

Fund set up to help local family after theft

The Campuzanos had about \$30,000 worth stolen earlier this year

By Erick Bengel
Cannon Beach Gazette

To help a local Hispanic family recover from a recent theft that set them back about \$30,000, a Cannon Beach couple, Rex and Diane Amos, have created The Campuzano Family Fund. Donations can be made at any Columbia Bank branch on the coast from Astoria to Tillamook.

In Delano

Carmen and Victor Campuzano, of Seaside, are still grappling, emotionally and financially, with the aftermath of an incident that occurred in early January when they, their children and other family members embarked on their annual road trip to visit relatives in Mexico.

At 3:31 a.m. on Jan. 4, while the family slept at an inn in Delano, Calif., someone stole the couples' 2003 Chevrolet Tahoe and the attached white trailer, according to the police investigator who reviewed the inn's security camera footage.

The culprit drove off and looted the vehicles, taking all of the family's personal belongings and gifts they had collected during the previous year to bring their relatives south of the border.

Police managed to recover the trailer, found abandoned on the highway, and a plasma TV the Campuzanos had purchased for their son-in-laws' family. But the thief, or thieves, still absconded with thousands of dollars worth of items.

These included two washers, one dryer, two microwaves, three laptops, two iPhones, an iPad, an exercise bicycle, two mattresses, boxes of new and used clothing, their daughter Paola Campuzano's clarinet and school books, and Victor's custom-made carpenter tools worth about \$7,000.

They also stole an estimated \$4,000 in uncounted tips, which Victor had saved during 2014 from his job at The Lumberyard Rotisserie & Grill.

Reunion delayed

On Jan. 6, the Tahoe was found burned, though investigators didn't officially identify the vehicle until mid-February.

"What we worked for throughout the whole year was gone in a second," said 15-year-old Paola Campuzano, Carmen and Victor's youngest child who attends Seaside High School. "We were like, 'How could this happen?'"

Carmen, Victor and Paola had taken the trip — in three vehicles — with four generations of the family: Carmen's mother, Lorenza Villa, and brother, Hector Tobar; Carmen and Victor's son, Julio Campuzano, of Cannon Beach; their daughters Judith Campuzano and Marycarmen Campuzano, of Seaside; Judith's husband, Abel Sosa; and Marycarmen's 4-year-old son, Alan Martinez, whose scooter was stolen as well.

Waiting for them in Pátzcuaro — a centu-



Back row: Paola Campuzano, Judith Campuzano and Edmundo Martinez. Front row: Julio Campuzano, Marycarmen Campuzano, Carmen Campuzano and Victor Campuzano.

ERICK BENDEL PHOTO

ries-old colonial and indigenous town in the state of Michoacán where Victor and Carmen first met and now own a home — were the couple's eldest daughter, Carla Campuzano, her family, and Victor's brothers and sisters.

The reunion would have to be delayed.

Being strong

Shocked and bewildered, the family reached out to loved ones and close friends, letting them know what happened.

The next few weeks became a rush of coping, problem solving and lifting each others' spirits. "I tried to be strong for them, and they tried to be strong for me," Carmen said.

After filling out a police report, the family split up. Some drove to Laredo, Texas, to legalize a truck in Mexico. Others returned to Seaside to retrieve another truck, which required about \$1,500 in repairs before it could take them to south. Retrieve the trailer in Bixler, Calif., put them out another \$300 or so.

Marycarmen's husband and Alan's father, Edmundo Martinez — who didn't originally come on the trip — drove to Laredo to provide emotional support.

Julio, who also went Laredo, eventually chose to return to Cannon Beach by bus. But not before giving his mother the money that he would have spent in Pátzcuaro.

As she told this part of this story, Carmen began to cry, suddenly overcome with gratitude for her family. "I feel so lucky for that."

"We all believe in God, so that helps to not suffer for the material things," she said. "That helps to take it easy and let it go and thank God that we didn't get hurt."

"It could have been worse," Paola said.

Uncertainty

Carmen and Victor, who have lived on the North Coast since 1991 and in Seaside since 2005, work together at the Lumberyard Rotisserie & Grill, she as a server, he as a busser. Both U.S. citizens, she also works for Sleepy Monk

Coffee Roasters, he for Haystack Lodgings.

