

# the Astorian

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Rachelle Milbradt

In a photo Rachelle Milbradt posted to her Instagram account, a doe she calls 'Liesl,' right, is shown with her fawn, 'Tulip.'

## On Instagram, a backyard window into the urban wild

Milbradt shares an almost daily record of the comings and goings of deer

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
*The Astorian*

Rachelle Milbradt hasn't seen "Baby's" fawn since the heat wave in June.

She's realistic about it: the fawn is probably dead. But Milbradt was holding out hope that Baby's sister, a doe she's nicknamed "Liesl," might still have a fawn. She didn't like the idea of a fawn-less summer, especially for the two does she's watched and photographed in her backyard for several years now.

By mid-July, weeks had passed without any sightings.

Milbradt saw Liesl often. The doe would pause in the sloping meadow behind Milbradt's house and stare at a spot near the tree line. Maybe she was checking on a fawn hidden in the brush, Milbradt mused. Or maybe she was waiting for a fawn that wasn't coming back.

Baby had moved on, now hanging out with Liesl's older daughter, "Tulip." She no longer exhibited the anxious watchfulness of a mother deer with a young fawn, but Liesl seemed distracted.

Milbradt snapped some photos.

On any given day in Astoria, some-



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

Rachelle Milbradt of Astoria created an Instagram account to document the lives and habits of the deer that wander through city land and into her backyard.

one somewhere is probably taking a picture of a deer.

They are everywhere, after all. They amble through yards. They dash down streets and pause in crosswalks. They haven't met a deer-resistant plant they're not willing to try once. They seem almost tame. They enchant and

annoy their human neighbors and tourists in equal measure.

Probably no one takes as many pictures of them as Milbradt.

She started the Instagram account — @the.daily.deer — several years

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## Cannon Beach will go to voters on food tax

City Council backs away from proposed ordinance

By KATIE FRANKOWICZ  
*The Astorian*

CANNON BEACH — It looked like the City Council was about to pass a controversial local tax on prepared food — until suddenly it didn't.

City councilors had voted 3-2 last week in favor of drafting an ordinance to enact a 5% tax rather than putting the question to voters in the November election.

But at a special meeting Wednesday night, City Councilor Brandon Ogilvie, who had voted in favor of pursuing the ordinance last week, changed his mind. Now, the city will race the clock to get a tax proposal ready for the November ballot.

The switch suits a number of restaurant, coffee shop and bakery owners and service industry workers who urged city councilors to put the matter to a public vote, or at least hit pause on passing the ordinance.

City leaders estimate the local tax would raise about \$1.7 million per year. The city planned to split the revenue with the Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District to help with operational costs. The city's cut would go toward funding a new City Hall and police station — to replace the aging facility with one that can function as a center for emergency operations.

Other Oregon cities have passed or

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## Fishhawk Lake reaches settlement with state

Agreement resolves claims over fish deaths

By ETHAN MYERS  
*The Astorian*

The Fishhawk Lake Reserve and Community has reached a settlement with the state over the draining of a reservoir in 2019 that allegedly killed more than 30,000 fish.

Fishhawk Lake, a private community surrounding the reservoir near Birkenfeld, agreed to pay \$250,000 and the community's insurance carriers will cover the remainder of the \$3.7 million settlement.

Patrick McGillivray, Fishhawk Lake's former board president, and Jim Dahlquist, an employee, were charged with misdemeanors in connection with the reservoir draining and fish deaths.

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## Seaside residents push for fireworks ban

Noise, pets, fire risk among the concerns

By R.J. MARX  
*The Astorian*

SEASIDE — Residents concerned about noise, animals and fire danger want the city to consider a fireworks ban.

Cathey Ryan said her home "sounded like a war zone on July Fourth."

"There were very, very loud fireworks," she told the City Council on Monday. "And I understand that this is a celebration of our indepen-

dence, and I appreciate that. Unfortunately, this bombardment of sound went on for over five hours."

Her husband, a Vietnam War veteran, "was not in good shape" by the end of the night, she said.

Ryan asked the City Council to form a committee to look at the possibilities of silent fireworks or a drone display.

"It would help the people of Seaside, who are susceptible to that kind of noise, to have a more celebratory July Fourth," she said.

Stephen Davis asked the city to enact a "no fireworks of any kind" policy, like Cannon Beach has done. "There are already local and state regulations in place, which are not being responded to," the resident said in a letter to city councilors.

This was the second year that the coronavirus pandemic prompted

Seaside to cancel its fireworks show, which officials have said brings an estimated \$20 million economic impact. The city's visitors bureau has regularly provided \$20,000 to \$25,000 in tourism grant dollars to fund the fireworks. The remaining cost — estimated at \$50,000 — is provided by donors.

At this week's City Council meeting, Police Chief Dave Ham said the police department had 19 fireworks-related calls on Independence Day, although he recognized there were many more fireworks illegally discharged.

The police department received 88 total calls and 26 fireworks complaints over the holiday weekend, he said, issuing citations and seizing fireworks from several groups.

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Lou Solitsis

Fireworks troubled some residents in Seaside on the Fourth of July.

