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ONE DOLLAR



Elk wade in the estuary in Gearhart.  
John Dudley/For The Daily Astorian

## 'Animal versus animal' as elk, dogs clash

### Elk will charge to defend calves

By R.J. MARX  
The Daily Astorian

**G**EARHART — A pet whippet was trampled and killed by a herd of deer at the Reserve at Gearhart this month. In another incident reported to Gearhart Police, an elk kicked a dog and broke the dog's legs. A Little Beach resident said he saw a herd menace kayakers this month when they approached too close to the shore.

"They will sometimes get aggressive," Wildlife Communications Coordinator Michelle Dennehy of the Oregon Department

of Fish and Wildlife said. "It can happen anytime. The advice for pets and people is to try to keep away."

Oregon has two types of elk, Dennehy said, Roosevelt elk on the coast and Rocky Mountain elk in the Cascades. Roosevelt elk bulls typically weigh 900 pounds, and cows clear 600 pounds. Roosevelt elk in western Oregon have the larger body size, but typically Rocky Mountain elk — prevalent in Eastern Oregon — have larger antlers. "This makes sense when you think about how Roosevelt elk need to get through very thick brush," she said.

With calving season, people and their pets

are well-advised to steer clear of the herd, she said, which can reach 60 or more.

#### Dogs no match

A sign posted by the dunes in Gearhart warns: "Keep clear of the elk. Elk will charge to defend calves."

Gearhart Police Chief Jeff Bowman said the risk increases at a time when elk cows are protective of newborn calves. "It all boils down to an animal versus animal, and the elk aren't going to back down from a dog coming at them. They've got babies. If people are walking and not having their dogs on a leash, they'd better be looking for the elk."



R.J. Marx/The Daily Astorian

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A warning sign in Gearhart.

## Mayor LaMear calls for action on guns

Astoria mayor will send letter to governor, congressional delegation

By DERRICK DePLEDGE  
The Daily Astorian

Astoria Mayor Arline LaMear, struggling with emotion, said she would send a letter to Gov. Kate Brown and Oregon's congressional delegation calling for gun control.

"It doesn't matter if you're for gun rights or for stricter gun controls," LaMear said at Monday's night's City



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

**Mayor Arline LaMear, shown here at the reopening of the Astoria Senior Center earlier this year, wants action to address gun violence.**

Council meeting. "As human beings, we share these feelings of horror, sadness, fear and helplessness.

"Would a gun resolution make any difference? Do letters to the editor and posts on social media help address the

problem? I don't know. But I do know that I must do something," she said, her voice breaking. "We must do something to put a stop to this madness."

The mayor, who rarely uses her role as presiding officer of the City Council to speak to state or national policy issues, made the statement after horrific violence across the nation.

Police shootings near St. Paul, Minnesota, and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, revived national demonstrations against racism and police brutality. Racially motivated attacks on law enforcement officers in Dallas and Baton Rouge have police on high alert.

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## Council still cautious on affordable housing

City staff will move ahead on 'granny flats'

By DERRICK DePLEDGE  
The Daily Astorian

Unsure about what direction to take on affordable housing, the Astoria City Council signaled Monday night that the city might lift restrictions on accessory dwelling units but should wait on more aggressive policy changes.

The City Council made affordable housing a goal after

hearing from residents and business leaders that the lack of housing is a barrier to livability and economic growth. But the council is not prepared to move on a definitive strategy without greater public participation, since new housing projects have been met with neighborhood opposition.

Several potential development code amendments were scheduled to go before the Planning Commission earlier this year but were pulled by City Manager Brett Estes after councilors and residents raised doubts.

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## Tenacity required to tackle code violators

Long Beach, Wash., approach based on safety, livability

By DAVID PLECHL  
EO Media Group

LONG BEACH, Wash. — Code enforcement may bring to mind overzealous enforcement officers sprawled on hand-and-knee, measuring blades of grass to issue tall fines for incidental infractions.

But Long Beach Mayor Jerry Phillips says nitpicking property owners is not the name of the game.

"Let's make it a safe environment," said Phillips, "and a community people want to live in, move to, and enjoy."

The mayor says the city prioritizes

enforcement issues based on level of threat to public safety, and secondarily, livability.

The properties in the mayor's short stack have collapsed roofs, mounting fire hazards, rot, mold, infestations, and quite often homeless tenants who lodge illegally; sometimes using the decrepit properties as a bathroom or a convenient cover for illegal drug use and other crimes.

#### Recalcitrant owners

After the worst offenders are prioritized to the top of the list, the mayor says owners are then contacted through "considerate letters."

The goal, Phillips says, is to build a relationship with the owner and find a



Jerry Phillips

resolution without resorting to legal pressures.

Simply writing citations, he admits, has been largely ineffective.

"Sometimes by just giving a warning, you can get more done than by issuing a ticket," said Phillips.

But when the written requests, warnings and tickets don't work, the city must take legal steps to correct the problems, he adds.

Legal steps, however, aren't cheap, and suing owners and putting liens on properties is looked at as a last resort.

"That's money I could be using to do something else in my community," Phillips said.

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David Plechl/EO Media Group

**An semi-abandoned A-frame on Pacific Avenue is at the top of the mayor's list of properties to clean up. "We've got homeless sleeping there. We've got drug users in there," said Phillips. The owner has been uncooperative.**



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