It is still unclear at this point what they're insurance is going to cover. They have not retained a lawyer and are discussing whether they can afford one.

But, on the positive side of the ledger, the family reunion finally happened in Pátzcuaro, where the Campuzanos received "lots of hugs from the family," Carmen said.

"We always take lots of gifts for them, try to help them to have it easy the rest of the year," she said.

This time, instead of Carmen and Victor's family giving to their family in Pátzcuaro, the opposite happened, Victor said.

Council rejects halt on sand grading permits

By R.J. MARX
Cannon Beach Gazette

The City of Cannon Beach declined to adopt a moratorium on dune grading at its meeting Tuesday night. The request for a moratorium had come from the Oregon Coast Alliance in an April 13 letter. The letter had requested that the city initiate an update of the sand management plan and stop issuing sand grading permits until such an update is completed.

Rather than accept the moratorium, members of the council agreed to approach the matter in their Comprehensive Plan,

which was originally adopted in 1997 but which is in the process of revision. A request for proposal for a consultant to start working on a new sand management plan could come within the next six weeks, according to City Planner Mark Barnes.

The issue came in the wake of a denial of a dune grading project at Breakers Point, which was subject to a Land Use Board of Appeals action, although that appeal was dropped this week according to Barnes.

In February, the city planning commission turned down a request by Breakers Point homeowners

to remove sand in front of the condominium project. The homeowners association had requested a conditional use permit to allow for dune grading west and south of the condos. In recent years, Breakers Point dunes — held in place with European dune grass, which traps windblown sand — have grown higher than 40 feet, blocking oceanfront views and pushing sand onto properties.

The purpose of the project — which would have involved shifting almost 74,000 cubic yards of sand onto the beach during the next couple of years — was to restore the residents'

views and prevent further sand inundation. At least 25 feet of sand needs to be removed in some areas, according to Tom Horning, a geologist working with the homeowners association, at the February planning commission meeting.

In response to this project, the council considered the plan for a moratorium on all sand management permits, which was supported by the Oregon Coast Alliance and joined by the group 1000 Friends of Oregon; Surf Rider Foundation; and Friends of the Dunes, based in Cannon Beach.

See Council, Page 8A

Visit us online at
www.cannonbeachgazette.com

ZAK CONSTRUCTION

Custom Homes & Remodels

Joe Zak
General Contractor
503-440-1500
503-368-7476
barzak@nehalem.net

Licensed • Bonded • Insured
CCB#76743
zakconstruction.net

THE NATIONAL AWARD-WINNING
CANNON BEACH GAZETTE

Publisher Steve Forrester
Production Manager John D. Brujin
Editor R.J. Marx
Circulation Manager Samantha McLaren
Reporter Erick Bengel
Advertising Sales Laura Kaim
Advertising Manager Betty Smith
Wendy Richardson

CANNON BEACH GAZETTE
The Cannon Beach Gazette is published every other week by EO Media Group.
1555 N. Roosevelt, Seaside, Oregon 97138
503-738-5561 • Fax 503-738-9285

www.cannonbeachgazette.com
• email: editor@cannonbeachgazette.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
Annually: \$40.50 in county, \$58.00 in and out of county.
Postage Paid at: Cannon Beach, OR 97110

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to Cannon Beach Gazette, P.O. Box 210, Astoria, OR 97103
Copyright 2015 © Cannon Beach Gazette. Nothing can be reprinted or copied without consent of the owners.

TURKISH RUG TRUNK SHOW

Memorial Day Weekend Saturday + Sunday May 23rd thru 24th

SESAME + LILIES

183 N. Hemlock St.
Cannon Beach
436.2027

Mom's are Sweet!

Give yours her favorite treats this Mother's Day

• 2 LOCATIONS •

Downtown Cannon Beach & Seaside Outlet Mall

CELEBRATING OVER 50 YEARS OF MAKING SWEET MEMORIES

Bruce's Candy Kitchen

CB: 503-436-2641
Seaside: 503-738-7828
www.brucescandy.com

Find us on Facebook