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Your Independent Hometown Award-winning Newspaper

# LA CONNER WEEKLY NEWS

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## Poetry lovers serenaded



SINGING HER POEM – Katherine Paul performed at “Welcome to Indian Country: A Reading to celebrate our First Nation Roots,” the Thursday night opening of last week’s 11th biennial Skagit River Poetry Festival. Paul, of the band Black Belt Eagle Scout, sang “We will always sing,” a line in her song “Don’t Give Up.”

– Photo by Ken Stern

## Skagit River Poetry Festival’s return offers delights

By Judy Booth

Early morning fog and mist lent a magical twist Thursday to streams of students hauling books from the old to the new La Conner Swinomish Library. The rumble of wheels along Morris Street from carts packed with books began three days of magic – the spell of the written word. Though not part of the Skagit River Poetry Festival itself, it seemed a fitting start.

The festival, canceled twice due to COVID-19, brought in dozens of poets from as far away as Argentina and Scotland, hundreds of students from eight local school districts and dozens of volunteers needed to coordinate the kickoff dinner and soiree, set up venues in various restaurants and churches and keep the students moving, writing and reading.

Thursday night’s soiree, a sit-down smorgasbord hosted by Simple Sound Catering – think rabbit Waldorf profiterole, bacon wrapped new carrots (delish), tortillas and petite desserts – heralded the coming rush of words, phrases, implications, heartbreaking tales, humor and pathos that was to follow for the next three days.

Chairs were then set up in Maple Hall for music and the first readings.

The evening, “Welcome to Indian Country: A Reading to celebrate our First Nation Roots,” featured Washington state Poet Laureate Rena Priest, Sasha LaPointe and Ray Young Bear. Music was offered by La Conner’s own beloved Kevin Paul and daughter Katherine, a graduate of La Conner High School.

Day sessions Friday were reserved for students. Robert Carlos Ascalon emceed Friday’s lunch poetry slam before dozens. Begun in Chicago in 1984, a poetry slam is a competitive art form before a live participating audience – kind of like a football game with cheerleaders.

In addition to poetry workshops in buildings around town, poets gave students in Maple Hall a “sampling” of their poems enticing laughter and tears from the packed hall.

Topics for reading and instruction included “How Poetry Helps Us Live Our Lives,” “You Can’t Go Home,” “Ancestral Legacy,” “Writing Humor,” and many more. These poets, many of whom are former or current poet laureates, have been published in The New Yorker, The Washington Post, The Yale Review and the Southern Review – if you’re into name dropping. Impressive.

This reporter spotted a young girl, long black hair to her waist, possibly ancestrally from Central America, who looked to be nine or ten, but was probably thirteen or fourteen, alone, slowly pull out a worn and folded twenty-dollar bill to purchase one of the poetry books. The cashier apologized, as she could only take a credit card, which the girl did not have. Her face fell and she sadly turned away. Another poetry lover stepped up to the counter and said, “I got this.”

Friday evening and Saturday were for all of us. From the Channel Lodge to Maple Hall to the Civic Garden Club, clumps of poetry lovers clogged downtown La Conner along with the shopping tourists.

Central to pulling last weekend off is Molly McNulty, executive director since 2007. She joined the nonprofit’s board in 2003. Directing and coordinating several festivals, thousands of students, world-renowned poets, caterers, tables, brochures, procuring funding – endless things to do – she has always gotten the job done, always with a smile. No question from any student or mishap was too much for her. Thank you, Molly.

Next week: Meet some of the poets.

## Town code changes may include review of CUP applications

By Bill Reynolds

The La Conner municipal code did not receive a complete facelift upon Town Planning Commission review at Maple Hall last Tuesday.

But there are a few new wrinkles for the town council to consider.

Perhaps the most significant development during the 90-minute public hearing, continued from Sept. 20, came when commissioners embraced town planner Michael Davolio’s proposal that they rule on conditional use permit applications and not the contracted hearing examiner.

The idea floated by Davolio came near the end of the commission’s Oct. 4 meeting. It drew a loud round of applause from those in attendance.

Commissioners were quick to accept responsibility for hearing application requests despite cautionary remarks from Town Administrator Scott Thomas, who said the new duties would require members to assume more of a judicial than legislative role.

“As long as we can get the necessary training,” said commission chair Marna Hanneman, “I’d be all for it.”

There was little doubt any change regarding CUP applications would be linked to the

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## September record dry month

By Ken Stern

The 0.02 inch of rain that fell Sept. 2 was the month’s total precipitation and really a rain for the record. How dry was it?

While five years this century have had less than one inch of rain, this was the only time less than one-tenth of an inch fell.

Average September rainfall for this century has been pushed down to 1.9 inches. Fourteen years there has been less than 2 inches of rain, including 2016-2018 when between 1.3 and 1.6 inches fell.

It rained 14 days in 2021. Last year’s 3.2 inches was a very different story, one of four years over 3 inches come down. The 5.2 inches in 2019 is the century’s record rainfall.

It was warm, too, with the daily average high of 71.9 degrees 3.8 degrees above the century daily average high temperature. The 59 degree average temperature was 0.8 degrees above the century average. The 77.1 degree high Sept. 26 was not the hottest day of the month but was a record high for that day.

The month started warm, with the average

(continued on page 5)

### Rain Report

Rainfall in Sept: 0.02  
Number of rain days: 1  
Year least rain: 0.02, 2022  
Year most rain: 5.24, 2019  
Average rainfall 2000-22: 1.9  
Rainfall in, August: 0.22  
All totals in inches.

Data: WSU Mount Vernon

## Weekly News wins 34 awards in annual state newspaper contest

By Ken Stern

Your community newspaper has the best photographers among small Washington newspapers. Sarah Walls and Ken Stern were awarded first place in the pictorial and general news categories and with Nancy Crowell and Marissa Conklin took all six places in this year’s Washington Newspaper Publishers Association best newspaper contest.

Weekly News staff won 34 awards Oct. 8. Bill Reynolds led with 11, including a first place for his personality profile of Tristen Nelson Holding the Baby Yoda balloon at Macy’s Parade. Reynolds won second and third places in categories from history to sports.

Anne Basye won first for her news story on farmers’ struggle with the heat in 2021. She earned five others, including second and third for business stories.

Stern’s six wins included four firsts: for his editorial “Buying into affordable housing,” a set of his Musings columns, a book review and the news photo.

Mel Damski won second for his If I

Ran the Zoo column. MaryRose Denton got third for covering a COVID-19 quilt exhibit at the Pacific Northwest Fiber Arts Museum.

Rhonda Hundetmark took second in advertising for her Tulip Map design and Michelle Havist third for the paper’s website.

And readers, in a sense, won third place for the editorial page design, as it was full of citizen letters and comments.

The paper is this good because of the efforts of many people, who are all unrecognized winners.

The contest time period was for newspapers published from April 2021 through March 2022 Awards are presented in four groups based on circulation. The Weekly News is in group 1, circulation under 2,500. Judging was by members of the South Dakota Newspaper Association.

In 2021 staff win 23 awards.

The community can be rightfully proud of the well crafted stories, photos and ads that are in every issue of the Weekly News.

Thank you, everyone.



ANOTHER PARADE, ANOTHER PHOTO OPPORTUNITY – Judges chose this July 4, 2021 parade photo as first in general news photography for the 2022 WNPA best newspaper contest. On October 31 kids will be in costumes, parading up First Street for Halloween. There will be more photos taken of perhaps the best of La Conner’s parades.

– Photo by Ken Stern



From the editor —

## Better representation in Congress

The election season is upon us. Ahead of your ballot arriving in two-plus weeks, are you contemplating a better voting system? The four candidates for District 10 State Representative positions were asked to get past two person primary elections. Read all their responses on page 8.

