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ONE DOLLAR

## Bring back the butterfly

### Violets return to Clatsop Plains to lure threatened Oregon silverspot back

By KATHERINE LACAZE  
EO Media Group

**C**LATSOP PLAINS — About 9,000 early blue violet seedlings, native to the region, found a new home — or rather, returned to home — at sites across Clatsop Plains, assisted by volunteers from local communities who helped the North Coast Land Conservancy during the organization's two-day violet planting event recently.

Planting the flower seedlings was the latest chapter in the conservancy's decade-long quest to restore a prairie habitat on the Clatsop Plains and Long Beach (Wash.) Peninsula that will bring back a robust Oregon silverspot butterfly population, which is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The diet of the butterfly larvae consists entirely of dried violet stems and leaves.

There to get the violets into the ground were nearly 90 volunteers, including about 20 students from Seaside High School's National Honor Society and art of ethnobotany classes. Community members joined in from as far away as Newport and Lincoln City, with only a few repeat volunteers between the two days.

"The fortunate weather

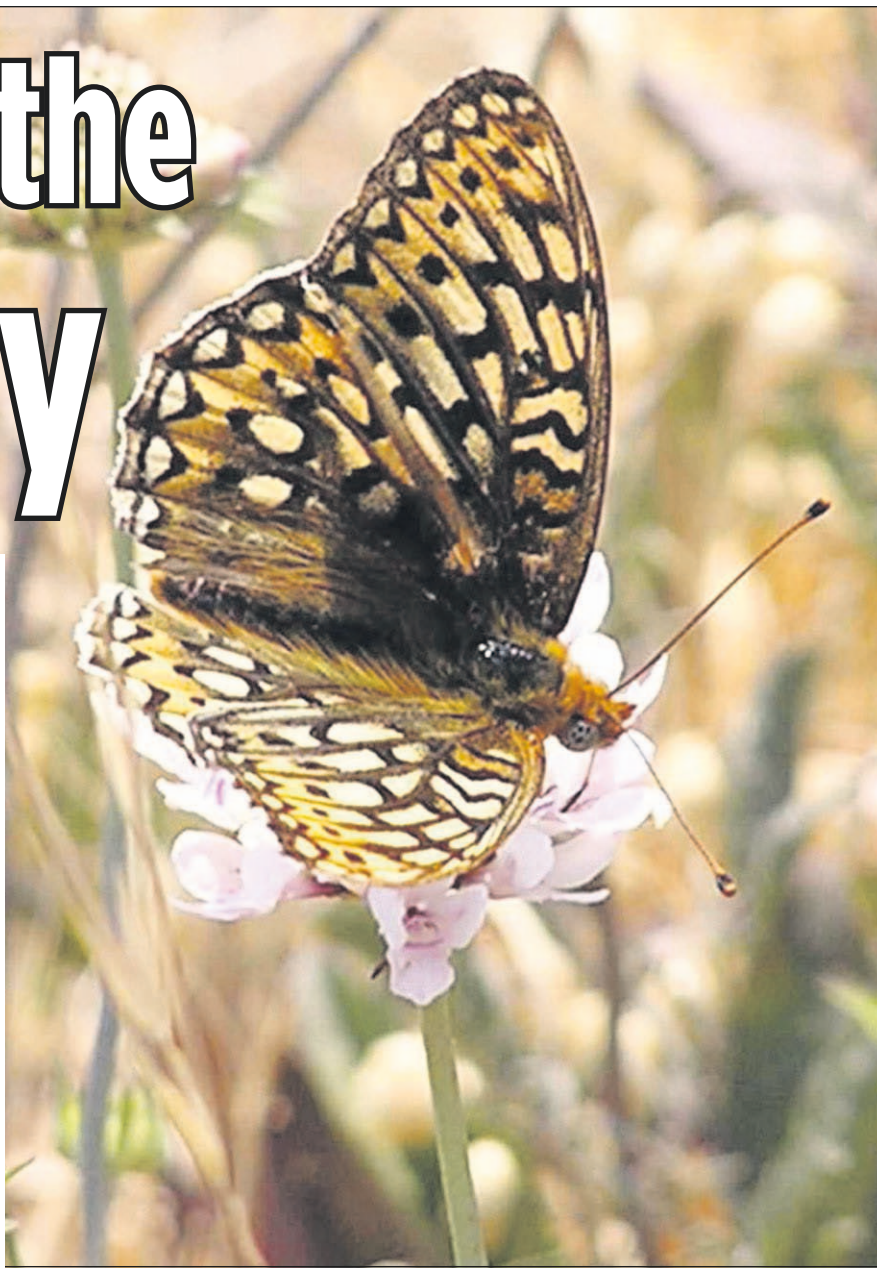
certainly favored our high turnout," Stewardship Director Melissa Reich said.

