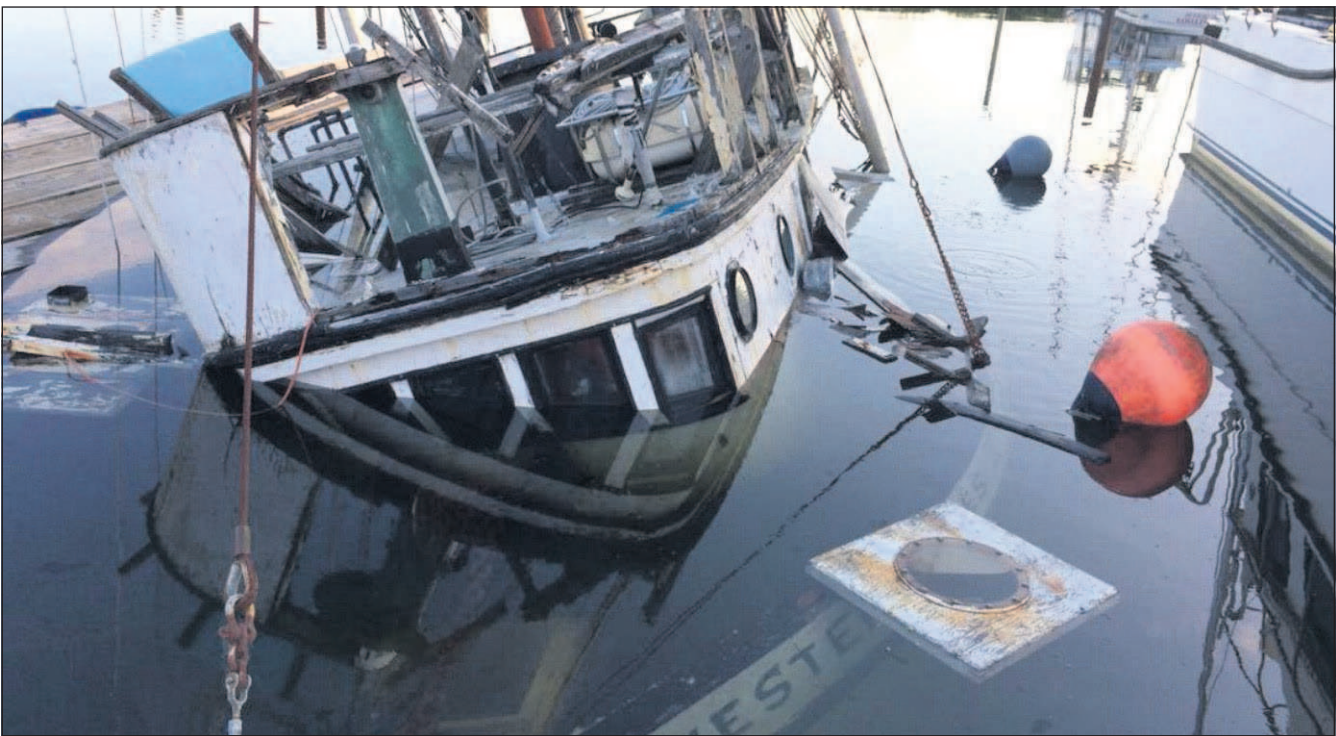




Warrenton

The mast of a large commercial fishing boat that sank at the Warrenton Marina docks last year is now a flagpole in front of the marina offices and bath facilities. Marina staff towed Western Skies onto land and demolished it last year after the abandoned 70-year-old, 43-foot long vessel sank and leaked more than 1,000 gallons of diesel fuel into the water. They planned to salvage a few of the vessel's features, including the mast and porthole windows. Mayor Henry Balensifer said repurposing the mast as a flagpole not only saved the city the cost of a new pole, it also involved extra work and creativity on the part of marina staff. 'I think it just shows the pride our employees have in the work they do,' he said.

