

Job Corps: Center focuses on trades, such as construction, health care

Continued from Page 1A

President Lawrence Galizio, attended a short ceremony and student assembly Monday.

Tita Montero, business community liaison for Tongue Point, said she and a medical-assisting student making the yearly trip to Washington, D.C., were the first constituents to meet with Bonamici after she was sworn in Feb. 7, 2012. Bonamici repaid the favor Monday speaking for the 50th anniversary and at a graduation.

Many success stories

"What really resonated with me was listening to the individual stories from the graduates," Bonamici said, touting the in-demand skills in hard trades students are getting.

Since it opened, Tongue Point has taken more than 30,000 students, ages 16 to 24, starting out all-male until 1968, all-female until 1972 and coed ever since. Enrollment has ebbed and flowed with federal funding. Its capacity of up to 550 students has sometimes been cut in half. The enrollment is now more than 470 students.

The center focuses on hard trades such as construction, maintenance, health care, office work and welding that Bonamici said would allow students the freedom to follow their interests and contribute to the economy. Its seamanship program, including the former Coast Guard buoy tender Ironwood as a training vessel, is the second-highest paid trade in Job Corps and the agency's only such program nationwide.

Tongue Point has taken students from all around the world, at times a respite from totalitarian regimes, war zones, famine and civil strife. It also takes 6 percent of its students from Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook counties, including 25-year-old Blanca Diaz from Astoria.

"I just knew that it was a good place to come and get an education," said Diaz. She was studying at CCC when an adviser told her about Tongue Point. She enrolled in August to train to be an electrician.

But Diaz never fully left the college. CCC President Larry Galizio, speaking Monday, reminded students of the program that lets them earn college credits from automotive, welding, business and other technical courses at Tongue Point. The college also stations teachers at Tongue Point for classes, and Tongue Point students often go to the college campus.



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian
Students give a standing ovation to Tita Montero, community liaison for Tongue Point Job Corps, after Montero announced Monday was her last day with Tongue Point.



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian
U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici gives a speech during Tongue Point's 50th anniversary celebration.



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian
Hundreds of students gathered for an assembly celebrating Tongue Point's 50th anniversary.

Diaz is preparing for a work-based learning assignment in the community. Tongue Point students average 340 work-based assignments a year, helping businesses locally and in their hometowns, in addition to the countless projects they volunteer for on behalf of local nonprofits and government agencies.

Before leaving, they receive

advising on employment, writing resumes and skills to help ensure they remain employed.

In 2011, Tongue Point had a 68.1 percent graduation rate, with recent graduates making on average \$11.23 per hour, a nearly 90 percent job-placement rate and a 72 percent trade-specific employment rate a year after graduation.

Dedicated workforce

About 150 Management and Training Corporation employees help students train for the future. MTC is operates Tongue Point for the U.S. Department of Labor, making the center the fourth-largest employer in the county. Tongue Point was recently named the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce's January member of the month. Through wages, student spending, college tuition, local contracts and local purchasing, it infuses about \$10.5 million annually into the local economy.

"Staff work here because of the students," said Jennifer Berg, a technical training manager who has been with Tongue Point for 25 years. "I've had parents come in and say 'You were my adviser when I was a student.'"

Kimberly Zufelt, a group life manager, first came to Tongue Point as a student from Mullan, Idaho, in 1984 to study landscaping. She got a job after graduation with the Portland Parks Bureau, but returned to Tongue Point in 1989 and has worked for Job Corps ever since.

"Definitely the focus on employability and job placement, it's really evolved a lot," said Zufelt about the changes she's seen in her years as a student and employee at Job Corps. "And I think there's a whole lot more accountability for Job Corps to be a successful program, to put a quality student out there."

A rough start

"It started out as a miserable government experience," said Chamber Executive Director



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian
Katrina Morrell Gasser, center, a fifth-generation Astoria native with Tongue Point Job Corps Center for the past 10 years, listens to a speech by Tita Montero during Tongue Point's 50th anniversary celebration. Gasser succeeds Montero as community liaison for Tongue Point Job Corps.

Montero: New leader believes in a healthy downtown

Continued from Page 1A

"It's been a long history," Montero said about trying to improve the center's reputation. "It hasn't all been a bed of roses."

"Personally I think I've done an excellent job in increasing the positive image, and increasing the knowledge that we exist."

The SDDA came to her last year, Montero said, asking her to be its director, while former director Laurie Mespelt focused on special events coordination. Montero, who has been a SDDA member since 2002 through her fabric store, said her focus is on building the organi-

zational infrastructure of Seaside's downtown association, along with its membership.

"If you have a healthy downtown, you have a healthy town," Montero said, who's also on the Seaside City Council and governing boards of the Seaside Museum & Historical Society, the Seaside Chamber of Commerce, Clatsop Behavioral Healthcare and as a city council liaison to the Seaside Library Foundation Board and Clatsop Economic Development Resources, based in Seaside.

To put it succinctly, she said, "It's going back to my hometown."

Skip Hauke, of Job Corps' beginnings. Montero said Hauke is a longtime supporter who used to buy advertisements for Job Corps when he ran his grocery store.

Hauke spoke out against the discrimination students often experienced in the 1960s, as many were part of the first major influx of African-Americans to Astoria. Before 1974, newspaper articles estimated the center 70 percent African-American, owing to its strategy of pulling students from the East and Southeast.

"The kids came from all corners of the nation; they were from different backgrounds; they were from different cul-

tures; and were just different," Hauke said. "And it's not the Job Corps' fault, it's the citizens of Astoria. It was their fault."

