



THE ISLANDS' WEEKLY

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Existing vacation rentals in Eastsound and Lopez Village need a provisional use permit by June 25

Submitted by San Juan County.

If you operate a vacation rental in Eastsound Village or Lopez Village, it is a requirement to apply for a provisional use permit to remain compliant with the County code. The permit process is open until June 25, and can be completed through the mail or in person.

Background

All pre-existing vacation rentals in Eastsound village and Lopez village are required to submit an

application for a provisional use permit with San Juan County prior to June 25. Ordinance 10-2025 provides that provisional use permit fees will be waived for these pre-existing vacation rentals. Pre-existing vacation rentals that do not submit an application by this date may not be able to continue to operate after June 25, 2026.

How to apply for a provisional use permit

Paper and/or payment

via check or cash: To submit a paper form, print and completely fill out the form titled San Juan County Land Use Application. Follow the instructions on the form to submit via mail or drop off in person at 135 Rhone St., Friday Harbor, WA. You can also mail it to San Juan County DCD, P.O. Box 947, Friday Harbor, WA. 98250

Do you have questions about the vacation rental provisional use permit process? Ask Building Official Chris Jones at Christopherj@sanjuan-countywa.gov.

Subscriber mailing label below this line

Share your feedback: County and partners are developing tools to manage human/wildlife interactions

Submitted by San Juan County.

In an effort to manage interactions between island wildlife and the public, the County is seeking public feedback to develop tools and resources.

Since September, the County has convened a group of stakeholders, including land managers, federal, state and local agency representatives, members of the business and tourism sector and community members, to define common messaging, identify strategies to manage wildlife/human interactions and provide educational opportunities for the public. The County is continuing to seek input from the public to shape these conversations.



JEREMY HYNES PHOTO.

Recent efforts

Island residents have expressed concern about interactions between humans and wildlife over the years. Locals asked for Council guidance on the matter, prompting a series of meetings with landowners and public land managers that culminated in a public presentation to Council on Aug. 5, 2025.

The local stakeholder group was formed and spent the fall and winter compiling possible tools and resources to address human/wildlife interactions. From an educational framework to a draft ordinance, the information that has been discussed over the course of several meetings was

compiled for the Council's review during the March 24 meeting.

Next steps

Members of the public are invited to review the proposed resources (outlined during the

See **WILDLIFE**, Page 3

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SJC sheriff's log

The San Juan County Sheriff's Office responded to the following calls.

March 18

- Deputies on San Juan Island arrested an individual with an outstanding Department of Corrections felony warrant for escape from community custody. The subject was booked into jail.
- A San Juan County deputy responded to an animal bite call. The victim, a delivery driver, was attacked by two dogs. Multiple wounds necessitated a hospital visit. A citation for public nuisance under the county dog code was issued, and a hearing for dangerous dog designation will be held.
- Lopez Island deputies were dispatched to a report of a wild turkey exchanging terms with a flock of sheep from a

roadside low-lying stretch of land. Negotiations took place, and the turkey relocated to a protected grassland.

March 19

- A San Juan Island deputy responded to a report of harassment involving children. The deputy spoke with the parties and took down their respective accounts of what happened. The incident was documented.
- A deputy on Orcas Island responded to a report of threats near Eastsound. The reporting party was contacted, and the investigation is still ongoing.
- A San Juan Island deputy took possession of found property — a wallet — turned in by a local resident. An effort was made to contact the owner of the black wallet before the deputy had to check it into evidence for safekeeping.

March 20

- Deputies were notified of a trespassing incident on Decatur. The event is unfounded, as documents were legally posted regarding a recent foreclosure and transfer of ownership.
- A Lopez deputy responded to a report of an unusual verbal exchange between two adult siblings at the grocery store. The incident was documented.
- A San Juan Island deputy received a report of harassment. A local man approached the reporting party's car and provided his opinion about her driving behavior. She reported it was an uncomfortable interaction. The man was encouraged to report future driving concerns to the Sheriff's Office.
- A deputy on Orcas Island took a report of a residential burglary on Shaw Island. The homeowner reported the items that were missing, and the incident was documented.
- An Orcas Island deputy responded to a citizen needing assistance with filing a protection order. The deputy learned

that no crime was committed and provided the citizen with resources and documented the incident.