We do make changes to our election systems, though slowly, over generations. Until 1865 African Americans could not vote. White women, mostly, gained the vote with the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1919. The passage of the Voting Rights Act universally protected Black voting rights in 1965. In 1971 18-year-olds got the vote.

The United States and Great Britain are nearly alone in their federal election systems of first past the post, winner take all. That is, the person winning the majority of votes wins the election. Almost all of Europe, and in many countries internationally, proportional representation is used, providing for greater inclusivity and participation. But let's not get bogged down now about this alternative that distributes legislative seats proportionally to the popular vote and more completely rewards citizens for fully participating in the election process.

Focus instead on Congress, the lawmakers needing to change federal voting laws. Over 200 academic political scientists did, sending an open letter in September stating that voting in the United States "is fundamentally broken." Like the Founding Fathers, they list their grievances: in the "newly redistricted House map, more than 90% of districts are effectively a lock for one of the parties this November. This means that many millions of voters have no meaningful say in general elections, with the overwhelming majority of Congress effectively chosen by low-turnout primaries."

This explains "why Congress today is so polarized and held hostage by obstructionist politics. Because 90% of House members don't have to worry about general elections and are beholden only to their district's small number of primary voters, extreme elements are overrepresented."

And they point out "In 2020, there were more Trump voters in California than any other state and more Biden voters in Texas than in New York or Illinois." How about that? Pretty good evidence that way too many of us are left out.

Congress can change voting laws so the U.S. joins "most other advanced democracies in moving to more inclusive, multi-member districts made competitive and responsive by proportional representation."

Our winner take all system is anachronistic. It has been abandoned by democracies around the world for fairer, more inclusive methods that increase participation. More people are represented by more elected members in countries from Albania to Spain, and beyond.

Where do we start? With an editorial to get people thinking about changing the system defining the way we vote. There is nothing sacred about it. They are sets of rules set generations or decades ago. Voters and the legislature in Washington state have made minor changes in the way we cast ballots but that is how we vote, not the structure of who represents us as voters.

When women gathered in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848 and called for the vote, that was considered both crazy and impossible. The vote for women was radical, opposed, fought against and took 71 years to pass.

Having more people elected to represent fewer of us means more of our voices are likely to be heard. That is a conversation that, now that it is started, hopefully will continue. One day it can become our reality.

— Ken Stern

## Getting a charge from driving

By Greg Whiting



Driving distances between charges (range), and charging station availability, are usually the biggest uncertainties people have about whether an electric vehicle (EV) will work for them. Both are improving fast.

Almost everyone who owns an EV charges it at home or work. By charging during the workday, or overnight, you can start each day with the batteries at full capacity. However, most EVs won't need to be charged every day. In rural areas, American drivers average 49 miles a day. Practically all new EVs offer ranges of more than 200 miles. Some have much longer ranges, and can go about 400 miles, from San Francisco to Los Angeles, on a single charge.

People in single-family homes who own EVs usually install a home Level 2 (240 Volt) charger, which charges an EV overnight. People in multifamily housing need to work with HOAs and landlords to make home chargers available. An HOA or landlord can usually make money on 240 Volt (Level 2) charging without undermining the car owner's economic case for an EV. However, the willingness of HOAs and landlords to take action affects availability. Cost may be a factor

for some buildings.

Public Level 2 chargers are becoming widely available. There are already six in La Conner: two on First Street south of Pier 7; two behind the new library; and two across from the Swinomish Chevron. They are already available at hotels, for overnight charging in most areas of the US. However, there are large geographic areas where public chargers are rare. Advance planning is still advisable on long trips. There are several phone apps that can direct you to charging stations, both to find, and to be sure you can get access to, chargers that will meet your needs.

Most new EVs accommodate Level 3 charging, which can fill an EV battery quickly. The time required is comparable to gasoline stops. Level 3 chargers cost over \$100,000, and each Level 3 charger has unique legal, location and payback considerations. Making sure that fast charging will always be as convenient as

(continued on page 5)

### The Candidate of "NO"

It's so important to know how our legislators have voted when we are deciding whether to re-elect or re-place them. That is really important in our 10th legislative district this year. Clyde Shavers is running against incumbent Greg Gilday. With that in mind, you need to know that Gilday voted:

"No" to prohibit carrying firearms on school property or school transportation, government buildings or government property, voter registration office or ballot counting.

"No" to prohibit sale of high capacity firearm magazines.

"No" to expand and codify abortion protections into state law.

"No" to prohibit the sale of ghost guns.

"No" to require prescription drugs to be labeled in multiple languages.

"No" to establish protection for medical cannabis patients.

"No" to increase access to the Death and Dignity Act.

"No" to require the state to reach a carbon emissions reduction goal of zero by 2050.

"No" to require law enforcement to provide attorney access to juveniles.

"No" to require housing goals in the Growth Management Act to include affordable housing.

"No" to amend protection order laws to include domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, anti-harassment, vulnerable adult and extra risk protection orders.

"No" to establish the office of independent investigations in the governor's office.

"No" to establish a state-funded rental assistance program.

"No" to expand coverage of the Paid Family and Medical Leave program.

"No" to amend the state comprehensive planning network to improve salmon recovery.

There were many others. You can see them all, as well as several bills Gilday voted "aye" for, at [votesmart.org](http://votesmart.org). Or send me an email and I'll give you the entire list.

Bob Raymond  
La Conner

### Girls, boys and truth

We all know in our hearts that America's children are at risk. We all know in our hearts that if God made a girl, she is a girl; and if He made a boy, he is a boy.

Please, please, let us pray for this country's children to be protected from those who are changing our children from the God given natural to that which is false and deeply harmful.

Let us pray for forgiveness as a nation. We have lost our moral compass on many fronts. What was once celebrated is now condemned! What was once condemned is now celebrated! Those refusing to celebrate are now condemned!

We will not stand as a free country if we continue down the dark road we are now on. We reap what we sow, and we are sowing to darkness, deception, and evils that will consume us unless we shed the light of truth on these dark decisions that are being presented as good.

Please stand for the truth. Please let your voice be heard for truth, locally and through your legislators.  
Nancy Burlison  
Shelter Bay

## LETTERS

### Democrats inflict damage

The upcoming midterm elections are the most important of our times. Today's radical Democratic party has orchestrated more damage to America in two years than our worst foreign adversaries could have ever dreamed of accomplishing. The list is long but includes the most obvious and immediately painful intentional destruction of our energy independence creating hardships on families just to heat their homes and fuel their vehicles.

The destruction of our hard earned sovereignty by failure to finish the border wall and which allows an increasing number of immigrants along with cartels smuggling drugs to illegally enter from all over the world unabated, spreading disease, increasing crime along with thousands of fentanyl deaths and the overburdening of our cities medical, welfare and police services.

The gross negligence of the unorganized withdrawal from Afghanistan costing 13 U.S. lives and the abandoning and thereby giving \$7,000,000,000 of taxpayer purchased military equipment to the enemy. Raging inflation and the insult to taxpayers by paying off the so called student loans estimated to cost every taxpayer over \$2,000.

There is the misnamed Inflation Reduction Act, which not one single Republican voted for costing up to \$739,000,000,000 and instead of adding border security may be used to hire up to yet another 86,000 IRS agents.

This list is just touching on the damage the Democratic Party has inflicted on America making the midterm elections the most important in our lifetime to stop the insanity.

### Supports Shelter Bay board

I wish Ms. Fontenot would have sought accurate information before leveling broad accusations and innuendo left and right in her Oct. 5 guest column. Her tone of condescension is offensive. Our volunteers, on the Shelter Bay Community board or directors and its committees give of their time and expertise to us. They deserve our support. Let me add my support for our hard-working staff.

