

Tonquin Trading store opens in Seaside



Owner Jason Johnson held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Tonquin Trading.

Store offers gear for hiking, backpacking and preparedness

By Lyra Fontaine
EO Media Group

A new outdoor apparel business in Seaside has a tie to local history. Its name was inspired by the Tonquin ship owned by John Jacob Astor, who established the Fort Astoria fur trading post in 1811.

A year and a half ago, owner Jason Johnson relocated to Oregon from North Dakota, near a historically significant stop in the Lewis and Clark

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Jason Johnson, owner

expedition.

“I feel like we followed the Lewis and Clark Trail,” he said.

The new business aims to offer high-quality backpacking, hiking and emergency preparedness gear.

“Ultimately, it’s to bring more stuff to Seaside so people don’t have to go to Portland,” Johnson said, adding that Tonquin Trading carries

unique brands and items that could be hard to find in Portland.

As Johnson got ready for the store’s grand opening on Oct. 1, racks were filled with coats, backpacks of various sizes, and hiking clothing and shoes. The shop also offered solar-powered chargers, freeze-dried food, cookware, water purification systems and other products that could

be used for both backpacking and emergency preparedness.

Johnson’s goal is to create video tutorials that explain the store’s products to customers.

“It’s about knowing what you’re going to get and how to use it,” Johnson said. “The more we dig into the business, the more we want to field test the products in the store.”

His favorite item? Salomon hiking shoes. “They are lightweight, comfortable and a lot of research has gone into them,” he said.

Store hours are Tuesday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Seaside High School production of ‘Election’ has timely theme

‘Election’ from Page 1A

need to find a pantsuit to wear for her costume.

“Christy is very good about saying things to appeal to the audience and making Mark look bad, and Mark is so out of his element,” senior Emma Dutcher said.

“Mark is the butt of the joke always,” Cox agreed. “He has to resort to calling Christy a liar.”

Audience members also can expect to find allusions to the Watergate scandal, the “birther” conspiracy, words getting twisted out of context and antagonistic candidate debates.

“Anything that has come up in politics is pretty much in this,” Dutcher said. “It’s ridiculous.”

Meanwhile, her character, Kyli, the student broadcasting system reporter, is always hovering nearby, covering the outrageous process and milking its entertainment value to please her viewers, Dutcher said.

“It’s definitely timely be-

cause there are a lot of parallels to what’s happening right now and you definitely see a lot of current candidates and past presidents in this show,” Cox said.

Director Lenore Morrisson specifically chose “The Election,” because of its comedic take on the contemporary political scene and relevance to the upcoming 2016 presidential election, scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 8.

“All elections are sort of the same, right?” Morrisson said. “They say they’re going to run a clean campaign, and pretty soon someone’s running an ad, saying, ‘He’s a puppy killer.’ It’s just kind of ridiculous.”

Morrisson said she believed the students would appreciate the play’s relevance and enjoy presenting the satire, and so far, they have. Junior Jacob Brien, who plays Mark’s geeky but lovable sidekick, Karl Merriweather, said the best part of what is his inaugural theater experience is “making people laugh.” While he is disdainful

of politics in general — “it’s just unpleasant,” he explained — he finds the play to be an optimal opportunity to express his diverse humor and have fun with other cast members. He expects it will be an equally enjoyable experience for the audience.

While there isn’t much of an educational component to the play — audience members won’t leave with a better understanding of the electoral college — the play will afford a little comedic relief at the expense of the election process, outrageous political figures and how the media fuels the fire.

“Politics are scary,” Dutcher said, adding she would encourage everyone in the community to “come have a laugh with us poking fun at politics.”

Brien agreed.

“If you’re someone who gets really into politics and you watch it a lot, and it kind of stresses you a little bit, watching the play may ease it up and take some of that weight off your back — just to put it back on when you go watch it again,” he said.

In addition to Cox, Dutcher and Brien, students Emil Matlock and Jack Stapleton round out the core cast play-

ing Mark Davenport and Gary McMaster, respectively. They are supported by fellow players Dakota Young, Cat Walgren, Phoenix Miller, Annie Stafford, Max McNeill, Nolan Milliren, Gretchen Hoekstre, Michael Matthews, Stephanie Anderson, Gwen Farrar and Alan Brockman. The tech crew consists of Daniel Contier, Will Kautz and Jessica Almaguer. Kelsey Crider is

the lead costumer and Craig Shepherd, set designer extraordinaire, is in charge of the set production and design.

The play will be performed at 7 p.m. on Nov. 4, 5, 10, 11 and 12 at Seaside High School. Doors open at 6:30. Tickets are \$5 general admission; \$3 for students with their ASB card.

For more information, call the school at 503-738-5586.




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