- A San Juan Island deputy met with a resident who wanted to trespass a live-in family member from her home due to safety concerns. The resident was advised to apply for a protection order and was given information about SAFE San Juans to help.
- San Juan deputies responded to a report of an unwanted person. An individual was arrested for burglary in the first degree - domestic violence, assault in the fourth degree - domestic violence, DUI and obstructing a law enforcement officer.

March 21

- Deputies on Orcas Island responded to a motor vehicle accident on Orcas Road. The driver was arrested for DUI and issued an infraction for driving with wheels off the roadway.
- A San Juan deputy

responded to a report of a DUI. The vehicle was located, and the driver was arrested for DUI. The vehicle was impounded as evidence.

March 22

- An Orcas Island deputy responded to a parking problem near West Beach. The deputy learned that someone dumped a sailboat on the reporting party's property. The deputy was able to identify the owner of the sailboat, and arrangements are being made to move the boat. The incident was documented.
- Deputies on Orcas Island responded to a report of a residential burglary in the Raccoon Point area. Deputies searched the residence to find the home unoccupied. The homeowners confirmed nothing was taken, and the incident was documented.

March 23

- Lopez Island deputies were dispatched to a domestic call. An investigation was

conducted, and the incident was determined to be a civil matter. A report was taken.

- Lopez Island deputies observed a vehicle traveling over the center line several times on Mud Bay Road. A traffic stop was initiated, and the driver promptly pulled over. No signs of intoxication were observed during the contact. The driver was issued a verbal warning.
- A Lopez Island deputy stopped a vehicle in the 2400 block of Fisherman Bay Road. The driver was subsequently issued an infraction for speeding 37 mph in a posted 25 mph zone. Additional warnings were issued.

March 24

- A deputy on San Juan Island received a request to trespass a citizen from a property. The deputy contacted the citizen and issued a trespass warning letter.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Lopez AA meetings weekly via Zoom. Monday night mtg. 7:00 pm, Wed. Women's mtg. 5:30 pm and Sat. noon hybrid (in person at LIFRC and Zoom). Please contact aaonlopezisland@gmail.com or call (360) 468-4302 for more information.

Al-Anon

Lopez Al-Anon meets weekly on Saturday at the Gathering Place at The Hamlet Cottages at 9:30 a.m.

Something strange, and it don't look good ...who ya gonna call? MyCoast!

Submitted by San Juan County.
Marine debris like fishing

Weekly deadlines

Legal advertising:
Wednesday at noon

Press releases, letters and display advertising:
Thursday at noon

Classified advertising:
Friday at noon

gear, floats, docks, parts of vessels, creosote waste and microplastics wash up on our islands' beaches. If it's on your property, you'll likely dispose of it responsibly on your own. If it is on public property, San Juan County's Environmental Stewardship Department assists with removal and disposal. But if it's something too big or toxic like creosote, or if it's on

someone else's beach, who do you call for help?

Report marine debris using MyCoast

MyCoast is an application and website that allows you to report marine debris, creosote, abandoned boats and extreme weather events directly to Department of Natural Resources program

staff who then coordinate the appropriate response with partners. Downloading the app on your phone allows you to report observations quickly and easily anytime, anywhere, from your boat, ferry or shore.

The County's Environmental Stewardship Department partners with MyCoast to receive up-to-date information. MyCoast also partners with the Department of

Natural Resources, Samish Indian Nation's Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Geological Society, Washington Sea Grant, the Northwest Straits Initiative and Snohomish County.

Local debris removal resources

The County's Department of Environmental Stewardship manages both the Solid Waste and Marine programs. These programs utilize the Community Litter Fund and the Derelict Vessel Program to fund the disposal of marine debris.

See **MYCOAST**, Page 8



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Conservation donor fills funding gap on Orcas Island

Submitted by San Juan County.

Last August, the Land Bank was ecstatic to announce the acquisition of a 23.8-acre waterfront property located on Orcas Island's East Sound — home to 1,300 feet of undeveloped shoreline, including a 260-foot pocket beach, a small intermittent stream, open fields and forest.

The \$3.35M purchase was possible, in large part, through a \$1.1M award in Salmon Recovery Grant funding from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. In addition to the RCO funding, a neighbor contributed \$400K toward the purchase, leaving the Land Bank with an outstanding balance of \$1.85M to be paid via its Real Estate Excise Tax funding. That is, until Land Bank Director Lincoln Bormann got a phone call from a generous and conservation-minded Orcasonian — Malcolm Goodfellow.