I assume Ms. Fontenot studied Shelter Bay lease history before buying a home here and therefore knew to expect rent increases every ten years. All residents have been fully informed for a year to expect increased supplemental rents this last July in anticipation of next year's rent increase. Additionally we have learned on numerous occasions of the need to build up reserves to address our aging infrastructure.

I implore all Shelter Bay residents to stay informed about our community. Absent attending a board meeting or town hall, the agenda packet published before an upcoming board meeting provides a comprehensive source to learn about decisions, financials, committee reports and new and current projects. Ms. Fontenot does not seem to understand and appreciate the special and caring community we all call home.

I have been a happy resident of Shelter Bay for 22 years.  
Berit Kenin  
Shelter Bay

### Voting for Dave Paul

Please don't be fooled by the recent hit piece mailer on Dave Paul. It is full of lies.

Lie 1: Crime is increasing in Washington. False. Crime has decreased significantly here. Certain types of crime increased during the shutdown: domestic violence, and robberies, but overall crime has decreased.

Lie 2: Dave Paul is anti-police. False. Dave Paul co-sponsored HB 1785 to ensure state troopers receive a competitive wage. Dave secured state funding to upgrade Skagit's 911 emergency communications system, improving the safety of law enforcement officials and the public. Dave is endorsed by Oak Harbor Police Chief Kevin Dresker, Skagit County Sheriff Don McDermott, Washington State Troopers Association, Washington State Fraternal Order of the Police, and Washington State Council of Firefighters, as well as the Firefighters Local 66.

Honestly, Dave Paul works for everyday people, small businesses, children and students. He's lowering healthcare costs for seniors and working families. He proposed a sales tax holiday during the pandemic and reformed B&O tax to provide tax relief for small businesses. He has a proven track record of supporting and passing bills that actually help people in our district.

I'm voting for Dave Paul for State Representative.  
Allison Warner  
Camano Island

### Snapdragon Flats criticized

Dear neighbors of the Snapdragon Flats development.

It appears from the town council record that the developer of Snapdragon Flats is up to his old antics of being a rude and disrespectful neighbor. I lived through his rock removal during the COVID-19 pandemic and so I am fully aware of this property owner's poor behavior. If you find yourself in the position in which legal relief becomes necessary due to this property owner's behavior, there is a letter which is part of the record for the permits for this project outlining numerous issues that would arise out of approval of this project.

Kindly recall this developer is also responsible for the Snapdragon Hill project, during which he tortured the surrounding neighbors with rock removal noise for months (some of which is it believed was outside the scope of his permits) and then promptly sold the property for \$1.5 million. Some of the issues in this letter included severe noise disruption and mental and physical health issues resulting therefrom (especially due to the location of the medical clinic), possible injury due to construction traffic and the use of Park Street by numerous pedestrians, damage to the infrastructure of historic homes situated above the construction site, etc.

The Town was encouraged not to grant Mr. Ebert's permit as he has proven himself to be a disrespectful neighbor. I am sorry to learn he has not changed his behavior.  
Best regards,  
Linda Clark

### LETTER POLICY

Please write! Letters up to 350 words are welcome as are longer analyses and statements. Write a 450 word guest column.

**Deadline: 5 p.m.**

**Sunday for next issue.**

Include your name,

address and phone number

for verification.

Letters are edited for

civility clarity and style.

**Send To**

[editor@laconnernews.com](mailto:editor@laconnernews.com)

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## Ken Stern, Publisher & Editor

[editor@laconnernews.com](mailto:editor@laconnernews.com)

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### La Conner News Publishing Co., LLC

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### Postmaster:

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La Conner Weekly News

PO Box 1465, La Conner, WA 98257

Michelle Havist, General Manager

[michelle@laconnernews.com](mailto:michelle@laconnernews.com)

Bill Reynolds, News Editor

[news@laconnernews.com](mailto:news@laconnernews.com)

Rhonda Hundertmark, Design and Layout Editor  
[rhonda@laconnernews.com](mailto:rhonda@laconnernews.com)

Marissa Conklin, Production Manager

[marissa@laconnernews.com](mailto:marissa@laconnernews.com)

Kathleen Anderson, Sales Representative

[kathleen@laconnernews.com](mailto:kathleen@laconnernews.com)

Eileen Engelstad, Proofreader

Rick Shorten, Special Projects

### Contributors:

Anne Basye, Judy Booth, Robin Carneen, Nancy Crowell, Don Coyote, Mel Damski, MaryRose Denton, John Doyle, Janna Gage, Bob Hamblin, Ollie Iversen, Katie Kramer, Bobbi Krebs-McMullen, Patricia Paul, Brad Reynolds, Claire Swedberg, Sarah Walls.



**OBITUARY**



**Betty Wilson**

Betty May Jackman Wilson left La Conner, Washington for her next adventure on her 95th birthday, September, 23, 2022. She was born at home in Dayton, Oregon in 1927 to May and Walter Jackman. Her family moved to McMinnville so she could attend school. They lived in the Methodist Parsonage until her father built them a house (hand digging out the basement at night after work). Betty loved music and was always singing; she sang in the school choir, played in the band and also played piano. Later she learned the organ.

After graduating from high school Betty left for Willamette University to become a doctor. There she met her future husband, Dr. James Wilson. After graduation he went to medical school and she went to study at Columbia University with the first group of physical therapists in the United States. Betty and Jim were married on Flag Day, 1952, the day after Jim graduated from medical school. Betty spent a few years as a military wife while Jim was a flight surgeon in the Air Force. Then they lived in Portland, Oregon where Jim had a surgical residency.

They moved to Ketchikan in 1959. While raising their three daughters, Betty was active in many community groups and causes including the Methodist Church, Girl Scouts, League of Women Voters, and Ketchikan Ocean Racing Club. She was a founding member of the Ketchikan Youth Hostel and Alaskans for Drug Free Youth. She was also an avid bridge player. In later years after moving to La Conner, Washington, Betty was a member of Art League North and became an amateur watercolorist. Betty and Jim enjoyed traveling, painting and taking art classes. Throughout her life she was active in her church through Sunday School, in church leadership and youth activities. She always showed her faith in God in her love and caring for others.

Betty enjoyed traveling with the family on boat trips, skiing and sailing adventures. She was always ready for a game or a puzzle with her grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. James Wilson. Betty is survived by her daughters Kathy Paulson (Jan), Susan Johnson (Lane), and Laura Portinga (Todd), 7 grandchildren: Meghan Paulson, Sever Paulson (Holly), Nicolette Johnson, Greg Johnson (Carrie), Annie Baxstrom (Josh), Kenny Johnson, Christopher Portinga, and 8 great grandchildren.

Her family would like to thank her friends at the La Conner Retirement Inn, Hospice NW, Pastor Marcella Baker, Pamela Holmberg, her longtime friends in Ketchikan, and the "lunch bunch".

A service will be held at the La Conner Methodist Church, February 11, 2023. Remembrances can be sent to La Conner Methodist Church, NAMI, or the La Conner Public Library.

**September Town tax collections**

By Ken Stern

The Town of La Conner's streak of seven months of record setting sales tax receipts is broken, but barely. The \$60,900 reported to the Town in September is \$72 below last year's. That is the second smallest drop among the Town's September tax funds.

While the month's hotel/motel tax revenues of \$26,546 was the second highest ever, it is \$185 below last September's record collection.

Likewise, the \$6,041 firetruck sales tax receipts are \$15 below the month in 2021.

Still, all three funds now exceed 100% of the year's projected revenue with three months left in 2022.

For 2021's fourth quarter sales tax revenues topped \$171,000. Even if there is a modest decline in tourist visits, La Conner can reach \$150,000 above its projected sales tax revenue.

The \$10,977 in real estate excise tax (REET) is more than

double any previous September. That fund is at 194% the budget's projection, close to double.

