

# Facebook posts rattle Gearhart

By R.J. MARX  
Seaside Signal

A perceived shooting threat on social media rattled Gearhart, leading to an emotional plea from Mayor Matt Brown.

Brown began a City Council meeting on Wednesday with a report of a potential threat of violence against a city employee.

"I guess will have to shoot him then," a woman wrote in a Facebook thread referring to City Administrator Chad Sweet. "I think there's a problem with that solution but the older I get the less of a problem it becomes."

The post, which appeared in the closed Pacific Way Group, received a "like" and another group member added the comment, "Your idea has merit, lol."

"It was brought to my attention a post appeared on a local Facebook group suggesting shooting one of our public employees," Brown said, his voice trembling. "The post was engaged in by some of the group's administrators and founding members, and was 'liked' by one of its administrators."

In a city where social media takes center stage at the grassroots level, the words on the Facebook page hit home.

"We take potential threats of violence against our city employees very seriously," Brown said.

A report was filed with the Gearhart Police Depart-



R.J. Marx

**Gearhart Mayor Matt Brown reads a statement at the August City Council meeting.**

ment and information was forwarded to the Clatsop County District Attorney's Office.

Suggesting potential violence in any form in the community "is unacceptable and should not be tolerated," Brown added.

A politically oriented spinoff of the Million Friends of Gearhart Facebook page, the Pacific Way Group has 140 members and describes itself as "a forum for the people of Gearhart to discuss civic matters concerning the community."

Jack Zimmerman, who is involved with the Facebook group, said the group takes the incident seriously and the words were not intended as a threat of violence.

The woman is "a very elderly retired female school teacher who is a past but not current Gearhart resident," Zimmerman said.

"There is a long record of her postings and replies that show she is in fact by her own admission elderly and prone to making confusing statements."

By Wednesday evening, the post had been deleted, he said. On Thursday, the person making the post had been removed from the closed group for inappropriate language.

Zimmerman said the Pacific Way Group has "never nor will it ever condone any implied or direct threat made directly, indirectly or by innuendo towards any individual or group of individuals. The threatening statement made by this elderly lady was very misguided and unfortunate."

But Zimmerman added in a post forwarded by Pacific Way Group administrator Kathleen Piner Zimmerman that city leaders and their supporters "made

an orchestrated decision to seize the event as an opportunity to build a great theater of emotion and defense against a real and clear expression of violence by a confused old lady. The theater was planned to shock and discredit."

Zimmerman, who unsuccessfully ran for City Council last year, took the city to task for "clear suppression of cognitive diversity and the shutting out of opposing views in city government."

This has led Gearhart "to a new low point which ultimately hurts and corrupts us all."

Zimmerman said "there is more to this story which unfortunately cannot be revealed at this time. Today I am deeply sad for an elderly woman who made a grievous error; I am sad for the discrediting of the active exchange of opinions on Pac Way and finally I am sad for Gearhart, its people and its history, all of which deserves better than this."

Denele Sweet, the wife of the city administrator and owner of Encore Dance Studio, showed support for her husband and concern for his safety after the message from "what could be thought of as a hate group in Gearhart."

"It's a group in a very small little town," she said at Wednesday's meeting. "You should feel safe here. I should feel safe here. My children should feel safe here. All the children of that studio should feel safe here. It was a little concerning to see that."

# Seaside man sentenced to three years for assault on sheriff's deputy

By NICOLE BALES  
The Astorian



**Nathaniel Eugene Richcreek**

shake" or had access to justice, the attorney said.

However, Judge Cindee Matyas sided with the prosecutor, citing

A Seaside man was sentenced on Thursday, Aug. 8, to three years in prison for assaulting a sheriff's deputy.

Nathaniel Eugene Richcreek, 40, was arrested last June after causing physical injury to Sgt. Dean Schroeder.

The court decided to increase Richcreek's prison term because of his previous criminal record, which includes similar offenses and assaults.

Edward LeClaire, an attorney representing Richcreek, described him as being "a good guy" with a "good soul" despite his criminal record. Richcreek has had to deal with difficult circumstances and never felt like he was given a "fair

Richcreek's criminal history, failure to engage with probation and committing another crime while on probation.

"We felt great that the judge saw that the defendant needed to go to prison for a significant period," District Attorney Ron Brown said in an email.

Richcreek has been arrested in Clatsop County more than 25 times, including for charges of assault, burglary, menacing, possession of methamphetamine and harassment.

