



Astorian

149TH YEAR, NO. 108

DailyAstorian.com // THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2022

\$1.50

‘He was a legend in his own right’

Trenary was considered the godfather of organic farming on the North Coast

By **ABBEY McDONALD**
The Astorian

NEHALEM — Inside his home on a 16-acre organic farm, Jeff Trenary made restaurant quality meals in a kitchen so messy that loved ones called it off-putting.

“My dad was straight up the best chef I’ve ever met,” said Lucy Wild, Trenary’s daughter. She said guests would enter the home, look around, and immediately doubt the quality of the meal they agreed to partake in.

“And then he’d bust out this, like, million-star meal. These four-star meals? Nope. Get out of here, this is a million star meal,” she said.

Trenary created a full feast every

night, she said, and nearly always with a new recipe. He used his restaurant connections on the North Coast and Portland to get details on menu items and would try them at home. He excelled in ingredients that surprised his guests, like frogs and oxtail and bone marrow.

Trenary, who died of cancer in early February, loved to feed people. He spent his life working hard to make sure they were eating the best food possible.

Sometimes called the godfather of organic farming, Trenary started the first organic farm on the North Coast after buying a property bordering the North Fork Nehalem River in 1986.

See *Trenary*, Page A6



Joshua Bessex/The Astorian
Jeff Trenary was a longtime vendor at the Astoria Sunday Market.

Election lineup set for May

Two contested races for county commission

By **ERICK BENGEL**
The Astorian

Two incumbents on the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners will face challengers in the May election.

Commissioner Pamela Wev, who represents District 3 in Astoria, is campaigning for reelection against Nathan Pinkstaff, a deck mechanic from Astoria. In District 5, which covers South County, Commissioner Lianne Thompson is up for reelection against Steve Dillard, an innkeeper who lives in Seaside.

Commissioner Mark Kujala, the board chairman, who represents District 1 in Warrenton, is unopposed for reelection. The filing deadline for the May 17 election was Tuesday.

See *Election*, Page A3



MORE INSIDE

Witt to run for Salem-area state House seat • A3

Beyond a tear in a greenhouse’s shell lies an untended area at Kingfisher Farms.

Lydia Ely/The Astorian



City to declare shopping carts a nuisance

Safeway, Astoria Co+op would pick them up

By **NICOLE BALES**
The Astorian

The Astoria City Council is expected to approve an ordinance in the coming weeks to address stolen and abandoned shopping carts.

Police have received a growing number of calls about abandoned shopping carts blocking sidewalks and left on private property.

See *Carts*, Page A2

MORE INSIDE

Police to adjust patrols in response to vandalism downtown • A2

Piano trio reflects on the power of music during wartime

Musicians have personal ties to Russia, Ukraine

By **ABBEY McDONALD**
The Astorian

Following Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the Hermitage Piano Trio, which has personal ties to both countries, is reflecting on the power of music during wartime.

The Grammy-nominated group will return to the Liberty Theatre for the Third Dimension Festival in June, along with guest performers.

This year, the festival has expanded to two weeks, from June 11 to June 26,

allowing for more concerts.

Jennifer Crockett, the Liberty’s executive director, said that the centerpiece performance of the festival, Dmitri Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 7, “Leningrad,” was selected to make a statement about war and the power of music. She said it

See *Trio*, Page A2



Carol Newman

Hermitage Piano Trio violinist Misha Keylin, pianist Ilya Kazantsev and cellist Sergey Antonov at the Liberty Theatre in 2019.

‘AS DIFFICULT AS IT SOUNDS, WE’RE NOT HERE ONLY TO ENTERTAIN PEOPLE. WE’RE ALSO HERE TO PROVOKE THOUGHTS. AND UNFORTUNATELY, THE HISTORY, EVEN CURRENT — AND I CALL IT CURRENT HISTORY, BECAUSE RIGHT NOW THE HISTORY IS BEING MADE — FORCES US TO LOOK BACK TO LOOK FORWARD. SO THIS IS A VERY SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR ME, ESPECIALLY NOW.’

Sergey Antonov | the Hermitage Piano Trio’s cellist

Jewell hires acting superintendent

Gardner retired from Central Linn

By **ETHAN MYERS**
The Astorian

JEWELL — The Jewell School District has hired an acting replacement for Superintendent Steve Phillips, who was placed on administrative leave last month pending an investigation.

Following an executive session on Monday night, the school board voted unanimously to make Brian Gardner, a former superintendent at Central Linn School District in Linn County, the acting superintendent for the rural school district. The appointment was effective immediately.

“We’re very excited,” Mike Stahly, the school board’s chairman, told The Astorian. “He is starting in the morning — he is actually starting right now. I hope everybody has a

chance to stop in and meet him.”

Gardner served as superintendent in Linn County for a decade before retiring from the position last year. He also has past experience as a principal and teacher.

He will fill in through the end of June, or until an earlier date is given by the school board with 30 days advance notice, according to his contract.

The appointment of Gardner comes as Jewell has faced leadership uncertainty and turnover in recent years.

“My interest in Jewell is because I think that my basic background and skills can come in and hopefully calm the waters a little bit, and do some things to help the district set up for long term and permanent success,” Gardner said to the school board and attendees of the meeting on Monday. “My basic feeling is you do

See *Jewell*, Page A3