Town revenues in almost every fund continue to surpass projections and are at 88% for the year, versus 75% if monies were collected equitably each month. The four water and sewage funds are at least 83% and as much as 90% at income projections while expenses for each are between 46% and 65% expenditures. If there are high fourth quarter costs, these numbers could drastically change.

Whatever fall's weather predictions, tourist levels for the fourth quarter are also an unknown.

These totals are based on July collection from town stores and online purchases delivered to La Conner addresses and reported to town council from the state's Department of Revenue.

La Conner has a calendar fiscal year.

**Watch candidate forums before voting**

Citizens can watch or listen to candidate forums for November elections for Congressional District 2 and state representative district 10 and district 40 through election day.

Now available is the Dan Matthews versus Rick Larsen for Congressional District 2: [lwwbellinghamwhatcom.org](http://lwwbellinghamwhatcom.org).

For LD 40, Pos 2, Alex Ramel and Trevor Smith is also accessed at [lwwbellinghamwhatcom.org](http://lwwbellinghamwhatcom.org).

Lived-stream on Oct. 20 from 6-7 p.m. for LD 10, Pos 1 are Clyde Shavers and Greg Gilday: [lwwwhidbey.org](http://lwwwhidbey.org). The link will be published Oct. 19.

Also lived-stream on Oct. 20 from 6-7 p.m. for LD 10, Pos 2 are Karen Lesetmoe and Dave Paul: [lwwwhidbey.org](http://lwwwhidbey.org). The link will be published Oct. 19.

Steve Hobbs and Julie

Anderson are candidates for Washington secretary of state. Their forum is live on public TV and produced by public affairs channel TVW Sunday, Oct. 23, 3:30-4:30 p.m. in person at Gonzaga University and on area public TV stations and TVW: [twv.org](http://twv.org).

Patty Murray and Tiffany Smiley are candidates for the U.S. Senate. They follow at 5-6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 23, in person at Gonzaga University and on area public TV stations and TVW: [twv.org](http://twv.org).

Video of all the forums are available after the recording date and can be accessed on the League of Women Voters of Skagit County: [skagitlww.org](http://skagitlww.org).

Ballots will be mailed Oct. 21 for the Nov. 8, general election.

Source: League of Women Voters of Skagit County

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*Spotlight on Missy*

Missy is approximately eight and a half years young and full of love for that special someone. She is an indoor cat; spayed and litter-box trained.

This pretty lady was surrendered to the shelter after the death of her person. She's a wonderful, loving companion kitty that needs someone to help her feel secure and provide her with a loving, quiet, and calm home.

Missy loves tummy rubs, lap time, window perches, cat trees & toys, and hideouts.

Missy is shy and fearful of other animals and commotion. She would do best in a home as the only cat (no dogs) with a mature owner who is home a lot to spend time with her.

If interested, or for more information, contact HSSV at 360-757-0445 or via email at [shelter@skagitthumane.org](mailto:shelter@skagitthumane.org).

**Planning commissioners tour La Conner Maritime Services**



TOUR GUIDES – Townspeople joined Town staff on a tour of La Conner Maritime Services led by the company's General Manager Isaac Oczkewicz (left), Port of Skagit Director of Business Development and Real Estate Scott Peterson and Executive Director Sarah Young. The Port wants to modify zoning in the La Conner Marina's north basin area. – Photo by Marissa Conklin

By Bill Reynolds

La Conner Planning Commissioners last week got a closer, on-the-ground look at long-range Port of Skagit plans for the northern industrial area of La Conner Marina.

The five-members held a special Oct. 3 public meeting at La Conner Maritime Services, a well-established marina tenant eyeing future expansion to meet market trends.

Port staff, including Executive Director Sarah Young, joined commissioners, residents and Town Administrator Scott Thomas on an afternoon walking tour of the La Conner Maritime grounds on Pearle Jensen Way.

La Conner Maritime General Manager Isaac Oczkewicz conducted the informal one-hour session, which also offered indoor glimpses of the firm's boat services and repair facilities.

Oczkewicz said the company, which has about 30 employees, would like to construct a 42-foot-tall building to accommodate larger vessels brought in on travel lifts. La Conner Maritime has been in discussions with the Port, which in turn has made application to the Town for consideration of zoning changes at the marina, he said.

Marina Harbormaster Chris Omdahl, praised the company midway through the tour.

"From what I'm told," said Omdahl, "they have the best setup on the West Coast for Volvo engines."

The La Conner Maritime

scenario reflects the Port's desire to see zoning modified at the marina to narrow uses in the industrial area to maritime ventures. The Port is also requesting allowing new construction of up to 60 feet in height.

"We're looking for some flexibility for our boat builders," said Port Director of Planning and Development Heather Rogerson.

"Some things in the present code," she noted, "seem to be outdated."

Young echoed that sentiment.

"We would like to create better efficiency for this tight footprint in our marine industrial area," Young said. "We want to make more efficient use of our available land."

La Conner residents Linda Talman, Bob Raymond and Jim Matthews posed occasional questions during the more laid-back session, different from a regular meeting at Maple Hall.

Talman, citing past issues from a prior marina-based boat-building operation, sought and received assurances that the public would be protected from excessive fiberglass emissions if La Conner Maritime were to expand.

"We have relatively little use of fiberglass here," Oczkewicz said.

"Everything has to go through a stringent regulatory process," added Scott Peterson, Port director of business development and real estate, "and those regulations are getting set higher all the time."

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# Braves break scoring barrier, defeat Tarriers for first grid win

By Bill Reynolds

The La Conner Braves had a point to make Friday night. Actually, they made 30 of them.

Held scoreless all of 2021 and the first month of this season, the Braves broke the scoring barrier and got into the win column by defeating 1A Charles Wright Academy in non-league grid action in Tacoma.

"It felt great to get the win," second-year head coach Charlie Edwards said afterward. "The teamwork was amazing. It was truly a total team effort."

Quarterback Ivory Damien paced the victors with two rushing touchdowns, a TD pass to C.J. Edwards and a pair of two-point conversions while also recording a pass interception on defense.

"He was electric," Edwards said of the junior signal caller.

Tommy Murdock was also plugged in. He reeled off several long-gainers, one of which resulted in a touchdown and like Damien was a force defensively.

Marlon Edwards recovered a fumble and Randy Ikebe picked off a Tarrier pass for a Braves stop unit that enjoyed its best

outing of the campaign.

"We played through a few tough losses and came together in practice and worked hard to overcome a few blocking and tackling issues," said coach Edwards, whose club brings a 1-3 mark into this Friday's home pairing with NW2B rival Friday Harbor.

Edwards said the team was able to impose its will up front all night.

"Jaydin Clark, Marlon Edwards, Chas James, Oscar Soto and Steven Willcutt all did great on the offensive and defensive lines," he said. "And Isaac

Kitchen played a great all-around game with some key blocks, a two-point conversion reception and a recovered fumble on a kickoff."

Isaiah Miller likewise received praise for his pass coverage and work in the trenches.

Austin McClure and Matt Stone got some good reps in at wide receiver, noted Edwards, who utilized his entire roster.

In post-game comments, he gave credit for the breakthrough win and end to the long scoring drought to his players and assistant coaches Ari Landworth, Ricky Richards, Mason Murdock

and Hal Ikebe.

"They've really been dedicated and committed to seeing all our players improve," Edwards said, "while creating a team and family atmosphere."

Kickoff Oct. 14 with Friday Harbor at Whittaker Field is 7 p.m. The Wolverines blanked La Conner 52-0 in Friday Harbor on Sept. 16.

Edwards said the lopsided triumph at Charles Wright can be a springboard to a strong second half of the season.

"It was a huge win for our program," he said, "but we're not done yet."

