

Adventurer: Nelson will take next year off

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"Really good days on the water, I've been doing up to 40" miles, he said. "And really bad days when it's too windy or whatever, then I've had to take a few days off completely."

By the end of July, Nelson had reached the source of the Missouri River in Three Forks, Montana, and begun a 500-mile hike through the Rocky Mountains. On Aug. 6, Nelson reached Lemhi Pass and the Continental Divide on the Idaho-Montana border.

"I looked down into Idaho and the Columbia watershed," Nelson wrote on his adventure blog the day of his arrival. "This was a huge landmark for Lewis and Clark, and for me as well, one I'd been imagining for many months."

Nelson hiked north along the Continental Divide, before crossing Lolo Pass into Idaho. He relaunched his kayak into the Clearwater River in Orofino, Idaho, Aug. 23, and began his downstream journey. He reached the Snake River Aug. 24, and the Columbia River Sept. 3.

Colter

Nelson pulled into the Port of Astoria's East End Mooring Basin in his kayak around noon Tuesday, less than six months after starting his journey. The Corps of Discovery, which reached the Pacific on Nov. 15, 1805, took 18 months.

After having a "river angel" pick up his kayak, Nelson took



Bruce Nelson/Submitted Photo
Bruce "Buck" Nelson reached the headwaters of the Missouri River, the longest in the U.S. at more than 2,300 miles, by the end of July while retracing the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

off on foot, reaching Fort Clatsop Tuesday before finishing his journey to the Pacific on the Fort to Sea Trail.

About 15 years ago, when he was hiking the Appalachian Trail, Nelson said he was trying to decide on a trail name, a common practice among long-distance hikers. He eventually decided to call himself Colter,

after a member of the Corps of Discovery and the first European to explore the region of Yellowstone National Park and the Teton Mountain Range.

"I had just finished a book about John Colter from the Lewis and Clark expedition," Nelson said. "I knew he was an admirable person, so I chose that name for myself."

Particularly enamoring to Nelson was a decision by Colter while the Corps of Discovery was returning east to join frontiersmen Forest Hancock and Joseph Dickson in North Dakota. Colter asked to be honorably discharged so he could guide Hancock and Dickson on their search for furs in the upper Missouri River the Corps had already explored.

Life of adventure

Nelson, 58, caught the adventure bug early while growing up on a dairy farm in Minnesota.

"I think people are kind of wired a certain way, and when I was a little kid ... my brother and I, we used to go out in the woods and goof around," Nelson said. "We would go out for two or three days on a weekend, and just not bring any food and live off the land. So yeah, I think it's just kind of the way I'm wired."

The biggest adventure of his life, he said, was as a smoke jumper for the federal Bureau of Land Management from 1981 to 2008. He retired in Alaska, where he still lives in a 16-by-20-foot cabin northeast of

Fairbanks, with an oil-burning stove and no running water.

One of Nelson's first big treks was a 700-mile solo caribou hunt by foot and raft in the wilds of Alaska in 2000. He would subsequently trek solo across the Alaskan wilderness, and write a book — "Alone in the Fortress of the Bears" — about surviving off the land on Admiralty Island, home to more than 1,600 Alaskan brown bears.

He has climbed the 20,000-foot Denali, the highest mountain in North America; Argentina's Aconcagua, the highest mountain outside Asia at 22,838 feet; and Tanzania's 19,300-foot Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa.

In 2001, Nelson completed his first hike from south to north across the U.S. on the Appalachian Trail. A week later, he began a 2,300-mile canoe trip down the Mississippi River. Since then, Nelson has also completed the Pacific Crest, Continental Divide and Desert trails from Mexico to Canada.

"I like big, epic, outdoor challenges," he said. "It's just really satisfying. You get to see a lot of things you wouldn't normally see."

"Some people will try to walk around the globe," Nelson said. "And that is one that wouldn't interest me personally."

"The Lewis and Clark Trail had a great personal interest to me, and it was something that is hardly ever done."

Nelson said he will take the next year off before any more epic adventures.

Warrenton: Mayor Kujala said regulations are meant to be preemptive

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"If things need to be tweaked, we can tweak it," Urling said.

In addition, Seaside also has a set of "Good Neighbor Rules" — a ban on excessive noise, for example — so renters "are aware that they need to behave themselves," Urling said. "And I don't think those are particularly draconian. It's just wanting them to be considerate."

A complaint procedure for aggrieved neighbors will be part of Warrenton's regulation package, Urling said, though he doesn't anticipate a raft of problems.

"If it's once in a blue moon, it's probably something the neighbors learn to live with. But if it becomes a chronic problem, then there is a remedy, at least for them to get notice to the city that this is a constant problem," he said. "And at that point, the city can step in and talk with the owner of the vacation rental."

Preemptive measures

Police Chief Mathew Workman said it would be helpful if his department could collect phone numbers for responsible parties at the rental locations in case something untoward goes down.

