



# Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education News and Views

*The only accurate charge I ever had made against me was the time I got arrested [at a mine strike] in 1934. They said I was "getting information and going back and teaching it." That's exactly what I was doing.- Myles Horton, Highlander School of Adult Education*



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The beaucoup news issue

Sept. 25, 2006

## **Job Posting:**

We are building a pool of teachers who are interested in teaching short-term assignments as a part of our contract ed program. ESL, VESL, basic skills and more. Talk to Cynthia if you are interested.

## **Adult Education ends second year in a row in deficit spending.**

In spite of record levels of attendance last year, the school ended a second year in a row in deficit. We have built a reserve to covers these deficits, but complicating our financial situation is our commitment to pay for the reconstruction of the new building on Rodriguez St. The next school council meeting will feature a more detailed review of these disappointing numbers. As we've said before, the thing we can do most to help is increase attendance in each class.... program wide we are averaging about 18 students per teacher, which now these numbers confirm is not enough to support our operations as they currently run. High schools, which also receive much more money per student hour, average over 30 students per teacher.

## **Edie Trotno, New ESL Chair**

Congratulations to Edie Trotno who has accepted the challenge of being the chair of the department that is 60% of our school's program. She will lead an ESL team of advisers, coaches, and over 30 teachers. She began teaching for our school over 25 years ago, has taught in Asia, and is very experienced in language acquisition instruction and curriculum. We are lucky she is assuming this critical role in our school. Thanks Edie!

**ESL Professional Development Released Time (PDRT) –  
Porter Tuesday, September 26 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
PDRT – Porter Thursday, September 28 8:30 – 9:30 p.m.**

## **Immigration Raids in Central Coast Cause Concerns for Students**

The recent early morning raids by immigration agents in local homes have caused some confusion and concern among some of our students. As an adult education program in a community like Watsonville, we have a unique opportunity to answer questions and provide important information to our students. Sometimes there are rumors about raids that create a hostile environment for some of our students. Let's be sensitive about these rumors and try to get good information. The Santa Cruz Resource Center for Non-violence has a "Migra Watch" hotline where community residents can get information about raids or rumors: 331-1119. We also have been fortunate to have Doug Keegan of the Santa Cruz Immigration Project to come to speak to us this week:

*Tuesday, September 26, 9:00 a.m. – Porter, Room 6 – contact persons: Teresita and Lucila*

*Tuesday, September 26, 7:30 p.m. – Green Valley, Board Room – contact person: José Humberto (Board Room will have been set up for a CSEA meeting ending at 7:00, and we will have to use the chairs already there)*

*Wednesday, September 27, 9:15 or 9:30 (time to be confirmed) – Green Valley, Room 6, contact person: AV*

## *School Council Minutes - September 13 - Submitted by A.V. Coyle*

**School Council membership:** We affirmed by consensus that School Council membership, with participation in decision making by consensus, will include the following”

Director – Bob Harper  
CTE Chair – Jack Carroll  
Parent Ed Chair – Debbie Craig  
Lifelong Learning Chair – Jane Reyes  
ABE/ASE Chair – Cary Keisler  
CBET – Cynthia Stark  
SOS – Charmaine Ryan  
Community Ed Chair – \_\_\_\_\_  
ESL Chair – (*Edie Trotno – selected since the School Council meeting*)  
Spanish GED/Spanish language Instruction - \_\_\_\_\_  
ESL Advisor – José Humberto Camacho  
ABE/ASE Advisor – Luis Medina  
ESL Coaches – Teresita Marchisello  
                  - Edie Trotno  
Safety - \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Projects Coordinator – Ann Veronica Coyle  
Classified employees - Natalie Carranco  
CSEA – Marina Candor  
PVFT – Michael Hillyer

**This year's School Council members:  
These are you representatives  
in school governance!**

We affirmed by consensus that according to the School Council by-laws Bob will fill the ESL Chair vacancy. Definition of a Spanish Language Instruction Chair, which will include Spanish GED Instruction, is taking place.

**Budget:** Preliminary budget figures indicate that we will break just about even for 2005-06. The final J202 report will be released on September 15, and our relatively small offset probably will be offset by revenues from reimbursement for ADAS over cap. (*note: J-202 showed deficit above what we projected...see item on page one*) This reimbursement will be at a lower rate than regular ADA funding, but it's better than nothing for over-cap, which has been the case previously. When we see where we stand financially Bob will have a better idea of how department budgets might be shaped.