# V-ball team places first in Olympia tourney silver bracket

By Bill Reynolds

The La Conner High School volleyball team turned in another capital performance last weekend.

Facing teams from larger schools, including undefeated 4A power Puyallup High School, the defending state 2B net champs placed first in the silver division of the Capitol City Invitational Volleyball Tournament in Olympia last

Saturday, Oct. 8.

La Conner went 1-2 in pool play, including a two-set defeat to Puyallup, before rebounding to sweep three straight matches in the tourney's silver bracket, downing 2A Sequim (25-18, 25-22), 3A host Capitol (25-21, 25-19), and 3A Central Kitsap (25-18, 25-5).

"It was such a great, challenging day for our team, and I was so proud of the way they played," head coach

Suzanne Marble told the Weekly News.

Senior outside hitter Ellie Marble, the reigning state 2B Player of the Year, finished with 64 kills, 86 digs and went 65 of 66 serving with a half dozen aces.

As a team, the Lady Braves served at an impressive 92% clip.

"Ellie was solid for us the entire day," said coach Marble. "Her defense was a huge part

of our success. Both she and Makayla Herrera stepped up and led the team today."

Herrera, a senior middle blocker, delivered 28 kills and posted 38 digs and eight blocks.

Setter Abby Udlock fueled the attack by recording 101 assists.

Morgan Huizenga also made her presence felt. The middle blocker-outside hitter recorded 29 kills and 57 digs.

"I'm so proud of our girls and how they came together and had fun against some big strong teams," Marble said.

The team, 6-1 in regular season matches – and a perfect 4-0

in the conference – entertained league foe Darrington last night.

The Lady Braves host Mount Vernon tonight, Oct. 12, in their annual Senior Night/Dig Pink fundraiser match supporting cancer research, at 6:15 p.m. It is also an opportunity to celebrate four senior players – Herrera, Josie Harper, Kennedy Miller and Ellie Marble.

The celebrations continue Thursday when coach Marble will be honored on her 30-year career at La Conner – a tenure that includes six state titles – at 6:30 p.m. at Landy James Gym, prior to a much-anticipated setting with 4A Glacier Peak.

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I am currently employed as Laboratory Supervisor for the City of Anacortes Wastewater Treatment Plant. Prior to my current position, I managed the laboratory of the Skagit Valley College's Environmental Conservation Program.

As a 5th generation Skagitonian, my family has dealt with floods, droughts, and the ever-changing face of agriculture in our precious valley. I am a professional scientist that understands water, and the importance in protecting our rural lifestyle in the Skagit Valley.

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# Boo-tiful weather is hope for Halloween parade

By Bill Reynolds

It's never too early to plan for a special event. That includes Halloween, even as an unseasonably warm start to fall saw temperatures reach the upper 70s throughout Puget Sound when the calendar flipped to October.

Despite the summer-like conditions, there was no cold shoulder toward preparations for what has long been a favorite La Conner holiday.

The La Conner Parent Teacher Student Association members are organizing this year's downtown costumed Halloween parade.

This year's Oct. 31 parade is scheduled from 12-1 p.m. and coincides with an 11:35 a.m. early dismissal at La Conner Schools.

"We will meet at the north end of First Street behind La Conner Retirement Inn and walk down First Street and then trick-or-treat down the sidewalks to local businesses," PTSA spokesperson Nicole Hagen told the Weekly News.

Between now and the big day, folks are encouraged to

drop off Halloween candy at the elementary school.

"La Conner High sports teams will be volunteering to pass out candy," Hagen said, "and goody bags will be made at the Braves Club for kids who can't attend the parade."

Participating children must be accompanied by a parent, she stressed.

Costumes, of course, are encouraged for parade-goers of all ages.

Leave the family vehicle at home, however. This is a non-motorized parade, drawing ghosts, witches, pirates and rock stars from all walks of life, in the truest sense of the phrase.

It is traditionally a time of community goodwill along with a major candy haul for La Conner area youth.

Historically, Halloween has been much anticipated here. Nearly 90 years ago, civic leaders launched what would become one of the oldest prankless Halloween parties in the nation.

In time it would become a bustling fall festival coordinated by volunteers who passed

the baton from generation to generation.

There were costume contests, cakewalks, carnival games, haunted rooms, a witches' brewing area and, starting in the early 1990s, rides on hover boards.

As with the old La Conner Tulip Festival, the Halloween Party was held in the since demolished school gymnasium built in 1948 by volunteer labor.

The party became less regular and more sporadic about a decade ago as the parade gained popularity. Then the COVID-19 pandemic shut down mass indoor gatherings.

The parade, meanwhile, continues to flourish with costumes becoming more elaborate and imaginative.

Once the parade is completed, organizers are asking parents and children to transition quickly to sidewalks for trick-or-treating as First Street will immediately be reopened to traffic.

All in all, regardless of weather, it promises to be a spook-tacular day in La Conner.

# Orchid wasps, grasshoppers, Vaux's swifts and honey bees

By Bob Hamblin

There was some interesting action on the dike path at Hayton Farms Game Range at summer's end. The large territorial grasshoppers have been digging holes to lay eggs in the top gravel. This has drawn in large orchid wasps which was interested in parasitizing the grasshopper eggs and larva.

The wasps were searching the area for covered nest holes. They are large wasps with long needle-like ovipositor attached to the back of their abdomens. They penetrate the prey and lays an egg inside of its victim. The egg hatches and a wasp larva lunches on the host until its ready to hatch. The ground had several adult wasps searching for nest holes. The adults search with their antenna which are good at smelling for covered holes.

Recently on television news the public has become aware of the migratory Vaux's swift. There is an old school in the local Marysville area that still has the large standing chimney that was common early in the last century. This is an original chimney with slick internal sidewalls. Before chimney fires were common, several hundred or even thousands of birds would spend the night inside this structure sleeping attached to the walls.

Houses built in the first half of the last century had nesting swifts because people did not use the fireplace in the summer. This area supported countless numbers of swifts and their kids, but not anymore. Now these birds nest in stumps or hollow snags.

Over 30 years ago in spring I was traveling in northeastern Washington. One evening I noticed several thousand swift dropping down in a vortex into a large school chimney. It took several minutes for them to all go into the chimney where they



WASP LOCAL HOUSING – Did you see this paper wasp's nest in September on the west side of Whatcom Street?

– Photo courtesy Jacque Chase

spent the night. Another spring I was in the woods. There was a large cottonwood tree with a cavity containing a hive of wild honey bees. Nesting inside with the bees and above the cones was a pair of Vaux's swift. They had no better protection to keep out predators like squirrels from robbing their nest.

I have not seen a Vaux's swift this year but they still summer in woods at higher elevations.

A new problem for me at Wylie Game Range is that the existing dikes I walk on are being raised two feet because they were installed too low and tidal surge is going over the top. In the last year or so, high water has eroded the tops. Raising the dike only two feet is a temporary solution. The 100-yard-high flood tide may be a foot or two above the new dike. If you check the history on the Fir Island dike, it has been rebuilt many times and never permanently. The road was closed to the parking lots through September, so I have started hiking there again. With climate change on the way, living on Fir Island may be somewhat risky.

# Ashley Sweeney book signing

Come to Seaport Books Thursday, Oct. 20 to buy and have Shelter Bay novelist Ashley Sweeney sign her newly released third novel, "Hardland," a western set in the Arizona Territory at the dawn of the 20th century. In it you will meet protagonist Ruby Fortune, a strong, independent, yes, feminist.

# Ukraine benefit Oct. 15



Support the people of Ukraine by attending a benefit featuring music and poetry Oct. 15, 3:30-5:30 p.m. at Edison Lutheran Church in Bow. Members of the Skagit Symphony will perform and Susan Rich will read her poetry.

