



Lyra Fontaine/EO Media Group

Wildlife rehabilitator Josh Saranpaa uses a net to help bring in an injured eagle Friday in Gearhart.

Eagle: Necropsy was inconclusive

Continued from Page 1A

The rescue

Fennerty called the Wildlife Center of the North Coast. Josh Saranpaa, the center's director, headed to Gearhart.

In the intervening time, Dudley and Fennerty screened the injured eagle from gawkers and dogs.

"In the space of an hour, the eagle did seem to recover," Dudley said. "It started walking up toward the bank, and then it took a few short flights, so we could tell that the wings were apparently all right."

Dudley said the eagle made his way up to the logs at the embankment.

"I got to about 30 feet from him, and he was pretty passive at that point," Dudley said. "He looked alert, but through my lens I could see he had been battered. It was apparent the attack had disabled him, at least temporarily."

Saranpaa and volunteer Lynette Scribner attempted to net the bird in the estuary, but the eagle flapped and tried to fly away.

"When Josh followed him into the shallows of the estuary, the eagle sort of landed or crash-landed in the shallows of the estuary," Dudley said.

At that point, Saranpaa was able to net the bird and pass it to Scribner, who sheltered the bird in a mesh blanket.

"Once the eagle was wrapped up, it turned passive and allowed Josh to examine him, and his conclusion was the eagle was underweight, was really battered by the fight," Dudley said.

He said he frequently sees eagles in the estuary, and they tend to be "very territorial."



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Lynette Scribner of Seaside cradles the injured eagle Friday after rescuing it following a fight with another eagle.

Saranpaa and Scribner took the injured bird for treatment at the center's rehabilitation facility in Astoria.

Signs of trauma

At the center, Saranpaa gave the eagle fluids and put him in an enclosure with heat to help him dry.

"I noticed right away that he began leaning against the wall with his head," Saranpaa said.

Head-pressing is a serious symptom in all animals, a sign

of head trauma, neurological issues or toxins.

When eagles exhibit this symptom, wildlife rehabilitators think of lead poisoning, Saranpaa said, "which is, unfortunately, too common."

Blood drawn from the eagle was sent to the Audubon Society of Portland, where it tested negative for lead.

Cause unknown

A necropsy performed on the eagle by Saranpaa and veterinarian Lisa Lewis of

Bayshore Animal Hospital in Warrenton was inconclusive.

"All we can say is that the eagle certainly had internal damage and hemorrhaging from the eagle fight," Saranpaa said.

The eagle also had signs of some underlying illness within his air sacs, an extension of the avian respiratory system.

"This illness, though we don't know exactly what it is, certainly could have cause(d) the bird to lose weight, and ultimately not fare well in a fight with a much healthier bird," Saranpaa said.

Gillnetters: 'We've seen a lot of heartache in our communities'

Continued from Page 1A

Species Act, we all know that non-selective gillnet fisheries have no place in the future of our Columbia River fisheries," the conservation association said on its website.

The group argues that sportfishing brings more money to river communities. Guide fees, license fees, hotel stays and other income circulate as recreational anglers have greater access to salmon in the Lower Columbia, the organization maintains.

The management plan was approved by the Oregon Legislature in 2013. In addition to shunting gillnetting to side channels, it allocates 70 percent of the salmon catch to recreational anglers this year and 80 percent next year.

The gillnetting ban has political backers, as well.

In a March 14 letter, state Sens. Fred Girod and Rod Monroe urged the fish and

wildlife commission to "continue implementing this common sense plan."

The senators praised the economic impact of a gillnetting ban and said more selective fishing methods "are critical to conserving wild salmon populations and maintaining hatchery production."

Salmon For All representatives respond that the commercial industry has lost part of its valuable spring and summer Chinook harvest, side channels haven't been improved as promised and alternative gear, such as seines, is prohibitively expensive. Group member Irene Martin said the management change was based on a policy decision that turned out wrong.

"We've seen a lot of heartache in our communities," Martin said. "Policy without science is a gamble. We gambled the science would work."

Processor: Fire left 140 full-time workers without jobs

Continued from Page 1A

two years ago for the quick recovery.

"The state is just validating the important role that fish processing plays," said Johnson, who was named the Regional Leader of the Year by the Columbia Pacific Economic Development District for her efforts. "These guys are going to spend millions of dollars, so this is a true public-private partnership."

State Rep. Deborah Boone, D-Cannon Beach, also helped secure the funding, but was not present Saturday because of a family medical emergency.

The Legislature set aside \$3 million in lottery-backed bonds last session, adding to the \$650,000 from the governor's Regional Solutions Team and \$350,000 from the state's Strategic Reserve Fund. The state investment is a small part of the more than \$20 million the company estimates it will take to rebuild the dock and processing plant.

Occhipinti said getting the economic development package took the commitment of Johnson, Boone and local officials who traveled to Salem and testified about the importance of Pacific Seafood to the local economy, and of the fishing industry as a whole to Oregon.

"Days after the plant burned down, Frank Dulcich made a commitment that he wanted to rebuild in Warrenton, and he stuck with it that whole time," said Warrenton Mayor Mark Kujala about Pacific Seafood's CEO. "It was amazing what it took to get it put together."

