

Burial: All requirements were met

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Home burials are allowed if a death certificate is signed, or about to be signed, by a doctor and the county and state approve.

In Briggs' death, a hospice nurse contacted the state Mortuary and Cemetery Board. A county environmental inspector also checked the property, ensuring the plot was in a safe space away from any well.

And because John Briggs was not embalmed, he had to be buried within 24 hours.

All the requirements were met.

Kay Briggs was glad the officers showed up, because she did forget to bury her husband with a metal disk provided by a funeral home. The disk includes the name of

the funeral home and of the deceased in case the plot is ever moved.

"It was just a mix up in the end," she said.

A rare practice

Brian Dutton, owner of the Ocean View Funeral and Cremation Service in Astoria, helped Kay Briggs with the death certificate. Dutton estimates he has helped with five or six home burials in his 40-year career. This is only the second time he can remember a family doing the entire burial on their own, including providing their own casket.

"The occurrence of the family doing the burial on their own is unique," he said. "It is very rare."

Each home burial Dutton has seen occurred in rural areas.

Home burials are allowed within city limits, but, he said, such a practice is not practical. Most people who are living in a house inside city limits do not intend to be there for generations, he said, so they choose not to bury relatives nearby.

While it is still rare in Clatsop County, Dutton said, there is a movement across the country called "green burials," where the process is completely organic down to not using anything motorized to dig the plot.

More and more people are going back to how things were done a century ago, Dutton said, when they had to do it on their own and there were no funeral homes.

"The more things change, the more things stay the same," he said.

Near the Nehalem

Kay Briggs said her husband wanted to be buried in the Jewell cemetery, but realized all the plots were spoken for. She said the site on their property is the perfect spot for him. He is looking up the Nehalem River, a place he always enjoyed.

Friends and family remember John Briggs as an accomplished artist and metal sculptor. He worked with metal since he was 12.

He bought their property on Gronnel Road three decades ago. His wife is in the process of changing the deed to reflect the fact that the property is now a burial site.

"It's our haven. It goes to our kids and they agreed to keep it in the family," she said.

Housing: 'The law is straightforward'

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"This being the first time a planned development has been attempted in Cannon Beach, unfortunately we have found out that it (the code) was badly written. It was a failure," Mayor Sam Steidel said.

He said he anticipated a future rewording or elimination of the code. "It has taught us that we will change this and whatever new that comes out will hopefully be better," Steidel said.

Jeff Harrison, who represented the 70-member Friends of Cannon Beach, said the City Council should have followed the Planning Commission. "How can you consider approving the applicant for a highly contentious land use application when doing so would create a long list of significant dangerous precedents?" Harrison asked the mayor, staff and council.

The city "rewarded" Nicholson for not following rules, he added.

"You're in a tough spot because you allowed the rules to be compromised last year," Harrison said. "We ask you to vote with your heart and your conscience and listen to your constituents, instead of merely listening to a lawyer. If you feel like you made a mistake in 2015, this is your chance, perhaps your last chance, to fix it."

Harrison counted 44 people in the room from Friends of Cannon Beach, with more than half the members full-time locals. About 22 opponents publicly voiced their concerns. "The lack of binding commit-



EO Media Group/File Photo

Property owner Jeff Nicholson has said he plans to tear down this 99-year-old house at 532 N. Laurel St. and rebuild it using some of the original materials according to modern building standards.

ment shows up again and again in Mr. Nicholson's application," said Cannon Beach property owner Jeffrey Gottfried.

"None of us have seen a plan that indicates what this unit is going to look like," said Planning Commissioner Lisa Kerr, adding that planned developments should have a similar look and function. "We don't know if they're going to be cute little cottages."

Some conditions

Before voting, the council discussed conditions for community concerns about square footage, trees, building height, scheduling, slope density, pile driving and building design.

City Councilor George Vetter said there were "thoughtful and insightful information and concerns tonight," but Nicholson has "expressed considerable desire to work with conditions"

and the Planning Commission is an advisory body to the council.

A city staff report recommended the council approve the development.

Portland lawyer Will Rasmussen, representing Nicholson, denied that pile driving would occur and said geotechnical engineering will be further examined.

"From a legal and engineering standpoint, this is a relatively simple request for four homes on an over-half acre site," he said, adding it has a planned development overlay applied to it and Nicholson will comply with any concerns the council has.

"The law is straightforward," Nicholson's attorney Steve Leighty said. "Only those criteria or elements that were not resolved in the earlier stages can be reviewed."

Rasmussen said they are not at the end of the develop-

ment process yet. He agreed to put the protection of the property's two spruce trees in writing, responding to a comment by Jan Siebert-Wahrmann, representing Cannon Beach Friends of Trees, calling for stronger language on tree protection.