The \$35 suggested donations will go to Doctors without

Borders.

The benefit is sponsored by the Skagit Symphony, Skagit River Poetry Foundation, Perry and Carlson, Peggy and Jerry Anderson and the Carson family.

Edison Lutheran Church is at 14201 Church Road, Bow 98232.

# Dry. . . (from page 1)

temperature Sept. 1-4 between 61.3 and 62.9 degrees. The month's high of 80.7 degree Sept. 11 provided the month's highest daily average temperature of 63.4 degrees.

Three daily low temperature records were set, Sept. 16-19 at 38.3, 37.2 and 37.6 degrees,

respectively, the only mornings below 40 degrees. They pushed the average daily minimum down to 47.5, 1.4 degree below the century's average daily low.

Record lows in 2021 were Sept. 1-2 of 49.9 and 40.8 degrees and 39 degrees Sept. 16. Sept. 9 last year was a record high of 80.5 record high.

The 16.6 inches of rain

in 2022 is 3.9 inches under the century average of 20.5 inches, 19% less. Six months, including July-September, have had less than average rainfall. Only June's deluge brought the year's rain above 15 inches.

Measurements and data are at Washington State University's Mount Vernon weather station on Memorial Highway.

# Charge. . . (from p. 2)

getting gasoline will take several more years. Tesla is leading this effort. It has installed about 1,500 Level 3 "Superchargers" along major US highways. For now, they can only be used by Teslas, but Tesla has announced plans to upgrade them for access by other cars, possibly as early as this year. Governments, utilities and the EV industry are working on addition-

al fast charging infrastructure in many locations.

Batteries, and battery management technologies, are still developing. Ongoing improvements are realistically expected. Earlier this year, battery developer Our Next Energy tested an experimental battery that improved the range of the car it was tested in from about 400 miles to more than 750 miles.

Bottom line: Electric vehicle range issues are rapidly becoming

less important, because charging station infrastructure and batteries are improving fast. If you have workplace or home charging options, you can probably use an EV most of the time, immediately, without range or charging issues. If an EV will be your only car, plan ahead for very long trips or consider rental of a longer-range car for a few days a year while analyzing the total costs of EV ownership.

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# A big day for our little town



## Moving books to the new La Conner Swinomish Library became a cross-generational once-in-a-lifetime experience

By Bill Reynolds

It is a rare day when you can be loud in a library. Saturday, in La Conner, was one of those days. The new La Conner Swinomish Library on Morris Street was the site of what was fondly dubbed “organized chaos that morning and afternoon.” Noise, laughter and joy filled the spacious new facility, a long sought gleaming addition to the town’s landscape.

Enthusiasm was the word of the day, as it had been since Thursday when children, parents and grandparents began pitching in to move books from the old La Conner Regional Library a block away into the new structure, with its stunning outdoor story pole fashioned by master carver Kevin Paul and his son-in-law, Camas Logue.

“This is history, a generational event,” said photographer Craig Barber, who captured for the Weekly News – and for posterity – the festive three-day scene. “The kids who are here will be able to look back years from now and say they were a part of this.”

Barber – whose wife, Katryna, is a library staff person – was himself the picture of endless energy as he bounded, camera in hand, from one photo op to another.

He spent much of Saturday recording images of families conveying carts and wagons loaded with books into the

new children’s section, sure to be a popular area with its distinctive replica tugboat, including portholes.

In keeping with the generational theme, Barber photographed dad Kai Otteson and eight-year-old daughter Clara bringing their loads of books to the new library. For their family, books are literally part of their DNA. Kai’s mom, Planning Commissioner Carol Hedlin, formerly served as librarian at the University of Alaska-Southeast in Juneau.

Barber marveled at how La Conner students stood elbow-to-elbow to form a book brigade the entire distance between the two buildings on Thursday.

“The day was significant,” Barber reflected. “The bulk of books were moved.”

In fact, library director Jean Markert said the student book brigade was efficient beyond expectations.

“This is something that you don’t really know how to plan for,” she explained. “You don’t build a library every day.”

“They moved 800 books in an hour,” Markert said. “We had to slow down to leave something for the other volunteers. It was very impressive and a nice problem to have. We pretty much emptied out the other building on Friday.”

That left the children’s collection. Shelter Bay mom Dana Phillips and kids Beverly and Nora helped get the Saturday “wagon train” started. Reinforcements came en masse once the morning’s local youth soccer matches wrapped up.

La Conner teacher Crista Landworth and children Cash and Anja were typical of the families that made repeated loops from one building to the other.

La Conner Library Foundation Executive Director Susan Macek watched admiringly as children took pride in filling shelves with the books they had carried from a block away. The bustling activity rekindled for Macek memories of her own youth when a library provided a welcome refuge from searing Arizona summer heat.

Kids delivered hardback copies of favorite titles such as Eric Carle’s “The Very Hungry Caterpillar” on a day that, ironically, was unseasonably warm for early October.

“Getting the community together for this has been great,” Barber stressed, “especially with the kids being so invested in it.”

Library staff were gratified that the effort was so unified. Residents from all walks of life rallied behind the library in common purpose, they noted.

Barber pointed out how libraries can help everyone write meaningful new chapters in their lives.

“It was books,” he said, “that made me want to travel. They’ve impacted my life in so many ways.”

Just as the new La Conner Swinomish Library and the volumes it houses will impact countless lives for decades to come.



– Concept and photos courtesy of Craig Barber



# District 10 state rep candidates: choose 2

**Greg Gilday**  
Position 1



*Why are you the right candidate?*

I'm from here, I'm for here. I'm the third generation of my family to live and work in this area. I've built a reputation of working with people on both parties to help solve local problems and state problems. My wife Megan is a public school teacher and our sons Laker and Graham are local students. In an age of hyper-partisan politics, the fact I share our community's values and have a history of serving others is very important. I'm grateful the people of this area trusted me two years ago when I promised to work for good schools, good jobs and good government and I look forward to continuing to do that.

*Where will significant funding for apartments and housing come from?*

Washington has spent billions of dollars on housing, but the truth is, the housing crisis is not going to be solved by government-subsidized housing. This state is about 250,000 housing units short of where it needs to be and the only way we are going to solve it is to make it more affordable to build more housing. There is not one silver bullet to solve this problem – it will take a lot of smaller changes, though two I strongly favor are: 1) allowing for more densely populated areas, especially around transit so we can take advantage of existing infrastructure; and, 2) streamlining regulations that add considerably to the cost of housing.

*What are your plans for tax cuts and cutting the budget?*

The first step would be to stop increasing our spending with every increase in tax revenue. We need to prioritize our spending, better fund the state's rainy day fund and provide meaningful tax relief to the citizens of Washington state. While Washington is not going to solve inflation (that problem is bigger than Olympia), we can stop piling on with new taxes and increased fees every year. With a \$15 billion budget surplus last year, the House Republicans put forward a budget framework to fund the state's priorities, provide tax relief and left a \$2 billion surplus. With inflation running rampant, we need to plan for leaner times, while preserving school funding and public safety.

*How will the state continue to reduce CO2 emissions?*

Just like with inflation, this is a bigger problem than Olympia. If measures we take only hurt families, we are failing our citizens. Washington needs to have metrics to apply to our existing and new programs and we need to be able to put our resources where they give us the most bang for our environmental buck. For example, we are spending hundreds of millions of dollars on electrifying the Washington ferry system, which emits an average of 182 metric tons of CO2 annually. We would be better off putting those funds towards actively managing our forests since wildfires accounted for 7,850,000 metric tons of CO2 annually between 2014 and 2018.