Keeping tabs on an ever-changing contact list could be difficult, especially if the rentals turn over weekly, he said. But as long as property managers can be contacted and advised of problems — or at least can put officers in touch with renters — enforcement should be doable, he said.

The police department already deals with responsible parties listed on RV permits in a similar fashion, he added.

City Commissioner Henry Balensifer asked if the city has the manpower to enforce new code requirements.

"It's going to be a function of how many vacation

rental applications we get," Urling replied. "If we get half a dozen a year, yeah. If we get 60, no."

Mayor Mark Kujala said the proposed regulations are meant to be preemptive.

"We don't have a lot of these (vacation rentals) in existence, and we have none that are official, and now we're having a mechanism in order to process those," he said.

Pacific Seafood

In other business Tuesday night, the City Commission approved a proposal from Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, an engineering firm, to develop an agreement between the city and Pacific Seafood Group regarding the seafood company's future use of wastewater.

Pacific Seafood Group — whose Warrenton plant burned down in 2013 — has decided to rebuild. But first the company must estimate start-up and operating costs.

The agreement will provide information about a rate structure that covers the city's costs associated with treating the Pacific Seafood Group's wastewater. The company will use the information to determine the feasibility of various rebuilding plans, according to the staff report.

The commission's approval for the proposal, however, hinges on whether the city can secure grant funding through the state Infrastructure Finance Authority. The commissioners committed to a 15 percent cash match for funding Kennedy/Jenks Consultants' proposed engineering study.

Pacific Seafood Group aims to finish construction in spring 2017, Kujala said.

"That's ambitious, but we are going to be supportive of that, and nothing that we do will be delaying that," he said. "We're making sure that they have everything to move forward."

Blob: La Niña is shaping up to be weak

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enormous zone of overall warmth extending west from the coasts of Washington state and Oregon, north to Alaska.

Less of an SOB?

So far at least, this "Son of a Blob" isn't shaping up to be as much of a bad boy as its old man.

Washington State Climatologist Nick Bond said Monday that, "Indeed the blob is getting kind of reinvigorated. ... I doubt whether the magnitude of the anomalies will approach those that we observed during the last couple of years. It does stack the deck slightly for warmer weather during the next couple of seasons, but not to a great extent."

Bond said he thinks our upcoming winter will not be "quite as toasty as the last two," in part because an "upwelling favorable wind the past summer cooled off the water to normal or even slightly cooler than normal right near the coast."

La Niña prospects fade

The Son of a Blob arrives

just as climate experts have officially declared this will not be a La Niña winter. The flip side of more-famous El Niño conditions that influenced the warm winter of 2015-16, La Niña is a pattern of unusually cold surface waters in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. It tends to bring wetter and cooler winter conditions to the Pacific Northwest.

"Because La Niña is shaping up to be a weak sister, my hopes for a cold winter seem unlikely to be fulfilled," Bond said.

On Sept. 22, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will issue its new 30- and 90-day long-range forecasts, and will try to determine how the Son of a Blob will influence our weather in a winter with neutral conditions — neither El Niño nor La Niña.

The original Blob

A result of a persistent zone of high atmospheric pressure in our part of the Pacific, the original Blob created "highly unusual weather," Bond said at the 2016 Pacific County Marine Science Conference in Long Beach in May.

Ocean conditions made their

way onto dry land in the form of drought and record temperatures — "2015 was by far the warmest year we've had in the Cascades" and "Oct. 1, 2014 through September 2015 (was a time of) record warmth in much of the Northwest." Widespread forest fires and possibly the largest documented seabird mortality event in world history were linked to the 2013-15 Blob.

Weather and sea life

Mass said Sunday that experimental modeling he conducted found a modest 1 to 2 degrees increase in land temperatures from the original Blob. But even that amount of additional warmth can have a noticeable influence on snowpack and other terrestrial conditions in the Pacific Northwest.

In terms of its impacts, the new Son of a Blob "probably is more meaningful to the marine ecosystem, particularly if the models used for seasonal weather prediction are on the right track," Bond said this week. "They are showing water being something like 1 to 1.5 C (1.8 to 2.7 degrees F) above nor-

mal in a wide band along the coast, as a group."

At this spring's science conference, Bond predicted the Blob would come back, but didn't expect it to do so this soon. Asked about this Monday, Bond said, "Whether I am surprised or not is a good question. I have been surprised at how strong and persistent the temperature anomalies have been, in both the ocean and atmosphere, and so it takes a lot to startle me at this point."



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2pm Opening Remarks, City Councilor Zetty Nemlowill

3pm "Making the Most of Your Medical Appointment" by Foot & Ankle Surgeon Dr. Michael Murdock

4pm "Health Coaching: Put your plans into action" by Venus Fromwiller, Health Coach

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