piece of grooming.”

The victim, now 18, told the Circuit Court by phone Friday that she had heard rumors about Love and other students but never suspected he would



Matt Love

do anything sexual or creepy to her. “So I don’t want him ever to be around students ever again,” she said. “Even though he’s a wonderful teacher,” she said, “it’s not OK.”

Love, 52, faced charges of felony luring and misdemeanor official misconduct. He pleaded guilty to misdemeanor luring. The official misconduct charge was dismissed.

Judge Dawn McIntosh sentenced Love to 30 days in jail — with a minimum of 10 days in custody — and two years probation. He also has to register as a sex offender for 10 years and pay \$5,000 in restitution.

Love, who resigned as a

teacher at Astoria High School after his arrest last summer, has to forfeit his teaching credential. The victim is not a former Astoria student.

Jack Green, a Vancouver, Washington, attorney who was a student of Love’s and represented him in court, had urged the judge not to designate the luring as a sex crime. Green argued that there was no physical contact between Love and the girl and that Love’s Facebook messages occurred shortly before the girl turned 18.

McIntosh said Love’s behavior was not a single lapse in judgment. The judge said Love tried to take advantage of a vulnerable young woman who looked up to him.

Love has much to offer the community, McIntosh said, and could go back to writing. “But you will never teach again,” the judge said. “You gave up the right to do that.”

In a statement to the court, Love apologized to the victim for his inexcusable actions. “I can only imagine the extreme duress my behavior has caused her,” he said. “What started out several years ago as a men-

tor-mentee relationship went wrong on my part because of my clouded judgment. I accept full responsibility for crossing the line and I am ashamed. I only hope she can forgive me and get on with her life and accomplish the great things I know she’s capable of. The only thing I want to make clear — it’s not her fault.”

Love, the author of more than a dozen books about Oregon and a frequent contributor to The Daily Astorian, also apologized to his family and friends.

“The narcissism that affected my character over the last decade or so has been obliterated,” Love said. “That person is gone forever.”

Several former colleagues, students and friends wrote letters to the court on Love’s behalf emphasizing his value as a teacher and writer. McIntosh said some of the letters characterized the prosecution as a “witch hunt” and the charges as false, and the judge asked Love, who had described the experience as a “crucible,” whether he viewed it as a witch hunt.

“No, I don’t,” Love said.



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Police blocked Whispering Pines Drive at times during the standoff.

Seaside standoff ends peacefully

Man surrenders after calling dispatchers

By **JACK HEFFERNAN**
The Daily Astorian

SEASIDE — A nearly 64-hour standoff between police and an armed man in Seaside ended peacefully.

Shortly after 8 a.m. Saturday morning, the man, who placed a call to Seaside Dispatch saying he was scared and wished to step outside, emerged from the home on Whispering Pines Drive and surrendered.

Brian Wallin, 49, was arrested for reckless endangerment, disorderly conduct, aggravated animal abuse and possession of a weapon with

intent to use, according to authorities.

“The use of de-escalation techniques may extend the length of an incident, but they are always intended to reduce confrontations with people in crisis,” Seaside Police Chief Dave Ham said in a press release. “Fortunately, for all parties involved, this ended in the best way possible — peacefully and without incident.”

The standoff began Wednesday afternoon with gunshots reported at the home. Shortly after police responded to the scene, the man’s mother came outside uninjured.

Police had been keeping watch since then and assured residents that the only danger was to the man inside the home.

Pro-immigration marchers rally against Trump

Rally and march against the president-elect

By **PARIS ACHEN**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — About 1,000 demonstrators marched around the Oregon Capitol Saturday protesting President-elect Donald Trump’s positions on immigration.

The more than 90-minute rally and march on a frigid day in the capital city drew Oregonians from as far as Medford. Turnout exceeded by a few hundred the number of RSVPs listed on the event’s Facebook page.

Speakers, who included several lawmakers, blasted what they called Trump’s agenda of “xenophobia and hate.”

“In Oregon, we recognize the vast contribution made by undocumented immigrants,” said state Rep. Teresa Alonso Leon, D-Woodburn, who in November became the first Latina immigrant elected to the Oregon House. “We stand with you united against the hateful rhetoric of Donald Trump.”

The rally was one of 50 “National Day of Action Events Against Trump Policies,” according to the One Oregon coalition, which organized the rally in Salem.

Trump has said that he will seek to deport millions of undocumented immigrants, end executive orders by President Barack Obama that shield certain illegal immigrants from deportation, and start a Muslim registry.

The coalition is “deeply concerned about the impact

this will have on immigrant and refugee communities, who are integral to Oregon’s economy and future,” said Diane Goodwin, a spokeswoman for Basic Rights Oregon, a member of One Oregon.

