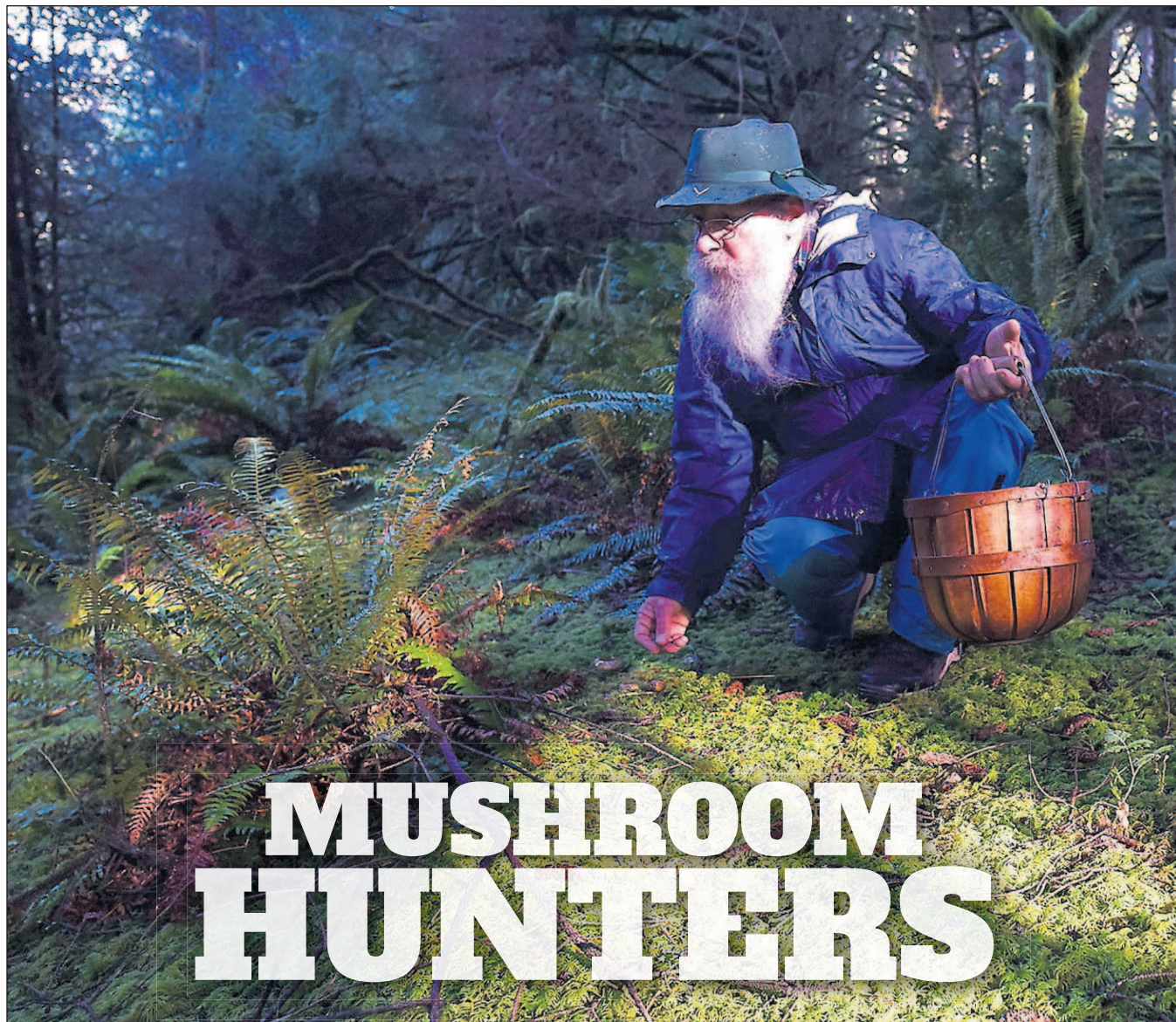


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ONE DOLLAR



MUSHROOM HUNTERS

Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Mike Holland-Moritz, of Portland, searches for wild mushrooms on Wednesday at Fort Stevens State Park near Warrenton.

For adventurers, no truffle at all

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ
The Daily Astorian

When they heard the whistle, the mushroom hunters were ready.

