

Mother elk menaces Gearhart beachgoers

Wildlife agents tranquilize elk cow and calf

By R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

GEARHART — An elk cow protecting its calf apparently charged a bicyclist on Monday in Gearhart and was tranquilized and brought to safety by police, firefighters and officials from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

But aggression remains as calving season creates risks for beachgoers and passers-by.

"I'm not sure if we have an elk issue or a people issue at this point," City Administrator Chad Sweet said. "It's definitely the wildlife and people coming together creating this issue."

Aggressive elk were reported to Gearhart Police late last week.

On Thursday, elk were reported chasing a family near the Highlands Golf Course.

"We haven't had anything on the golf course itself," said Mayor Matt Brown, who is also the golf professional at Highlands. "But apparently some folks got chased on the beach near the Highlands and ran up into the neighborhood to the course."

In another incident, children on Little Beach encountered an aggressive female elk. "They dropped their skimboards, towels, equipment and ran," Sweet said.

The elk blocked the children from retrieving their boards for several hours, he said.

Later Friday, a woman and four dogs — three of them off-leash — were also menaced by the elk before she and another person were able to get the dogs under control. Reports of aggressive elk were also reported in the Gearhart communities of Surf Pines and Pinehurst, Sweet said.

Multiple incidents

In response, the city added warning signs on the beach and sent out email alerts.

Monday morning, Sweet said, a bicyclist was charged by an elk near 10th Street in Gearhart, prompting a call to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and State Police.

No injuries were reported as officials responded to the scene.

Beach access was blocked as members of the Department of Fish and Wildlife moved close enough to shoot the elk with a tranquilizer dart, according to Gearhart Fire Chief Bill Eddy.

"The elk was postured up by the flagpole on 10th Street next to the Windward condos in a defensive position," Eddy said. "They shot it one time with a tranquilizer and it didn't work. They waited about 15

or 20 minutes later and shot it again. It started getting a little bit drowsy, but it was stubborn. You couldn't get close to it. It was just wobbling around."

Using a long pole with a syringe on the end of it, about 20 minutes after the second dart, wildlife officials were able to get close enough to stick it with the syringe and subdue the elk, Eddy said.

At about 1 p.m., the city sent out a request for volunteers to search for the calf. "Some locals who saw the blog found the baby pretty close to where the flagpole was just to the northwest of the flagpole," Sweet said. "The baby was fine — in fact it got up to run away once it was found."

A state police officer carried the young elk into a container to rejoin the mother, Sweet said.

"This elk and baby were moved, but it is going to hap-

pen again," he said. "There could be another female elk out there with its own young with this same issue."

Calving season

While calving season is late this year — it typically occurs in April, May or June — the behavior of the mother elk is normal, Eddy said.

"When they first drop, especially when the babies are small, they're unable to stay with the herd," Eddy said. "They break off from the herd. Mom gets very protective."

"It's definitely the wildlife and people coming together creating an issue," Sweet added. "This time of year, we seem to have more reports of elk. If you see an elk and it is posturing against you, just back off and take another route. Give them their space and this will be a safer, happier summer."



Neal Maine/For The Daily Astorian

During calving season from late May to early June, elk cows will leave the herd hours to days before giving birth. For up to three weeks after birth, they will hide their calves in grasslands, shrublands and forests.

