

Q&A

Foster's passion for writing goes 'beyond enjoyment'

Former reporter now works at visitors bureau

By DAMIAN MULINIX
For EO Media Group



Damian Mulinix/For EO Media Group
Long Beach Peninsula Visitors Bureau's Drew Foster is passionate about writing, especially narrative nonfiction

SEAVIEW, Wash. — "Writing has always been a huge part of my life. At times it was the only thing I was good at in school. I knew that I wanted to focus on it," said Drew Foster over a cup of coffee recently.

Originally from the Bay Area of California, Foster moved from San Jose to the Big Island of Hawaii when he was 14. It was around that time that he started considering his future and began writing for his high school newspaper, but it was short-lived.

"I was promptly asked to leave that class because the articles I wanted to write were more 'newsy' than what they had in mind," he said.

It wasn't long before he was volunteering at his hometown paper, West Hawaii Today. "I wanted to be around the reporters, around the action," he said.

Instead, he was given the menial job of digitizing microfilm, which soured him some.

"The publisher told me I'd never work in newspapers,"

'I think that a passion has to be challenging. ... But if you're really passionate about it you're going to keep moving forward and trying different things to make it work.'

Drew Foster

communications coordinator at the
Long Beach Peninsula Visitors Bureau

states, Foster found himself at the Tri-City Herald in Kennewick, where he was one of the writers dismissed during a round of layoffs in 2014. Unemployed for six months, he began looking outside his normal "box" for work and found an ad for the recently opened marketing communications coordinator at the Long Beach Peninsula Visitors Bureau.

"Six months had gone by and I didn't get any job offers. And the job came up at the visitors bureau in a place I'd never heard of. It was a job I really hadn't considered," he said.

But he liked the look of the place and the fact that he would be doing a lot of things he had enjoyed while working as a newspaper writer.

And the move was a good one, as he enters his third year in the job later this month. In that time Foster has integrated himself into the community. He's engaged to marry Ilwaco High School graduate Kady Kirby this winter and has started a small business on the side, called Drawing Board Creative Services.

"It's Facebook marketing," he said. "Originally my idea was website content writing. Blogging and small publication writing for small businesses. It's an extension of wanting to be a writer."

Q: You had told me previously that to you, "a passion is something that goes beyond enjoyment." What did you mean by that?

A: "I think that a passion has to be challenging. And challenges aren't always fun. A passion is going to make you uncomfortable at times. Is going to frustrate you at times. But if you're really passionate about it you're going to keep moving forward and trying different things to make it

work. It keeps it interesting."

Q: What challenges have you faced in this pursuit?

A: "I took a couple years off from journalism to try and make it as a fiction writer. To try and make a living at it. And I couldn't do it, that's why I went back to journalism."

Q: You told me previously that writing is what makes you feel "accomplished and whole." But also, "it can never be conquered." When would you say writing became this for you?

A: "It's something that probably happened when I worked as a reporter. I realized there are so many different ways to tell a story. And if you ever get comfortable enough where you think, 'Man, I've got this,' you're selling yourself short. You're limiting yourself if you think you already have it figured out. You always have to leave room for improvement."

Q: You obviously take writing very seriously, but is it something that actually brings you joy?

A: "Yeah it does. You know, as a writer when you're nailing it, or when you're on to something good. When you get that feeling, it's exciting and energizing. That's what drives me. I love that feeling. Even if it's something simple like Facebook marketing, if you put up a post with those two concise sentences that work really well with the image and you start seeing the engagement. You can kinda get a little rush out of that too — those little successes."

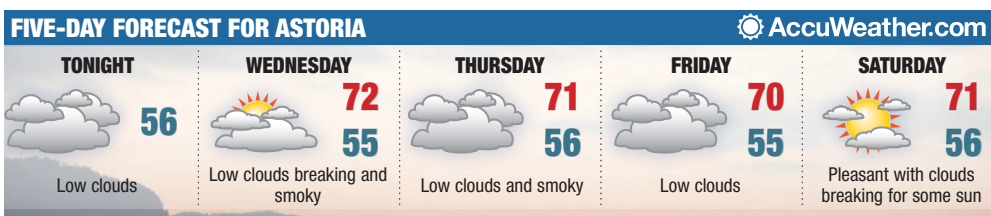
Q: How has the pursuit

of your passion changed you over time?

A: "It's made me more of a listener. And I have kind of a quiet personality. Some people might think I'm a bit aloof or not paying attention, but I think that it's a lot of listening and observation. I also learned as a reporter when to shut up. I know when to just be quiet and let somebody talk. And I think that really helps in writing, too. Just sit back and be quiet and watch and listen and let things come to you instead of forcing the issue or driving the conversation."

Q: It's sometimes hard to "justify" the time for creative pursuits?