*How can elections be changed to eliminate two-person primary races?*

If I understand the question correctly, some offices do proceed directly to the general in two person races, for example Supreme Court Justices and Superior Court Judges. Partisan races do not currently, in part because it's believed that a two person primary race help voters learn more about the candidates, even if picking a winner has to wait until the general election. It is legal to amend state statutes to treat partisan two person races the same as non-partisan two person races, but I don't currently support that. I'm open to hearing good arguments, but I think the added civic engagement from a two person primary is good for democracy.

**Clyde Shavers**  
Position 1



*Why are you the right candidate?*

As a naval officer and non-profit leader, I didn't ask my fellow service- and community-members if they were a Democrat or Republican. I asked how we could work together to better serve our country. And that's how I approach government - how can we all serve and make our communities better. No matter if you're a Republican, a Democrat or somewhere in between, I will faithfully stand up for you and our shared values as Americans.

I will defend our freedoms by protecting a woman's right to choose, lowering prescription drugs and healthcare costs, increasing career and technical education in high schools and fighting for veteran benefits and services.

*Where will significant funding for apartments and housing come from?*

As a board member and volunteer at Skagit Friendship House, I see the struggles of our homeless and working poor every week. The state legislature needs to break down barriers and remove obstacles so that non-profits and other developers are incentivized to build affordable housing. This includes providing tax waivers/exemptions and incentives for qualifying projects. We also need to support our farmers by protecting farmlands from uncontrolled, unaffordable developments like Fully Contained Communities (FCC).

*What are your plans for tax cuts and cutting the budget?*

I do not support raising taxes – and instead we need to get money back into the hands of working people. With prices increasing everywhere from groceries and gas to the cost of housing, we need to re-envision how we ensure economic growth and job creation while also paying for vital services that benefit everyone. I will fight to give tax relief to low- and middle-income families and fix our regressive tax structure.

*How will the state continue to reduce CO2 emissions?*

Our environment drives our economy – from our farming and fishing industry to small businesses and tourism. We need to protect our lands and waterways for sustainable fishing and farming and ensure a healthier future. Having studied environmental law with the Natural Resources Defense Council, I know that Washington can lead the way in developing a strong clean energy economy that provides high-wage jobs without leaving our current workforce behind. By encouraging initiatives that makes sense and are cost effective, we can improve the quality of life for everyone.

*How can elections be changed to eliminate two-person primary races?*

Washington has the best voting system in the nation. Voters have the freedom to elect every public official unrestricted by political party in primaries. Vote-by-mail increases voter participation and is more secure than voting at poll sites. Voters' pamphlets help inform voters about candidates. With our open, transparent and secure system of voting, we are empowered to continue improving our election system via initiative and referendum.

## Town. . . (from page 1)

controversial permit approval for a 20-unit condominium building on Center Street issued by Hearing Examiner David Lowell last spring.

The planning commission had recommended that application be denied, though it had received an endorsement from Davolio.

Members also favored retention of the current 25-foot agricultural setback, rejecting a proposed reduction to 15 feet; denied a Port of Skagit bid to extend the maximum industrial building height from 40 feet to 60 feet at La Conner Marina; and supported requiring one parking space per "tiny house" (700 square feet or smaller) dwelling unit.

Hedlin Farms manager and resident Kai Otteson made the case for not changing the ag setback rule.

"If it gets reduced to a 15-foot set-

**Karen Lesetmoe**  
Position 2



*Why are you the right candidate?*

As a Navy veteran, mom of six and real estate broker, I know first-hand how the bad policies coming out of Olympia have impacted our communities. From public safety, education and housing to the cost of living, we are not in a better position today than we were four years ago.

The current majorities in Olympia, including my opponent, are out of touch with the community and have lost sight of what truly matters. I am running to provide tax relief, ensure public safety is a top priority and to create a better education system for all kids.

*Where will significant funding for apartments and housing come from?*

Our state has a housing shortage which has driven up the cost of housing. As a real estate broker and daughter of immigrants, I know how important homeownership is to building generational wealth and opportunity. Local governments play a significant role in housing. I believe that at the state level, we need to reduce the regulatory costs that drive up the cost of housing and address condo legislation to provide more housing options.

*What are your plans for tax cuts and cutting the budget?*

We had a \$15 billion budget surplus and despite crushing inflation, the majority in Olympia did not provide meaningful tax relief. In fact, the Legislature passed more tax increases. My plan is to provide a sales tax cut and roll back the gas tax increase that will go into effect January 1, 2023 to give much needed relief to hard-working Washingtonians.

*How will the state continue to reduce CO2 emissions?*

We live in a beautiful state, one of the greenest in the nation. We should be good stewards of our environment and ensure we are protecting our waterways and natural areas. I do have concerns that recent bills passed in Olympia will put an additional burden on low-income residents of Washington while at the same time pushing to take out our dams which provide clean, renewable and efficient energy.

*How can elections be changed to eliminate two-person primary races?*

More public participation in our electoral process is critical to a well-functioning democracy. We have had this system in place since 2004 and I believe that if this were to change, the voters of Washington should be the ones to decide.

back," Otteson predicted, "it opens the door to further reductions down the line."

During prior discussions, fears were raised that reducing the setback could be dangerous to residents – particularly toddlers – should patios and porches be built nearer to heavy farm machinery.

The Port, meanwhile, had sought the 60-foot standard in support of tenant boat builders competing in a market trending toward larger vessels.

The commission expressed preference for maintaining the current height limit and employing the conditional use permit process to consider on a "project by project" basis applications for structures exceeding 40 feet.

"I, for one, have an issue with blanket approval for 60 feet," said Commissioner John Leaver. "I think I would be against that, and I think most of the people in this room would be against it."

Leaver later explained to Port Planning, Development and Aviation Director Heather Rogerson and La Conner Harbormaster Chris Omdahl that he and fellow commissioners do not want to "stymie your plans."

"We want the Port to thrive," Leaver insisted. "We're not trying to hold you back."

Leaver and others said the CUP process still leaves open the option for construction of taller buildings at the marina.

Davolio noted that port authorities in the Puget Sound region are competitive in recruiting maritime firms that pay living wage jobs for skilled labor. Rogerson estimated there are now about 140 persons employed by marine industry companies at La Conner Marina.

Residents have expressed concern that

**Dave Paul**  
Position 2



*Why are you the right candidate?*

I'm serving in my second term as State Representative and I've worked hard to represent the values of our community. I am committed to building bridges that help connect diverse people, groups and communities within our district and finding points of bipartisan consensus.

*Where will significant funding for apartments and housing come from?*

Housing affordability must be one of the top priorities for the 2023 legislative session, and both the capital and operating budgets should be used to help Washington families. I will be advocating for policies and programs that help increase housing in our community – including workforce homes, multifamily housing and homes designed to allow community members to age at home.

*What are your plans for tax cuts and cutting the budget?*

In 2022, I sponsored HB 1818 to create a holiday from sales tax over the Labor Day weekend. Unfortunately, though HB 1818 passed the House, it died in the Senate. I'll be bringing this bill back in 2023 and will fight for its passage to help working families.

I also supported efforts in 2022 to bring tax relief to many small businesses by permanently increasing the B&O small business tax credit and filing threshold (SB 5980).

Looking ahead to the 2023 session, I am strongly advocating for property tax relief for Washington homeowners.

*How will the state continue to reduce CO2 emissions?*

Ensuring that we reach our 2030 climate goals has always been a priority in my time in the legislature. My work in the Legislature has supported our state's carbon pollution goals. I support common-sense efforts to reduce carbon in the transportation section, help electrify the state's ferry fleet and ensure our state is doing more to reduce carbon emissions in buildings. I will continue to be a champion in the Transportation Committee for reducing carbon pollution, including supporting transit, encouraging non-motorized forms of transportation and building out greater electric vehicle infrastructure.

