

BOARDWALK SHUFFLE

Raptor Center buys property

The Teton Raptor Center has purchased its home, the Hardeman Barns property in Wilson.

The acquisition, plus an amendment to the conservation easement on the property, paves the way for upgrades at the nonprofit that nurses injured birds of prey and offers conservation, research and education programs.

Ownership of the 25-acre property, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, has been transferred from the Jackson Hole Land Trust to the Raptor Center.

"We paid the appraised value," Raptor Center Executive Director Amy Brennan McCarthy said.

The appraised value was \$1 million, she said.

A conservation easement transferred from the Teton County Scenic Preserve Trust to the Jackson Hole Land Trust, McCarthy said.

The Land Trust has owned the Hardeman Barns property since 1989, when a "groundswell of community support" generated \$1.7 million to save the site from a 70-unit subdivision, a press release said. At that time a conservation easement was placed on the property.

A February 2016 amendment to the easement added restrictions on how the property can be used and developed. The amendment "provides clarifications and guidance for future site improvements and use," the press release said.

"We are looking to make some site improvements to provide some more space for our missions," McCarthy said.

Specifically, the Raptor Center needs to upgrade its office space and its rehabilitation facilities.

The nonprofit now operates out of two offices, one on Berger Lane in Jackson and the other in a small horse barn on Hardeman property, she said.

The Raptor Center treated a record 140 sick or



The Teton Raptor Center's Roger Smith talks with Cub Scouts in 2009. The Raptor Center recently bought the Hardeman Barns property, its home.

injured birds — of more than 20 species — last year. Those raptors can't be in the same quarters as the 10 birds that live there for the nonprofit's education programs.

"We have to keep the resident raptors segregated from the patients," McCarthy said. "They need distinct spaces."

In the hands of the Raptor Center, "Hardeman Barns will remain a community asset and will continue to be stewarded by the Jackson Hole Land Trust to ensure all provisions of the conservation easement are being upheld," the press release said.

"Should the TRC decide to sell the property in the future the Jackson Hole Land Trust will

have the ability to repurchase the property and guarantee that the community's vision is upheld."

Spring means business

Bears aren't the only things that wake up in the spring.

Businesses whose services include warmer-weather jobs are getting busy, too.

Spring lawn cleanups are underway for Bushong Property Services, for example. Power raking, which "makes the lawn healthier and lets it breathe," is one part of that, owner Lee Bushong said.

Around the first week of May is when crews start up sprinklers and make sure there are no

problems from winter. That's a job that depends on the ground thawing. Then it's time for fertilizing.

"You want to have good water turned on before you start doing fertilizing," Bushong said.

Mid-May is about when Porcupine Greenhouse and Nursery gets into full swing, employee Beth Thebaud said.

The greenhouses are already full of growing things, and Porcupine was about to take delivery of a load of bark and soil. But trees from northern Idaho and container shrubs from Minnesota won't arrive until the first week of May.

"It's cold everywhere," Thebaud said. "Cold and wet."

In the window-cleaning business bookings tend to rise with the temperature.

"A lot of people like to get it done when the weather becomes more consistent," Kiss My Glass owner Steven Thomas said.

Business generally picks up around the first of May.

"Right now the weather is like a toddler with a light switch," Thomas said last week. "One day summer, a couple days winter, a couple more days of summer. It's tough to predict."

This is a time of year for moving in and moving out, which keeps companies like Blue Sky busy with carpet cleaning. But spring is also a time for fixing things.

"We're doing a lot of mold and water remediation because of all the snow we had this winter," office manager Penny Dykes said. "We've had a lot of water damage calls."

DEADLINES

If you have a new or changing business, tell us about it. Submissions for Boardwalk Shuffle are due by 5 p.m. Fridays. Email me@jhnewsandguide.com.

XOWYO

Continued from 7C

country, asking me to design theirs. That's how I got my first clients.

The company grew organically. I've always been the type of person who is fortunate to recognize an opportunity when it's there, so I jumped on it.

Q. How did the company name come about?

A. The name had its origins through my own wedding, as I signed my save-the-dates "xowy" — so xo from Wyoming. And as I was thinking about a name for a business I thought, "xowyo." It's perfect for wedding stationery.

Q. What other products do you sell?

A. We mostly do custom wedding stationery — save-the-dates, wedding invitations and the pieces that go along with wedding invitations like reply cards, maps, rehearsal dinner invitations and envelopes. We also create wedding week and wedding day items, such as gift bags for out-of-town guests, menus, programs, place cards and a ton of signage, both custom and hand drawn.

We also design nonwedding paper goods for baby showers, birthday parties, special events, personal stationery, holiday cards, graduation announcements, thank-you notes and greeting cards.

Q. What types of materials do you use for the invitations and other wedding-related items?

A. We try and get really creative with the product we print on. We just did a project with leather, making a custom brand for the bride and groom. We also use a lot of cloth and, of course, different kinds of paper. We do a lot of wood and chalkboard signage for the day of the wedding because it's so windy in Wyoming. Paper pieces just blow away off the table.



CARRIE PATTERSON / COURTESY PHOTO

Cara Rank is the owner of Xowyo.

with me. I consider myself not only the owner of Xowyo but also the creative director. We talk about the bride's ideas for the event, get all kinds of details on her and her groom, and then start brainstorming.

Amy Yatsuk, my senior designer, takes the idea and executes it. We're a great team.

Q. Tell me about your gift bags. What typically goes into them?

Q. How does the design process work?

A. Usually the client

comes in to meet with me. I consider myself not only the owner of Xowyo but also the creative director. We talk about the bride's ideas for the event, get all kinds of details on her and her groom, and then start brainstorming.

Amy Yatsuk, my senior designer, takes the idea and executes it. We're a great team.

A. We do an average of 5,000 gift bags a summer. There are tiered price levels, depending upon the type of packaging and what goes into them. Others are custom built by the clients, based on their budgets and what they want to give people. We try and use locally made products.

Q. Is one time of year busier than others for your business?

A. We used to be more seasonal, but now it's busy all year round. Summer is the busiest — I'd say June and July — because we're doing weddings during those two months and mailing invitations for August and September weddings, so we're doubled up on the work.

Q. What is your future plan for the company?

A. We're always growing and expanding. I like having a limited number of retail locations for the greeting cards, because I don't want to saturate the market with having too many in too many places. Greeting cards are not our bread-and-butter.

I like where our company is now in terms of doing custom projects for people, I think if anything we'd just like to continue doing more custom projects throughout the country and not just in Jackson.

Contact Julie Butler via 732-5908 or editor@jhnewsandguide.com.

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