

Seaside father kills son while hunting deer near Meacham

EO Media Group

MEACHAM — A Gresham man died Wednesday evening near Meacham after his father shot him in what the Umatilla County Sheriff's Office is calling a hunting accident.

Sheriff Terry Rowan said the case, though, remains open. "You treat this like any other death investigation and try

to answer all the questions," he said.

Louis Neil Branze, 76, of Seaside, and his son David Joseph Branze, 47, were in the area deer hunting, Rowan said, with at least two other people.

"They've been hunting up there for around 40 years," he said.

One of the other hunting party members at 6:24 p.m. called 9-1-1 and reported an

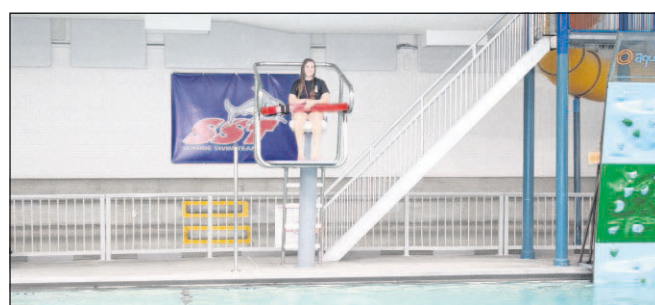
accidental shooting near the Summit Ranger Station cabin off Forest Service Road 3113. Rowan said none of the other members witnessed the shooting.

Deputies responded and discovered Louis Branze "fired a shot at a deer and apparently accidentally struck David Branze," according to a written statement from the sheriff's office. "David Branze

died as a result of the gunshot wound."

Members of Umatilla and Union County search and rescue teams found the body. The area is "very rugged and steep so the recovery took several hours to complete," according to the written statement.

Rowan said the state medical examiner could perform an autopsy Saturday, but he is awaiting confirmation.



Katherine Lacaze/EO Media Group

Lifeguard Lindsey Wolfe watches over the Sunset Pool from a new lifeguard stand.

Sunset Pool completes scheduled maintenance

Women's locker, shower room get makeovers

By KATHERINE LACAZE
EO Media Group

SEASIDE — The Sunset Pool cleaned up its act during its recent annual maintenance shutdown.

The pool, part of the Sunset Empire Park & Recreation District, was closed from Sept. 19 through Sept. 27 while staff members thoroughly cleaned and painted the facility.

"We try to keep it from showing signs of age and wear, like putting foundation over wrinkles," executive director Skyler Archibald said. Most importantly, the women's shower and locker room got new flooring and grates so water from the shower drains properly, Archibald said.

In the past, water from the showers would puddle in areas in the bathroom. Staff sopped it up several times per day to

prevent sanitary issues, "but it was unsightly," Archibald said. The area also got new partition walls and toilets.

A new, taller lifeguard stand was positioned so the person on duty can oversee both bodies of water, the lap pool and warm-water pool, at one time.

District staff did most of the work, including painting and power-washing. The women's bathroom project cost about \$17,000 and the district contracted with a company in Portland.

District staff originally estimated the maintenance would take two weeks to complete and set a reopening date of Oct. 5. Since the work was finished early, the pool reopened a week earlier, on Sept. 28.

"We try to schedule it at a time when it will impact as few people as possible," Archibald said. Most patrons, he added, "understand there's just certain things we can't do when we're open. This is a necessary thing we have to do to keep the place looking nice."

Prayers are answered as Pearl is returned to owner

A social media campaign ended happily with sighting in Cannon Beach

By DANI PALMER
EO Media Group

CANNON BEACH — Cannon Beach residents proved just how dog-friendly they are when they helped Portlander Krista Labavitch find her dog, Pearl, after a weeklong search last month.

Pearl, a 7-year-old Bernese mountain dog, went missing Sept. 24. Someone tried to pet the skittish dog from behind and "she just bolted," Labavitch said, pulling the leash from her daughter's grip.

Construction workers tried to catch Pearl, but lost sight of her on South Hemlock Street. Labavitch then traveled to Cannon Beach to search for her, going home after finding "no sign of her."

She encountered Kate Pickford with Clatsop Animal Assistance when she came back the next day, who volunteered her time to search and posted Pearl's photo and information on the organization's Facebook page. It resonated with people.

"We reached up to 30,000 people in the area," Pickford said. "It was one of the most active posts on our page."

Locals quickly shared the post and wrote they were keeping an eye out for Pearl.

On Sept. 26, Labavitch got a call from Cannon Beach police



Submitted Photo

Pearl, after being returned to her owners.

that the dog had been spotted at Les Shirley and later near the place she'd disappeared from. They tried to catch her, but she took off again.

"The police were awesome," Labavitch said. "They kept in contact with us, and they were very kind. They treated Pearl like a person, not a dog."

She and her friend, Sandee Sanders, searched all weekend with no luck. Locals Margo and Fred Silvester offered them a place to stay while they did so, and Pickford continued to post updates on Facebook.

Labavitch took time off from work to search and tried to stay positive, but it was hard at times.

"Pearl is a member of our family," she said. "They're not just pets, they're family."

On Sept. 29, Labavitch got a call Pearl had been seen near Hug Point. They looked there, then moved onto Arch Cape.

Around 7:30 a.m., the family got a call from Cannon

Beach Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Court Carrier. He'd taken the initial call from the Labavitchs — who were frantic, like he would be as a dog owner himself, he admitted — and recognized the dog from her trailing leash as she crossed U.S. Highway 101.

He stopped and called to her, as did another passer-by, but Pearl "jetted into the South Wind site."

A while later, Labavitch walked with her shih tzu, Navarre, up the logging road where Carrier had spotted Pearl and called for the Bernese mountain dog.

"I sat down and I just prayed," she said. "I heard some rustling in the bushes, looked over and she came out to us."

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Environmental Assessment & Cleanup Heritage Square Project Update
Please join us for a presentation about the completed environmental assessment and upcoming environmental cleanup of Heritage Square, using our EPA Brownfields Grant. City staff and the consultant team will be on hand to answer questions.
This update is part of a 30-day public comment period (for the proposed cleanup) that is scheduled to end by November 3rd, 2015, and which can be extended if necessary.
Tuesday, October 13th
Open House 6:00-7:30pm; Presentation 6:00pm
Astoria City Hall Council Chambers
1095 Duane Street
For more information contact: Brett Estes or Jeff Harrington Phone: (503) 338-5183
Email: bestes@astoria.or.us, jharrington@astoria.or.us
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