SKIES HIGH



Federal agency wants to protect butterfly

Associated Press

SAN JUAN ISLAND, Wash. — Federal wildlife officials want to protect a rare white and green butterfly found only on Washington's San Juan Island.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Wednesday announced that it is proposing to list the island marble butterfly as an endangered species and designate about 813 acres of mostly public land on San Juan Island as critical habitat for them.

The island marble butterfly has been declining since it was rediscovered on the island in 1998 after decades of no documented sightings. Their small population makes them vulnerable to habitat

loss and predation, the agency said.

The last remaining known population is in an area that is part of San Juan Island Historical Park. Surveys in 2017 found fewer than 200 adults.

"After years of delay, the service must move quickly to implement conservation measures to reverse declines," Scott Hoffman Black, executive director of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, said in a statement.

The butterflies were once found on or near Vancouver Island in the 19th century. But they weren't observed again for 90 years until 1998 when a Washington state zoologist discovered the butterfly on San Juan Island.

Later surveys found them on San

Juan Island and Lopez Island, but many of those populations have not been detected in recent years. The species is now observed only in a single area centered on south San Juan Island known as American Camp.

The Xerces Society and other groups first petitioned the federal agency in 2002 to list the butterfly as an endangered species. The agency declined to do so then.

The group petitioned the service again in 2012. The federal agency in 2016 ultimately found that protection for the island marble butterfly was warranted but that there were other candidates that had higher priority.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is taking comments through June 11.



Karen Reagan/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says the island marble butterfly has been declining since it was rediscovered on San Juan Island in 1998.

Sheriff's office will get new roof

Project to be done by June

By JACK HEFFERNAN
The Daily Astorian

Employees at the Clatsop County Sheriff's Office will get a new roof over their heads this summer.

County commissioners approved a \$77,293 contract Wednesday with Longview, Washington-based Weatherguard, Inc. to replace the 10,000-square-foot roof. The material and labor warranty for the roof will be 30 years.

Weatherguard has completed similar projects at the Oregon Film Museum as well as the main county offices.

The roof was installed in 2006 and the sheriff's office moved there in 2016, but county staff discovered deteriorating roofing material during the remodel. Because the roof was still under warranty, the county reached an \$11,725 settlement agreement with the original manufacturer.

The project is scheduled to be completed by June.

In other business Wednesday, commissioners:

- Adopted new fees beginning Thursday. One of the fees is \$450 property owners must pay for a vacation rental application. Commissioners approved vacation rental safety regulations in January. The fee will go toward safety inspections.

An enterprise zone application fee will cost \$75. The Community Development Department will also charge \$30 more for changed address or street name applications.

- Continued a hearing until April 25 on an ordinance that would impose a 3 percent tax on retail marijuana sales. At that meeting, commissioners may refer the tax to voters on the November ballot.

College hikes tuition \$3 per credit

The Daily Astorian

Tuition at Clatsop Community College will go from \$99 to \$102 per credit, effective summer term.

The Clatsop Community College Board voted 6-1 Tuesday to approve the tuition increase. Rosemary Baker-Monaghan, the lone "no" vote, had vowed not to support any more tuition increases.

Board members had weighed the financial burden on students against the funding challenges the college faces.

The college developed a budget this year assuming tuition and fee revenue would increase by 8 percent with the addition of new programs and the opening of the redeveloped Patriot Hall. But staff reported last month that the college is down nearly 8.5 percent in tuition and fee revenue from the same point last year, equal to around \$200,000.

The college last raised tuition in 2014 by \$1, from \$98 to \$99 per credit, to fill a gap left by state funding. Each \$1 increase in tuition is estimated to equal \$25,000 in additional funding. Tuition and fees paid by students have increased statewide by more than 30 percent over the past decade on average.

Baker-Monaghan had vowed not to vote for another tuition increase, citing numerous tuition hikes in the past.

College President Christo-

pher Breitmeyer has said the college will look at ways to mitigate the tuition increase,

such as focusing financial aid toward lower-income students and lowering textbook costs.

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