



  
**Garden Center**  
**GRAND OPENING**  
**June 1<sup>st</sup> + 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**8 AM-5 PM**  
  
**Garden Center: 360.378.1041**  
860 Mullis Street, Friday Harbor, WA 98250  
[www.browneshomecenter.com](http://www.browneshomecenter.com)

## Council reviews halt of cannabis

By Mandi Johnson  
Assistant editor

The marijuana moratorium in San Juan County remains in effect for now. The county council was legally required to hold a hearing regarding the moratorium within 60 days of its imposition in April.

"This is not concerning new regulations, but about the moratorium," council chairman Jamie Stephens said.

Though not specifically about what rules the county is going to decide upon, the council still heard arguments from nine Lopezians about the suspension. Both those in support of the embargo and opposed spoke.

"I think the moratorium is a much-needed tool to allow time for reasonable regulations [to be] established that all county residents can live with," Kurt Fuller said. "I think those regulations should include but not be limited to a ban on tier 3 grow operations due to the impact on sensitive island resources."

Fuller is one of more than 300 Lopez residents who have coalesced into a group named Say No Lopez.

Carol Deckelbaum, one of Say No Lopez's organizers, said she wants the county to use this moratorium time to take into consideration regulations such as limiting permits to one per parcel; prohibiting all tier 3 grow operations; requiring production to be performed indoors to reduce odor; establishing setbacks to minimize impacts on neighbors; and requiring a conditional use

See **CANNABIS**, page 4

## Black bear searches the San Juans for a mate



Richard Bell/Contributed photo

Richard Bell photographed the bear in his backyard on May 18, in Hillview Terrace, near Friday Harbor.

By Heather Spaulding  
Reporter

While looking for love in all the wrong places, a black bear found its way to the San Juan Islands. Most likely, this recent island-hopping bear is male and searching for a female, which is common this time of year, said Washington State Fish and Wildlife biologist Ruth Milner.

"It is unlikely to stick around," Milner said.

The bear seen on San Juan Island over the weekend of May 18-19 was first spotted on Camano Island, according to Milner. It then swam to Whidbey, over to Fidalgo Island, to Orcas and to Shaw. A ferry worker then spotted the animal swimming across the channel to San Juan. Although this is the second bear seen in the county in the last few years, Milner does not believe it is indicative of a new trend.

Historically, San Juan County was once home to

elk, deer and several top predators. Cougars once stealthily stalked their prey throughout the islands, and wolves' howls rang out across the Salish Sea. Black bears (*Ursus americanus*) are notorious for their swimming capabilities, according to Milner, and occasionally visited the San Juans in the past.

Vancouver Island is home to one of the largest black bear populations in the world, and Milner said she suspects the island-hopping *Ursus* may head in that direction. If crossing Haro Strait seems like an extreme journey, she said the bear has already accomplished several "long crazy swims," demonstrating

See **BEAR**, page 4

## Deserted vehicles to be towed

By Heather Spaulding  
Reporter

Abandoned automobiles on county-owned property prompted action from the county council.

San Juan County Councilmembers Bill Watson, Rick Hughes and Jamie Stephens passed an ordinance May 7 that effectively rescinded parking regulations in the county-owned lots within the town. Those lots include: behind the courthouse at the top of Second Street, in front of the Annex Building on Rhone Street and public works on 915 Spring St.

"It is really more of a book-keeping thing," Watson said. "There was an issue with maybe one or two cars, and we needed to give ourselves the authority to dispose of them if we needed to."

Resolution 85-2003, passed in

See **PARKING**, Page 4

### Journal deadlines

Classified advertising:  
**Monday at 9 a.m.**

Legal advertising:  
**Thursday at 9 a.m.**

Press releases, letters and display advertising:  
**Friday at 8 a.m.**

### How to reach us

Office: **360-378-5696**

Fax: **1-888-562-8818**

Editor: [editor@sanjuanjournal.com](mailto:editor@sanjuanjournal.com)



**TEDx**

San Juan Island

X=independently organized TED event

"To understand the reasons, you must first look at the origins."

**"ORIGINS"**

Saturday, June 22 - Community Theatre

Tickets online @ [www.TEDxSanJuanIsland.org](http://www.TEDxSanJuanIsland.org)

# Bear

Continued from Page 1

amazing swimming instincts.

San Juan County Sheriff Ron Krebs said there have been no complaints of the bear getting into garbage or being aggressive. Bird feeders appear to be its primary target. According to Milner, black bears are omnivores with a diet that consists of roots, fruits, grains, insects, fish, carrion and even small mammals.

"It would take down a small deer if it needed to," she said.

Black bears are the smallest and most common bear in North America. Adults can grow to be 5 feet tall when standing on their hind legs. While they generally avoid

people, Milner said black bear attacks are the most common because of their large population.

"[However,] bear experts will tell you that bear attacks, in general, are rare," she added.

WDFW Sgt. Russ Mullins noted that this particular bear's behavior has been benign and not aggressive toward people, pets or livestock. He encouraged property owners not to attract it by keeping garbage secure and taking down bird feeders if necessary.

Currently, there are no plans to trap the bear, according to Krebs, since it has been constantly on the move.

"We wouldn't even know where to set a trap at this point," he said.

Milner added, "We don't trap animals that are not in trouble, and at this point, this bear hasn't done anything." She said she encourages people to leave it alone.