Demonstrators held signs that read “Immigration began in 1620” and “We resist Trump’s hate.” Marchers chanted slogans in both English and Spanish, which included “This is what community looks like.”

U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden and U.S. Rep. Kurt Schrader joined in the rally. Also making an appearance were state legislators Sen. Michael Dembrow, D-Portland; Rep. Diego Hernandez, D-Portland; Rep. Alyssa Keny-Guyer, D-Portland; Rep. Rob Nosse, D-Portland; Rep. Karin Power, D-Milwaukie; and Rep. Janeen Sollman, D-Hillsboro.

Wyden declared to immigrants that as long as he is in office, “Your fight will be my fight.”

Unsure about the future

Hernandez, whose family immigrated to the United States from Mexico, said the lawmakers would make sure Oregon “stands against xenophobia and hate.”

One of Obama’s executive orders, known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, protects from deportation undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children. Young people who are eligible must apply for the program every two years, receive a work permit and may attend college.

DACA has allowed about 700,000 young people nationally and 15,000 in Oregon to get driver’s licenses, work



Paris Achen/Capital Bureau

Demonstrators march around the Oregon Capitol Saturday in opposition to President-elect Donald Trump’s positions on immigration.

permits and to attend secondary education institutions, said Andrea Williams, executive director of Causa, a member of the One Oregon coalition.

Zaira Flores of Salem is one of the young people who has benefited from DACA.

Her mother immigrated to the United States when she was 6 and her brother was 3. Flores, who graduated from Portland State University, now works for the state.

Since Trump’s election, “I’m feeling very unsure about my future,” Flores said. “If I didn’t have DACA, I wouldn’t have a driver’s license, I would lose my job, I would lose the roof over my head, all the basic human needs. It’s really scary.”

The One Oregon coalition of 60 organizations opposes anti-immigrant policies. Immigrant rights organizations Causa, APANO and Unite Oregon lead the group.

The coalition plans to support state legislation aimed at reducing racial profiling during police stops, expanding Medicaid to more children and

increasing affordable housing funding.

Trump ‘nailed it’

There were no counter protests to the event. Oregonians For Immigration Reform, which frequently clashes with Causa on policy proposals, had scheduled a meeting for later in the day to discuss the impact of Trump’s election and state legislation.

Trump’s immigration proposals have begun to address many of the frustrations some Americans have had with immigration policy and practices, said Cynthia Kendall, the group’s president.

“I think the Trump administration has nailed it when he said we need to reassess what we are doing and why and how is it benefiting the United States,” Kendall said.

She said she supports Trump’s plan to end the DACA program. “Those parents made the choice for their children to pick them up and bring them to this country,” Kendall said. “I didn’t make that choice for them.”

The reform group attempted to advance ballot initiatives last year that would have made English the official language of Oregon, required businesses to use a federal program to verify citizenship of employees and required proof of citizenship to vote. The initiatives ultimately were tied up in court after immigrant rights organizations and the American Civil Liberties Union challenged the ballot titles.

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

Armory basement closes for lead cleaning

Skate Park shut down

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

The Friends of the Astoria Armory have shut down the building’s basement after testers found lead residue in several locations exceeding federal health thresholds.

A release from the Friends said testers found traces of lead above the thresholds of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, with the highest concentrations in the vicinity of a former firing range in a corner of the Armory’s basement.

“As a result, the Armory basement has been closed to all guest activity until mitigation has been performed by a licensed contractor,” the release said. “This includes the basement (Armory) Skate Park, which tested below HUD thresholds. The recommended mitigation is cleaning using a wet wipe method, followed by painting of affected surfaces.”

The group said samples taken from the main floor of the Armory, where most events are held, came back below detectable levels and safe for public use. Unlike some other buildings where lead dust was more pervasive, the Armory does not have a forced-air system circulating between the basement and main floor.

Mike Davies, president of the Friends, said the basement will reopen after cleanup, which the group hopes to finish within 30 days.

Davies said the Friends will also hold off on a \$500,000 building and improvement loan with Craft3 until after cleanup. The Friends and lender Craft3 held off closing on the loan last month after The Oregonian released a story on lead contamination in armories, and after finding two abandoned oil tanks on the property.

The Friends will use the loan to modernize the Armory, which used to hold events with several thousand people but currently has an occupancy of 750.

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THE DAILY ASTORIAN'S CUTEST BABY CONTEST is Back!

If your baby was born between **January 1st & December 31st, 2016**, you can submit your newborn’s picture either via email at:

CLASSIFIEDS@DAILYASTORIAN.COM
or drop by one of our offices in Astoria or Seaside and we can scan in the photo for you.

Deadline to enter is **Wednesday, January 25th at 5pm**
Entries will be printed in The Daily Astorian on January 31st.

*Human babies only please!