Goodfellow is no stranger

to conservation or philanthropy — he was one of the first donors in the 2006 Campaign for Turtleback and in 2020 gifted a record \$5.2M toward the purchase of 42 acres adjacent to Turtleback Mountain, six of which went to the Lummi Nation and 36 to the Land Bank. The San Juan Preservation Trust also gained a conservation easement over the entire area. Later the same year, he gave another \$4M to SJPT for the purchase of Reef Island.

When asked what prompted this donation to the Land Bank, Goodfellow said, "I want my dollars to

go towards a good cause and have lasting meaning. The Land Bank's core mandate is preserving our natural lands, a subject I am passionate about, but I wasn't sure if it allowed for monetary donations. So, I made a phone call and learned that yes, the Land Bank can accept contributions as well as property. Making them whole again on this shoreline piece was a no brainer."

The Land Bank is grateful to Goodfellow for this tremendous gift, which permanently protects habitat for salmonids and forest species, as well as public shoreline access.

Worship Services in the Islands

LOPEZ ISLAND

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Please join us for in-person worship on Sundays at 10:00 a.m., followed by Coffee Hour. The service is also streamed on our YouTube channel. Find more information at gracelopezisland.org. Email: gracechurchlopez@gmail.com and Office: (360) 468-3477.

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass times are as follows:

Orcas

1:30 pm, Sunday

Lopez

6 pm, Saturday - Held at Grace Episcopal Church

San Juan

5:30 pm, Saturday and 9 am, Sunday

LOPEZ ISLAND FRIENDS (QUAKER) MEETING

Hybrid worship on Sundays at 10: a.m.

We meet in person at Sunnyfield Farm, 6363 Fisherman Bay Rd. We also meet virtually at the same time on Zoom. For more information, email lopezfriends@gmail.com.

Program Spotlight: Youth Health Advocates

What does it look like when young people help shape the health of their own community?



On Lopez Island, a group of thoughtful, motivated teens is doing exactly that through the **Youth Health Advocates (YHA)** program. Meeting weekly, these students plan events, talk openly about health and wellbeing, and create spaces where their peers can connect, learn, and feel supported.

For many of the students involved, the program began with a simple desire to make a difference.

"I wanted to become a youth health advocate because I wanted to be more involved in the community," shared Ava. "I care about helping my peers learn and understand about their health so they can make good choices for the future."

For Evelyn, joining the program was an opportunity to help shape activities for other teens on the island.

"I wanted to be part of a new club and be able to contribute my thoughts to activities for teens on Lopez Island," she said. "It's a fun and welcoming space where we get to plan events ourselves."

That sense of ownership is central to the program. Youth Health Advocates is teen-led, with students gathering feedback from their peers and creating activities that reflect what youth on Lopez actually want and need.

"It's entirely teen-run," Evelyn explained. "We get to share fun and creative ideas and then implement them."

For Kaileah, the program offered a way to address something she saw missing for teens on the island.

"I wanted to be involved in ways to improve my peers' health and help them find resources to foster healthier relationships," Kaileah shared. "I also thought it would be a fun way to create more engaging after-school activities for high schoolers."

Through the program, the advocates are discovering that health is about far more than physical wellbeing. It includes mental health, relationships, connection, and everyday choices.

"Being part of Youth Health Advocates has shown me that health isn't just about your body," Ava said. "It's also about your mind and the choices you make every day. Even the smallest actions can make a big difference."

Sometimes those small actions look like something simple, gathering together for a movie night, or meeting for community coffee. But those moments of connection can have a powerful impact.

Kaileah remembers their first big event: an outdoor movie night paired with glow-in-the-dark hide-and-seek. "We didn't expect a big turnout," she said. "But kids from all different groups came to eat snacks, play games, and watch the movie. That was when it clicked for me that creating these activities really helps connect people who normally wouldn't connect."

The students are also gaining leadership skills that extend well beyond the meetings themselves. From planning events to presenting in public settings, the program encourages young people to find their voice.

"I've gained teamwork, responsibility, leadership, and communication skills," Ava said. "It has also helped me become more confident speaking about health and supporting my peers."

Evelyn agrees that leadership can look different than people expect.

"You don't have to be the most outspoken person to be a leader," she explained. "You can lead in subtle ways, like sharing your input or being a role model for others."

For Kaileah, leadership also means learning when to step forward and when to listen.

