

Edmonds Beacon

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

728 3rd St, Ste D Mukilteo, WA 98275

Vol. XXXV Number 31

Published every 1st & 3rd Thursday September 17, 2020

Arson suspect will not be released

20-year-old charged for activities in Seattle protest

BY BRIAN SOERGEL

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A U.S. District judge ruled Monday that a 20-year-old Edmonds man would not be released into the community and specifically not to his parents' house, despite his attorney arguing for his release.

Kelly Thomas Jackson was formally charged Sept. 10 with two counts of arson and two counts of unlawful possession of a destructive device for his activities at a demonstration that turned violent in downtown Seattle in May.

Jackson pled not guilty to all charges, according to court documents.

Magistrate Judge Michelle Peterson said she is considering placing Jackson in an out-of-state lockdown in-patient mental health treatment facility.

There is a status conference Sept. 24 to determine if Jackson's family has made progress in identifying a facility that the court would approve for him to move to.

Jackson's attorney, Robert Goldsmith, argued that Jackson – who he said has bipolar disorder – does not pose a flight risk and had been living in his parents'

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Edmonds College: Challenges ahead

New buildings, but coronavirus means fewer international students

BY BRIAN SOERGEL

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Even before the coronavirus upended everything, the school previously known as Edmonds Community College had seen significant changes and additions.



Amit Singh

The name change, for one, to Edmonds College, which administrators say better reflects the college's offering. More on that later.

And there's the shift to online learning, two brand new buildings with next-to-no students and a

see **EDMONDS COLLEGE** page 12 ▶

CAMERA OBSCURA IN EDMONDS



Beacon photo by Brian Soergel

Lately, it just hasn't been worth looking through the viewing apparatus at the Point Edwards condos at the top of Pine Street in Edmonds. Unless you wanted to see the lingering smoke from Washington, Oregon, and California wildfires magnified 10 times. The suffocating and unhealthy air conditions – which also covered Edmonds and Puget Sound in 2017 and 2018 – could scoot out of the area by late Thursday or early Friday, reports the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. What happened? Did we see it coming? See a Guest View column from Edmonds resident Brian Potter, a research meteorologist with the U.S. Forest Service, on page 4.

What sank the Alumaweld off Edmonds Marina?

Wife of boat owner wants to set the record straight

BY BRIAN SOERGEL

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The real story of a boat sinking on Labor Day off the Edmonds coast is more complicated than it first appeared.

Incomplete information from rescue officials about a "17-foot aluminum boat" capsizing in choppy and dangerous waters – throwing five people and two small dogs into frigid Puget Sound – led to ridicule from a few Facebook posters, who chided the boat's owner for taking an unsafe boat out in such conditions.

Linda Norris-Hoggarth wants to set the record straight. She's the wife of Dennis Hoggarth, whose boat it was that sank.

Importantly, the boat wasn't 17 feet. It wasn't 19 feet, as later reported. And it was not a dinghy, as some online posters suggested. The boat was a 20-foot Alumaweld Blackhawk, a welded aluminum boat with a steering column, bimini top, and an out-board motor on an extended transom.

"It was nice," Norris-Hoggarth said. "There's about \$50,000 sitting at the bot-



Beacon photo by Brian Soergel

A Washington State Ferry rescue boat leaves the Edmonds Marina after dropping off a passenger from a sunken boat.

tom of the water out there."

She said she was hesitant about putting her name in the paper – she wants to put the focus on rescuers – but she has commented on the Beacon's Facebook page about the incident, and called the Beacon's office to tell her story.

Even though she wasn't onboard, she said she knows exactly what happened, thanks to her husband and his fishing partner.

Labor Day sinking

According to South County Fire spokes-

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from BOAT SINKING page 1

person Leslie Hynes, a call came in at about 1:15 p.m. Sept. 7 that a boat had sunk about 400 yards offshore from the Offleash Area Edmonds dog park on waters that started out calm but quickly turned windy and treacherous.

Here's what happened next, according to Norris-Hoggarth.

Dennis Norris had checked marine conditions before setting out from his Camano Island home, and departed from the Everett Marina for a fishing trip, heading south. On board was his daughter and her husband and their 14- and 22-year-old daughters, who brought two small dogs along with them.

