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ONE DOLLAR

Climate change clues found in plants

Citizen scientists can help national parks record changes



Nancy Fernandez, a climate change intern with the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, speaks during the Nature Matters talk at the Fort George Lovell Showroom on Thursday.

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

The National Parks Service is partnering with citizen scientists to track when plant species flower, leaf out or set seed. The way plants grow gives clues to changes in the environment and the impact of climate change.

"Plants, as we know, have the most sensitive biological responses to climate change," Nancy Fernandez, a climate change intern with Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, said. "They are sensitive to temperature change and precipitation."

Fernandez discussed plant responses to climate change during a talk last week at Fort George Lovell Showroom in Astoria.

As a native of California's Central Valley, Fernandez said, she has seen firsthand drought conditions and plants blooming earlier each spring.

"Plants have been seeing this for a long time, longer than we have," she said.

Using data gathered by volunteer

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Lewis and Clark National Historical Park climate change intern Nancy Fernandez talks about how plants respond to climate change.

Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Ex-fire chief sues over firing

Balzer claims breach of contract, wrongful discharge, defamation

The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — The former fire chief in Cannon Beach has filed a lawsuit against the Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District alleging that his firing had nothing to do with his job performance.

Mike Balzer, who served as fire chief from January 2012 until he was fired in October, claims the fire district's board retaliated against him because of critical comments made by his wife on social media. He also alleges that board directors made comments about him after his firing that defamed him and damaged his reputation.



Mike Balzer

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Fishing family settles lawsuit with fish agency

Family, wildlife officers had history of bad blood before roadside standoff

By AUSTIN JENKINS
Northwest News Network

SEATTLE — Washington's Department of Fish and Wildlife formally acknowledged Friday that it violated the constitutional rights of two brothers who commercially fished the Columbia River.

The agency's admission of wrongdoing is part of a settlement in a lawsuit that has changed agency practices. It stems from a traffic stop nearly nine years ago in rural southwest Washington.

The traffic stop happened on the morning of March 23, 2007. The location was tiny Wahkiakum County across the Columbia River from Astoria. It was captured on video.

Filming from inside a crew cab pickup truck was the Tarabochia family: Father Joe, 20-year old son Matthew, and 17-year

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Young actor is just one of the guys waiting for Godot

To break up the apparently aimless conversation of the two main characters in the North Coast production of "Waiting for Godot," more than one visitor arrives to enliven and intrigue them.

It would spoil the surprise to reveal whether one is the mysterious Godot, but at some point they do greet his messenger.

Teenager Parker Fergus plays that role in the new production, which is being staged by Partners for the PAC, the coalition of arts groups dedicated to preserving the Clatsop Community College Performing Arts Center at 16th Street and Franklin Avenue.

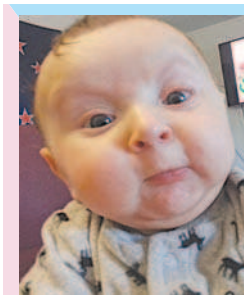
Fergus is an eighth-grader who attends Broadway Middle School in Seaside. His mother, Lisa Fergus, is a



Submitted Photo

Parker Fergus, right, appears as the boy messenger, and William Ham plays Vladimir in the new Astoria production of "Waiting for Godot," which opens at the CCC Performing Arts Center Friday and runs two weekends. "Godot" has endured because it's highly entertaining," Ham said. "It is one of the saddest comedies and funniest tragedies ever written for the stage."

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Enter your baby in The Daily Astorian's Cutest Baby Contest for 2015

If your baby was born between Jan 1st & Dec 31st of 2015, you can submit your newborn's picture either via email at classifieds@dailyastorian.com or drop by one of our offices in Astoria or Seaside and we can scan in the photo for you.

Deadline to enter is Tuesday, January 26th at 5:00 pm. Entries will be printed in The Daily Astorian on January 29th.