"I've learned that being a leader means knowing when to step up and when to step back," she said. "Health and wellbeing can be a sensitive topic, so it's important to make space for others to share what they're feeling."

At the heart of Youth Health Advocates is the belief that **youth voices matter**, especially in conversations about health and wellbeing.

"Sometimes adults assume what teens are going through," Evelyn said. "But if they really want to know, they should listen to us and learn what they can do to support us."

The students say mental health and connection are some of the most important issues facing Lopez youth today. Living in a small, and sometimes isolated, community can make it harder for teens to socialize outside of school or find supportive places to talk openly about challenges.

Youth Health Advocates works to change that by creating welcoming events and honest conversations.

"Some people might think talking about things like mental health or substance use would be uncomfortable," Ava said. "But the trust we've built makes it easier to share honest opinions and experiences."

For the advocates, the program is about building the kind of community they want to live in.

"A healthy community is one where people feel supported, safe, and included," Ava explained. "Where there's access to activities, food, and healthcare."

And that kind of community starts with connection.

"The program has helped me realize that health and wellbeing can come from simple things," Kaileah said. "Like making pizza and watching a movie with your peers instead of sitting at home alone on your phone."

Ultimately, the students say the reason the program matters is simple.

According to Evelyn, "This program gives young people a safe and supported space to talk about real issues that affect our lives. We learn that our voices matter, and we can help create healthier communities."

We are fortunate to witness the remarkable youth of Lopez helping lead us into the next chapter of our community. Through programs like Youth Health Advocates, they are showing that when young people are given the opportunity to lead, they don't just participate in community wellbeing, they help shape it!

Wildlife

From Page 1

March 24 meeting) and provide their experiences and insights on ways to manage human/wildlife interactions by emailing communications@sanjuancountywa.gov. Please share any resources or examples the stakeholder team and Council may find helpful.

Resource gathering will continue to be conducted throughout March and April, with a public hearing on the matter anticipated for April 21. The public hearing will be another opportunity to share feedback and input before Council considers adopting an ordinance.

SAN JUAN COUNTY
MONTHLY NEWS DIGEST

This column is part of a series detailing San Juan County's recent news. Follow along each month to learn about important County projects, Council initiatives, department updates, and more.

Maintaining Health, Safety & Community Services: Council Places Levy Lid Lift on April Ballot

San Juan County is seeking a regular property tax levy lid lift to maintain public health, safety, and other community services in April. This levy would support ongoing programs and services funded by the County general budget such as public health and senior services, public safety and victim services, emergency management and the Islands' Oil Spill Association, County parks and Fair operations, 4-H and marine protection work, and other public services provided by San Juan County.

The levy would reset the property tax rate for the County general budget to \$0.85 per \$1,000 of assessed value - the same rate voters approved in 2019. According to the Assessor's Office data, the median assessed property value in San Juan County is \$850,000. If the levy passes, the average homeowner would pay about \$22 more per month to maintain public health, safety, and other community services.

Read more about the proposed lid lift: <https://www.sanjuancountywa.gov/2392/2026-Levy-Lid-Lift>

San Juan County Health & Community Services Publishes Its 2025 Impact Report

San Juan County's Department of Health & Community Services has released its 2025 Impact Report, highlighting the programs, services, and partnerships that supported the health and well-being of islanders across the county over the past year. The report includes data and program highlights from across the department's work, including: 577 total immunizations administered, \$444,000 worth of dental care provided to 577 patients in partnership with local organizations, 38,078 meals produced through the Senior Nutrition program, and \$2.4 million awarded from the SJC Home Fund for new housing projects.

Read more: <https://www.sanjuancountywa.gov/m/newsflash/home/detail/2130>

Community Meeting on April 6: Review the Critical Areas Ordinance Update

San Juan County is updating its critical areas protections, also referred to as the Critical Areas Ordinance or CAO, and the public is invited to comment on the first draft. An online community meeting on April 6 from 6-8pm will be an opportunity to provide feedback and review the documents. Get the meeting link and see the documents here: <https://www.sanjuancountywa.gov/m/newsflash/home/detail/2129>

This March, 'Spring' into a New Role - Multiple County Advisory Board & Committee Seats Open

San Juan County is seeking volunteers to serve on various boards and committees that help shape daily life in the San Juan Islands. Key positions on the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Agricultural Resources Committee, Ferry Advisory Committee, Parks and Rec Commission, and other boards are open. Are you interested in participating in local government and sharing your skills? See if one of the vacant positions is right for you! View all board and committee vacancies here: <https://www.sanjuancountywa.gov/641/Board-Committee-Vacancies>.

