



Sand dunes near Breakers Point in Cannon Beach.

Oregon Coast Alliance/Submitted Photo

# Breakers Point dune grading gets a nod

By **DANI PALMER**  
EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH—The Cannon Beach City Council voted Tuesday to draft a new ordinance to prohibit dune grading while the city's sand management plan is in development.

But the proposed ordinance comes after approval of a controversial application to grade dunes at Breakers Point. In a 4-1 vote, planning commissioners in late August granted Breakers Point permission to grade 13,700 cubic yards of sand west of the development, with the condition homeowners would not seek permission for further grading until the city finishes a sand management plan. The grading will take place south of West Fifth Street and north of Ecola Creek, with graded material deposited onto the middle and upper beach area to the west.

The plan represented a drastically scaled-down revision from the 73,400-cubic-yard dune grading rejected by the city earlier this year.

## Views, habitat at issue

Roughly 75,000 cubic yards of sand have accumulated in the Breakers Point area over 15 years, according to geologist Tom Horning, who represents Breakers Point homeowners. Normally the sand would blow into the forest, he said, but invasive European grass planted years ago is causing the sand to pile up into nearly 50-foot-tall dunes.

"I believe our application is going to help take it back to a more natural state," Breakers Point homeowner Carol Keljo told the Planning Commission last week, the second

of two hearings held on the topic this summer.

Bruce Francis, property manager of the Breakers Point Homeowners Association, said removal of European grass and planting of native species will restore native dune prairie ecosystems.

Ocean views and beach access were also concerns.

"The whole concept of Breakers Point was that you could see the breakers," condo owner Frank Patrick said.

Patrick said he can no longer see the ocean from his home, and can only see the top portion of Haystack Rock. The loss of a view has decreased his property value, he added.

Cannon Beach resident Susan Neuwirth, who is not a Breakers Point homeowner, said the decision to grade the dunes will also improve beach access for all residents.

Friends of Dunes representative Clay Newton expressed concerns with revegetation. He said only small areas of the project would be protected by the new native plantings. The grading may also result in sand blown onto neighboring properties.

He added that the views are a homeowner's privilege, not a right, as the beach is owned by the state.

Cannon Beach resident Jan Siebert-Wahrmund said waiting for a more comprehensive sand management plan could help protect habitats, improve residents' shared quality of life and provide better emergency protection.

Grading would make little difference either way in a catastrophic quake or tsunami, Francis replied.

## Search for native plants

At the commission's request, representatives of Breakers Point said they would begin looking for native plants as soon as this week.

Plants may take five years before they are fully established, although success could be determined after six months, Francis said, and positive effects from the grading should last nearly a decade.

The experimental nature of the project worried Commissioner Lisa Kerr.

"Mr. Horning said science doesn't change," Kerr

said. "That may be true, but our knowledge and understanding of science does change."

Kerr suggested moving forward with the grading as nearby streets were recently given permission for a similar amount of sand.

However in voting against the proposal, Kerr said she wants to see the science of the city's sand management plan before endorsing the Breakers Point proposal.

Francis said Breakers Point homeowners will work with the Planning Commission's conditions and collaborate with the city and state "in the future," at which time the homeowners association would likely return for new dune grading permits.

# School bus routes could face delays due to construction

The Daily Astorian

Some of the ongoing road construction will affect school bus routes, the Astoria School District reported.

One of the main arterials through Astoria, 15th Street, will be closed until Sept. 19 to school buses for water line upgrades and paving. The Irving Street Bridge is closed until Nov. 1. The Youngs Bay Bridge, by Bayshore Apartments, will be down to one lane at times. But the Oregon Department of Transportation, the district said, has assured it will allow school buses to cross as soon as possible.

"Transportation staff ask that you be patient with delays, especially in the afternoon," the district said in a release. "The transportation staff will have to re-route a few buses down 8th (Street) and across Irving (Street) but we do not anticipate changing any bus stops at this time."

The district advised buses could run 30 to 45 minutes late the first couple of days of school, and 15 minutes late during construction.

Bus routes are available under the quick link section of [www.astoria.k12.or.us](http://www.astoria.k12.or.us). Contact the transportation department at 503-325-4550 for more information.

# Learn to use Excel

The Daily Astorian

Clatsop Economic Development Resources will hold a workshop Sept. 15 on using Microsoft Excel.

The workshop will teach participants how to navigate worksheets, organize data into rows and columns, format text and cells, write formulas and create charts.

The workshop costs

\$15, payable at the workshop by credit card. The first installment takes place at the South County Center, 1455 N. Roosevelt Drive in Seaside, from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Sept. 15. The second runs from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Towler Hall Room 105 on the college's main campus, 1651 Lexington Ave. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/qy78tjn> for more information.

