

# A Finni family recipe

Astoria now has an Italian food cart

By **EDWARD STRATTON**  
*The Daily Astorian*

In August, John Finni, his wife, Jen, and the couple's two young children moved to Astoria to be near his father, Joe. It was through Finni's family and professional history that he decided to open Finni's Fine Foods, an Italian food cart on the west end of Astoria that opened last month. Finni's family emigrated three generations back from northern Italy. His grandparents, John and Millie, owned Finni's Ristorante in California's Central Valley, where Finni said he and his family all spent time working.

When he moved to Astoria, Finni, who had managed a Qdoba Mexican Eats restaurant in Colorado and worked for many years in the food service industry, went to work as a server at Baked Alaska. Hosting one day, Finni said, he read a story about how his employer started small and built up over time. He started A&F Foods, a limited liability corporation partnership with a friend and former colleague from his time working for BP, Troy Anderson. Finni said Anderson, who works in Mongolia, is a silent partner, while he operates the food cart. "I've always wanted to start my own business," he said, adding he takes the greatest



**John Finni opened Finni's Fine Foods at the food cart pod near the Astoria Roundabout last month.**

pleasure in satisfied customers. "For one reason or another it just never panned out. I started looking into the aspect of it, and I was like, 'God, I never would have thought of opening a food cart, to be honest with you.'" Finni said he started looking at local culinary options, and noticed a lack of Italian restaurants. He had a cart custom-constructed in Portland, with a full kitchen and a built-in fire suppression system. Finni describes his restaurant as fine dining, but out of a food cart. The cart focuses on pastas, sandwiches, breads and soups. He said most of the recipes come from his family and his "Zia" (Italian for aunt), an elderly woman who

worked at the family restaurant in California for many years. The sausage he uses in his sandwiches and pasta, he said, is nicknamed "deathbed sausage" for how his grandfather conveyed the recipe to his father. Finni said his grandfather, who had heartburn but was convinced he was dying of a heart attack, called his father to the hospital one day and asked for a piece of paper to write something important on. "My dad, of course, he'll tell you, 'God, he's telling me where the family fortune is,'" Finni said. "And my grandfather starts writing, and it's a sausage recipe. We as a family termed it as 'deathbed sausage,' because here my grandfather thought he was on his

deathbed and wanted to pass it on to the family." Finni grinds his own sausage each week, and makes his own sauces, minestrone and clam chowder. "Everything is built on flavors," said Finni, quick to give out a sample but secretive about the ingredients. Finni said he originally intended to be the first food cart at the Astoria Station next to Reach Break Brewing. But Finni said he found a better fit and more exposure in the small food cart pod at the former gas station at 490 W. Marine Drive, which has hosted long-time Mexican food truck El Asadero and some shorter-lived carts. Finni's Fine Foods is open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and available to travel.

## Wanted in Seaside: City councilor to represent Ward 1

Councilors sworn in, vacancy remains

By **R.J. MARX**  
*The Daily Astorian*

SEASIDE — There were some new seating arrangements at the Seaside City Council meeting this week. At the far left, former planning commissioner Tom Horning was the newest councilor. On the other end, a vacant council seat remained awaiting a replacement for Mayor Jay Barber, who was appointed to the city's top spot in December after the death of former Mayor Don Larson. City Manager Mark Winstanley administered the oath of office Monday night to two returning councilors, Randy Frank and Seth Morrissey, and



**R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian**  
**City Manager Mark Winstanley swears in Tom Horning, Sean Morrissey and Randy Frank.**

one new one, Horning. Tita Montero, the senior member of the council, was nominated and unanimously elected council president. At his first meeting Horn-

ing reiterated a goal put forth during his campaign: enhanced tsunami preparedness. "One of the things I've noticed since the election is that people are coming out of the woodwork from all over," Horning said. "Everybody's focusing very much toward tsunami preparedness and I think there's a great opportunity for Seaside to lead the rest of the Coast toward a high level of preparedness." With an opening to fill, councilors invited residents of Ward 1 to apply for the seat formerly occupied by Barber. Barber had served two years of his four-year council term. Applicants must live in Seaside's Ward 1 and have resided in the city for at least one year. Candidates must submit a written questionnaire and gather at least 10 supporting signatures from Ward 1 residents. A 30-day filing deadline is expected, Winstanley said.