#### Using native plants

The early blue violet shoots were developed from seeds collected since 2006 at Camp Rilea and elsewhere on Clatsop Plains. From there, seeds were taken to the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Plant Materials Center in Corvallis to be planted. When the seed pods reached maturity, the center gathered the flowers' scattered seed to make a stock of more than 16,000 seeds.

"We keep the seed from the different regions separate because the habitat and conditions are different," Reich said. "Our violets need to thrive in very sandy soils and

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Photo

The Oregon silverspot butterfly.



Katherine Lacaze/EO Media Group

Seaside High School students Paola Campuzano and Alie Zagata help the North Coast Land Conservancy and other volunteers plant thousands of early blue violets on Clatsop Plains between Gearhart and Warrenton, as part of a silverspot butterfly habitat restoration project.



Katherine Lacaze/EO Media Group

Seaside High School students help the North Coast Land Conservancy and other community volunteers plant early blue violets on Clatsop Plains.

## Death penalty case has local ties

### Marquis, Brown had hand in prosecution

By KYLE SPURR  
The Daily Astorian

The Oregon Supreme Court's decision to uphold Randy Lee Guzek's fourth death sentence for killing a Deschutes County couple in 1987 has local ties to the Clatsop County District Attorney's Office.

District Attorney Josh Marquis started prosecuting the Guzek case in 1991 as the chief deputy in Deschutes County and again in 1997 and 2010 as a special prosecutor.

Marquis' chief deputy Ron Brown was the Deschutes County chief deputy who tried and won the original guilty verdicts and death penalty against Guzek in the late 1980s.

Guzek is one of 34 people on death row in Oregon.

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## Seaside tackles dunes

### City partners with CREST to create new grading rules

By KATHERINE LACAZE  
EO Media Group

Seaside is receiving some help from a local task force to keep its dunes healthy and safe.

The City Council approved an agreement with the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce to update the city's foredune management plan last month. The Astoria-based task force is a community organization that specializes in environmental and coastal planning.

The update could lead to more trees, plantings and dune-grading activities. Many of these are prohibited on Seaside beaches because of state guidelines.

To conform with state rules, the city needs to update its plan and seek an exception to the statewide

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## Central School neighbors present unified front

### Group opposes high-density housing options

By EDWARD STRATTON  
The Daily Astorian

More than 30 people who live near the former Central School packed the Blue Scorchers Bakery and Cafe Monday to talk about future of one of the largest vacant lots left in Astoria.

The group came away with two clear points of consensus: no rezoning the properties to high-density residential, and no construc-

tion without making sure surrounding properties won't be damaged by geologic instability.

New Riverview Partners LLC, headed by the late Mitch Mitchum, owns 14 of the 16 lots bounded by Jerome and Irving avenues and Eighth and 10th streets. The site has been under evaluation by Richard Krueger, the developer behind Edgewater at Mill Pond and the Yacht Club Apartments.

Krueger has been represented in the project by Don Hanson, who has met with neighbors around the site and was organizing a meeting for Wednesday to gauge the

neighborhood's opinion. But as neighbors spread the word and organized their own meeting, Hanson announced Friday the project would be put on hold.

People worried about the effect high-density housing might have on the neighborhood, from trash and traffic to construction noise and emergency vehicle access. They also wondered whether the geology of the land, in a historic landslide zone like that of Astoria, could handle the construction of a large apartment building. Proposals for development ranged from green space up to single-family homes.

#### Déjà vu

For Beth LaFleur, who owns property just uphill from the former Central School, the issue felt like déjà vu. In 1991, she said, the Central Neighborhood Association convened because the Central School had recently been torn down, and there was an effort to rezone the property to high-density residential, or R-3 under the city's development code.

LaFleur said neighbors then declared their opposition to high-density housing, and successfully petitioned the property to be rezoned from R-3 to R-2, or medium density. "This is 25 years ago.

We're saying the same things tonight," she said.

About 10 years ago, Mitchum was trying to start an upscale neighborhood at the site, including historic-looking homes and others designed for older residents aging in place. The project ultimately went down amid opposition by neighbors and a slumping housing market.

Neighbors complained Monday that the city's Historic Landmarks Commission and Planning Commission and City Hall were largely rubber-stamping Mitchum's project.

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