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ONE DOLLAR

Job Corps cheers golden anniversary

More than 30,000 students have attended Tongue Point

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

On Sept. 27, 1963, two months before his assassination, President John F. Kennedy visited Tongue Point in Astoria and foretold of the plan to save the former U.S. Navy reserve fleet base from the wrecking ball. It would become a helicopter base for the U.S. Coast Guard, he said, as well as a weapons-procurement training school for senior civilian and military personnel.

Kennedy had the part about the training school right. But rather than weapons, Tongue Point Job Corps Center opened Feb. 2, 1965, as a school for young men (and shortly thereafter women) to procure vocational skills and jobs as part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty.

To honor the 50th anniversary of Tongue Point, the second Job Corps center in the nation, U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, D-Ore., and other politicians from the county, Astoria and Seaside, along with Clatsop Community College

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U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici talks with Scott Craig, left, Tongue Point executive council president, during a reception for Tongue Point's 50th anniversary celebration. Since it opened Feb. 2, 1965, at the site of a former U.S. naval base, Tongue Point Job Corps has trained more than 30,000 students.

Tita Montero heads back to Seaside

Astoria native
the new face of
Tongue Point

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

"I'm Tita Montero; I'm the BCL (business community liaison); and this is my last day," said Montero Monday during a student assembly as part of Tongue Point Job Corps Center's 50th anniversary, her last event.

The hundreds gathered in Tongue Point's gym Monday stood and applauded Montero, who's dedicated her seven years as the public face of Tongue Point to promoting the positive impact of the center's staff and students. Montero started early this year as the executive director of the Seaside Downtown Development Association.

A familiar face succeeds her. Katrina Morrell Gasser, a fifth-generation Astorian employed with Tongue Point for the past 10 years, most recently as a work-based learning adviser, started recently as business community liaison.

"I did not think I'd be working with youth, and I did not think I'd



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Tita Montero, community liaison for Tongue Point Job Corps, hugs Tongue Point Job Corps student Shamiqwa McDowell after an assembly as part of Tongue Point's 50th anniversary celebration. Montero is leaving her position at Tongue Point to be the executive director of the Seaside Downtown Development Association.

be back home," said Morrell Gasser, who started as a residential adviser at Tongue Point at age 22.

After graduating from the University of Oregon with a degree in psychology, Gasser spent six months in a similar position at the Barli Development Institute

for Rural Women, a nonprofit vocational school in central India, before returning home and seeing an ad in The Daily Astorian for Tongue Point.

"I knew this was where I wanted to go, because of my experience at Barli," said Morrell Gasser,

adding that she's thrilled to inherit Montero's position. Her focus, she said, is taking her background in work-based learning experience and expanding job-placement opportunities for students.

Advertising Tongue Point

When she also saw an ad in paper for a position at Job Corps seven years ago, Montero said she didn't really know much about it.

A University of Washington graduate with a master's degree in library science, she had worked in that field before moving into health care administration for 27 years. Running a health plan for the U.S. Department of Defense, Montero said, she'd become familiar with working with members of Congress.

But as a child on vacation on the North Coast, the Seattle native had promised herself that one day she'd live in Seaside. She subscribed to the Seaside Signal for seven years before moving in 2002 to open Montero Sisters Fabrics with her sister-in-law. Then during the Great Coastal Gale of 2007, Montero started at Tongue Point, which she said meshed with both her skill set and her values as a person.

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Defense attorney attempts to block media

Lawyer for Seaside man accused of child's murder takes TV to task

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

The defense attorney for Randy Roden, the live-in boyfriend accused of murdering his girlfriend's 2-year-old daughter at their Seaside home Dec. 20, is attempting to block media cameras in the courtroom at Roden's next status hearing Thursday.

Conor Huseby, from the law office Metropolitan Public Defense in Portland, filed an objection with Clatsop County Circuit Court last week to deny the presence of both still and video cameras.

In the written objection, Huseby claims the fact that Roden faces the potential of the death penalty heightens the standard of reliability in the case, including the manner court hearings are conducted.

Roden, 26, is charged with four counts of aggravated murder, two counts of murder by abuse, felony murder, first-degree unlawful sexual penetration, first degree sex abuse, three counts of first-degree assault and three counts of criminal mistreatment. The sex abuse charges relate to Roden allegedly subjecting 2-year-old Evangelina Wing to sexual contact by touching.

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Independent Party gets state OK

SALEM — Secretary of State Kate Brown has formally designated the Independent Party of Oregon as a major political party.

The designation announced Monday allows the Independent Party to participate in primary elections.

Party officials said last week that their ranks reached 5 percent of the total voters registered for the November election. That's the threshold for a major party designation.

Brown's office says the Independent Party's status will be verified again on Aug. 17 to determine whether it gets a spot in the May 2016 statewide primary.

The Independent Party joins the Republican and Democratic parties as major political parties in Oregon.

Knappa rallies for its schools

Foundation's annual auction is Saturday

By EDWARD STRATTON
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For anyone in need of a 12-foot salmon sign to advertise their business, Knappa High School is the place to look.

Students in Janet Hockman's art and Tim Kampi's metals programs teamed up to create two gigantic, painted aluminum salmon, to be finished in a polyurethane clear coat, sold Saturday at the 18th annual Knappa Schools Foundation dinner and auction and hopefully used to advertise someone's business.

"After the Logger (Restaurant) elk last year ... Mr. Kampi came to me with this idea," Hockman said of the Knappa-themed metal elk cutout bought by Teevin Bros. Land and Timber last year. "Let's do something iconic for the Astoria area."

Students have regularly supplied items at the auction, which even in snow and ice last year managed to take in more than \$80,000. Each year the foundation, started by Knappa alumni and built on revenues from the auction, doles out scholarships to departing seniors and funds projects on campus to support students.

The theme this year was "Local." Along with the salmon, students created portraits of local scenes such as Haystack Rock, the Astoria Bridge, Saddle Mountain — and the sturgeon senior Shailei Wright was finishing Friday.

"I just like fish," said Wright. "Everyone's doing scenic pictures, and I wanted to do something else."

Smorgasbord

Knappa Schools Foundation's event is an auction of variety, with businesses, individuals and students all contributing to the more than 300 available items. In the high school's

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Knappa High School senior Jocelyn Burnett puts the finishing touches on the back end of a giant salmon sign to be auctioned off at the Knappa Schools Foundation's 18th annual dinner and auction Saturday.

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