

## Marco Meza

Astoria

Jan. 12, 1958 — Nov. 3, 2017

Marco Meza died at his home Friday evening, Nov. 3, surrounded by his wife and dearest friend. He was born Jan. 12, 1958 to Ricardo and Rosa.

He moved up to the Northwest in 1977, met his wife, Linda, in 1980, and they married in 1984. They were both baptized as Jehovah's Witnesses in 1988, and have served faithfully together since.

In the early 1980s, they had a successful landscape business together, and worked hard for many lovely families in the community. In 1992, Marco became a water meter reader for the cities of Astoria, Warrenton, Gearhart, Seaside, Vernonia, Rockaway, Clatskanie and others. He was in that line of work up until his diagnosis of lymphoma in February 2013. After his first treatment, he went back to work as a landscape gardener, and continued happily there until January 2017.

Many knew him as "the guy on the scooter," but for those who knew him personally knew him as not only a man with integrity and loyalty, but one of the kindest persons. He was always a gentleman, and

always willing to help one out in a quiet and unassuming way. Marco was loved by all and will be missed so greatly by many.



Marco Meza

His unfading hope of the Bible's promises kept him going through the worst of this disease, and kept a smile on his beautiful face. He truly was a beautiful man in and out, and we look forward to the day of seeing him once again on a paradise earth.

He was preceded in death by his loving parents, and a sister, Esther. Surviving family members, besides his wife, Linda, include sisters Elsa, Rosario and Sandra; a brother, Ricardo; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be Nov. 19, 2017, at The Loft at the Red Building, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Donations in Marco's name may be made by credit card at [www.jw.org](http://www.jw.org) or by check to Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York Inc., 900 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY 12589-3223.

In the meantime, sleep sweet, dear Sparky, until we meet again.



Clatsop Community College

Clatsop Community College nursing student Irena Goldenov learns how to insert a needle in a patient's arm from instructor Tina Kotson.

## Hospital donation aids college nursing program

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

Columbia Memorial Hospital has gifted \$50,000 to Clatsop Community College Foundation to aid the nursing program, a regular supply of staff at local hospitals.

Allison Sansom, director of nursing and allied health at the college, said nursing programs are expensive because of requirements by the State Board of Nursing, such as a ratio of 1 instructor for every 8 students in the clinical setting.

"We receive some contributions from some of our clinical partners that go to support the nursing program and to offset some of those costs we have to run a nursing program, yet keep tuition and fees low for the students," Sansom said.

Columbia Memorial and Providence Seaside hospitals, along with a private nonprofit, combined in 2012 to donate \$100,000 when the college was facing severe budget cuts.

Along with donations, local hospitals provide a training ground for students, each of whom spend 900 hours working alongside mentor nurses.

Over the last three years, 19 of the graduates have been hired by Columbia Memo-

rial, along with 11 at Tillamook Regional Medical Center and four at Providence Seaside. Other graduates have been hired by other regional hospitals, health departments, school districts, Tongue Point Job Corps Center, addiction and mental health treatment facilities and private practices.

Erik Thorsen, the hospital's CEO, said having a local nursing program helps the hospital avoid the staffing shortages that other facilities have faced.

"It helps us with our workforce needs, and it's great to see the quality that the college produces," Thorsen said. "We continue to hire local, to try

to keep them employed here locally."

Flanking executives from the college and hospital during a check-transfer Wednesday were nursing students Heidi Thompson, Miranda Dietrichs, Madilyn Davis and Sarrah Lindgren. All are local. Most plan to work at local hospitals.

Each had to earn 45 credits of prerequisites and apply to get into the highly competitive program, a full-time endeavor.

"It's like a 40-hour-a-week job, on top of actually trying to make money and stuff, and then studying at the same time," Davis said of the program.

## Daughter like father at Trina and Ron's

By EDWARD STRATTON

The Daily Astorian

A decade ago, Katrina Hunt said, her father Rodney Mullins noticed a bar on Skipanon Drive in Warrenton was available for lease. He opened Rod's Bar & Grill, where she has worked ever since.

When she noticed the building was up for sale by the previous owners, Hunt decided to continue in the family tradition — buying the building, taking over her father's business with her husband, Ronald, and reopening as Trina & Ron's Place.

"We're kind of a restaurant with a bar in the middle of it," Hunt said of the local watering hole, serving large portions of Americana fare and open to minors until 9 p.m.

Hunt isn't making any wholesale changes, but is



Edward Stratton/The Daily Astorian

Katrina and Ron Hunt recently took over the former Rod's Bar & Grill in Warrenton, reopening as Trina & Ron's Place.

updating the building and cooking more of the menu from scratch, she said.

She still seeks advice from her father, who operates Rod's Lamplighter Restaurant in Seaview, Washington, but she mostly runs things at Trina & Ron's.

Her husband works down the road as a kiln operator at

Hampton Lumber Mills.

"It's pretty much the same," she said of owning rather than managing the business. "I get to make the decisions without a lot of asking. I get to make all the decisions, so there's not anybody to fall back on. I don't get to blame anybody else."

## Coast Guard cutter Alert returns after drug patrol

The Daily Astorian

The Coast Guard cutter Alert returned to Astoria Monday after a 73-day countermuggling deployment in the Pacific Ocean.

The Alert's crew patrolled 13,740 miles and used a helicopter and two pursuit boats to interdict seven go-fast-style boats suspected of smuggling. The crew seized approximately 9,228 pounds of cocaine and 55 pounds of heroin, a record high for the Alert, along with 23 suspected smugglers.

"We operated at the maximum limit of our capability, and the results speak for themselves," Cmdr. Tobias Reid, commanding officer of Alert, said in a news release.

"An incredible pace of operations was sustained by the best crew that I have worked with in my career," he added. "I am very proud of the crew and the impact they have made in the struggle to dismantle the violent organized crime organizations that bring illegal drugs and crime to our streets every day."

Alert's patrol was capped by a three-day training and assessment in Long Beach, Calif. The crew was trained and evaluated in their ability



Coast Guard

Crew from Coast Guard cutter Alert board a panga fishing boat suspected of smuggling drugs in the Pacific Ocean last month.

to properly and safely conduct helicopter operations with a Coast Guard HH-65 helicopter crew from Forward Operating Base Point Mugu in California.

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