

NEW LIFE FOR OLD WOOD

Reclaimed lumber from barns, outbuildings popular among renovators, woodworkers

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

SUVER — Staring up into the innards of a partially dismantled grain elevator, deconstruction expert Steve Marlega could barely contain his enthusiasm.

Though much of the wood in the roughly 70-year-old structure was too insect-damaged to be reclaimed, the massive old-growth timber beams supporting its frame were in superb condition.

"I'll tear this whole thing down just for those," said Marlega, project manager for Northwest Reclaimed Wood, a deconstruction firm.

While the old Pacific Seed grain elevator in Suver, was no longer useful to its current owner, the Wilbur-Ellis farm supply company, lumber from the structure will live on in various forms.

Like the wood from ancient barns and other outdated and dilapidated agricultural buildings around the region, it will be turned into furniture and used in home renovations by people who value its unique heritage.

"History is huge. You don't want it to just die," said Danuta Burris, co-owner of Salem Salvage, a reclaimed wood company that buys material from Marlega.

'A big thing'

People often prefer to use lumber that was milled at about the same time as their older homes were built because it fits better aesthetically and dimensionally, she said.

Such lumber is also used as a decorative element in newer homes, Burris said. "Barn wood is a big thing right now. Everybody wants that barn wood look."

Dismantling an old barn or grain elevator is much more time-consuming and complicated than simply bulldozing it or setting fire to it. The added care is necessary to extract the valuable lumber intact, said Marlega. "You can't get it by knocking it over."

In some cases, quickly demolishing or burning down a structure simply isn't safe or practical. The Pacific Seed grain elevator, for example, was too close to other buildings and a railroad track.

However, deconstruction also reduces the trauma of removing a structure with which people have developed a nostalgic connection, said Michelle Ratcliffe, a landowner near Hubbard, who worked with Salem Salvage to dismantle a barn earlier this year.

Ratcliffe thought of her old barn as "the world's greatest lawn ornament," while neighbors considered it a local attraction.

"People loved the barn," she said. "It is really emotional for the people involved and the community."

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Steve Marlega of Northwest Reclaimed Lumber, left, and Danuta Burris of Salem Salvage examine the lumber of a grain elevator in Suver. Old wood from barns and other farm buildings is popular among woodworkers and home renovators.



Danuta Burris of Salem Salvage puts the finishing touches on a table made from reclaimed wood at the company's yard in Salem. Old wood from barns and other farm buildings is popular among woodworkers and home renovators.



The Daily Astorian/File Photo
Warrenton Police Chief Mathew Workman said two of his officers are under investigation by the state.

Warrenton Police are under state scrutiny

Probe looks into behavioral issues

By ERICK BENGEL
and DERRICK DePLEDGE
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The state Department of Justice is investigating the conduct of officers at the Warrenton Police Department.

The details have not been publicly disclosed, but Police Chief Mathew Workman said two officers are under investigation.

Other sources said privately that the probe could also show whether behavioral issues of individual officers are linked to inadequate supervision.

State investigators will turn over the findings to the Clatsop County District Attorney's Office.

"The investigator, when he contacted me, said that he was looking into a few issues that could potentially be looked at as criminal issues, which was very surprising to me, obviously," Workman said.

The police chief said three officers are on administrative leave, including one, he said, from a personnel issue that happened prior to any investigation.

Warrenton Police have 11 sworn officers and three reserve officers, so having three officers on leave can put a strain on the small department.

Workman said the Police Department and the city are cooperating fully with the investigation. "And, again, I'm hoping that it doesn't come to fruition that there was anything done wrong, but if it does, then people need to be held accountable," he said.

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Shark bites surfer in Ecola park

Trauma nurse flown by Life Flight to Portland

By LYRA FONTAINE
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — With the help of good Samaritan bystanders, a 29-year-old Portland surfer survived a shark attack on Indian Beach in Ecola State Park on Monday.

Joseph Tanner was surfing when he was attacked by a shark, according to Oregon State Police, sustaining bites to his upper thigh and lower leg. He fought off the shark by hitting the shark in the face, Cannon Beach volunteer firefighter David Norris said. Then bystanders at the beach applied a tourniquet to stop the bleeding.

Surfer Jeff Rose told KGW-TV that Tanner is a trauma nurse.

"He directed his own first aid, what needed to be done," Rose said. "He asked us a lot of questions, what we were seeing, if we saw spurting blood."



Signs like this will be posted at Ecola State Park today.

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'People really thought the world of him'

Baker at Danish Maid leaves legacy of hard work, treats

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

John Lindstrom, the longtime proprietor of Lindstrom's Danish Maid Bakery in downtown Astoria, died on Friday. He was 64.

He is survived by Jan Lindstrom, his wife of more than 40 years, son David Lindstrom, daughters Michelle Lindstrom and Kathy Dietrich and two grandchildren.

"People really thought the world of him," Jan Lindstrom said. "And he was always so good to people when they came in."

She said her husband worked in bakeries while attending Astoria High School. After a few years in



John Lindstrom frosts a heart-shaped, raspberry filled cake in 2004. Lindstrom, a proprietor of the Danish Maid with his wife Jan for nearly 30 years, died Friday.

Coast Weekend File Photo

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