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TV LISTINGS

THE DAILY ASTORIAN Evening listings TUESDAY

TUESDAY EVENING		A - Charter Astoria/Seaside - L - Charter Long Beach										JULY 18	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6 (N)		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	The Middle	Fresh Off the Boat	Black-ish	Black-ish	Amer. Housewife	The Middle	KATU News (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel
3	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News		Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy!	The Middle	Fresh Off the Boat	Black-ish	Black-ish	Amer. Housewife	The Middle	KOMO 4 News	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel
4	KING	(5) NBC Nightly News	KING 5 News	KING 5 News	Evening	America's Got Talent	"Judge Cuts 1"	Chris Hardwick joins the judging panel. (N)	World of Dance	"The Cut 1" (N)	KING 5 News	(:35) Tonight Show	
5	KOIN	(6) KOIN Local 6 (N)	Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "Privileged Information"	Bull "Free Fall"	NCIS: New Orleans	"Return of the King"	KOIN 6 News (N)	(:35) Colbert		
6	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News	Evening News (N)	The Insider	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "Privileged Information"	Bull "Free Fall"	NCIS: New Orleans	"Return of the King"	KIRO News	(:35) Colbert		
7	KGW	(8) KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N)	Live at 7 (N)	Inside Edition	America's Got Talent	"Judge Cuts 1"	Chris Hardwick joins the judging panel. (N)	World of Dance	"The Cut 1" (N)	KGW News (N)	(:35) Tonight Show		
8	KRCW	(3) Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Modern Family	Modern Family	The Flash "Invasion"	Hooten and the Lady	"The Amazon"	News at 10 (N)	Two and a Half	Two and a Half	Met Your Mother	
9	KOPB	(10) Ask-Old House	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)	Evening	American Experience "Murder of a President"	Frontline "Life on Parole" (N)	Kevin Kling: Lost & Found					
10	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News (N)	Family Feud	Family Feud	The Simpsons	The Mick	Family Guy	The Mick	10 O'Clock News (N)	News (N)	2 Broke Girls		
11	KPDZ	(6) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	FOX 12's News (N)	9 O'Clock News (N)	Family Guy	Family Guy	American Dad!	Cleveland Show		
12	KCPQ	(13) Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	The Simpsons	The Mick	Family Guy	The Mick	Q13 News at 10 (N)	The Simpsons		
13	TBS	(20) Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld Pt. 1 of 2	Seinfeld Pt. 2 of 2	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Wrecked (N)	Conan		
14	KZJZ	(22) Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Friends	Friends	Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Two and a Half	Two and a Half
15	ESPN	(29) (4:00) MLB Baseball (L)	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)	SportsCenter (N)	
16	ESPN2	(30) WNBA Basketball	Chicago Sky at Seattle Storm (L)	Beach Volleyball	World Series Final	E:60	Jalen & Jacoby (N)	NFL Live					
17	NICK	(31) The Loud House	Henry Danger	Henry Danger	The Thundermans	The Thundermans	NickyRickyDicky	Full House	Full House 1/2	Full House 2/2	Friends	Friends	
18	DICK	(32) Jessie	K.C. Undercover	K.C. Undercover	Bizaardvark	Stuck in the Middle	Andi Mack	Descendants (2015, Family)	Cameron Boyce, Booboo Stewart, Dove Cameron.	The Bold Type	(:05) Bunk'd	Jessie	
19	FAM	(34) *** Mean Girls '04, Comedy/Drama	Rachel McAdams, Tina Fey, Lindsay Lohan.	The Fosters	"Exterminate Her" (N)	The Bold Type	(N)	The Bold Type	(N)	The Bold Type	(N)	The 700 Club	
20	LFC	(35) (4:45) X-Men Origins: Wolverine	*** X-Men: First Class (2011, Action)	Michael Fassbender, Jennifer Lawrence, James McAvoy.	(:45) ** Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (12)	Rufus Sewell, Benjamin Walker.	(:55) FXM Presents						
21	ME	(36) *** Enough Said (13, Rom)	James Gandolfini, Toni Collette, Julia Louis-Dreyfus.	*** The Holiday (2006, Romance)	Kate Winslet, Jack Black, Cameron Diaz.	Married1stNight	"Intimacy: Part Two"						
