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ONE DOLLAR

PROTECTING PUFFINS, one sweatshirt at a time



Matthew Zalewski
Tufted puffins like this one photographed in Seattle are an iconic bird in Pacific Northwest coastal waters, but are declining for unknown reasons.



Colin Murphey/The Daily Astorian

Observers with the Haystack Rock Awareness Program keep a sharp eye on the tufted puffin population as numbers in recent years have continued to dwindle despite research and educational efforts to revive the colony.

Population decline spurs fundraising, research

By **BRENNA VISSER**
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — John Underwood has been coming to Cannon Beach with his family for the majority of his life. For the past 10 years, every time he and his wife, Ann, would take a walk on the beach they would approach the observer tasked with counting seabirds on Haystack Rock and ask the same question.

How are the puffins this year?

Every year, the answer he received was grim. But this year, when the observer said he'd seen only seven that day, Underwood and his wife walked back to their house and decided something needed to be done.

"I remember coming down to Cannon Beach as a kid to look at the rock, and remember hundreds of puffins," Underwood said. "We can't let this icon of Cannon Beach just disappear. We felt like we had to get engaged, to raise awareness."

'Protect our Puffins'

Haystack Rock still is home to Oregon's largest tufted puffin colony. But research has shown a significant decline in the population of the small, black bird with golden plumes on



The Daily Astorian/File Photo

One of the first tufted puffins to arrive on Haystack Rock in Cannon Beach in 2014. Puffin populations are on the decline and researchers want to know why.

its head and a bright orange beak.

After some brainstorming and a meeting with Haystack Rock Awareness Program coordinator Melissa Keyser, Underwood decided to donate \$10,000 to launch the "Protect our Puffins" campaign this summer.

Soon, visitors and residents will see "Protect our Puffins" sweatshirts for sale at local businesses, Underwood said. All of the pro-



Submitted Photo

John Underwood, the retired CEO of Darigold, is selling sweatshirts to help raise money for research to protect puffins.

ceeds will go to fund informational brochures, research and an event next summer to raise awareness of the "puffin problem."

"Hopefully it will have an impact on the birds," said Underwood, a Bainbridge Island, Washington, resident and retired CEO of Darigold. "Each of us need to contribute in

See **PUFFINS**, Page 7A

Cashing in on the total solar eclipse

Expected crowds are already boon for some

By **ADRIAN SAINZ**
Associated Press

BARTLETT, Tenn. — Millions of eyes will be fixed on the sky when a total solar eclipse crosses the U.S. in August, and it's likely many of them will be safely behind the special glasses churned out by a Tennessee company.

American Paper Optics ramped up production for this year's eclipse and expects to make 50 million paper and plastic eclipse glasses. John Jerit, the company's CEO and president, said they began preparing about two years ago. During his almost 27 years making safety glasses, he's only seen one total solar eclipse, in France in 1999, but will be going to Nashville for this one.

See **ECLIPSE**, Page 7A



AP Photo/Adrian Sainz

Employees prepare solar eclipse glasses for shipping at the American Paper Optics factory in Bartlett, Tenn. Staring at the sun during an eclipse — or anytime — can cause eye damage. The only safe way is to protect your eyes with special filters in glasses or other devices.

Deputy Queener: New to the job but not to area

Naselle grad dives into law enforcement

By **DAMIAN MULINIX**
For EO Media Group

NASELLE, Wash. — When Ryley Queener graduated from Naselle High School in 2012, he was ready for something new.

"For me, I had to get out of Naselle. I was 18 and was ready to see the world," he said.

He soon soured on that idea.

"I saw the world and realized that it sucked. Maybe that's because I was 16 miles from Spokane?" he said recently. "But in the process of doing it, I learned that I don't want to live outside of Pacific County. I learned to value that more."

Fast forward to last fall. Queener returned home to Naselle, fresh off of

See **QUEENER**, Page 5A

Golf course sees fix to elk hordes in trap, transfer

State says plan would be costly, not yield results

By **R.J. MARX**
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — One man's natural wonder is another man's nuisance.

While representatives of the Gearhart Golf Links don't want to rid the city of elk, they would like to see the herd reduced. And after a dramatic incident involving beachgoers menaced by an elk cow, they feel that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife — the organization responsible



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

Jason Bangild, Forrest Goodling and Russ Earl are working for more involvement from the state in managing Gearhart's elk population.

for the elks' stewardship — has not done enough to pursue property protections and ensure public safety.

"We've been working on getting the elk removed, the herd size reduced for years now," Gearhart's Russ Earl said Tuesday at a meeting with Gearhart Golf Links General Manager Jason Bangild and Superintendent Forrest Goodling. "We've had (meetings with) four different levels of Fish and Wildlife people, up to the executive director, and we've gotten exactly the same results."

If the herds had been managed properly in the past, it would not be such a big issue now, they say.

Their latest attempt to discourage the elk — up to 100 in the herd, they say — involved the use of coyote decoys and

coyote urine, designed to remind the elk of their predators. Landscape crews sprinkled the coyote urine on the eight plastic coyotes strategically placed on the perimeter of the 100-acre, 18-hole golf course — the oldest golf course in Oregon and one of several area courses facing the problem.

"They've basically said, 'Put some signs up around the golf course,'" Earl said. "That didn't help us at all."

Safety at issue

While the course faces tens of thousands of dollars of damage caused by elk, the risk to

See **ELK**, Page 7A

