

# the Astorian

148TH YEAR, NO. 126

DailyAstorian.com // TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2021

\$1.50

## CORONAVIRUS

## Job corps center faces cuts

New contract at Tongue Point

By EDWARD STRATTON  
*The Astorian*

Supporters of Tongue Point Job Corps Center in Astoria are scrambling to undo the proposed elimination of several programs in a contract to operate the workforce training campus.

The U.S. Department of Labor contracts with private companies to operate around 130 job corps centers providing workforce training for low-income students between the ages of 16 and 24. Management and Training Corp. has operated Tongue Point since 1989.

Most contracts last three to five years. The Department of Labor recently opened the contract for operation of Tongue Point up to proposals.

The new contract would begin in October and keep the center at 473 students. But the initial contract would have stopped the use of 15 World War II-era houses on Tongue Point by staff and their families. It would also eliminate culinary and two different office administration programs, while cutting enrollment in the medical assisting program in half and reducing the geographic area from which the center can draw students.

See Job Corps, Page A6

## A passion for tea in Seaside

Couple aims to open Tea Artist in May

By R.J. MARX  
*The Astorian*

SEASIDE — Chinese tea culture rose in the Tang dynasty in the seventh century and spread to Japan, Korea and throughout Asia.

For Yin Na and Mark Celletti, tea is their passion. The couple are opening Tea Artist in the city's historic Gilbert District, serving teas, baked items, puddings, fruit drinks and ice cream.

Na, a certified tea art specialist and university professor from Chongqing, China, calls the venture "a dream come true."

"She's been an art and calligraphy student, and she has a master's and now a doctorate in Chinese art history," Celletti said. "And tea studies are a part of that."

See Tea Artist, Page A6



Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Signs alert drivers to a crosswalk near Warrenton Grade School. The city plans to improve pedestrian walkways along Main Avenue to provide safer routes for students and other residents.

## Warrenton projects focus on livability

Corridors would make it safer for pedestrians

By NICOLE BALES  
*The Astorian*

WARRENTON — A pedestrian walkway connecting downtown to the high school has been a goal of the city for decades. Now, a state grant will help get the project off the ground.

The city hired OTAK Inc. in February 2020 to create a conceptual plan for two pedestrian routes — a Main Avenue corridor connecting downtown to Warrenton High School and an E. Harbor Drive corridor from downtown to Fred Meyer. The estimated cost for both walkways is \$3.4 million.

The City Commission last week accepted \$500,000 in grant money from the state Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School program to construct a portion of the Main Avenue corridor from Ninth Street by Warrenton Grade School to 11th Street. The target date for completion is September 2022.

Collin Stelzig, the city's public works director, said the city is planning on constructing the walkways one segment at a time as funding becomes available. He said the city is hopeful U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici will designate the project for funding in the upcoming surface transportation reauthorization bill.

Warrenton is requesting more than \$1.3 million to continue the walkway from N.W. 11th Street to the high school, along with bus stop and



Parts of Main Avenue in Warrenton lack a safe route for pedestrians.

crosswalk improvements.

"It's been a want of the city for just forever, but they've just never really been able to afford it," Stelzig said. "We feel pretty good about maybe getting this money to complete it."

"I guess time will tell."

### A safer walk

Mayor Henry Balensifer said the pathway will make it safer for students to walk to and from school. The mayor said it is one of many projects coming down the pipeline that will improve the city's livability.

"Main Street is the primary corridor for the majority of our residents to connect them to services like Main Street Market, to the post office, to our parks," Balensifer said. "And having safe routes for kids to get to our parks is pretty important, and

to traverse basically the downtown corridor.

"I think the commission has really prioritized livability," he said. "And the commission has really made a concerted effort to ask the question, 'What's it like to live in Warrenton?' Not just to build or do business. Those things we've answered pretty well already. But as we've grown, there — except for in like the last three years — there hasn't been a really tough asking of, what's it like to live in Warrenton and how do we want to live in our town?"

Warrenton is the fastest growing city in Clatsop County. In recent years, the City Commission has placed increased emphasis on livability and development paying for itself.

See Warrenton, Page A6

## Teacher brings a love of sports to Jewell

Brown will lead physical education

By GARY HENLEY  
*The Astorian*

JEWELL — Fans of Seaside youth sports remember Kai Davidson as the all-league soccer player and state-qualifying track athlete who went on to compete in

**EVERYDAY**  
people

both sports at the college level.

Students of Clatsop County — specifically Jewell — know her as Mrs. Brown, a teacher who also loves soccer and coaches track.

It's been a long journey in a short period of time for 28-year-old Kai Brown (formerly Davidson), who overcame personal losses at a young age, then overcame a serious knee

injury to play the game she loves.

She is in her fourth year of teaching first and second graders at Jewell School, where she also coaches middle school basketball and track. She still lives in Seaside, which makes for some very long days of commuting, teaching and coaching.

"It's about a 45-minute drive, but it's worth it," Brown said. "I like teaching. Right now, at that age, they're all like sponges, and learning fast. This age group is just learning how to read, and then comprehending what they're reading."



Gary Henley/The Astorian

See Brown, Page A3

Kai Davidson starred with the Seaside Gulls.



7 29467 20121 7