## Lower Columbia Preservation Society to debut new office space

*The Daily Astorian*  
The Lower Columbia Preservation Society will be hosting an open house 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday at their new office space at 389 12th St. in Astoria. The preservation society moved into the space, on the corner of 12th and Duane streets in the Hotel Elliott, in November. Their office was previously located inside their historic building, the Francis Apartments, on Franklin Ave-

nue. During the open house — which coincides with Astoria's Second Saturday Art Walk — visitors will meet board members, enjoy the new space and learn how to get involved with the preservation society. Attendees will also find out about the organization's preservation advocacy activities, including proposed changes to Astoria's development code, and their work in advocating for thoughtful design review in the waterfront bridges project.

Photos and other documentation of historic preservation projects completed by students at Clatsop Community College will be on display, as well as information about field school scholarships that the preservation society

awarded to students last summer. The purpose of the Lower Columbia Preservation Society is to preserve, protect and promote the historic houses and buildings in the lower Columbia region of Oregon and Washington state.

## Obama expands Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

*Associated Press*

ASHLAND — President Barack Obama has expanded the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in southwestern Oregon to protect its rich biodiversity. The expansion announced Thursday adds about 48,000 acres to a landscape of rich forests, grasslands and shrubs that was established as a monument in 2000. It includes about 5,000 acres in Northern California. Obama said in his proclamation that the expansion will create a landscape that will connect vital habitat, protect the watershed and preserve the area's extraordinary biodiversity. The monument, originally 65,000 acres, is home to rare plant and animal species. Conservation groups and Oregon's Democratic U.S. senators praised the decision. "Today is a great day for southern Oregon," U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley said in a statement. "The Cascade-Siskiyou area, where three mountain ranges converge creating a unique and spectacular landscape seen nowhere else in the world, merits the recognition and expanded protection

that President Obama gave it today. I deeply appreciate the time and energy of the many Oregonians who came to public meetings and submitted comments on this proposal. Their thoughtful input helped to inform the president's final decision on both the expansion and its boundaries, and I will continue to press to ensure that their voices are heard as a management plan for the new monument area is formed." U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden said the monument "possesses an unrivaled beauty, with natural wonders in every corner and a spectacular landscape that hosts not just diverse ecosystems but recreation opportunities known around the world. That's why I have worked for years to protect this Oregon treasure and its irreplaceable qualities." Oregon Public Broadcasting says detractors have expressed concern that a larger monument would hurt the region's economy with limits on logging and grazing. The Oregon Cattleman's Association said in a news release that the decision will have a rippling effect on ranchers, farmers and outdoor enthusiasts.

## Court throws wrench in plans for oil terminal in Grays Harbor

By **GENE JOHNSON**  
*Associated Press*

SEATTLE — The Washington Supreme Court has thrown a major wrench in plans for a big oil terminal in Grays Harbor, saying the project must be reviewed under a 1989 law passed following the Exxon Valdez spill in Alaska. The justices on Thursday unanimously reversed a decision by the state Court of Appeals that the Ocean Resources Management Act did not apply. Westway Terminal,

recently renamed Contanda, wants to expand its existing methanol facility receive up to 17.8 million barrels of oil a year, including from the Bakken region of North Dakota and Montana, for shipping to refineries in California and Puget Sound. A spokesman did not immediately return an email seeking comment. Kristen Boyles, an attorney with Earthjustice, which represents the tribal and environmental groups, said she doesn't believe the project can win approval under the stringent standards of the 1989 law.

## Environmental groups plan to sue over suction dredging

*Associated Press*

SPOKANE, Wash. — Conservation groups say they plan to sue the state of Washington for allowing suction dredge mining in rivers and streams that are home to endangered salmon and steelhead. The state Department of Wildlife grants permission for the gold-mining technique in rivers throughout the state. Conservation and fisher-

ies groups have also introduced bills in the state Legislature to better regulate the practice. Suction dredge mining uses large, gas-powered vacuums to suck up gravel on the bottom of rivers and streams in search of gold flakes. The gravel beds are critical to salmon spawning. The Center for Biological Diversity and the group Cascadia Wildlands have filed a 60-notice of intent to sue the state in federal court.

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