A: "And that's a whole other can of worms. Justifying the time. There's a book called 'On Writing' by Stephen King. Great, great book. And he talks about treating creative writing like a job. If you want to become a published author, you create time to do it every single day, like going to work. And I really buy into that. So if I don't have the time to set aside at least three hours a night, four times a week, than I almost don't want to be writing creatively. It just doesn't feel like it's worthwhile. I mean, it takes time to get warmed up and there has to be consistency to it or you lose the thread of whatever you're writing about. And man, it's a lonely style of life. I'm very thankful I have a finance I want to spend time with, instead of just sitting in front of a laptop every single night, banging away on a keyboard."



ALMANAC

Astoria through Monday.

Temperatures
High/low 63°/57°
Normal high/low 69°/54°
Record high 87° in 1939
Record low 46° in 1946

Precipitation
Monday 0.00"
Month to date 0.00"
Normal month to date 0.17"
Year to date 49.67"
Normal year to date 37.11"

SUN AND MOON

Sunset tonight 8:35 p.m.
Sunrise Wednesday 6:07 a.m.
Moonrise today 9:14 p.m.
Moonset today 7:02 a.m.



UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: M51, a system that consists of a large, bright galaxy and a smaller, fainter companion, will be just below the star that marks the Big Dipper's handle.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

TOMORROW'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks

Time	High	Time	Low
2:39 a.m.	8.4 ft.	9:25 a.m.	-0.9 ft.
3:46 p.m.	7.6 ft.	9:37 p.m.	1.4 ft.

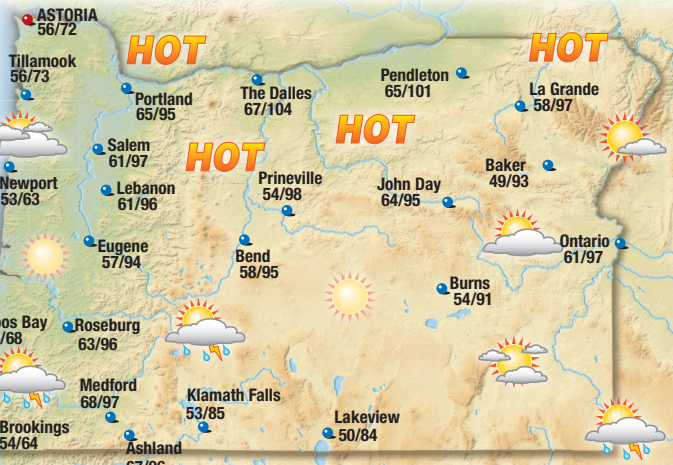
NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Wed.
Allanta	76 70 r 80 70 t	
Boston	71 62 c 82 65 s	
Chicago	83 62 s 84 65 pc	
Denver	78 55 t 79 56 t	
Des Moines	85 60 s 83 64 pc	
Detroit	84 61 s 85 63 pc	
El Paso	93 72 s 95 74 s	
Fairbanks	75 55 pc 79 60 pc	
Honolulu	89 77 pc 89 77 sh	
Indianapolis	80 59 s 82 62 s	
Kansas City	79 60 pc 81 65 pc	
Las Vegas	105 82 s 107 82 s	
Los Angeles	86 67 s 85 67 pc	
Memphis	85 70 pc 86 72 pc	
Miami	93 81 c 91 80 t	
Nashville	83 66 pc 84 69 pc	
New Orleans	90 76 pc 89 76 t	
New York	80 63 sh 82 67 t	
Oklahoma City	85 65 pc 88 71 pc	
Philadelphia	80 63 pc 83 63 s	
St. Louis	84 64 s 86 67 pc	
Salt Lake City	87 67 pc 90 67 pc	
San Francisco	72 60 pc 72 59 pc	
Seattle	89 62 pc 90 63 pc	
Washington, DC	82 65 c 84 66 s	

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

REGIONAL WEATHER

Shown is tomorrow's weather. Temperatures are tonight's lows and tomorrow's highs.