Spring 2026 Great Islands Clean-Up: Our Power, Our Planet

When islanders work together, small actions add up to big impact. This spring, the community is invited to take part in the 2026 Spring Great Islands Clean-Up on Saturday, April 18. Each year, hundreds of volunteers come together to care for the places we love. Every piece of litter removed helps keep plastics out of local waterways, protects wildlife, and keeps shorelines healthy for future generations. For clean-up locations and how to get involved, visit plasticfreesalishsea.org/events.

Did You Know? San Juan County Processes Passport Applications at the Courthouse

The San Juan County Clerk's Office is a sub-agent for the Seattle Passport Agency. This means that your local Clerk's Office can process applications for new adult passports, children's passports, or to renew passports that have expired beyond 5 years. You can access passport services online or via County offices at 350 Court Street. Applications are processed every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday between 9am and 4 pm, by appointment. You can schedule appointments by calling the Clerk's office at 360-378-2163. Learn more: <https://www.sanjuancountywa.gov/m/newsflash/home/detail/2124>

Learn more about the County's recent news by visiting: sanjuancountywa.gov/1930/San-Juan-County-Newsroom

Chimera Gallery presents 'Two Friends Making Art'

Submitted by Chimera Gallery.

Chimera Gallery invites you to our next opening on Saturday, April 4, from 5-7 p.m. We invite you to "Two Friends Making Art" with artists Dennis Caswell and Martha Spieker. Chimera Cooperative Gallery is located at Lopez Village Plaza, 360-468-3265. Visit www.ChimeraGallery.com for more information. April hours: Open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We will be closed on Wednesdays.



A1 SEPTIC ON LOPEZ

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Lobos spring sports

By DECLAN O'MALLEY
Contributor

and winter seasons.”

Track and field at Lopez High School will compete in meets ranging from north Bellingham to Shoreline during the league season. In the postseason, the team will travel to Tacoma for the quad-district meet. From there, qualifiers will advance to the state championships in Yakima.

The Lobos will compete in a full slate of events, including the 100-meter dash, 110-meter hurdles, 200-meter dash, 300-meter hurdles, 400-meter dash, 800-meter run, mile and two-mile. Field events include high jump, long jump, shot put, discus and javelin. Relay events feature the 400-meter relay, 800-meter relay for girls and the mile relay for both boys and girls.

Head coach Shane Patrick emphasized the importance of a dedicated staff in supporting the program's success.

“I'm very excited for this year. I have great coaches helping me, and I couldn't lead these athletes without them,” he said. “Joe Ingman coaches the throwers and our relay teams, and he has been vital to the growth of our athletes. My assistant coach, Robert Spreine, owns a local CrossFit gym and brings incredible energy while keeping workouts fresh and engaging. For our distance runners, Bill LeDrew and Katherine Ingman work extremely well together and consistently get the most out of that group. Leanne Zellner leads our high jumpers and took two athletes to state last year. We have also added a hurdle coach, Jessica Dahl, who competed in college and brings valuable insight to a very technical set of events.”

The spring sports season has officially begun at Lopez High School, and the Lobos are preparing to compete in golf, track and field.

Golf

This year's golf program at Lopez features four girls and two boys. The team has a full schedule of matches, with athletes especially looking forward to the Friday Harbor Tournament on April 24, which they hope will help prepare them for postseason play.

The golf team opened its season March 17 with a home match against Lummi Nation, followed by away contests at La Conner on March 19 and Tulalip Heritage on March 25. The Lobos return home March 31 to face CPC/Evangel and host Orcas on April 2. After a brief break, Lopez travels to Friday Harbor on April 14 before hosting a girls-only match against Sultan on April 16. The team continues its home stretch with matches against MVC on April 21 and Grace Academy on April 28.

Track and field

The track and field team features a roster of 20 student-athletes, with a focus on key events across running, relays and throwing competitions. The team benefits from the experience and leadership of returning seniors, who will play a central role throughout the season.

“I am excited for this spring sports season,” said Ginger Plum, Lopez High School athletic director. “We have senior leadership on both our golf and track and field teams striving for returns to postseason competition after successful fall

**Saturday
April 18, 2026**

10am - 2pm

Our Power.
Our Planet.

