



South County Food Bank board member Maureen Casterline, Seaside Elks past Exalted Ruler Larry Gore, Elks trustee Marlene Gore, food bank board member Tyler Evans, food bank manager Jenny Knight, food bank board member Rosemarie Sibley, Elks trustee Jon Bue and Elks treasurer Jan Jackson.

Seaside Elks gives food bank \$2,000

The Astorian

The Seaside Elks Lodge presented a check of \$2,000 to the South County Food Bank last

week thanks to a grant from the Elks National Foundation.

The grant will help the food bank purchase needed food items to feed local families.

Paws 'N Action club competes at dog show

The Astorian

Paws 'N Action 4-H dog club members competed in the AKC venue in Enumclaw, Washington, at one of the largest dog shows in the Pacific Northwest.

Jeremiah Schlink received qualifying legs in Beginner Novice Obedience and Novice Rally. Schlink was also awarded

the Top Junior Handler for Rally and placed third overall in the class with adults. This was Schlink's first time at an AKC dog show.

Samantha Carlisle picked up her second qualifying leg toward Rally Nationals with a score of 95 as well as gaining another leg in Novice Obedience (which required off-lead healing).



Members of the Paws 'N Action 4-H dog club recently competed at a dog show in Washington.

Fort Stevens holds Fun at the Fort event

The Astorian

Fort Stevens State Park is holding its third annual Fun at the Fort Saturday and Sunday from noon

to 3 p.m.

All are welcome. The event will take place at the historic area of the park, with a bubble station, disc golf, corn hole, arts and

crafts, and a \$1 barbecue lunch (including a hot dog, chips and a drink).

The event is sponsored by the Friends of Old Fort Stevens.

Scientists launch effort to collect water data across West

By FELICIA FONSECA
Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. — The U.S. Department of Energy recently announced a new kind of climate observatory near the headwaters of the Colorado River that will help scientists better predict rain and snowfall in the U.S. West and determine how much of it will flow through the region.

The multimillion-dollar effort led by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory launches this week. The team has set up radar systems, balloons, cameras and other equipment in an area of Colorado where much of the water in the river originates as snow. More than 40 million people depend on the Colorado River.

Alejandro Flores, an associate professor of hydrology at Boise State University, said the weather in mountainous areas is notoriously difficult to model and the observatory will be a "game changer."

"We have to think about the land and the atmosphere as a linked system that interact with each other," he said. "Up until now, there have been a lack of observations that help us understand this critical interface."

The West is in the midst of a more than 20-year megadrought that studies link to human-caused climate change. That, along with increased demand on the Colorado River led to the first-ever shortage declaration last month, and there's an increasing threat of deeper, more widespread water cuts. Arizona, Nevada and Mexico won't get their full allocations of river water next year.

Scientists will use the observatory to gather data on precipitation, wind, clouds, tiny particles, humidity, soil moisture and other things. Along with a better understanding of the hydrology, they hope to learn more about how wildfires, forest management, drought and tree-killing bugs, for example, play a part in water availability.

A big issue in predicting water supply in the West centers on soil moisture and content, said Ken Williams, the lead

on-site researcher and Berkeley Lab scientist. The monsoon season largely was a dud across the Southwest for the past two years, which means more melting snow soaks into the ground before reaching streams and rivers when it does rain, he said.

Climate experts said during a separate briefing Aug. 24 that southern Arizona and parts of New Mexico have seen impressive rainfall totals so far this monsoon season, with Tucson marking its wettest July on record. Mike Crimmins, a professor at the University of Arizona, called it an "amazing reversal" for the desert city.

Some parts of the Southwest have seen as much as four times their normal precipitation levels. But Crimmins noted other spots like Albuquerque, New Mexico, are either at average levels or still lagging.

"We have both really wet conditions for the short term, but we also have longer-term drought still hanging out there because we have these longer-term deficits that we cannot solve with just one or two or even three months of precipitation," he said.

To reverse the longer-term trends, the region would need to see back-to-back wet winters and summers that are hard to come by, Crimmins said.

The new climate observatory, called the Surface Atmosphere Integrated Field Laboratory, brings together federal scientists, university researchers and others to build on a previous effort to study part of the upper Gunnison River basin in Colorado that shares characteristics with the Rocky Mountains.

For the Rio Grande basin, the data could help water managers as they juggle longstanding water sharing agreements among Colorado, New Mexico, Texas and Mexico, Williams said. It also could help improve weather forecasting and experiments to modify the weather, such as cloud seeding to produce more precipitation.

The data will be available to other researchers and provide a benchmark for any collection beyond the two-year project, scientists said.

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