# Class takes lessons to businesses

The Daily Astorian

Clatsop Community College's small business management program is taking applications.

The program, started in 1979 and awarded the Excellence & Innovation Award earlier this year by the Small Business Administration, lasts nine months and uses the participants' businesses as the classroom, along with monthly

advising sessions and networking opportunities with other business owners. The program covers sales, marketing, finance, accounting and operational management.

The cost of the program is \$595, and space is limited. Contact the college's South County Center at 503-338-2402, [sbdc@clatsopcc.edu](mailto:sbdc@clatsopcc.edu) or 1455 N. Roosevelt Drive for more information.

## THOMAS NEIL LAUGHMAN

DECEMBER 26, 1953 - AUGUST 28, 2015

Thomas Neil Laughman, 61, passed away unexpectedly on August 28th, 2015. He was born December 26, 1953 in Astoria, Oregon to Paul Francis and Martha A. (Gargan) Laughman, the eighth of their twelve children. His father was a civil service mechanic for the Coast Guard and his mother a homemaker and reading specialist.

Tom attended Star of the Sea School in Astoria through 5th grade, when the family moved to Seattle, Washington. He finished his schooling in Seattle, attending O'Dea High School, but spent part of his senior year at Astoria High, where he reconnected with grade school friends.

Tom worked various jobs, but was always part of a rock band, originally playing drums, but then playing rhythm guitar and singing lead vocals. From 1971 through 1983, he and his friend Kevin Westberg worked as a team, composing over a hundred songs for their bands, and recorded an album in 1978.

Tom put himself through undergraduate and graduate school at the University of Washington, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences and a Master's of Social Work in 1981. While at college, he enjoyed his work as a resident assistant for McMahon Hall, playing on the champion intermural basketball team, and leading summer work crews of under-privileged young men for the Seattle Park Department.

After graduation, Tom began his career as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker at Western State Hospital in Steilacoom, Washington. In his spare time, he skied and played basketball, and bought his first home. Tom married Jana Kay Clark in 1985. They lived in Denver, Colorado for several years, where Tom did Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling.

In 1987, they moved to Orlando, Florida, enjoying their drive across the country in their corvette. Tom and Jana had two children, Kathleen Evon (Katie), and Sean Thomas. Tom continued to work as a Voc Rehab Counselor, and also as a Social Security Disability Counselor, becoming an expert witness in the courtroom. He also returned to school, working towards a PhD.

Tom enjoyed rooting for his home teams - the Washington Huskies and the Seattle Seahawks. He took up scuba diving and loved being a father. After he and Jana divorced, Tom married Kimberly Hawley in 1997. They moved to Oviedo, where Tom enjoyed working on their home, pool, and yard, and where their daughter, Casey Frances, was born.

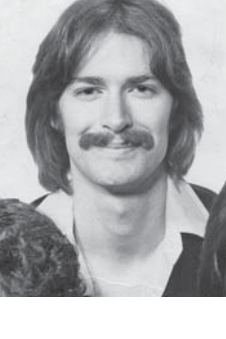
Tom was famous for his pancakes, tacos and barbecuing - he loved to entertain. He was a very involved Dad; enjoying Looney Tunes, Barney & Star Wars with the kids, visiting theme parks and beaches, and building them their own playroom in the garage.

Tom struggled in the early 2000's, when his business closed and he and Kim divorced. He worked as a contractor for the federal government, and eventually became a counselor for the mentally ill at the Lakewood Center in Orlando.

In 2009, he reconnected with a high school friend from Astoria, Lois Barnum, moving back to Oregon in 2011. He worked once more representing clients at Soc. Sec. Disability hearings, then opened his own counseling office when they moved to Clatsop County in 2013. He enjoyed being back "home", and was very happy when his older children both moved to the Northwest as well. Tom got to enjoy a two week visit from Orlando by his youngest daughter, Casey, in August, before he entered the hospital.

Tom is survived by 10 siblings; Kathy, Paula, Dan, Joe, Madeline, Mary, Bruce, Vicky, Jon and Susan, as well as their spouses, nieces and nephews. His brother, Kim, died earlier. He is also survived by his children; daughter Katie (and Brad Elkin) of Auburn, WA, who gave Tom his first grandchild, a granddaughter named Blake Lee Elkin, two weeks before he died; his son, Sean, of Astoria, OR.; and his daughter, Casey, of Orlando, FL. His partner, Lois, of Hammond, OR, also survives.

There will be a mass for Tom at St. Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic Church, 1491 Grand Avenue in Astoria, on Monday, September 7th, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. It will be followed by lunch in the auditorium. Contributions in Tom's name may be made to the church, or to any charity that supports the poor or the mentally ill.



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