

Wood: 'People are wanting it more'

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Unfortunately, the leaning structure had become dangerous. Renovating it would have been prohibitively expensive.

The deconstruction process, meanwhile, yielded salvageable wood that can be used as floorboards or other elements, as well as "trinkets and treasures," such as an old hay trolley, Ratcliffe said.

"This is a valuable resource and it doesn't need to go up in flames," she said.

Terms vary

The terms of each deconstruction project are different, and in some cases, buildings have decayed too much for the process to be worthwhile, said Marlega.

As a rule of thumb, the value of reclaimed lumber offsets the cost of deconstruction to the landowner, who also saves money by having less waste material to dump at the landfill, he said.

Salem Salvage earns roughly half its revenues by wholesaling the lumber to builders and woodworkers, and the other half by turning the wood into furniture, Burris said. The company also restores old barns as a supplementary seasonal business.

"I love wood and I love being creative, so it's fun for me," she said.

It's critical for the company to keep track of the lumber's origin, she said. "My guys in the yard know where each piece of wood came from."

Such details are valuable for furniture-building companies such as The Shaker Craftsman in Yakima, Wash., which buys lumber from Salem Salvage.

Shaker Craftsman uses old-school joinery methods to make furniture from lumber that comes entirely from a single building, said Rhonda Cornwell, the company's co-owner.

"They know I need that information," she said. "If you provide that history, our customers really like that."

Cornwell said she buys several species of reclaimed lumber from all over the U.S., but relies on Salem Salvage for old-growth Douglas fir.

Growing popularity

Television shows, magazines and social media devoted to home renovation have increased the popularity of reclaimed lumber, driving up both competition and prices, she said.

"People are wanting it more," Cornwell said. "A lot of people are getting more aware of it."

Aside from its age, reclaimed lumber intrigues people due to its texture.

"The coolest thing about it is the wood is amazing before you do anything to it," said Terry Edwards, Burris' husband and co-owner of Salem Salvage.

Unusual textures often develop from how a piece of wood is used over decades, he said.



Photos by Mateusz Perkowski/Capital Press

Danuta Burris of Salem Salvage, top, stands near a partially dismantled grain elevator with Dustin Stephenson, left, Steve Marlega, center, and Darell Braman, right, of Northwest Reclaimed Wood, as well as their dog, Cooper.



Darell Braman of Northwest Reclaimed Wood, a deconstruction company, dismantles a grain elevator in Suver. Old wood from barns and other farm buildings is popular among woodworkers and home renovators.

For instance, the old Pacific Seed grain elevator contained wooden chutes that grain passed through.

Over time, the grain wore away the softer wood, leaving ripples similar to those created when water passes over sand, Edwards said.

Edwards plans to use the wood from the chutes to build a conference table for Wilbur-Ellis.

"We're going to knock their socks off," he said.

Another unique texture

was created when generations of cows stomped on the floor boards of a barn, causing the softer wood to wear away faster than the knots, which then appeared elevated.

Edwards and Burris turned that lumber into a bench that a wife gave to her husband, a former cowhand.

"It told the story of how the cows had worked that wood just by walking on it and gave it a shape that a machine never could," Edwards said.

Police: 'We take personnel issues seriously'

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"I'm as concerned as anybody else. I mean, it's my department and we want to make sure that we're not doing anything inappropriate."

Linda Engbretson, the interim city manager, who oversees Workman, declined to comment, describing it as a personnel matter. Mayor Mark Kujala and city commissioners also chose not to discuss the investigation.

"We take personnel issues seriously," Engbretson said.

The state Department of Justice did not respond to a request for comment. Dis-

trict Attorney Josh Marquis also declined comment.

Workman was the police chief in Vernonia for four years before taking the helm in Warrenton in October 2008. City officials have described him as well-liked and affable, but some have also noted privately that he appears to carry a heavy workload.

Earlier this year, when discussing the department's assignment of its first full-time detective, Workman said he and his officers have to cover a little bit of everything.

"We all wear those hats here," he said.



Peter Roome / Flickr

Officials say a man was attacked by a shark while surfing at Indian Beach in Ecola State Park near Cannon Beach.

Shark: Beach will remain open, signs will be posted

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Tanner was stabilized on scene and transported via air ambulance to Legacy Emanuel Medical Center in Portland. Norris, a MetroWest paramedic, helped provide support at the scene.

"The bystanders have done a phenomenal job," Norris said.

Cannon Beach Police Department, Oregon State Police, Cannon Beach Fire and Rescue, Seaside paramedics, Clatsop County Sheriff's Office, Medix ambulance and Life Flight Network were on the scene.

"We called Portland because Astoria was tied up," said Cannon Beach Fire Chief Matt Benedict, who awaited the arrival of Life Flight at Ecola State Park.

"It looked like it sank its teeth in," Benedict said of the bite. "You have some big arteries in your leg so if you cut one, you could lose a lot of blood."

Shark bites are not a common occurrence in Cannon Beach, Norris said. The last one he knows of occurred in the 1980s.

The International Shark Attack File, which tracks shark attacks around the world, has documented 26 shark attacks on the Oregon Coast.

State park staff will post advisory signs at Indian Beach, but the park and beach will remain open, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department said today.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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