A young black bear was humanely trapped on Orcas in spring 2017. It was released in the Marblemount area where it was later killed, legally, during bear hunting season. Since the islands' current bear visitor does not seem to be sticking around, WDFW would rather let it decide where it wants to go.

Krebs said that people should call the sheriff's office at 360-378-4151 with sightings so staff can track the bear and see if it does settle into a neighborhood. If it does appear to be making San Juan County its new home, WDFW would be called in to help relocate the animal.

"We don't want it to get hurt or hurt someone," Krebs said, explaining that due to the human population density — especially with tourists in the summer — the islands are not suitable habitat for the animal.

A majority of islanders, according to Mullins, enjoy having a bear around. But, there are some who have talked about hunting it, which, he said, would be illegal.

"It isn't bear season, and we would definitely investigate if the animal was shot," he said.

Milner noted that not only is it not bear season, but because the San Juans do not have a bear population, it isn't a designated hunting location. Therefore anyone pursuing the bear would be charged on two counts of illegal activity. Harassment, such as chasing it with a vehicle, also falls under the hunting category.



Contributed photo/Allan Smith

The black bear scopes out a bird feeder.

"No wild animal should be approached," Milner said. "Enjoy the wildlife viewing, keep your distance and give them an escape route."

# Parking

Continued from Page 1

2003, gave the town jurisdiction to adopt parking regulations over county-owned lots located within town limits.

Ordinance 3-19 repeals that resolution and authorizes San Juan County Manager Mike Thomas to establish new rules.

Thomas explained to the councilmen at the hearing that the primary motivation behind the ordinance is to get rid of derelict cars that may be parked in those areas.

"It's much more expedient if we take care of it," Thomas told the council-

men at the hearing.

While new rules are being created, no parking regulations are in effect on those lots. When Hughes asked Thomas if he was concerned about the interim, Thomas responded that he was not, and facilities manager Greg Sawyer added that the current regulations are not effective, and the interim should not take long.

Watson told the Journal later that it wasn't that the town was failing, but that county staff uses those parking areas the most, and are the first to spot random vehicles. County staff believed it would be quicker if they handled the problem themselves.

"The ferries had the

same problem with Lot C," Watson added, explaining that people were parking their cars, occasionally living in them, for months at a time. The state has since contracted with the town to monitor the lot, located off A Street. Watson noted that these derelict cars are intertwined with the rising population and homelessness on the island, as well as the high cost of getting rid of a vehicle.

New regulations will be centered around marking cars parked in the county lots and towing them if necessary.

"We are basically authorizing ourselves to pay the towing," Watson said.

# Cannabis

Continued from Page 1

permit.

"I'm asking you to confirm your previous conclusion that cannabis in all of its forms be considered an agricultural crop. ... [I'm] asking you to not overregulate an already overregulated industry," Denice Clark, the sole opponent of the moratorium who spoke at the meeting, said. "Farms aren't always charming, and farms shouldn't be regulated for neighborhood aesthetics."

A proposed marijuana farm on Lopez prompted

action from the council in the form of a moratorium in April. Two of the three council members voted to enact a six-month pause on permitting marijuana production and processing operations in the county.

Councilman Rick Hughes opposed the moratorium, citing the effect that ceasing permitting on all marijuana production and processing operations would have on existing farms in the county. He noted during the April meeting that an Orcas farm is currently for sale and could run into permitting problems should a buyer be found, and that if any of the other opera-

tions wish to expand, they're prohibited while the moratorium is in place.

The topic of prohibiting permits to new marijuana grow operations arose from the controversy surrounding three proposed farms on Lopez. The applicant for all three permits through the state's marijuana licensing board is Laurent Bentitou, who owns waterfront property on Lopez Sound Road and Ceres Garden in Bellevue, Washington.

The first proposed tier 3 site was on Ferry Road and is owned by Michael and Vicky Terra of Paducah, Kentucky. This application was withdrawn by the applicant. Then, the second and third requests were made for Bentitou's waterfront property, a smaller location, but also for both a tier 3 permit as well as a tier 2.

Tier 1 allows for up to 2,000 square feet of plant production space; tier 2 is between 2,000 and 10,000 square feet; and tier 3 is for 10,000–30,000 square feet.

"So now that the public hearing is over, the easy part of adopting a moratorium for six months is complete, and you can move on with deciding what to do when the six months are over" Joey King, deputy prosecuting attorney, said.

The current moratorium expires on Oct. 2.

"We have to do something prior to that date," Councilman Bill Watson concluded.

**OPALCO will provide on-bill financing for qualified projects to help you save thousands on your total energy spending!**

Available for:



Ductless heat pumps



Heat Pump Water Heaters



EV Chargers

Learn more, calculate your savings and apply:

[www.opalco.com/switchitup](http://www.opalco.com/switchitup)

**SEE GREAT ART JUNE 1ST & 2ND**

**SAN JUAN ISLAND ARTISTS' STUDIO TOUR**

**June 1-2, 2019**  
Saturday & Sunday  
10am to 5pm

**Come Join the Fun!**

**61 Artists, 22 Studios**  
View great art on a free island wide, self-guided tour.

**Brochures & maps available.**  
For more information, visit [www.sanjuanislandartists.com](http://www.sanjuanislandartists.com)