By 1972, Job Corps focused more on recruiting students from the same regions as its centers, flipping the demographics of Tongue Point to 70 percent Caucasian. The center has developed a reputation for creating professional students and many skilled local employees.

Ever the joker, Hauke compared the development of Tongue Point's vastly improved reputation and regard locally over the last 50 years to the Virginia Slims advertising slogan, "You've come a long way, baby."

Auction: 95 percent or more of the donations are brand new

Continued from Page 1A

theater room, retired Astoria and Knappa teacher and foundation member Molly Hunter tries to keep track of it all.

"We have a lot of people (who) give their best," said Hunter, showing off handmade mugs, quilts, antler walking sticks, wind chimes and shotgun-shell casings made into wreaths.

The eclectic abounds at the Knappa auction, which each year includes a bit of pink-themed weaponry, this year a .22-caliber rifle and a 12-gauge shotgun. It even takes into consideration pets, with treats made of turkey's feet, buffalo hooves and a large animal trachea.

"It's not a garage sale," said

Hunter, noting that 95 percent or more of the donations are brand new. But the auction takes antiques, along with a lot of donated services and gift cards by local companies.

Certain notable individuals chip in each year, including state Sen. Betsy Johnson, who buys up 4-H and FFA animals at auction and donates their butchered meat to the auction; local timber magnate, Knappa alumna and foundation co-founder Shawn Teevin, who auctions off a dinner date at his house; and knife-maker Barry Minkoff, who makes a piece specifically for the auction each year.

The auction, Hunter said, had a deadline of Friday to turn in donations, but in reality it takes them up to the last minute.



EDWARD STRATTON — The Daily Astorian
Knappa senior Shailei Wright finishes her sturgeon amid student paintings that will be framed by woodshop students and sold off Saturday at the Knappa Schools Foundation's 18th annual dinner and auction.

DONATIONS & TICKETS

Donations can be picked up by volunteers or dropped off at Knappa High School, located at 41535 Old U.S. Highway 30. For further information or to request donation pickup, call Tanya Olds-Lempea at 503-741-0385 or email knappaschoolsfoundation@gmail.com

Tickets to the auction, now \$30 a person, can still be purchased at Knappa High School or Teevin Bros. Land and Timber. For more information, contact Knappa High School at 503-458-6166, ext. 101.

Media: 'It's the public's business being done'

Continued from Page 1A

"The media exposure in this case has already been vast, and at times quite sensational and misleading," Huseby wrote.

Huseby specifically pointed to a KATU story following Roden's Jan. 2 arraignment. Huseby claims the KATU broadcast described the crimes as "unspeakable." The KATU reporter described Roden's history as "very violent," and went on to say Roden had been "linked" to kidnapping, assault and strangulation, Huseby wrote.

Court records show Roden got out of prison in January 2014 after being sentenced to 18 months for coercion related to a domestic violence case against another woman.

Roden, a former Georgia resident who quit school after 11th grade, was originally indicted on 52 counts of domestic violence and sex abuse against the woman in 2012. Charges included strangulation, menacing, attempt to commit murder, unlawful sexual penetration and coercion.

He pleaded no contest to the coercion charges and was sentenced to 18 months in prison and 60 months of probation. The other charges were dropped as part of the plea deal.

"The (KATU) reporter failed to mention that each of the crimes she described above had all been dismissed," Huseby wrote.

In addition, Huseby noted, excessive media coverage exposes Roden to a great deal of hostile sentiment in Clatsop County Jail, putting him at



JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian
Conor Huseby, Randy Lee Roden's defense attorney, leaves after Roden's arraignment in Clatsop County Circuit Court, Jan. 2. Roden, 26, Seaside, has been accused of killing 2-year-old Evangelina Wing.

risk, and disrupting safe jail administration.

"This type of media coverage gives rise to questions about whether Mr. Roden can be fairly and reliably tried in a capital case in a small community in which this case is a major story," Huseby wrote.

Huseby's objection makes no mention of The Daily Astorian's coverage of the case.

District Attorney Josh Marquis did not want to speak specifically about the case or speak for the prosecutors handling the case, but did say he generally disagrees with the objection.

In his early career, Marquis remembers cases where at least five cameras were in a courtroom causing commotion. A common complaint was camera equipment was too noisy, Marquis said.

However, current cases in Clatsop County Circuit Court not only allow one still photographer and one broadcast camera in the courtroom. Each stays in one area of the courtroom.

In his time in Clatsop County, Marquis said, he has never seen a case turn into a media circus.

"Our courtrooms are set up for people to come in and watch in an open seating area. We can house 50 to 200 people depending on which courtroom," Marquis said. "It's the public's business being done."

The decision to uphold or deny the objection is up to Judge Paula Brownhill, who will oversee Roden's hearing at 2:30 p.m. Thursday in courtroom 300. The public is welcome to attend.

The Daily Astorian has submitted a request to have a still photographer at the hearing.

Roden's girlfriend, Dorothy Wing, 24, is also scheduled to appear at 2:30 p.m. Thursday before Judge Brownhill. Wing will be impacted either way by Brownhill's ruling on the objection.

Wing, who is being represented by defense attorney John Gutbezahl of Lake Oswego, is charged with murder by abuse from neglect and maltreatment, first-degree manslaughter and six counts of criminal mistreatment.

An autopsy found Wing's daughter Evangelina Wing was the victim of homicide and apparently died from blunt force trauma.