



WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT



Ted Mittelstaedt

Elk off the back deck of a 14th Avenue home driven across the estuary after heavy rains.

CULLING RISES TO TOP OF ELK POPULATION CONTROL STRATEGIES IN GEARHART

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Gearhart moved a step closer on a plan to reduce the local elk population. The plan relies on hunting outside city limits to stem the birth rate of elk calves. “No doors should be considered closed, especially when you’re looking at creative solutions for managing an urban elk herd,” Manuel Padilla, project manager for Oregon Solutions, said at a Gearhart City Council workshop last week.

“You’re going to start seeing very quickly a situation in which you are going to have very few, if any, options left to be able to start to bring down the herd to a manageable level,” Padilla said. “That’s precisely why culling, although a tough decision, has been put forward and is strongly, strongly recommended.” The elk population in Clatsop County is exponentially higher than a decade ago, said Paul Atwood, a biologist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

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Joyce Hunt

Elk scrambling from the estuary into Seaside after storms.

Ham to remain Seaside police chief

Enterprise rescinds job offer

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Police Chief Dave Ham will stay in his role in Seaside after the offer for the police chief position he accepted in Enterprise was rescinded.



Dave Ham

Ham shared plans to take the position in Enterprise in November.

Enterprise will restart the selection process after rescinding Ham’s offer. Ham was set to be sworn in on Monday.

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Middle school inspection reports alarm residents

Leaks, cracks, asbestos hint at future costs for Broadway

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

The Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District announced a deal for the Broadway Middle School purchase last week. Before the deal was authorized by the board, a Facebook group, Taxpayers for SEPRD Transparency, told board members that up to \$5 million is needed immediately for repairs and upgrades to Broadway Middle School in addition to the purchase price, \$2.15 million.

“This is a building that has mold, rot, asbestos, cracks, sinking, water within the structure and a roof that inspection reports show has needed total replacement for quite some years,” said City Councilor Tita Montero, a member of the group who is speaking a private citizen.

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Van Heusen closes store at Seaside outlet mall

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Santa made his last stop at Van Heusen on Christmas Eve as the business attire store at Seaside Outlets closed its doors.

The store had been in Seaside since 2001.

“It’s tough out there,” said Jeff Ter Har, owner of Ter Har’s in Seaside and Cannon Beach. “Retailers are having a lot of problems. Everybody is.”

The Van Heusen store closure comes after PVH Corp., the parent company of Calvin Klein, Tommy Hilfiger and several other brands, announced the planned closing of its 162 Heritage Brand retailers across North America because of the coronavirus pandemic. Heritage Brand includes IZOD and Van Heusen.



Van Heusen, a business attire store at the Seaside Outlets, has closed.

The company’s website shows only five Van Heusen retail locations remaining, one in Ontario, Canada, one in Vermont and the rest in New York state. All Heritage Brand locations are expected to close by late 2021.

“Formalwear is a tough business to be in because workplace dress has gotten so casual,” Ter Har said. “At this point with the pandemic, things are even more casual than they used to be. It’s

sad. We’ve dabbled in it from time to time, but there’s just not enough business to sustain it.”

Van Heusen is the third store to close this year in the outlet mall, along with Daisy May’s Sandwich Shop and It’s 5 Distillery, mall manager Kendra Lounsbury said.

Tokyo Teriyaki took a break but they’re back, she said, and a new restaurant, Legends Public House, is coming. Advantage Dental debuted with a soft open-

ing in December.

Lounsbury anticipates clothing retailers will return.

“We had pretty good sales through the summer to the fall before we went into the Oregon freeze,” she said. “People were coming out to shop. We take precautions and make sure to have a clean, safe environment to shop and the stores were doing that as well. I absolutely think people will come out when we get in an even better position.”

In an electronic setting, Gearhart clarifies council rules of conduct

In-person meetings delayed indefinitely

By R.J. MARX
Seaside Signal

Show your faces and keep it sober.

Those were among rules discussed at the Gearhart City Council’s last work session of 2020 when City Councilors sought to clarify rules in a world of long-distance and livestream meetings.

“The city will use an electronic

meeting format when necessary during any emergency when meeting in person is not possible or safe,” reads the proposed language. “It is expected if the technology is available that the camera view will be used, especially when speaking to the group and when a vote of the council members is taken.”

The rules give staff the ability to mute a participant during the meeting if meeting decorum is disrupted.

Meetings will be timed and the mayor will ask if a five-minute break is needed after two hours. Meetings with interviews will generally be scheduled one hour before the regular meeting.

It is expected that the council will refrain from alcohol intake or taking drugs that might impair their ability to make decisions prior to meetings, according to the code of conduct revisions.

While approving bringing the recommendations to a vote at a future regular meeting, council members fell short of picking up City Councilor Dan Jesse’s request to return to in-person meetings. “I don’t think we’ve had anybody speak at one of these meetings since we started this April,” he said.

Jesse said electronic meetings failed to provide adequate opportunity for public comment. While the meetings are available to the

public to listen or participate electronically, “listening is not the same as participating and interacting,” he said.

Mayor Paulina Cockrum said in-person meetings would likely be delayed until a COVID-19 vaccine is readily available.

“Until we have our population vaccinated, people don’t want to go out in public or meet in groups,” Cockrum said. “I would say June, myself, unless we could come up with a really big room. ... I don’t see how we can do that right now.”

“The point of vaccination is a good point to start considering it,” City Councilor Kerry Smith added.

SEASIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

New district policy bans hate symbols on campus

Policy applies to in-person, distance learning

By KATHERINE LACAZE
For the Seaside Signal

A new Seaside School District policy will prohibit the use or display of hate symbols on school grounds or in any district- or school-sponsored program, activity or event, except as part of educational curriculum.

The All Students Belong policy, approved by the district’s board of directors during a meeting in December, identifies symbols of hate as a “symbol, image or object that expresses animus on the basis of race, color, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability or national origin.” This includes the noose, swastika and Confederate flag.

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