

Western snowy plover nest found in Nehalem Bay State Park spit

A surprise sighting of a pair of western snowy plovers nesting on the spit south of Nehalem Bay State Park has Oregon State Parks staff on “bird alert.” It also means some changes for beachgoers on the two-mile stretch of beach south of the park’s day-use area.

“This is early in the year for snowy plovers to be nesting,” said Oregon Parks and Recreation Wildlife Biologist Vanessa Blackstone, who discovered the nest Friday. “It’s exciting news. This is the first time in 30 years that we have a confirmed nest here, and supports all the hard work Oregonians have done to help this species survive.” Other adult male and female plovers have been seen along the spit in recent days as well.

The western snowy plover is a species protected by both federal and state statute. They nest in dry open sand, in tiny, shallow scrapes that are very



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Well-camouflaged eggs in a plover nest on the Nehalem Spit.

well camouflaged. Not only are nests easy to miss (or step on), but the bird will abandon its eggs if disturbed too frequently.

Sightings of nests prompt special precautions in designated snowy plover management areas such as the southern portion of the Nehalem spit. Visitors will see signs on the dry sand in these shorebird

conservation areas. This also means that all activities on the dry sand will be curtailed until the end of the nesting season Sept. 15. People and horseback riders are welcome to walk along the wet sand on the entire spit, but dogs, even on leash, must use the three miles of beach north of the park’s day-use area. Driving

is already prohibited on the spit. As with dogs, bicycles—a kind of nonmotorized vehicle under Oregon law — are only allowed north of the area during the nesting season.

OPRD spokesman Chris Havel said, “We’re asking the public to respect any directions they may get from rangers, or from signs and designated areas.” He emphasized that public recreation restrictions happen only in those areas targeted as special plover habitat, and only in nesting season.

“If a plover pair nests outside the targeted beaches, we protect the nest, but public use of the beach doesn’t change.”

On the north coast, approximately 5 1/2 miles of riverside or ocean beach divided among three areas are part of a snowy plover management area. The Nehalem Spit management area is approximately two miles long. The other two areas are portions of the Necanicum and



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An adult western snowy plover on the Nehalem Spit.

Clatsop spits. More details can be found at bit.ly/wslover.

Videos, photos, and other updates of the new nest will be posted online. The park will present interpretive programs about plovers through the summer.

OPRD is legally responsible for managing recreation on Oregon’s ocean shore. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service oversees the Endangered Species Act, and thus the sta-

tus of the western snowy plover. OPRD’s legal agreement with the USFWS, the Habitat Conservation Plan, spells out how to help the plover population recover.

In 2014, 338 adult plovers called Oregon home, an increase of approximately 10 percent over 2013’s estimate of 304 adults. 2014 was also a promising year for fledglings, with 272 chicks surviving to learn to fly.

City Lumber builds on 111 years of success in Astoria

By MIKE WILLIAMS
EO Media Group

ASTORIA — At least one North Coast business has commitments 90 years in the future when the company will be more than 200 years old. City Lumber’s owners made the commitment as a gesture, but Jeff and Greg Newenhof say it’s a distinct possibility.

“We’ve committed to 2105,” Jeff said. “City Lumber sponsored the celebration for the grand opening (of the original Astoria City Hall in 1905). In the centennial in 2005, we sponsored the celebration for the hundred-year anniversary of the building, and I think we committed to sponsoring it in 2105.”

The brothers joke that they don’t anticipate being around unless cryogenics makes some important advances, but City Lumber itself? Your descendants’ descendants should look for a banner or digital display or hologram or whatever technology comes up with bearing the City Lumber name and logo at the bicentennial celebration.

The company was founded in 1904 as City Lumber and Box Co. by three different companies to sell lumber and boxes to the fishing industry.

The Newenhofs became the fourth owners in 1975 when Jeff and Greg’s parents, Jerry and Nancy, bought the business. “It basically started as a lumberyard and we added a lot of hardware stuff upstairs, light fixtures and decorator items,” Greg said.

“It comes from Dad’s background,” Jeff added. “He worked for a company called Pay ‘n’ Pak stores. ... He got here and figured out ways to bring women into the store. So lighting, home decor, wallpaper — all that stuff helped bring women into the store.”

They’ve also added rental tools and a boom truck and another with a forklift to make deliveries a little smoother.

Competition

There were 10 lumberyards when the Newenhofs bought



Photos by JOSHUA BESSEX — The Daily Astorian

Jeff and Greg Newenhof say the company’s future looks bright.

City Lumber in 1975, now there are three.

Asked how the company has managed to adapt to the changing environment and survive where others have failed, Greg says simply, “Work hard.”

“When Home Depot came into the marketplace, people were closing their stores because they were so paranoid about it,” Jeff said. “Now the industry’s had some time to figure out how to adapt. What we did is change our suppliers. We went from buying from an independent distributor to Do It Best.”

The lumberyard cooperative gives the store better depth of products to offer and other advantages.

They heard varying estimates of how Home Depot’s arrival would affect their business.

“The first guy said, ‘You’d see a 25 percent drop in business for a year, then get it all back,’” Jeff said. “Second guy said, ‘You’d see a 25 percent drop in business for three months, then get it all back.’ Third guy said, ‘See a 25 percent drop for a month, then get it all back.’ First month they opened, our sales went up.”

Home Depot opened in Warrenton in September 2008;

the recession hit shortly after.

“It was like a light switch,” Jeff said. “It affected everybody throughout the Northwest. We just sucked it up. Hard work’s the key.”

Personnel power

The company has 15 employees and has added some recently. That’s a big issue for City Lumber.

“One of our family’s legacies is that we’ve never laid anybody off for lack of work,” Jeff said.

They’ve let employees go for other reasons, but the family sees quality workers as part of the key to long-term success.

“We consistently have well-trained, knowledgeable employees. We’ve always resisted the temptation to let people go when things are bad, because we know we need those guys back. It takes two years to get someone up to speed ... so we suck it up and do it.”

Next generation?

The Newenhofs have no plans to retire anytime soon. They haven’t really thought about the next step.

“They’ll take us out on a stretcher, I guess,” Jeff quipped. “Should we do something? Yeah. I don’t see us ever

hanging it up though, because we enjoy it.”

Jeff’s children, an 11-year-old and a 9-year-old, aren’t at the point of thinking about taking over the business.



City Lumber started in 1904 as City Lumber and Box Co.

Technology

Technology has already changed how the Newenhofs do business.

“On my smartphone I can dial into the system and know what the sales were and get customer stuff,” Jeff said. “Ten years ago — we had no idea.”

They’re not worried. Strong lumberyards survived the recession, Jeff said. There’s been a dramatic consolidation in the

industry and there may be more to come.

But houses will always need repair, and homeowners will continue to upgrade, and that’s good news for City Lumber, whatever form it takes in the future.

“I think there’s always going to be a place for a small-town, locally owned lumberyard and hardware store,” Jeff said. “Do I see us here 40 years from now? Yeah. Probably.”

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Baxter Family Medicine joins CMH Primary Clinic April 20, 2015

Kevin Baxter, DO, and Jan Monroe, FNP, are pleased to be joining the CMH Primary Care Clinic team. They will begin seeing patients at the clinic in Warrenton at 1639 SE Ensign Lane, Suite B103, on April 20.

This change allows Kevin Baxter, DO, and Jan Monroe, FNP, to focus on caring for their patients instead of running a business. Their patients will enjoy the same care and services that they have previously. For more information or to make an appointment, call 503-338-4500.

