

the Astorian

148TH YEAR, NO. 42

DailyAstorian.com // TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2020

\$1.50

CORONAVIRUS

State aims for calm after virus outbreak

Allen speaks at virtual town hall

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

Trying to ease concerns in Clatsop County, the director of the Oregon Health Authority indicated Friday that a surge in coronavirus cases would likely not move the county back from phase two of the state's reopening plan.

Gov. Kate Brown placed the county on the state's watch list after virus cases spiked after the Labor Day holiday and a workplace outbreak at Pacific Seafood in Warrenton.

Some county, city and business leaders are concerned the rising case count could push the county back to phase one or the baseline of the reopening plan, triggering a costly return of tougher restrictions to control the spread of the virus.

See Virus, Page A5

Politics flare in online classrooms

Student messages in a fraught election year

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Astorian

Political messages aren't confined to yard signs or television ads this year — they're also popping up in virtual classrooms in the Astoria School District.

Some students use Trump 2020 campaign signs as their backdrops when they log in for Zoom calls. Others type political slogans into chat room messages during live class discussions. A few students confronted with these messages have abruptly left class in frustration.

"My concern is my son cannot concentrate on school," said Emily Vargas, whose son is a freshman at Astoria High School.

School administrators and teachers have seen messages on both sides of the political spectrum, said Lynn Jackson, the Astoria High School principal. Students are using monikers and screens to

See Politics, Page A6

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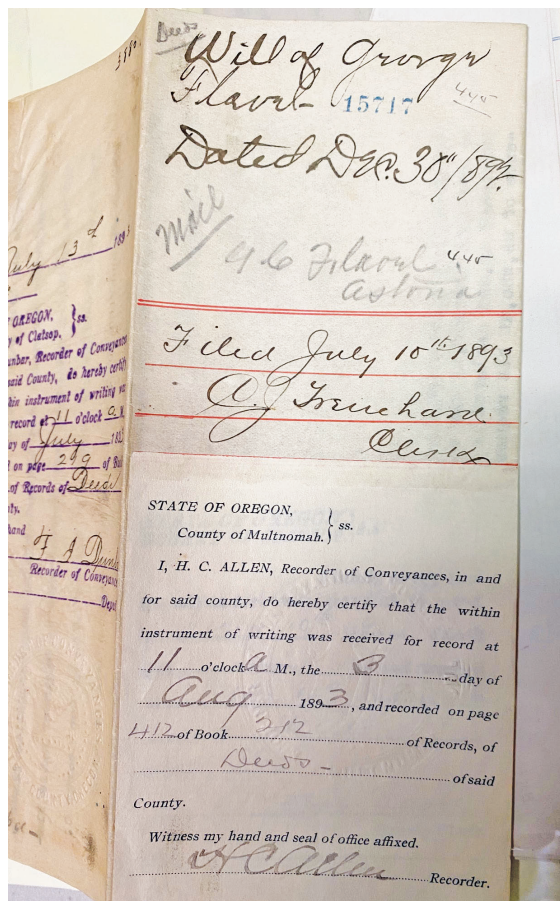
John Goodenberger | scholar who is writing a book on the history of the Flavel family

A SCHOLAR AT WORK ON A FAMOUS FAMILY HISTORY



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

John Goodenberger is writing a book on the history of the Flavel family.



Jonathan Williams/The Astorian

The will of Capt. George Flavel.

Goodenberger creates Flavel anthology

By JONATHAN WILLIAMS
The Astorian

What could a couple of receipts, Christmas cards and a list of supplies to build a house tell you about someone?

For the Flavels, a name synonymous with Astoria, it tells their story as it's never been told before.

In the bowels of the Clatsop County Historical Society lie thousands of papers from the family — letters, business documents and newspaper articles — some dating back to the 1850s and signed by President Ulysses S. Grant.

John Goodenberger, a lifelong Astorian, is creating an anthology on the sometimes controversial family driven by what they left behind.

"We've been talking about the Flavels for decades, now

hear the story through their words," Goodenberger said.

But it is no simple task. Goodenberger's book covers 170 years.

Now two years in and a couple of chapters deep, the historian has made substantial progress and still has a ways to go. But for him, that's part of the reward.

"I have waited decades to do this," he said. "This is my chance, and that is what keeps me focused."

Creating order from disorder

In the historical society's basement are dozens of boxes, some sorted, some not, filled with artifacts collected from the George Conrad Flavel home on 15th Street and Franklin Avenue.

See Flavels, Page A6



Nicole Bales/The Astorian

Matthew Palmgren is an assistant curator at the Columbia River Maritime Museum.

Artist finds depth in two dimensions

Palmgren a curator at Maritime Museum

By NICOLE BALES
The Astorian

For Matthew Palmgren, the process of art and design is a way for him to work out his thoughts.

The two-dimensional art hanging in his studio at 14th Street Studios in Astoria has a similar style. Paper, transfer and paint are layered on top of each other on wood with a ground and finish that makes some elements pop forward.

"I started making paintings on plexiglass that would sort of step back into space," Palmgren said. "And then I sort of condensed all that into one single plane."

His most recent work also lay-

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people

ers images, but on paper, which Palmgren said requires him to be even more calculated.

Palmgren gravitated to art and design from a young age, and committed to sculpture when he was a teenager after he apprenticed under Hai Ying Wu, a Chinese American sculptor.

"In that time period, I learned some of the foundation basics and that was sort of my introduction to sculpture," he said. "And that's really where I was going, primarily. It's only recently that I've been

doing two-dimensional work."

Palmgren initially wanted to move to China after high school, but decided to attend Western Washington University, where he studied fine art, sculpture and industrial design.

While he was there, he branched out into industrial design and exhibit design, which he saw as an extension of the three-dimensional art and design he was already doing.

After college, he worked for a Seattle-based company that was contracted by museums to move art.

See Palmgren, Page A5

