

## New museum takes flight in Spokane

Enter Spokane's new Honor Point Military and Aerospace Museum and you will experience something seldom seen even at the famed Smithsonian.

The airplanes here are not retired shells, retrieved from the boneyard and restored only on the outside.

No, at Honor Point, every historic plane on display is still flying. The exhibit is dynamic, as vintage planes can roll in and out of the gallery/hangar on a weekly basis. The museum also is unique in that it's not just about airplanes. It's also about history and education.

Interactive exhibits and special programs allow students to explore a range of STEM topics around themes of aviation and space. Honor Point, located at Felts

Field, is Spokane's newest museum, filling a niche left by the closure of the Fairchild Heritage Museum more than a decade ago.

While still in the formative stages, museum directors plan a substantial education program, initially targeting grades 4-8.

Educational events already have begun and the museum has partnered with Seattle's Museum of Flight to acquire additional standards-based programs.

Former Reardan-Edwall Superintendent Doug Asbjornsen is a member of the museum board and the leader of its educational initiatives.

The museum is located at 6105 E. Rutter Ave. For information on upcoming Fall programs, please visit [www.honorpoint.org](http://www.honorpoint.org) or contact Doug at [dasbjornsen@gmail.com](mailto:dasbjornsen@gmail.com).



*This 1940 Boeing Stearman, shown here with owner Larry Tobin, is part of the Honor Point exhibit.*

## NEWESD 101 snapshots

Beginning with this issue, our Focus newsletter will offer a new feature ... a snapshot of NEWESD 101 employees.

Virtually all NEWESD staff interact with local districts. While relationships are typically strong, they also can be limited to small groups of district personnel in job-alike categories. With this issue, we introduce others you may not know.

NEWESD services run wide and deep – curriculum and instruction, financial services, educational technology, administrative support and communications. Today, we introduce some of our staff who make things happen for local districts.

### *The resident artist*

Stroll by the desk of Tracy Poindexter-Canton at NEWESD 101 and you will see personal artwork on the wall, not unlike many of her co-workers. The difference, however, is that Poindexter-Canton did not acquire her pieces at a store. She created them herself.

Outside of her job in NEWESD 101's Center for Special Education, Poindexter-Canton is an artist affiliated with the Gallery Onyx in Seattle's Belltown neighborhood. Over the summer, she was one of 22 artists featured in an Onyx regional exhibit at the public library in Richland.

While her artistic journey has not been continuous, it may have been predictable. Growing up in Spokane, she found early success

and enjoyment in myriad forms of visual and performing arts. But, because academics came first, most of her artistic interests were placed on hold after graduation from Lewis and Clark High School and an undergraduate education at Seattle University.

Seven years later, they returned with a passion. Fresh off a master's degree from Gonzaga University, she dove into local, non-credit art classes to expand and refine her skills.

Her first works included an expansive series of portraits featuring African-American music legends Miles Davis, Etta James, Johnny Mathis, John Coltrane and others. For the Richland exhibit, she submitted a portrait of "The First Lady of Song," Ella Fitzgerald.

The tools of her trade include mostly graphite, acrylics and colored pencils. But her specialty is mixed-media – combinations

of material that create rich, layered, three-dimensional pieces. To a blank canvas she may add paint, scrapbook paper, magazine clippings, bubble wrap, netting, even feathers and beads. The possibilities extend as far as her imagination.

She appreciates bold colors and impressionistic designs that value the artist's perception more than the reproduction of exact details.

She finds inspiration in little things, powerful things, that stir her creativity ... a photo, a song, a flower, a book. From that inspiration comes artistic magic. Just stroll by her desk to see it.



*Tracy Poindexter-Canton*