# Truck stolen from campground involved in crash

Seaside Signal

bal altercation with the person who was responsible for the vehicle, the alleged suspect drove off in the vehicle without permission. Police searched the immediate area.

On Saturday, Aug. 10, at approximately 2 p.m., Seaside Police received a report of the stolen 2001 silver Dodge Ram from the Circle Creek Campground on U.S. Highway 101.

According to police, the suspect allegedly left his belongings on the ground and entered the vehicle without permission. After a ver-

Later, the stolen vehicle was involved in a motor vehicle accident approximately around milepost 30. Oregon State Police were called to the scene. Johnathan L. Kale was in the truck at the time of the crash.

## RESPONDER REPORTS PUBLIC SAFETY LOGS

### Seaside Police log

**Aug. 2**  
2:12 a.m., 500 block Broadway: Officer assists subject who misplaced their vehicle. Subject took a cab back to their lodgings and told police they'd retrieve their vehicle in the morning.

10:19 a.m., Avenue A: Police and emergency personnel respond to a pedestrian/motor vehicle incident.

11:51 p.m., 500 block Beach Drive: A disturbance is reported.

**Aug. 3**  
11:56 a.m., Safeway: Police are summoned regarding a shoplifter in custody; the store declined to pursue charges but requested the subject be trespassed.

4:07 p.m., 2300 block S. Edgewood: Caller reports neighbor with motor home sticking out of the driveway and into the road.

8:57 p.m., Highway 101 and Broadway: A person is arrested and charged with driving while under the influence of intoxicants.

**Aug. 4**  
3:42 a.m., 500 block Broadway: Caller reports someone pounding on their door. Prior to police arrival, caller called back and said the door pounder had left the area.

7:30 a.m., Post office: Subject sleeping in the post office told police they are trying to stay warm. They agreed to move along.

6:12 p.m., Bayview Terrace: A lost dog turned into police is reunited with its owner.

**Aug. 5**  
5:10 p.m., Alley behind Twisted Fish: Police are requested for a welfare check.

**Aug. 7**  
5:11 a.m., Seventh Avenue and Holladay: Officer checking on welfare of a cat reported to have been nabbed by a coyote but escaped. Police observed cat appeared to be fine.

**Aug. 8**  
1:09 a.m., Turnaround: A large group making unnecessary noise are advised complaints are being made about them. They agree to return to their rooms.

5:21 p.m., 300 block Fifth: Caller reports a disturbance in the apartment above them; officer contacts subject who says he's just upset about his missing cat.

5:24 p.m., Turnaround: A child reported missing is reunited with family.

8:02 p.m., Turnaround: Person reports lost saxophone.

### Seaside Fire log

**Aug. 2**  
9:43 a.m., Hillside: Emergency medical response.

**Aug. 3**  
4:57 p.m., 3400 block S. Hemlock, Cannon Beach: Water rescue.

**Aug. 4**  
4:50 p.m., Beach and Trendwest:

A person reported missing is looked for.

5:57 p.m. Beach and Avenue N: Fire investigation.

**Aug. 5**  
6:51 a.m., Avenue G Bridge: Water rescue.

**Aug. 7**  
5:49 a.m., Arch Cape: Water rescue.

9:40 p.m., 1100 block Avenue A: Emergency medical response.


**Aug. 8**  
9:01 a.m., 900 block Avenue S: Medical emergency response.

10:58 a.m., Big Beach: Public assistance.


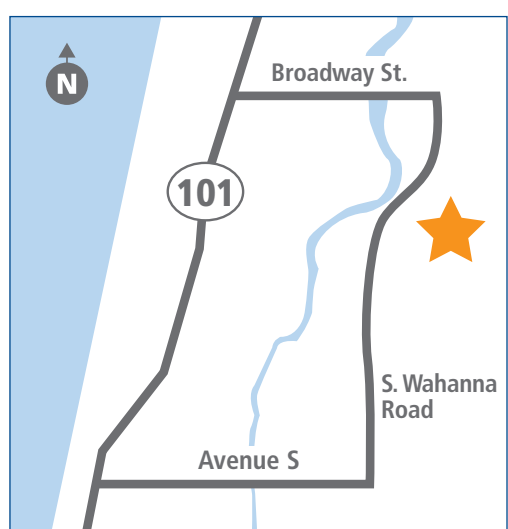
11:08 a.m., 800 block N. Lincoln: Fire investigation.

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