22	FOOT	(37) (5:00) MLB Baseball	Seattle Mariners at Houston Astros (L)	Post-game	(MLB Baseball) Seattle Mariners at Houston Astros Site: Minute Maid Park -- Houston, Texas	Post-game							
23	FS1	(39) Boxing Premier Champions (L)	Speak for Yourself	BIG3 Basketball									
24	COM	(43) Ink Master "Crossing the Line"	Ink Master "Unnatural Disasters"	Ink Master "Lend Me Your Ear"	Ink Master "War and Ink"	Ink Mstr "Get the Flock Outta Here" (N)	Ink Master (N)	Tattoo Night.					
25	SPK	(44) Futurama	Futurama	South Park	South Park	Tosh.0	Tosh.0	@midnight (N)					
26	HIST	(45) Forged in Fire "Katar"	Forged in Fire "The Boar Spear"	Forged "Master and Apprentice" (N)	Forged in Fire (N)	(:05) American Ripper (N)	(:05) Forged in Fire						
27	A&E	(46) Hoarders "Merlene/Jeff"	Hoarders "Celia and Nathan"	Hoarders "Linda and Kerry"	Hoarders Overload	Born This "Red Carpet Wars II" (SF) (N)	(:05) Hoarders						
28	TLC	(47) Say Yes to the Dress	Daughter "A Thanksgiving Miracle"	OutD. "Dawn of the Terrible Twos" (N)	OutDaughtered (N)	Devil's Canyon "Unfamiliar Territory"	Life Below Zero "Higher Ground"						
29	DISC	(48) Deadliest Catch "Hurricane Alley"	Deadliest Catch "Arctic Mega Storm"	Catch "Greatest Game Ever Fished"	Deadliest Catch (N)	Life Below Zero "Higher Ground"	Animal Kingdom "Dig" (N)						
30	NGE	(49) Live Free or Die "Tony and Amelia"	Life Below Zero "The Slow Grind"	Life Below Zero "Midnight Sun"	Life Below Zero "Higher Ground"	Animal Kingdom "Dig" (N)	Will "The Two Gentlemen"						
31	TNT	(50) (4:00) American Gangster	*** Olympus Has Fallen (13) Morgan Freeman, Aaron Eckhart, Gerard Butler.	Animal Kingdom "Dig" (N)	Animal Kingdom "Dig" (N)	Will "The Two Gentlemen"							
32	AMC	(51) (5:30) *** The Goonies (85, Adventure)	Cory Feldman, Josh Brolin, Sean Astin.	*** The Princess Bride (87, Rom)	Robin Wright, Chris Sarandon, Cary Elwes.	Shooter "The Hunting Party" (SP) (N)	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Snatched"						
33	USA	(52) (5:00) *** Shooter (2007, Action)	Michael Peña, Danny Glover, Mark Wahlberg.	WWE Smackdown! WWE superstars do battle in long-running rivalries.	Shooter "The Hunting Party" (SP) (N)	Law & Order: S.V.U. "Snatched"							
34	FOOD	(53) Chopped "Stacking Up"	Chopped "Big Fish, Small Basket"	Chopped "San Francisco"	Chopped "Raw Deal"	Chopped "Clam Clash" (N)	Chopped "Beg, Borrow or Eel"						
35	HGGT	(54) Fixer Upper	Fixer Upper	Fixer Upper "Retiring to the Country"	Fixer "Traditional Goes Ultra Modern"	Good Bones (N)	House Hunters						
36	FX	(56) (5:00) *** Captain Phillips (2013, Docu-Drama)	Barkhad Abdi, Tom Hanks.	*** Selma (2014, History)	Tom Wilkinson, Tim Roth, David Oyelowo.	Selma (2014, History)	David Oyelowo.						
37	CNN	(57) Anderson Cooper 360	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	Anderson Cooper 360	Anderson Cooper 360							
38	FNC	(58) The Five	Hannity	Tucker Carlson Tonight	The Five	Hannity	Tucker Carlson Tonight						
39	CNBC	(61) Shark Tank	The Profit "Hip Pops" (N)	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	The Profit "Hip Pops" (N)	Paid Program						
40	BRAV	(63) Below Deck "Flirting With Danger"	Below Deck: Mediterranean	Below Deck "Kissing Up"	Below Deck: Mediterranean (N)	A Night With (N)	A Night With My						
41	TCM	(64) (5:00) The Drowning Pool	*** Ode to Billy Joe (76, Rom)	Glynnis O'Connor, Joan Hotchkis, Robby Benson.	*** Deliverance (1972, Adventure)	Jon Voight, Ned Beatty, Burt Reynolds.	The Great Santini (79) Robert Duvall.						
42	SYFY	(65) (5:30) *** Blade (1998, Action)	Stephen Dorff, Kris Kristofferson, Wesley Snipes.	Face Off "Dante's Demons"	Face Off "String Theory" (N)	*** Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters (13)	Alexandra Daddario, Logan Lerman.						
43	RFD	(162) (5:30) Cattleman (N)	Chasing-Madison	Horseman. "ADM Alliance Nutrition"	Chris Cox	Rural Eve. News	Ag PhD						
								Cattleman to Cattleman				Chasing-Madison	Product Showcase