This year we expect to receive approximately \$60,000 in a one-time block grant, and we will add students and/or community members to the School Council to form a Site Council which will make the decision on how the funding will be used. Bob plans to recommend that it be designated for furnishing for the new building. The building will be spectacular, and we have no money for furnishings!

Adult Ed will share in state and federal funds allocated for CAHSEE preparation for high school students, including WAAE students. Overall attendance is mediocre.

### **Department Reports:**

**Lifelong Learning** – Jane reported that 15 students received awards at the fair (see Highlights above). The department is looking for several teachers.

**Parent Ed** – The program is up and running, and Debbie promoted the Infant Care class for babies 6 months and older, (see Highlights above for details). In special circumstances exceptions may be made for younger infants. There is a need for additional Infant Care classes for parents of babies younger than 6 months. A teacher assistant is needed for Fridays. The City of Watsonville has donated \$250 for Together in the Park. Parent Ed is fundraising by selling tickets for the Monte Foundation Fireworks Extravaganza. José Humberto announced that he visited the fantastic El Jardin program, and that he is promoting it with his advisees.

**Community and Technical Ed** – The program has gotten off to an unusual slow start, and Jack is talking with students to try to find out some reasons and preparing to promote the classes. Some students feel that the WAAE is not well known in the community.

**Spanish GED** – With new state legislation permitting Spanish language instruction in adult education, Michael and Bob, with others' input, are exploring the expansion of our present Spanish GED department to a Spanish Language Instruction department. The fee based Cake Decorating classes have been a smashing success, with 2 others already filled; Spanish classes at Aptos High School are successful; and we are about to start a Spanish language Guitar class, taught by an expert, at Mintie White on Mondays. José Humberto and Cynthia are excellent resources for the expansion of Spanish language classes in many areas of interest. All ideas are welcome.

**ABE/ASE** – Cary reported many changes in classes, hours, personnel and classrooms. Cynthia noted a very full classroom for morning ABE, and the program is trying to build the afternoon classes. A successful meeting with PVUSD personnel involved in the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) instruction was held at Porter in the ABE/ASE

computer room, and we are we are now very centrally positioned to share in PVUSD funding for CAHSEE preparation. Suggestion to promote our ability to prepare students for the exam included sending flyers about our opportunities with the CAHSEE results and/or to all PVUSD personnel.

**SOS:** The program is serving 28 students and expecting a couple more, mostly female at this point. Although inconvenienced by more frequent “bumping” from the SOS classroom, Charmaine recognizes this as a blessing in disguise because her students are benefiting by being in more formal and varied types of college classroom settings. The ongoing saga of trying to get an aide continues. Cabrillo-funded security provide by 1<sup>st</sup> Alarm has been exceptionally good, and we may explore conversation with this individual about meeting some of our own security needs.

### **Migrant Education**

Jenny Russell, PVUSD Migrant Ed, reported on the many opportunities available through the program for migrant youth, including those out of school, and for families. Active outreach includes research on Migrant-identified youth who have stopped attending school, and recruitment in the fields, often following the food trucks, in order to provide information about available services. A person qualifies if s/he or any family member has entered or left the PVUSD within the last 3 years in search for work in agriculture. Migrant Ed now gives priority to those who have entered/left within the last year, and there is concern that regulations might tighten to include ONLY those who have entered/left within 1 year, rather than 3. Migrant Ed provides referral to youth and families for education, counseling and community services, and collaborates well with WAAE which provides instruction for youth and adults especially through the ABE/ASE, ESL, Parent Ed, CTE, and Spanish Language Instruction programs. Collaboration with Adult Ed has been very good, and we discussed ways to make it even better, particularly by keeping Migrant Ed updated on our offerings. José Humberto is an essential link between Migrant Ed and WAAE. School Council members have detailed information on Migrant Ed Services.

Our discussion with Jenny led directly to discussion about the recent INS raids in our area, and AV reported on a press conference she had just attended, called by Communities Organized for Relational Power in Action (COPA). About a dozen faith-based leaders from the Judeo-Christian tradition made powerful statements about respect for the individual and family, injustices in present immigration law and in how it was enforced at the recent raids, and the need for reform of immigration law. COPA will enter into planning with Congressman Farr in October, and meanwhile efforts are being made to provide direct aid to those affected by the arrests and deportations.

