

CLOSETOHOME

CHASING A WINTER STORM

Writer finds awe-worthy sights at North Jetty

BY DAVID CAMPICHE

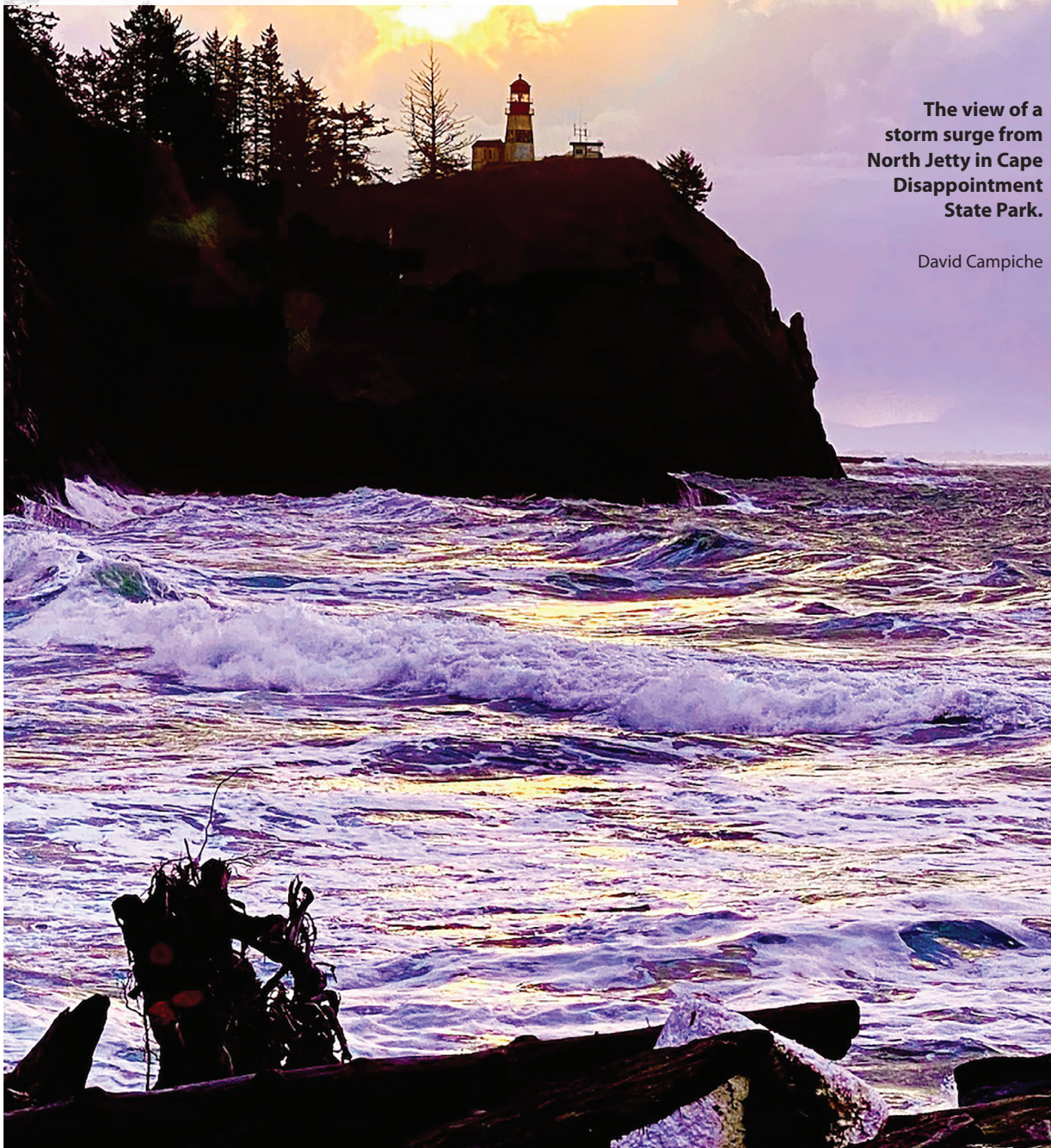
A winter storm has stopped its rampage, at least for the next several hours. The Pineapple Express, winds and waves generated deep in the Pacific, have metamorphosed into a gray feral pout.

Friends have come from the southland. We stand on the North Jetty staring at the North Head Lighthouse as wild white-winged waves break against the basalt headland and shower spray high up igne-

ous walls and into the heavens. This is storm watching, the aftermath of 60 mile-an-hour winds that thrashed the coastline just the night before.

Most of us, readers and citizens of the Columbia-Pacific region that we call home, have spent decades defending our beloved homeland and its stormy demeanor. It's hard to find an umbrella on the streets of Astoria and hard to catch a rain impacted whimper among

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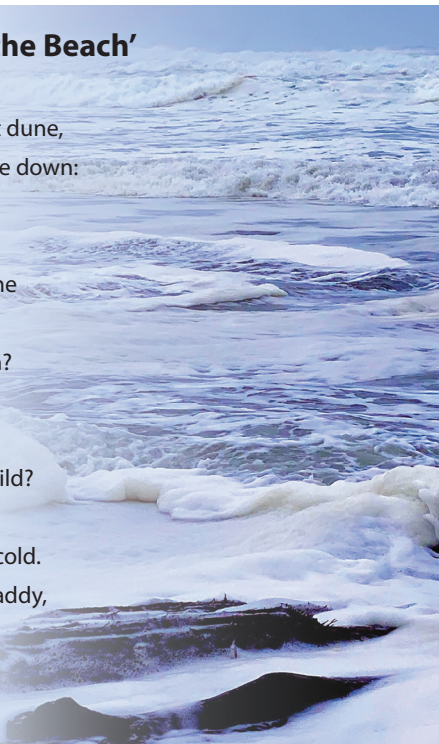
The view of a storm surge from North Jetty in Cape Disappointment State Park.

David Campiche

'With Kit, Age 7, at the Beach'

By William Stafford

We would climb the highest dune,
from there to gaze and come down:
the ocean was performing;
we contributed our climb.
Waves leapfrogged and came
straight out of the storm.
What should our gaze mean?
Kit waited for me to decide.
Standing on such a hill,
what would you tell your child?
That was an absolute vista.
Those waves raced far, and cold.
'How far could you swim, Daddy,
in such a storm?'
'As far as was needed,' I said,
and as I talked, I swam.



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