Carolyn Tesar and Mike Holland-Moritz whistled a reply and pushed deeper into the woods, following their ears until they reached their companion, Stephen Walsh, and a clump of mushrooms he'd just discovered.

The three Portland residents, all members of the Oregon Mycological Society, spent a weekday morning together looking for mushrooms in the woods around Fort Stevens State Park. While Walsh ranged farther ahead, scanning for signs of fungi, the others followed at a more leisurely pace, exploring patches thoroughly before hitting the next bit of promising ground.

The promise of edible fungi pulls thousands of people into Oregon's forests in the spring and fall. On the coast, mushroom season typically arrives in full force by October, with cascades of golden chanterelle mushrooms that spike the air with their earthy, apricot scent and king boletes that suddenly dot the forest floor.

Carla Cole, natural resources project manager at the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park near Warrenton, understands the appeal and excitement of hunting for edible mushrooms. But, mushrooms aren't just about what's visible above ground, she said.

"The Pacific Northwest ecosystems have such a huge, rich fungal diversity," she said. "There's so much going on underground, in the soil."

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Stephen Walsh, of Portland, takes a photo of a wild mushroom he harvested in Fort Stevens State Park on Wednesday.



Carolyn Tesar reacts after she found a chanterelle mushroom while hunting for wild fungus in the forests of Fort Stevens State Park on Wednesday.

Vacation rental rules on pause

County will wait until after Gearhart vote

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

Discussion among Clatsop County commissioners about a potential vacation rental ordinance boils down to two factors: over-regulation versus the need for safety inspections, and a November ballot measure in Gearhart that would repeal and replace the city's new short-term rental rules.

Commissioners indefinitely postponed a vote on possible vacation rental regulations at a public hearing in September. The ordinance would require property owners to apply for five-year, renewable permits based on safety inspections for an unlimited number of short-term rental properties.

Requirements for owners to comply with quiet hours, provide covered garbage containers, possess at least one fire extinguisher and offer at least one off-street parking spot are some of the mandates included in the ordinance. Only three people per sleeping area plus two more would be allowed to occupy a residence.

See RENTALS, Page 7A

Astoria woman charged with sexual advances toward student

Hilltop 'lunch lady' allegedly sent photos

By NATALIE ST. JOHN
EO Media Group

ILWACO, Wash. — A former Hilltop Middle School lunch lady is accused of making sexual advances toward a middle-school boy via cellphone and social media.

Brittini R. Ford, 26, of Astoria, is charged with one count of communicating with a minor for immoral purposes of a sexual nature, a Class C felony that carries a penalty of up to \$10,000 and five years in prison, according to police and court documents.

Long Beach police opened an investigation in early April after staff and students alleged that Ford had acted inappropriately with students — in particular, with a boy who was 13 at the time.

The investigation took several weeks. Meanwhile, Ford was terminated in the spring, when an independent Ocean Beach School District investigation found that she repeatedly showed questionable judgment in her interactions with students and violated several district policies.

See FORD, Page 5A

Manzanita reflects one year after tornado

Residents calm after the storm

By BRENNA VISSER
The Daily Astorian

MANZANITA — A year has passed since a tornado ripped through Manzanita, damaging more than 140 homes and businesses and toppling dozens of trees in the beach town.

But walking the streets now, all that remains visible from that stormy day is one shuttered building on Laneda Avenue and an overwhelming sense of calm.

"Everyone's back to business as usual," said Jerald Taylor, the city manager. "With the number of calls we've been getting about (the tornado), you'd think we would be holding a tornado festival or something."

The 135 mph gusts that ravaged the small community on Oct. 14, 2016 are rare on the North Coast. While the town feels generally prepared to handle another storm, the dread of having to do so still sits in the back of some people's minds.

"When we had a few water spouts, it brought back a few memories. Some folks are still

a little nervous because we know it can happen," Taylor said. "When we were hit by a very unusual event like this, the biggest thing we lost was the feeling of, 'It can't happen here.'"

Many in the community feel grateful. There were no fatalities, and due to emergency planning, power was restored to most of the town within two days. While several homeowners are still rebuilding, the community came together quickly and efficiently to clear debris.



Brenna Visser/The Daily Astorian

See TORNADO, Page 8A

The only building left with tornado damage on Laneda Avenue.