Island Contacts
Lopez: sarahr@lopezsolidwaste.org
San Juan: katiej@sanjuancountywa.gov | 360-375-5863
Orcas: pete@exchangeorcas.org | 360-376-4089
Shaw: outsidelanguage1@gmail.com | 360-378-7948
WWW.PLASTICFREESALISHSEA.ORG/EVENTS

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San Juan County Health & Community Services publishes its 2025 Impact Report

Submitted by San Juan County.

San Juan County's Department of Health & Community Services has released its 2025

Impact Report, highlighting the programs, services and partnerships that supported the health and well-being of islanders across the county

over the past year.

"I am proud to present this report to our community and to celebrate the achievements made this past

year," said Health & Community Services Director Mark Tompkins. "Thank you to everyone who has supported and contributed to our work, our staff, and our mission. We are so grateful to serve such an amazing community."

The report includes data and program highlights from across the department's work, including:

- 577 total immunizations administered.
- Approximately 271 total home and community visits through our Growing Families program.
- \$444,000 worth of dental care provided to 577 patients in partnership with DentALL, Orcas Island Community Foundation, Orcas Island Health Care District, Peace Health, Lopez Island Family

Resource Center, Lopez Island Hospital District and Catherine Washburn Medical Association.

- 38,078 meals produced through our Senior Nutrition program in partnership with the island senior nonprofits and Whatcom Council on Aging.

- \$2.4 million awarded from the SJC Home Fund for new housing projects.

- Preschool availability increased on SJI by 25 students.

- 1,759 total WIC appointments, also known as the federal supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children.

- 219 foodservice establishment inspections completed.

In addition to data and program metrics, the report

features stories from islanders and community partners that illustrate the real-world impact behind the numbers. These stories highlight how services help older adults remain independent, create stability for families, support children during critical stages of development and expand access to dental care.

Community members are encouraged to review the report to learn more about the programs and services working to strengthen health and well-being across the county.

The full report is available online at <https://www.sanjuancountywa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/34760/2025-San-Juan-County-Health-Community-Services-Impact-Report>.

The report was presented at the March 18 Board of Health meeting, where the department staff will review the report's findings.

Health & Community Services looks forward to serving islanders more in 2026.

SAN JUAN COUNTY Hazardous Waste Round-ups

No charge for local households!*

WHERE?

at your island's solid waste facility (aka, "the dump")

WHEN?

SAN JUAN

Businesses: Friday, May 15

(pre-registration required by April 24)

Households: Saturday, May 16, 10 am to 2 pm

LOPEZ

Saturday, May 2

10 am to 2 pm

ORCAS

Saturday, June 20

10 am to 2 pm

*Households can bring up to 25 gallons of waste in containers no bigger than 5 gallons.



SAN JUAN COUNTY

Environmental Stewardship



Businesses must call to pre-register by April 24: 360-762-5821

For more info on the Round-ups: sanjuanco.com/351/Hazardous-Waste or email katief@sanjuancountywa.gov

Funded by the San Juan County Solid Waste Program and Washington Department of Ecology



Proposed passenger ferry expansion faces Senate sink-or-swim movement

Read with wonder the latest item concerning yet another resource expansion with the Mosquito fleet. However, it's the

same, recurring problem, ignoring facts that few even want to think about. This undeniable fact means we are constantly playing

the whack-a-mole game between our expanding needs and the resources at hand. We live on a small island archipelago, yet it seems our predecessors saw what we ignore: there's only so much to go around. Apparently, technology has become a denial of the fact of limited resources. We take a narrow-minded approach to the issues at hand, yet fail to see where this will take us in a future of constantly increasing numbers/activity. Nature is the base on which all life forms live and thrive, but we humans think we are smarter than nature and try to play by our own rules. What desperately needs to change is for the leaders of this county to wake up to the fact where our lack of foresight is taking us. We must stop pushing this serious dilemma down the road on future generations.

Jack Pedigo
Lopez Island

WA Saves

The San Juan County and Island County EDC will host a free online workshop led by Washington Saves to help business owners understand the new state-facilitated retirement savings program. The session, Introduction to Washington Saves, will take place on Thursday, April 16, from 10-11 a.m. via Zoom.

Washington Saves is scheduled to open in July 2027. State law will require certain employers that do not offer a qualified retirement plan to facilitate employee access to the program. Washington Saves is also open to individuals.