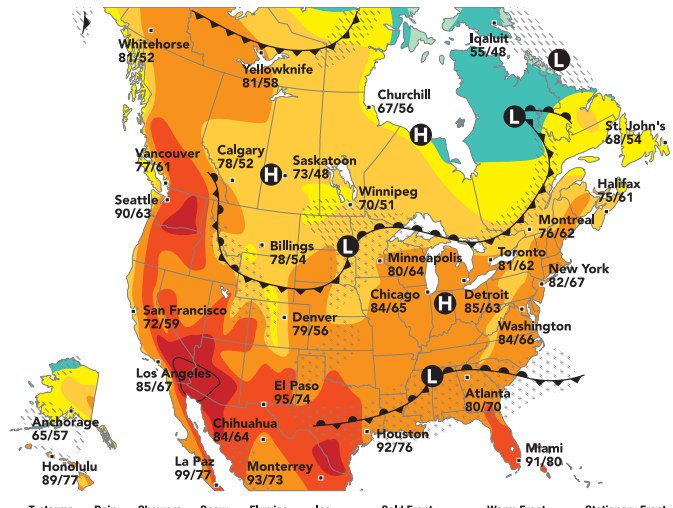


REGIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Wed.	W
Baker City	92 49 pc 93 49 pc		
Bend	95 58 pc 95 58 pc		
Brookings	65 56 pc 65 55 pc		
Eugene	95 57 pc 94 58 pc		
Ilwaco	69 57 pc 69 57 pc		
Klamath Falls	84 53 pc 85 54 pc		
Medford	99 68 pc 97 69 pc		
Newberg	95 61 pc 97 60 pc		
Newport	64 53 pc 63 53 pc		
North Bend	67 56 pc 66 56 pc		
Olympia	91 55 pc 92 55 pc		
Pendleton	100 65 pc 101 64 pc		
Portland	93 65 pc 95 64 pc		
Roseburg	97 63 pc 96 64 pc		
Salem	96 61 pc 97 62 pc		
Seaside	72 57 pc 73 57 pc		
Spokane	95 65 pc 95 65 pc		
Springfield	96 59 pc 95 60 pc		
Vancouver	93 62 pc 95 63 pc		
Yakima	102 63 pc 103 65 pc		

TOMORROW'S NATIONAL WEATHER

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



T-tornado, R-rain, S-showers, SN-snow, F-flurries, I-ice, CF-cold front, WF-warm front, S-stationary front.

Roads will close for Regatta parade

The Daily Astorian

The Astoria Regatta Grand Land Parade takes place at noon Saturday in downtown Astoria, and the Astoria Police Department is closing down several streets to let the participants get ready.

The parade route runs along Exchange Street from 16th Street to Eighth Street; down

Eighth to Duane Street; and along Duane back to 16th.

Traffic will be disrupted throughout central downtown beginning at about 8 a.m. At 8:30 a.m., Exchange is closed between 23rd and 16th streets. Columbia Memorial Hospital, its urgent care center and the Park Medical Building are accessible from Marine Drive at 20th, 21st and 23rd streets.

Seventeenth Street, from Marine Drive to Franklin Avenue, 18th Street from Exchange to Franklin and Franklin from 17th to 18th are closed until an hour after the parade ends, which should be at approximately 2:30 p.m.

All cars and vehicles need to be moved off the listed streets; vehicles that are not moved are subject to towing.

BIRTHS

July 26, 2017

NORTON, Brittany and Scott, of Knappa, a girl, Makenna Leigh Norton, born at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria. Grandpar-

ents are Janean and Verne Ferguson of Gaston and Kerri and David Norton of Sherwood.

CARLSON, Courtney and WHITE, Brad, of Astoria, a

boy, Colson Robert White, born at Columbia Memorial Hospital. Grandparents are Darren and Karen Carlson of Astoria and Jack and Mylene White of Clatskanie.

ON THE RECORD

Assault

• At 6:44 a.m. Saturday, Zalia Altorfer, 28, of Aloha, was arrested by the Seaside Police Department on the 700 block of South Columbia Street and charged with fourth-degree assault, resist-

ing arrest, disorderly conduct and interfering with a peace officer. She allegedly assaulted her boyfriend. Seaside Police are investigating a similar alleged incident with the same victim from the previous night.

• At 5:22 p.m. Saturday,

Gregory Knutson, 55, of Seaside, was arrested by the Seaside Police Department on the 84000 block of U.S. Highway 101 and charged with fourth-degree assault and harassment. He allegedly struck his girlfriend.

DEATHS

Aug. 7, 2017

VANZANT, Raymond Scott, 41, of Warrenton, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

WOLLENBECKER, Ruth Janet, 80, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

Cannon Beach City Council, 5:30 p.m., work session, City Hall, 163 E. Gower St.
Warrenton City Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.
Lewis & Clark Fire Department Board, 7 p.m., main fire station, 34571 Highway 101 Business.

WEDNESDAY

Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, 6 p.m., Judge Guy Boyington Building, 857 Commercial St.
Astoria School Board, 6:15 p.m., study session, 7:30 p.m., regular meeting, Capt. Robert Gray School third-floor boardroom, 785 Alameda Ave.
Wickiup Water District Board, 6:30 p.m., 92648 Svensen Market Road, Svensen.

LOTTERIES

OREGON

Monday's Pick 4:
1 p.m.: 5-3-9-5
4 p.m.: 1-5-3-1
7 p.m.: 4-7-0-1
10 p.m.: 8-4-9-3
Monday's Megabucks: 11-14-15-16-27-44
Estimated jackpot: \$5.7 million

WASHINGTON

Monday's Daily Game: 3-3-9
Monday's Hit 5: 02-03-06-23-24
Estimated jackpot: \$200,000
Monday's Keno: 01-04-07-09-20-22-23-28-30-36-38-40-43-51-52-55-63-64-76-79
Monday's Lotto: 07-13-17-21-24-45
Estimated jackpot: \$1 million
Monday's Match 4: 08-10-18-23

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