Doug Keegan, immigration attorney who heads the Santa Cruz County Immigration Project with offices in Watsonville, will speak with our students, morning and evening, Porter and Green Valley, next week. Time and classroom TBA. . . Meanwhile, we all will get the word out, especially that people SHOULD NOT OPEN THEIR DOORS TO SOMEONE KNOCKING UNLESS THEY ARE SURE THEY KNOW WHO IT IS. Bob will put something in *News and Views*, and teachers, advisors and all school personnel will support our students in protecting themselves from this threat.

### **Tech Liaison**

Jack announced that he is now our Tech Liaison, a new role within the PVUSD Tech Department. We recommended that Jack work with Natalie in order to distribute and secure return of the new Internet Use Policy for all employees. Jack informed us that the District has contracted with EdOneStop (did I get it correct?) which provides teacher resources such as an online video library and lesson plans with tests. Jack will work with Teresita to plan how best to use the upcoming resource for ESL classes. Jack will offer tech presentations for WAAE personnel, such as how to access PVUSD email from home and how to use Spyware and antivirus program. Teresita is a good resource to help teachers with E-class Management. An OTAN Computer Maintenance workshop will be presented at 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 20. Log on to OTAN in order to participate.

### **County Sheriff's Rehab Program students in the Computer Repair Class**

Bob has received some fairly strong expressions of concern from non WAAE occupants of the building and a few WAAE personnel about the participation of a group of students from the County Sheriff's Rehab Program in the Computer Repair class. Jack and others noted that none of the other students in the class nor students in our other evening classes have expressed any concern at all, that the students are very well behaved, and that they are accompanied by a

*From the Santa Cruz Sentinel, Sept. 21*

## **El Jardin offers a garden of bilingual opportunities**

By TOM RAGAN  
SENTINEL staff WRITER

The name of the preschool is a mouthful, but in the coming years its students should be able to say it in both Spanish and English.

It's called the El Jardin Bilingual Parent Cooperative Preschool, and it sits on the grounds of the United Presbyterian Church at 112 E. Beach St., a stone's throw from Watsonville High School.

Now in its third consecutive year, the school is one of a kind. It's funded by the Watsonville/Aptos Adult School, and it's not just a place where 3- and 4-year-olds learn. It's where parents learn how to become better parents — and teachers.

"The adults are my registered students; the children, I guess you could say, are our learning material," says Tammy McCroskey, who serves as both teacher and director to the school.

Here's how the program works: Parents enroll at the Adult School and take the course called "Effective Parenting through the El Jardin Bilingual Parent Co-op Preschool."

By doing so, the Adult School is able to fund the preschool's operations — and McCroskey's salary — from money it gets from the state in daily attendance.

The \$50 a month in tuition that the parents pay it's \$75 per month for 4-year-olds then goes to renting the building out on the three days a week that the preschool runs, 8:45-11:45 a.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, McCroskey said.

The program basically involves parents who come in and help McCroskey run the show while learning a little bit about how to teach by working alongside her.

"I can't believe how much the children are learning Spanish and they only began three weeks ago," said Lisa Dobbins, whose son, Aidan, 3, attends the school.

Added Dobbins: "He's counting in Spanish, and to me, that's immediate. I'm watching him grow with every passing day."

Conversely, Dobbins is learning a little bit about how to teach children, whether it's choosing the right stories to read to them or organizing the various activities.

In addition, the parents attend three-hour classes twice a month in which they learn more about affective parenting and teaching, according to McCroskey.

But for the most part, there is little structure to the preschool, and most of the time is dedicated to play time, which is the way it should be, Dobbins said.

Yet what is different is that the children are constantly spoken to in both languages, depending on the parents' expectations.

"The philosophy is that if parents are more involved in their children's education, then the education and the entire community as a whole improves as a result," said Dobbins, who is executive director of Action Pajaro Valley, a nonprofit that helps the Pajaro Valley and Watsonville plan its long-term future.

uniformed deputy at all times, and that there is a zero-tolerance policy for any inappropriate behavior. There was strong consensus that we support the program entirely and that it should continue.

### **Job opportunities**

ESL chair – According to the School Council by-laws, Bob will appoint a new chair.

Distance Learning Coordinator and EL Civics Coordinator – The opening have been posted and the 10-working-day posting period will end on September 15.