Norris gauged the weather conditions when the winds started whipping, and decided to return to Everett.

"He is very much aware," Norris-Hoggarth said about her husband, who has 55 years of experience on the water. But he couldn't do anything with what came next.

"He turned to (head back to the marina), but a big wave came in and hit, and before that was done, another one hit. They said it was a freak wave. They fought it; they weren't just sitting out there."

Luckily, another boater came upon Norris and his four passengers (and the two dogs) floating with their life vests on. "My husband says he never allows anyone on his boat without a life vest," Norris-Hoggarth said.

The boater, Mark Langmas of Everett, called 911 and rescued one of the daughters. Shortly after, the Puyallup ferry's inflatable rescue boat picked up two more in the water, and a South County Fire Marine 16 rescue boat picked up the last two.

All were taken to the Edmonds Marina, then to Swedish Edmonds hospital.

Another rescuer, Steve Bodine, scooped up some of the debris left by the boat, Norris-Hoggarth said. Still another, Antonio Cruz, picked up some of the items floating on the water, and was later put in touch with Norris to give them back.



Beacon photo by Brian Soergel

South County Fire personnel take a passenger of the sunken boat to a waiting ambulance at the Edmonds Marina.

Cruz shared his account with the Beacon. *We left Everett the morning of the 7th at 0500. We have a 24-foot North River offshore fishing boat. When we left the Everett marina, conditions were ideal, and the water was flat and calm.*

We went up to Port Townsend and checked a few spots. By 0900 we decided to head down to Edmonds. We began fishing in front of the Edmonds Marina and the oil docks just before 1100. The wind had begun picking up from the north as we headed south.

By the time we reached Edmonds, there were whitecaps throughout the Sound, and the waves were around 4 to 5 feet. As we passed the oil docks, we picked up two coho. Our intention was to drift the shipping lanes down to Shilshole.

We were halfway between the oil docks and Shilshole when we heard a mayday call over the Coast Guard radio. We heard a man's voice calmly say, "Mayday, mayday, mayday. We are sinking, please help." Then we heard a scream and muffled crying.

This isn't something you hear every day. I haven't heard a radio transmission this disturb-

ing since I was in Iraq in '03. We immediately pulled our gear and headed north.

As we approached the oil docks, we began seeing debris. We pulled in a jacket, some plastic totes, and a bucket. There was also an oil line streak across the water. We called our findings into the Coast Guard, and they told us to stay put.

(South County Fire) and a towboat showed up within minutes. About that time, we noticed the ferry had turned and was facing south. Later, we had learned the ferry had picked up (some of) the folks.

Social media

After the Beacon posted its initial story on the sinking, along with some pictures, readers quickly posted comments on Facebook thanking rescuers and saying they were glad all survived.

But then came some speculative comments, including that the boat shouldn't have been out in the water under the conditions on Labor Day. One said the boaters "were asking for it."

One who tried to correct some of the comments was Michael Navarre, Norris' frequent fishing partner.

"First, it was a 20-foot boat that is fully capable of carrying five people," Norris said. "Second, the operator checked the winds on two different sites, which forecasted max gusts of 13 knots. Those winds are easily handled by a 20-foot boat."

When the winds picked up, Norris pulled up his fishing gear and headed toward the Edmonds marina.

"Unfortunately, on the way, he encountered rogue waves that went over the top of the boat," he said.

"I find it sad that people will make hurtful comments when they don't have all the facts, and obviously don't know the capabilities of smaller boats."

Linda Norris-Hoggarth
wife of captain Dennis Hoggarth

"Other boaters verified that. Personally, I think he encountered a bar-type effect. He did everything right. He checked the weather before leaving. They were all wearing life jackets. He picked up his gear when it started getting rough, and headed to shore. ...

"I find it sad that people will make hurtful comments when they don't have all the facts, and obviously don't know the capabilities of smaller boats."

Said Norris-Hoggarth: "There's some cruel people in this world. But my husband, I would put him up against anybody out there when it comes to the water. Even his fishing partner said there's times when he doesn't have a life vest on, but he's never seen my husband without one on."

She said she hasn't received much in the way of answers as to whether her husband's boat will be retrieved. It's in pretty deep water.

She knows one thing, though.

"He will have another boat one day."

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