



WINTER **INSIDE**
ADVENTURES

Astorian

147TH YEAR, NO. 89

DailyAstorian.com // THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2020

\$1.50

GROCERY OUTLET

Astoria hears group's appeal

City Council could decide next month

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

The Grocery Outlet appeal came before the Astoria City Council on Tuesday, with the developer asking for collaboration to ensure an agreeable project and city staff admonishing councilors to avoid outside contacts that could undercut their decision.

Main & Main Capital Group has been trying since last year to get city permission to build a 16,000-square-foot grocery store on a triangular lot where Exchange Street runs into Marine Drive. The store would be located just north of the Astoria Mini Mart and across 23rd Street from the new location of the Astoria Co+op.

The Design Review Commission denied the proposal over several issues, including safety concerns for pedestrians crossing a driveway entrance to the store on Marine Drive. After being denied, Main & Main sought a fresh hearing from the City Council.

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Astoria OKs rules over downtown development

City Council finishes Urban Core standards

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Astorian

The Astoria City Council on Tuesday unanimously approved new building rules in the Urban Core section of the Riverfront Vision Plan guiding development along the Columbia River.

The Urban Core, a swath of downtown and waterfront properties between Second and 16th streets, is the last of four sections of the Riverfront Vision Plan. City councilors have approved new development rules for Bridge Vista in Uniontown, the Civic Greenway east of downtown and the Neighborhood Greenway in Alderbrook.

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Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Astoria High School students Annalyse Steele, left, and Allyson Pritchard review their upcoming precalculus exam with classmates in Jessica Todd's class.

New approach to math hits stride

Tests as a learning tool

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

Many of the Astoria High School students in Philip Ero's calculus class had struggled to answer one of the questions on a recent test.

The formulas they deployed had only complicated the question and the answer, Ero told them.

"The solution is very elegant," he promised with the air of someone eagerly waiting for you to open a gift he knows you will love.

Ero handed out blank copies of the test they had already taken. The students broke into groups of three or four. They took turns flipping through the test pages, scribbling out equations and talking about how they reached their answers.

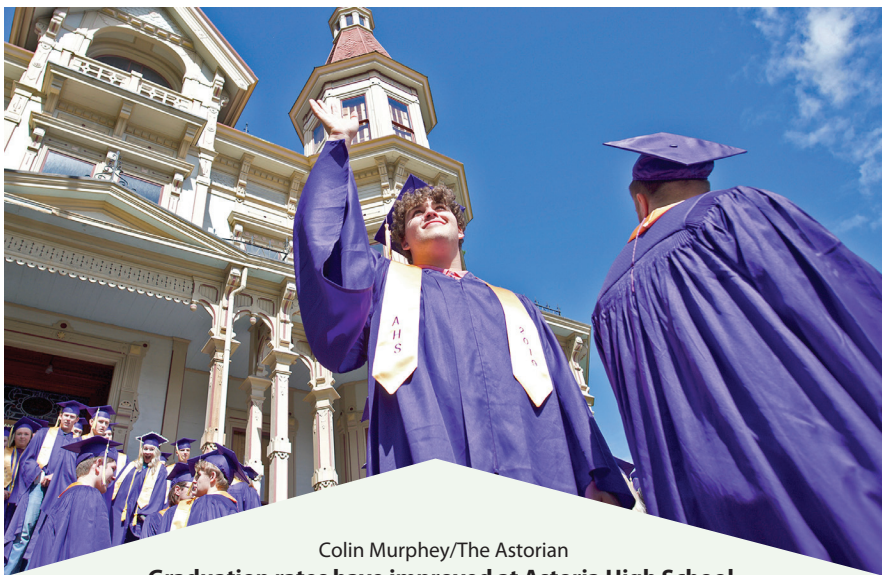
Midway through class, as students solved that one tricky problem with Ero's help, there were actual exclamations of delight — and also frustration that they hadn't seen the solution at the time.

Astoria High School is entering its fourth year of using a curriculum and teaching method that flips traditional math instruction and student assessment on their heads, and the new approach is working, administrators and teachers say.

Before switching to the College Preparatory Mathematics curriculum in 2016, too many students were struggling in math, said Liane Donovan, the vice principal.

The Common Core standards for math and English language arts adopted in Oregon a decade ago require students to get further in their understanding of math than they ever had before, she said.

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Colin Murphey/The Astorian

Graduation rates have improved at Astoria High School.

Grad rates continue to go up in county

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

Graduation rates across much of Clatsop County continue to climb.

On-time-graduation — defined by the state as taking four years — has continued to go up across Oregon, according to state figures. The statewide graduation rate for the class of 2018-19 was at 80%, ahead of last year's rate but still below the national high school graduation rate of 85% recorded in the 2016-17 school year.

Astoria High School jumped to 85.8%, up from what had been its highest graduation rate in over a

decade recorded in the prior school year.

The numbers follow a trend that has held steady for several years now in Astoria.

"That's a big jump that we're very pleased to see," said Lynn Jackson, the principal.

He and Superintendent Craig Hoppes credit a dedicated staff with the rising graduation rate. They also pointed to other measures the high school and school district have taken over the years, such as hiring graduation coaches, increasing and creating programs to engage a wide

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Marlantes novel inspired by family history

Author spoke at Columbia Forum

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

Karl Marlantes, a bestselling author who grew up in Seaside, was inspired by his family history when writing his latest novel, "Deep River."

Marlantes grew up in a multilingual household hearing Finnish, Greek, English, Norwegian and Swedish. He said the cultural, religious and political differences created a sense of "cultural schizophrenia," which in many ways inspired the central themes of the novel.

'IT'S ALMOST ALLEGORICAL IN WHAT WE FACE IN OUR COUNTRY TODAY. WE HAVE THE INDIVIDUAL AND WE HAVE THE COLLECTIVE.'

Karl Marlantes | author

He discussed his family's history, their background in the forestry and fishing industries and his reasons for writing the novel to nearly 200 people during a Columbia Forum talk Tuesday night at the Liberty Theatre in Astoria.

The novel is about three Finnish siblings who fled to the United States in the early 1900s and settled in a logging community in south-

west Washington state. Each of the siblings grow to express and represent different perspectives — one is deeply religious, the other is an entrepreneur and fearless logger and their sister, Aino, is an idealistic communist.

Aino, the heroine and principal character in the novel, begins her story arc as a fanatical communist who was a leader in the effort



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Bestselling author Karl Marlantes discussed his latest novel, 'Deep River,' at Columbia Forum at the Liberty Theatre on Tuesday night.

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