This workshop is free and requires pre-registration at <https://sanjuansedc.org/bizlabs>. For more information, contact the EDC at 360-378-2906 or info@sanjuansedc.org.

LOPEZ ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT SOLAR DESIGN AND INSTALLATION

Lopez Island School District is seeking qualified solar contractors to design and install rooftop photovoltaic systems at its School Road campus. The project, funded through Washington State's Community Solar Expansion Program and federal clean energy tax credits, aims to reduce energy costs and reinvest savings into programs supporting students. A mandatory pre-bid site walk (virtual option available) is scheduled for March 31, 2026 at 2:30 PM. **Submit hard copies of proposals to Superintendent Brady Smith by April 14, 2026 by 2:00 PM.**

Link to the full RFP is here:
<https://bit.ly/4m34GUr>

Any bid received after the time set for opening the bids shall be returned to the bidder unopened and shall receive no consideration by the district. Please plan ahead as deliveries to Lopez Island may take longer than mainland deliveries. Bid opening day/time: April 14th, 2026, 2:00 PM

PNW MarketPlace!

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call toll free! 1.888.399.3999 or 1.800.388.2527



Employment Services



Asphalt Chip Seals
Doolittle Construction is scheduled to Chip Seal community roads in San Juan County the Summer of 2026. Please contact us with your needs. 425-455-1150x3
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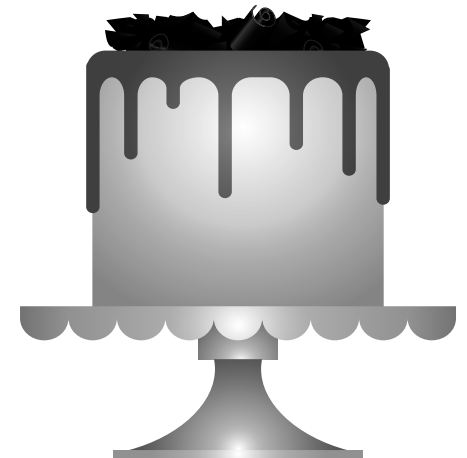
pets/animals

General Pets

ISLAND PETS lost/found. On Lopez call Jane 360-468-2591; Sheriff's Office 360-378-4151. Lopez Animal Protection Society, PO Box 474, Lopez, WA 98261. On Orcas call 360-376-6777. On San Juan call the Animal Shelter 360-378-2158

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MyCoast

From Page 2

In addition, the department coordinates with regional partners to expedite the removal of large debris from private property and state aquatic lands.

In San Juan County, you can report marine debris in multiple ways:

- Directly to the Department of Environmental Stewardship: 360-370-0599.
- Through the Derelict Vessel Hotline: 360-370-0555.
- Through the Sheriff's Office non-emergency line: 360 378-4151.

Twice a year, the County's Environmental Stewardship Department helps

coordinate Great Island CleanUp events, and the Plastic Free Salish Sea collective conducts regular beach cleanups.

State debris removal resources

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources' Marine Debris Removal Program and the Samish Indian Nation's Department of Natural Resources work together to survey and remove defused creosote-treated wood and other marine debris like docks, floats, nets and crab pots from Samish traditional territories and the San Juan Islands. This joint program is the sole agency resource for the removal of marine debris that accumulates on

sensitive nearshore habitats in our area. In spring, April through June, teams are reviewing reports and surveying the area, and in the summer months, June through September, they are out removing logs and debris via vessels. But first, they need to know where the debris is. That's why reporting debris via MyCoast or via the phone numbers listed above is so helpful!

What about oil spills and derelict vessels?

Report any oil spill: If this is an active emergency with fire or risk of explosion, or an actively occurring spill, call 911 immediately! Other resources include:

- Call the WA Emergency Management Division:

800-OILS-911.

- Call the US Coast Guard National Response Center: 800-424-8802.

San Juan County Dispatch, the County Department of Emergency Management and the Islands Oil Spill Association will be notified when you have reported it to the above agencies.

Report a vessel: If the vessel is in danger of sinking, in the process of sinking or releasing pollutants into the water, call 911 immediately! If a vessel shows signs of neglect but is not an imminent threat to persons, property or the environment, contact the Derelict Vessel Program at 360-370-0555 or dvprogram@sanjuan-countywa.gov.

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