



# CAUTION

## Elk charges beachgoers



### Wildlife agents tranquilize elk cow and calf

By R.J. Marx  
Seaside Signal

**A**n 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.

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A police officer cradles an elk calf after it has been tranquilized. The calf was reunited with its mother.

PAT WOLLNER/FOR EO MEDIA GROUP

## Wanted: Long-term rentals in Seaside

### Seaside could develop downtown buildings for workforce housing

By R.J. Marx  
Seaside Signal

Members of the Planning Commission and City Council agree there is a shortage of long-term and workforce rentals in the city. They convened Tuesday night in a joint workshop to discuss ways to make rentals more available.

"The scarcity is driving people who want a two-bedroom into a one-bedroom, and people into a one-bedroom into a hotel room," Planning Commissioner David Posalski said. "It's people in all areas from professionals to minimum wage workers who can't find a place to live."

Planning Commission Vice Chairman Bill Carpenter suggested modifications to

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## Seaside center reaches its fund goals

### Community building to get upgrades

By R.J. Marx  
Seaside Signal

The city's Bob Chisholm Community Center moved closer to renovation, meeting funding goals for the three-stage building refresh.

Construction could begin in the fall. "Several years ago, we had a dream," Lou Neubecker, chairman of the Community Center and Senior Commission, told the City Council Monday.

Now, the dream is a reality, he said. Through fundraising efforts, the commission raised more than \$51,000. "Since the original project was estimated at \$175,000 combined with the city's project budget of \$200,000, we have enough to start the funds and start going out for bids," Neubecker said.

### Honoring volunteer

The Bob Chisholm Community Center at 1225 Avenue A was originally property of the Catholic Church before acquisition of the building by the city as a community rental space.

In the mid-1990s, under the direction of then-Public Works Director Chisholm, the building underwent a major renovation, adding a front office and two large meeting rooms to the north end of the building. The main hall was converted from a gymnasium into a large gathering space.

Chisholm, a volunteer firefighter, died in 1997 attempting to save a man drowning in the surf just off the beach. The building was subsequently named in his honor.

### The project

The refresh project was conceived in 2015 by the city and the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District. A pledge drive launched last spring.

In the first week of May, the commission got approval from the city to meet with RESOLVE Architecture and Planning, the firm that initially designed the renovation, and start preparing the bid process to select a general contractor.

Refurbishing the main hall is the first of three phases.

"Window treatments, the flooring, wall covering, and lighting are the main parts of it," Darren Gooch, marketing and information technology manager for the district, said after the meeting. "But all of that is going to work together to dampen the sound a little bit and put it in a little better acoustic environment. Right now if you have a hearing aid, you can't hear what's going on."

Renovations to the center's entryway and the classrooms will follow.

Gooch said the commission will now solicit architects for bids, which will then be presented to the City Council for review.

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## Camp builds students' STEM skills

By Katherine Lacaze  
For Seaside Signal

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics are more than just classroom subjects. They are areas of study, primarily rooted in problem-solving, that pervade everyday life.

For some young students, however, those naturally interconnected disciplines, especially engineering, can be intimidating, dull or inaccessible. That's why the Oregon Coast STEM Hub and Oregon State University approach them through a series of mobile science and engineering summer camps, offered to middle schoolers along the coast.

The Seaside School District played host to one such day camp, held July 12 and 13 at The Heights Elementary School. More than a dozen local students who are entering sixth to ninth grade this fall explored science and engineering through several hands-on activities, such as developing water infiltration



KATHERINE LACAZE/FOR SEASIDE SIGNAL

Sixth-grader Desi Ramirez (left) and eighth-grader Kolyn Lachica work on creating a water infiltration system during a free two-day STEM-related summer camp held at the Heights Elementary School in Seaside on July 12 and 13. The camp was one in a series along the coast put on by Oregon State University in partnership with the Oregon Coast STEM Hub and local site hosts.

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