

## SEASIDE

## Project draws neighbor concerns

Seventeen homes east of Wahanna Road

By R.J. MARX  
The Astorian

SEASIDE — Engineer Mark Mead navigated a steep slope last week at the Planning Commission, presenting plans for Vista Ridge II, a 17-home development on 6.5 wooded acres that neighbors say is far too risky to build on.

Representing Sunset Ridge LLC, Mead asked the commission for approval for a subdivision east of Wahanna Road, to be accessed by Hemlock and Aldercrest streets and separated from the original Vista Ridge subdivision by a creek.

According to engineering plans, the parcel could be developed into 17 residential building lots from 7,000 to 15,000 square feet, with a single one- or two-story home on each lot. About 2 acres would be preserved for open space.

Concerned about flooding, landslides and habitat, neighbors turned out to slow or halt the process.

Three planning commissioners — Kathy Kleczek, Seth Morrissey and Lou Neubecker — recused themselves because they have properties affected by the outcome of the development.

“This is not a true plan for a development,” Kleczek said. “It’s a plan for a clearing. What will happen once those trees are cleared is frightening. We only

See Seaside, Page A3

## Lucy’s Books changing locations

A new space on Commercial Street

By ETHAN MYERS  
The Astorian

Lucy’s Books is changing locations.

The independent bookstore, which has been in Astoria since 1998, will be moving a few blocks to Commercial Street between Ninth and 10th streets.

Lisa Reid, the owner of the store, said the move was motivated by a lack of space at the location on 12th Street.

“We ran out of space,” she said. “We have been thinking about (the move) for a while but the space came open at the end of August so it has been moving pretty quickly since then.”

Reid added that with more room at the new location, the store will be able to expand the selection. A graphic novel section is also planned.

Reid thinks the new store will be more practical for shoppers.

“There will be more space for our customers to move freely through the shop, too,” she said. “Everything will be on one floor and it will make it easier to shop.”

The 12th Street location will close on Saturday. Reid is planning to reopen at the new spot in October.

“I am very excited,” she said. “I think it will be nice to be able to offer more to our customers that they have been asking for.”



John Raoux/AP Photo

The briefcase of a census taker at work last year.

## Warrenton remains the county’s fastest-growing city



Colin Murphey/The Astorian

Warrenton was the fastest-growing city on the North Coast over the past decade.

A 25.8% rise in population over a decade

By ERICK BENGEL  
and MATT WINTERS

The Astorian and Chinook Observer

Warrenton was the fastest-growing city in Clatsop County over the past decade with a 25.8% rise in population, according to data from the 2020 census.

The county’s overall population grew 10.9%, adding 4,033 residents to reach 41,072. The growth rate was the largest since the 1970s, when the population rose by 14.1%

Oregon grew by almost the same rate as the county over the past decade at 10.6%, hitting 42 million people, the U.S. Census Bureau said.

See Warrenton, Page A3

## Former Job Corps student becomes director

Zufelt takes on role at Tongue Point

By ETHAN MYERS  
The Astorian

After graduating from high school in the small town of Mullan, Idaho, Kim Zufelt reached what she considered a dead end.

Mining was the main industry, which young women did not typically go into as a career.

Then one day, she found a brochure from Job Corps, the federally-funded education and vocational training program for young people 16 to 24.

After calling the 800 number and doing a brief phone interview, they sent her a bus ticket to Astoria.

“I had no clue what Job Corps was. I thought it was kind of like the Peace Corps,” Zufelt said. “I just took a leap of faith.”

That leap of faith would turn out to be a life-altering decision.

Zufelt graduated from the landscaping program at Tongue Point Job Corps Center in Astoria in 1985, and after entering the landscaping field for a few years, she returned to Job Corps as a residential living adviser.

Despite a few brief occupational detours, her heart never left Job Corps and she worked her way up. In July, Zufelt was named the director at Tongue Point.

“My passion for the program has never waned ... I look back on my career, and it’s pretty amazing that I’m here,” she said. “I’m not sure there’s very many center directors that were former students in the



Kim Zufelt is the director at Tongue Point Job Corps Center.

whole nation.”

Her journey from student to director saw Zufelt take on many roles, which allowed her to witness and contribute to student development.

“I’ve seen hundreds, maybe even thousands, of kids or youth in my years that

came in and just really needed someone to say, ‘Hey, you’re worth it, your potential is there,’” she said. “Then to see them change, and walk out that door and graduate. It’s super rewarding to watch them grow up here ... I had a special connection with them being a graduate of the program.”

Zufelt wants her story to illustrate that young people facing adverse situations can still find a path to success.

“I hope it’s an inspiration for the students that come in here — that they can do anything and to set their goals high,” she said. “But it’s humbling in a lot of ways to be in this position and be responsible for so many young people.”

When Zufelt reflects on her path to director, student development holds the most weight, but one case stands out in particular.

She once received a letter from a former student who had graduated from the program nearly two decades before. The letter read, “I have been looking for you. Are you the Kim that saved me?”

The impact the message left on Zufelt was invaluable.

“It was the most validating and touching thing. Nineteen years and she still remembered?” she said. “I use that often to show staff how important it is to have relationships. Good mentors and positive, strong relationships with these students are really what changes them.”

Job Corps has used many different slogans over the years, but the one from the 30-year anniversary carries more significance for her: “It’s the best chance for change.”

“That has really stayed my motto for years,” Zufelt said. “It really is the best chance a young person has to change and grow.”

