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ONE DOLLAR



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

A diver enters the waters this morning off Tongue Point to search for a pickup driven into the river.

Boat prowler drives pickup into Columbia River fleeing from police

Suspect plucked from water, lodged in jail

By **EDWARD STRATTON**
The Daily Astorian

A man fleeing from police had to be rescued Wednesday after driving his pickup off a pier at North Tongue Point

and into a side channel of the Columbia River.

Timofey Erofeeff, 27, from Scotts Mills in Marion County, had been spotted trespassing on boats. Officers made contact with him about 10 a.m. as he was

driving a red F-150, police said.

They decided to charge him with second-degree criminal trespass and were advised to take him into custody for a Deschutes County parole violation. He took off as they approached his truck to make the arrest, starting a short pursuit.



Timofey Erofeeff

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Keeping dogs safe at state parks

Oregon State Parks reminds dog owners to keep pets on leashes while on the trail

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

The fear associated with a pet gone missing is a feeling most owners never want to experience.

Felix, a 2-year-old border collie, made headlines after he went missing around 3 p.m. Christmas day while on a hike with his owner, Sarah Stremming, in Ecola State Park. He was rescued unharmed from a precipice 60 feet from the crest of the Clatsop Loop trail by the Seaside rope and rescue team.

Thousands of visitors and locals bring their dogs on trails like the ones in Ecola State Park each year. Since Felix's rescue, many Daily Astorian readers have asked why he was not leashed. Others are concerned with the risks taken by first responders, as well as the resources the rescue required.

So what can owners do to keep their dogs out of this situation?

"I know people hate to keep their dogs on a leash. But there's a reason we ask, and a worst-case scenario can happen when they aren't," said Richard Walkoski of Oregon State Parks. "I would hate to see someone have a part of their family not with them because of it."

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Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Highly trained members of the Seaside rope and rescue team rescued a dog that fell off a cliff while hiking with his owner at Ecola State Park.

Fort Stevens a huge economic driver



Photos by Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Tourists visit the wreck of the Peter Iredale at Fort Stevens State Park.

Study based on visitor surveys

By **JACK HEFFERNAN**
The Daily Astorian

Nestled along the South Jetty of the Columbia River in the most northwest point of Oregon, Fort Stevens State Park apparently offers more than historical significance and natural wonder.

A six-year study by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department found that Fort Stevens was the second-highest economic driver of the more than 150 state parks. All the parks combined were found to add \$1.1 billion to the state economy. Gas stations, grocery stores, restaurants and bars were the primary beneficiaries.

Nearly 1.5 million visitors spend \$40.1 million in and around Fort Stevens in a given year. The park also supports nearly 600 full-time area jobs.

"I'm not surprised," Park Manager Justin Parker said. "People do come from a long ways away. People stay longer here than at any other park."



A paraglider prepares to take flight off a beach at Fort Stevens State Park.

The study was based on visitor surveys conducted at each state park for one year, though not all parks were studied in the same year. Figures for many coastal parks, such as Fort Stevens, came from 2011 surveys, while the surveys in eastern parks were conducted last year. Overall, visitor coastal parks totaled roughly

half of all spending.

The park, based around a fort built during the Civil War to guard against a potential British invasion, does not lack historical draws. Though it closed as an active military site after World War II,

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Family finds silver lining in Goonies house restriction

Eckhardts moved from Texas in September

By **JACK HEFFERNAN**
The Daily Astorian

Limited access to the "Goonies house" nowadays often leaves once-hopeful tourists feeling downcast. But last year, it convinced a family of five to move to the area from thousands of miles away.

Mitch and Alethea Eckhardt traveled from their home in Texas to Portland in



the summer of 2016 to visit friends. Avid Goonies fans, and unaware that access to the house was cut off by the owners about a year earlier due to a tourist surge, they couldn't help but drive nearly two hours to see the iconic house.

Instead, they strolled Astoria's streets, dined at its restaurants and snoozed at its hotels.

They were hooked. Rather than wait until retirement and

potentially move far away from their three children, the couple relocated to the area one year later. The Eckhardts still haven't seen the Goonies house, but they have found their home.

"If we did see the Goonies house, we wouldn't have fallen in love with this town," Mitch said with a chuckle. "I think

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The Eckhardt family.