**Announcement** – Kim Iwasko will present a CCAE Student Leadership Conference at WAAE on November 4. Keep posted.

**Next meeting: Wednesday, October 11, 4:00 – 6:00 – Porter**  
**Agenda will include: How do new teachers get oriented?**  
**How can ESL coaches help with ESL Orientation?**  
**Department chairs – Please share your Orientation process and**  
**Department handbooks electronically before the meeting!**

### *AB540 - Adult education students accepted at Community Colleges*

Through the hard work and inimitable persistence of Cathy Diaz, something momentous in the relationship of the adult school and Cabrillo has happened this Fall. AB540 was legislation that permitted high school students who had graduated from local California high schools to attend post-secondary education the same fees as all California residents, even though they may not be documented. In recent months around California there has been a movement to explore if this could also be applied to adult education students. The general interpretation is that adults who attend regularly for three years in adult school and either graduate from HS or get a GED certificate, may attend community colleges for the low cost that California residents pay, whether or not they are documented. This September Cathy assisted three adults who matriculated at Cabrillo College under this legislation. If any student wants more information about this, certainly get them to talk to one of our advisors.

### **ESL DEPARTMENT MEETING NOTES**

1. Teachers reviewed #13 and #24 of the Thirty One Instructors Competencies and shared how they do and could implement these in their class rooms.
2. The focus of the meeting was how we can face the challenge the state has set for us of **improving our benchmarks and increasing the number of “completers.”**
3. We **lost \$80,000** last in benchmarks by just staying even!
4. Looking at Table 4 completers and the DATA Integrity Report, that WAAE :
  - HALF of state average of completers
  - 74% of our students NO post test score or No matched pre-and post-test, a requirement to get a benchmark.
5. Registration form includes mandatory TOPSPRO student info and must be complete and accurate in order to get a bench mark.  
**Common mistakes on form:**
  - Students often put day/month instead of month/day for DOB.
  - Cannot have goal “get a job” when they have a job.
  - First goal for all ESL classes should be “improve English skills”
  - Second goal can be something that can be attained in the class such as;
    - i. family, personal,
    - ii. get job or better job if a job readiness class.
    - iii. citizenship if ready to take citizenship test that year.
  - Some teachers in outlying sites use “student experts” to help new students fill out reg form.
  - Only TANF and CALWorks require a SS#
6. In leveled groups, teachers looked at CASAS pre-test results and looked at most missed items in leveled groups to determine what students would need to know to be able to get that competency correct.
7. We need to teach these competencies if we are going to test them on it.



# WAAE Calendar

## ESL Symposium: Literacy in Action

ESL success in family, classroom, community and career;  
Saturday, September 30 8:30 to 3:30  
Hartnell College Center  
156 Homestead Avenue, Salinas  
Keynote speaker Luis Valdez  
Pre-registration <http://extended.scumb.edu/esl>

## Wednesday, October 11

Community Advisory Council  
Green Valley, 10:30am - Noon

## Our FOUR Student Councils, Morning and Evening

Please encourage your class to have representation, our students' participation in decision-making is more important than ever.  
GV: Oct. 16, Porter: Oct. 17  
GV: Nov. 27, Porter: Nov. 28

## School Councils

ALL are welcome. Tell your chair your concerns and have them put things on the agenda.  
Oct. 11, 4:00-6:00, Porter  
Nov. 8, 4:00-6:00, GV  
Dec. 13, 4:00-6:00, GV



## ESL Recognition Ceremony and All School Holiday Dance

Thursday, Dec. 14, 7:00pm

## CalPro Workshops Fall 2006

October, Cooperative Learning 2 - Monterey Adult School  
October, Enhancing Learner Persistence - Santa Cruz Adult School  
November, Cooperative Learning III - Monterey Adult School

## CCAE Adult Student Conference

Saturday, November 4,



## *As the WAAE World Turns:*

... we received greetings from Kathy Frye, who used to be Assistant Director here four years ago. Kathy is in Massachusetts and is a coordinator for EL programs for Boston City Schools... our condolences and good thoughts go out to Lynn Cordova who recently lost her father...congratulations to several of our Lifelong Learning artists who received prizes in the recent county fair... our school's display at the fair, put together by Eloisa Sanchez, also received a "first place" ribbon!!... also thanks to the volunteers who spent time at our booth at the Sept. 16 Celebration at the placita...*a great Sentinel article featured the El Jardin Parent Coop (see page 5)... congratulations to Tammy McCroskey and parent Lisa Dobbins who put together a great press release that inspired the article.*