Quick recovery

Federal and state investigators found that a roofing contractor using a propane torch to adhere materials had caused the space between two roof layers to catch fire June 4, 2013, destroying the plant and leaving as many as 140 full-time and 100 additional seasonal workers out of a job.

Within 48 hours, the company had re-established the office, ice facility and fuel dock to accommodate the vessels still delivering in Warrenton, with Dulcich vowing the plant would return. Within two weeks, the company was processing whiting and sardines in a former seaplane hangar at North Tongue Point subleased from Del Mar Seafoods, which leases from the Port of Astoria. Pacific Seafood received Clatsop Economic Development Resources' Economic Development Award

The sublease at Tongue Point runs through spring of next year, but Pacific Seafood has already been working on surveys, designs, permitting and energy studies for a new plant on the Skipanon. The old plant was built in 1941 and acquired in 1983 by Pacific Seafood, which has more than 30 facilities spread over seven states.

"What we want is state-of-the-art, brand-new facility," Occhipinti said, adding the company thinks there will be a similar number of jobs as before, and hopefully more.

If all goes well with planning, he said, Pacific Seafood could kick off construction on the dock this spring. The dock will provide part of the foundation for the new plant.

Insurance issues

Pacific Seafood documented more than \$32 million in damage from the fire, and within a year had received \$10 million, the full policy limit with its primary insurer, Westport Insurance Corp.

But the company filed suit last month against its supplemental insurance carrier, Alterra Excess & Surplus Insurance Co., claiming the insurer did not honor a contract to provide up to \$15 million in excess of Westport's policy.

"Despite extensive work by Pacific to provide information to Insurer establishing that the total loss because of the June 4, 2013, fire was well in excess of \$10,000,000, Alterra has paid nothing to Pacific," wrote lawyers for Dulcich Inc., the plaintiff in the case. "More than two years after the fire and after Pacific spent hundreds of hours and tens of thousands of dollars at Alterra's request to determine how much Alterra owes under its insurance policy, Alterra belatedly has taken the position that Pacific was overpaid by Westport, the primary insurance company."

In May, the suit claims, a representative from Alterra promised in writing more than \$1.5 million to Pacific Seafood as an interim payment, but reneged on the agreement in June, claiming Pacific Seafood had been overpaid by Westport. Pacific Seafood seeks attorney fees and whatever amount of insurance coverage the court deems fair, lawyers said. Alterra has yet to respond to the suit.

Hygienist: 'We really strive for every visit to be positive'

Continued from Page 1A

"I couldn't imagine working anywhere else. We all get along like sisters, in a good way," she said of the Gearhart Dentistry crew. "I was very, very fortunate to be working with Dr. White within a month of graduating. A full-time position opened up right after I finished school."

Kirkpatrick has had to keep up with advances made in oral care, just over the last five years.

"The biggest thing is the laser," she said. "The quality of the laser and what you can do with lasers in dentistry."

"Hand and water instruments are pretty much the same (and cleaning is still done manually), but the laser helps with disinfecting the tissue, getting the bad bacteria out and stimulating

healthy cell growth. It makes the cells metabolize faster, so you heal a lot faster."

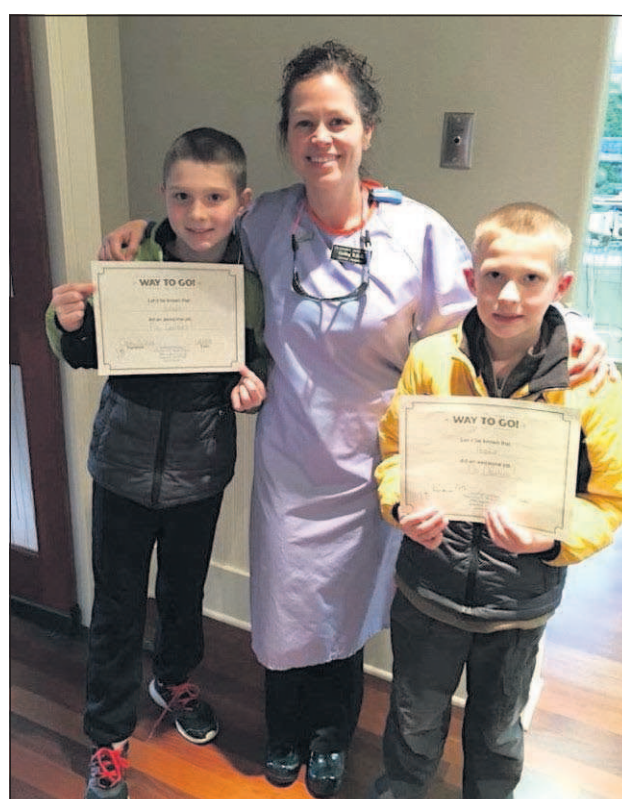
Teaching people at an early age is important to Kirkpatrick, which is why she loves working and educating children.

In addition to presenting her young patients with certificates to the "No Cavities Club," she said, "Having fun names for everything, not using any scary names, and having positive attitudes and being cheerful with the kids is important. And letting them play and touch things really helps them know that there's nothing for them to be scared of."

That wouldn't be a bad idea for some of us adults, too.

"We really strive for every visit to be positive and comfortable one," she said.

— Gary Henley



Submitted Photo

Cathy Jo Kirkpatrick, with two more members of the "No Cavities Club."