

word nerd

By RYAN HUME

Gull [gʌl]

noun

1. any number of large, mostly gray-and-white aquatic birds living in coastal areas near the sea, especially those of the family *Laridae*

2. *Gulls (colloq.)*: local nickname for any of the Seaside High School athletic teams, including football, basketball, soccer, volleyball and many others

3. *Gulls' Nest (colloq.)*: a.) informal reference to the basketball court at Seaside High School

b.) a seasonal fall radio show on KCRX 102.3 FM dedicated to covering the North Coast's high school athletics

transitive verb

4. to deceive, trick or dupe

Origin:

Before 1450, an imitative word meant to represent the bird's cry that is also related to the Welsh, *gwylan*, which meant the same thing. First recorded in a cookbook in the early 15th century, gull came to replace the Old English *mæw*, which was the predominate imitative English word for the shore bird for many years, and is related to *mew*, another word that comes from an imitative animal sound, this one referring to cats.

The verb form, meaning to hoodwink, is the root of the word *gullet* (as in throat) and refers to the act of swallowing, as in someone who will swallow anything, which might have arisen from watching the sea bird's behavior.

"Banks kept it close for over two quarters Friday night, before Seaside kicked it into another gear and gradually pulled away for a 62-50 win in a Cowapa League boys basketball game at the Gulls' Nest."

—Gary Henley, "Gulls rally 'round their coach in win," *The Daily Astorian*, Jan. 24, 2016



Submitted photo by Jeff Daly

A gull and her chick were sighted by photographer Jeff Daly in July on an Astoria piling.



Photo by Jeff Ter Har

Members of the Seaside Gulls girls basketball team pose for a photo before their win against Ilwaco Dec. 9, 2015. The Gulls won at home, 60-44.

"Sea gull and other fowl of like character are protected by ordinance in this city — and rude boys who wish to keep out of 'chokie' should not be caught in the act of stoning the birds."

—Editorial, *Tri-Weekly Astorian*, Saturday, Oct. 11, 1873, P. 1

"While there may be no such thing as a 'seagull,' there are, however, many different species of gulls — laughing gulls, ivory gulls, California gulls, slaty-backed gulls and so on. Those found most often in Cannon Beach are known as northern fulmars."

—Andrew R. Tonry, "No such thing as a seagull," *Cannon Beach Gazette*, Jan. 21, 2016



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Photo by Matt Love

The Sou'Wester Lodge offers guests a vast selection in its VHS library.

A GLIMPSE INSIDE

An occasional feature by MATT LOVE

The Sou'Wester Lodge

At long last, after many years of hearing about its exquisite retro graces, I checked into the historic Sou'Wester trailer/cabin resort in Seaview, Washington, for a two-night stay in winter.

I brought along the old husky, some books to read and ideas for pieces to write.

All my best-laid plans for literature went immediately out the window when I discovered a VHS/TV combo in my cabin and the Sou'Wester Lodge's vast collection of VHS movies — and

only VHS movies. Long live tape! Long live rewind! I decided right there I would have my own private old movie festival. I heartily recommend the experience, and the Sou'Wester is the best place on the Pacific Coast to stage one.

The selection astonished me. How could I possibly decide? The best of Orson Welles? "A Man Called Horse." The Beastie Boys' "Sabotage"? Fellini? "Porky's"? Where was my mood? Where in my past did I want to return?

Then I saw it and snatched it off the shelf like a madman — "Blade Runner" — I hadn't seen the film in 30 years. And lo and behold, this was the director's

cut without the superfluous, trudging voice-over from Harrison Ford's detective character.

I watched "Blade Runner," a quasi science fiction movie set in Los Angeles in 2019, and it delighted me. There was bawdy origami, an evil corporation, no CGI, Sean Young! And rain, rain, rain, with lots of black umbrellas, but Harrison Ford doesn't wield one. He covered his head with a daily newspaper, like a lot of movie characters and real people used to do.

They got a lot right about the future in "Blade Runner." But scenes of big city people sheltering themselves from rain with newspapers were dead wrong. No one does that in Portland or Seattle. Newspapers there are dead. It never rains in Southern California either.

What a film! Thank God they never made a sequel. Don't do it Harrison Ford! I beg you in the name of VHS! The recent "Star Wars" reboot or recycle or rehash was enough.

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Matt Love is the author/editor of 14 books about Oregon. His books are available through coastal bookstores or his web site, nestuccaspitpress.com




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