Public comments supporting the development included Ted Wood of Cannon Beach.

Wood said Nicholson's plan continues "the appeal of what has made Cannon Beach so popular over the years and created one of the best coastal towns on the community."

Cannon Beach architect David Vonada said he looks forward to working with Nicholson on the development.

"I think Jeff is looking out for betterment of the site and the community itself, not necessarily maximizing what to do on the site, and for that I commend him," Vonada said.

Volunteers: Program normally has 100 to 200

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"I wanted to get outside," she said. "My favorite part is showing kids cool things they haven't seen."

Brown hopes to garner more volunteers for this extended season.

Call for volunteers

The Haystack Rock Awareness Program is seeking volunteer Rocky Shore Interpreters. Those interested in learning about the marine areas of Haystack Rock and sharing wildlife facts and trivia with visitors are encouraged to volunteer, even if they have no prior experience with marine life.

"They can have no previous knowledge, and they will learn so much," Program Coordinator Melissa Keyser said. "I always tell new volunteers that even educators and interpreters who have been here for 15 or 20 years still learn something new every time we go on the beach."

Volunteer duties include sharing marine life information, answering visitor questions, supporting conservation and stewardship of the area, data collection and recording and educating visitors to prevent prohibited activities, such as collecting and climbing.

The program normally has about 100 to 200 volunteers, and hopes to have close to 200 this season. Since people can volunteer just several days out of the year, guides come from all over the North Coast, Oregon and Washington state. Many vol-



Photos by Erick Bengel/The Daily Astorian

Melissa Keyser is the program coordinator with the Haystack Rock Awareness Program.



Adelia Lippold, 6, used a Haystack Rock Awareness Program bird scope last year to spy on the tufted puffin population. Enjoying the view beside Lippold was her Fire Mountain classmate Taylor Kahrs, 6, and, to his right, Melissa Keyser, the program coordinator.

unteers come to Cannon Beach from Portland for several days, specifically to volunteer.

This year, the program will also provide two tablet computers for volunteers to reference and identification cards with

pictures and information that volunteers can take to the rock.

Volunteers can RSVP for a training session at the Cannon Beach City Hall on April 9 or June 11. These sessions include training on plants and geology,

bird ecology, intertidal animals and emergency preparedness. Volunteers may also train on the beach with experienced staff and volunteers.

Longer season with new summer beach events

The awareness program season, which ends in October, was extended about three months this year, Keyser said.

"We'll have more time to spend educating and on the beach with visitors," Keyser said.

This year, the program will introduce a summer speaker series on the beach, with monthly events from May to September.

Dwindling sea stars

The Haystack Rock area has lost a majority of its sea star population, which is still recovering. Large numbers of starfish died along the Pacific Coast in recent years from a wasting syndrome. Recently, the sea star wasting syndrome has been linked to warmer temperatures, according to scientists in a paper published in Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society.

"I'm optimistic that the starfish population is going to rebound," Owen said.

However, Haystack Rock has a large, healthy seabird population, and its intertidal species are doing well, Keyser said.

Earlier in February, the program noticed a huge population of common murre birds at the rock, a rare find before breeding season.

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Set a user name, Then select Next > Finish.
Click on the user just created > Change account type > Administrator > OK.
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Q: I am interested in changing the shape of my teeth. What options are available to me?

A: Many options exist to solve this question. Depending on the particular situation and condition would determine the best option(s). To name a few options would be: simple re-contouring, composite bonding, porcelain veneers, porcelain crowns, and a very thorough mastery of esthetic tooth morphology and dental smile design. Please feel welcome to schedule a complimentary consultation.



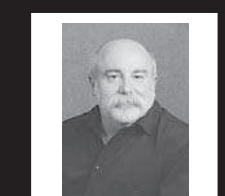
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Q: Can I touch up my furniture?

A: Wood damaged with knicks and scratches can be effectively touched up. There are a variety of special touch up products available to assist you with repairing these types of moderate damage. Any damage more severe would require professional refinishing.



Ropy Gerard
LPC, LMHC, CADC
Board Member NAMI Clatsop



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Q: I keep reading that our mental health system is broken and people aren't getting the help they need. How can I help?

A: Mental health care systems have been in crisis for far too long and often keep treatment and recovery out of the hands of many who need it. Access to care, long waits for appointments, costly medications and agencies with high employee turnover can make it difficult to get the quality care and support needed. We can push for better legislation, improved funding and comprehensive policies, and voice our concerns by contacting local community leaders, county and state representatives letting them know that good mental health is essential for good community health. By joining NAMI Clatsop and working together we can show that this cause is important to our community.