



Photos by Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Mist and sand blow through the air around the Peter Iredale shipwreck at Fort Stevens State Park Tuesday.

THE WEATHER IS JUST BEACHY

Scenes from Fort Stevens showcase wild weather day

Photos By JOSHUA BESSEX

Strong winds whipped up sand through the dunes and sea foam surrounded the Peter Iredale Shipwreck Tuesday evening, capping off a day of wacky weather. ¶ The clear, windy evening followed a day of intermittent hard rain and hail along the North Coast. ¶ Eagles, seagulls and other shorebirds took advantage of an empty beach, gliding in the gusts in search of food. Meanwhile, at the South Jetty, waves crashed over the boulders, sending mist high into the air along with the birds who perched along the rocks. ¶ See more Tuesday weather photos online at www.dailyastorian.com.



ABOVE: A bald eagle flies around the beach at Fort Steven State Park Tuesday. BELOW LEFT: Waves crash against the South Jetty on Tuesday. BELOW RIGHT: Wind sweeps sand over the dunes at Fort Stevens State Park on Tuesday.



ROCK TALK

New leaders, interactive tools help volunteers

By LYRA FONTAINE
EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH — It's just his third shift, but Eric Owen is confident when he educates visitors about the marine life on algae-covered rocks leading up to Haystack Rock.

"I love being in natural habitats, so it was a good fit for me," he said, stopping to

point out a fish. "I'm looking forward to spending a lot more time out here."

The new staff environmental interpreter for the Haystack Rock Awareness Program, which started its season earlier this month, has worked as a land steward for the North Coast Land Conservancy and holds a degree in environmental science.

Kelsey Brown joined Owen on the sunny Monday afternoon. She began volunteering as a Rocky Shore Interpreter last March, before becoming the program's volunteer coordinator.



Lyra Fontaine/EO Media Group

Volunteer Coordinator Kelsey Brown educates visitors at Haystack Rock.

A final haven, near the Nehalem

Family chooses to bury Elsie man at home

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

Kay Briggs was surprised when law enforcement showed up at her husband's funeral.

The ceremony began Monday afternoon as friends and family gathered on the rural property near Elsie, where John Briggs, 73, was about to be buried in the yard outside his home.

He was in an open wooden box. A large freshly dug hole was nearby.

Home burials are allowed in Oregon, but are not common.

"If I can have him here on our property, why not?" Kay Briggs said.

Clatsop County Sheriff's Office and Oregon State Police responded to an anonymous tip that the ceremony was taking place without a death certificate and without the notification of local authorities. The tip was wrong.

"It appears the family followed proper procedures and it's allowed," Clatsop County Sheriff's Office Sgt. Dean Schroeder said. "Our involvement was just to make sure the death was investigated properly, which it was."

Schroeder put Kay Briggs in contact with the Clatsop County medical examiner. After a brief conversation, the funeral and burial were allowed to proceed.

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Cannon Beach says 'yes' to housing

'Smaller homes on smaller lots,' Nicholson says

By LYRA FONTAINE
EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH —The Cannon Beach City Council tentatively gave final approval, with conditions, to a highly contested four-lot residential development plan Wednesday night.

The council's public hearing lasted more than three hours and had City Hall's seats and doorways packed with the project's opponents and supporters.

It ended the third stage for approving the development proposed by Cannon Beach property owner and Portland resident Jeff Nicholson, who bought the property at 532 N. Laurel St. in 2014 for \$900,000.

Nicholson's proposals have faced opposition from the Friends of Cannon Beach group, been denied twice by the Planning Commission, gone through a Land Use Board of Appeals decision and earned tentative approval last year from the City Council.

"It will look like what we all know Cannon Beach to look like, having smaller homes on smaller lots," Nicholson said. "I would prefer to have any future development to go along with the comprehensive plan and look like Cannon Beach has looked."

One in opposition

The council voted 4-1, with City Councilor Mike Benefield voting against the approval.

"That ticking time bomb continues to tick, so I don't think we have a choice but to address this in this hearing. But it should never have come here, it should have been denied," Benefield said. "We didn't follow procedure. I don't think we have a choice, and I don't like not having a choice."

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