*How can elections be changed to eliminate two-person primary races?*

I will speak to county auditors and state election officials to see if two-person primary races are a significant cost to counties and our state.

tall buildings at the marina – especially if several are clustered together – will pose steep challenges for firefighters.

"The fire department," said builder and former planning commissioner Gary Nelson, "only has a 35-foot ladder."

Developer Greg Ellis and other attendees spoke on behalf of tiny homes as potentially a more affordable housing option.

"Please consider the changes I requested for the tiny house code," Ellis implored. "I will create space for these. There's a demand for housing in La Conner. People are in dire need to find a place to live."

Cassandra Saunders, an in-home care provider, sought support for tiny homes.

"It would provide me an opportunity to live here and continue the work I do," she said. "I would love to be able to live here and a tiny home would be a wonderful opportunity for me to live and work here."

Nelson, however, pointed out that tiny homes do not come cheap.

"They aren't necessarily affordable," said Nelson. "They run about \$400 per square foot."

Before adjournment, Hanneman praised residents who have attended meetings and public hearings – which at moments got testy – throughout the year.

"We appreciate all the advice we have gotten," she said. "Michael (Davolio) follows the rules and codes and that's what we need. We appreciate townspeople saying we need to slow down and take a look at things."

"Don't walk away and go back to your homes," Hanneman said to the audience. "You need to stay involved. Be kind. This is not personal in any way, shape or form. This is about what we need to do for future generations."

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## Fraud Prevention

# Tip-Offs to Rip-Offs

## How Skagit County Consumers Can Spot Cons Before They Spot You

The numbers are in, and they're headed in the wrong direction. According to new statistics from the Federal Trade Commission, Washington consumers lost more than \$135 million to fraud in 2021, nearly double the amount lost in 2020.

It seems the scammers are gaining the upper hand in the fight for our hard-earned dollars. Con-artists are becoming ever more sophisticated in their tactics, and new scams are emerging at an increasing pace. Even the most informed consumer can find themselves struggling to keep up.

**To help consumers fight back, AARP is joining forces with the Washington State Attorney General's Office, TechConnect, BECU and Nomorobo to hold a free Tip-Offs to Rip-Offs online event aimed at helping Skagit County area consumers stay a step ahead of the scammers.**

Attend this free online event on October 19. Participants will hear about the latest scams targeting Skagit County area residents, including a journey inside an actual fraudulent boiler room to show step by step how scammers manipulate our emotions and steal our money.



**Bob Ferguson**

WASHINGTON STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL

**You'll hear from Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson on how to protect yourself and your community.** Through a unique new partnership with the call-blocking service Nomorobo, participants will also learn how they can gain real time access to the specific robocall scams flooding Skagit County area homes. With these and other early warning tools, consumers will gain the inside track on recognizing some of the newest scams before the cons have a chance to make their pitch.

### Tip-Offs to Rip-Offs

**October 19, 2022 | 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

**The event is FREE, but registration is required.**

**To register, visit [aarp.org/SkagitTipOffs](https://aarp.org/SkagitTipOffs)**

Presented by:



**Nomorobo**





**LEGAL NOTICES**

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY**

In the Matter of the Estate of Margaret "Margie" Mantell, Deceased. Cause No. 22-4-00525-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(3); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets.

Date of First Publication: October 12, 2022  
 Personal Representative: Adam M. Mantell  
 Attorney for Personal Representative: Aaron M. Rasmussen, WSBA #29496  
 Address for Mailing or Service: Barron Smith Daugert PLLC, 300 N. Commercial St., Bellingham, WA 98225; Phone: 360-733-0212  
 Published in the La Conner Weekly News October 12, 19, 26, 2022.

**TOWN of LA CONNER NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Town of La Conner is processing a permit application for the following project that may be of interest to you. You are invited to comment on the proposal.

Application File #: LU22-23HDR  
 Applicant: Keith and Sylvia Padgett  
 Owner: Keith and Sylvia Padgett  
 Project Location: 213 Calhoun Street; parcel number P74032  
 Project Description: The applicants propose to remove and replace roofing, windows, and siding on a house and an attached garage. The proposal also includes the installation of a fence and landscaping, and the attachment of a garden shed to the west side of the garage. The public hearing is being held solely to consider the impacts of the exterior construction as it impacts the town's historic district.

Environmental Review: Not required  
 Date of Permit Application: June 28, 2022  
 Date of Determination of Completeness: July 12, 2022  
 Required Permits: The following local, state and federal permits/approvals are needed for this project:  
 Historic Design Review & Building Permit – Town of La Conner  
 Building Permit – Town of La Conner/Skagit County  
 Consistency Overview: This property is located in the Residential zone, within the Historic Preservation District. The proposal is for repairs and improvements to an existing residential structure. The repairs, improvements, addition, and roofing will complement the character of the existing structure in materials, colors, and scale.

The proposed project must receive historic design review approval from the Planning Commission prior to issuance of a Certificate of Authorization.

Preliminary determination of the development regulations that will be used for project mitigation:

Town of La Conner Municipal Code  
 15.35 Commercial Zone  
 15.50 Historic Preservation District  
 Public Hearing – Planning Commission  
 Date: October 18, 2022  
 Time: 6:00 p.m.  
 Location: Maple Hall, 204 Douglas Street, La Conner, Washington. Zoom meeting details to be available on the Town website one week prior to the Planning Commission meeting.

Comments: Comments on this application must be submitted in writing to Michael Davolio, AICP, Planning Director, P.O. Box 400, La Conner, WA 98257, no later than 3:30 PM on October 18, 2022. Comments will also be accepted at the public hearing. Anyone submitting comments will automatically become a party of record and will be notified of any decision on the project.

If you have any questions concerning this project, contact Town Hall at (360) 466-3125 or email planner@townoflaconner.org.

Issued: October 3, 2022  
 Published: October 5, 2022  
 Published in the La Conner Weekly News October 5, 12, 2022.

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR KING COUNTY**

Estate of BEVERLY DIANNE LENNING AKA BEVERLY DIANNE MARZYCK, Deceased. NO. 22-4-04944-5 SEA PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the Decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after the Personal Representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets.

DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION: October 12, 2022  
 PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Claire Lenning  
 15447 Summers Dr., Mt. Vernon, WA 98273  
 ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Suzanne Lieberman  
 CMS Law Firm LLC.  
 811 Kirkland Avenue, Suite 201  
 Kirkland, WA 98033  
 206.659.1512

COURT OF PROBATE PROCEEDINGS:  
 King County Superior Court  
 CASE NUMBER: 22-4-04944-5 SEA  
 Published in the La Conner Weekly News October 12, 19, 26, 2022.

**SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY**

In Re The Estate of Richard Cardoza aka Richard Cardoza Jr. Deceased.

No. 22-4-00400-29  
 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)  
 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE  
 The above Court has appointed me, KA THY ANSTENSEN as Personal

Representative of Decedent's estate. Any person having a claim against the Decedent must present the claim: (a) Before the time when the claim would be barred by any applicable statute of limitations, and (b) In the manner provided in RCW 11.40.070: (i) By filing the original of the claim with the foregoing Court, and (ii) By serving on or mailing to me at the address below a copy of the claim. The claim must be presented by the later of: (a) Thirty (30) days after I served or mailed this Notice as provided in RCW 11.40.020(1)(c), or (b) Four (4) months after the date of first publication of this Notice. If the claim is not presented within this time period, the claim will be forever barred except as provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective for claims against both the Decedent's probate and non-probate assets.

Date of First Publication of this Notice: September 28, 2022.  
 Personal Representative: Kathy Anstensen  
 1004 Commercial Ave., Ste. 157 Anacortes, WA 98221  
 Published in the La Conner Weekly News September 28, October 5, 12, 2022.

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KING**

In re the Estate of GARY CARL ANDERSON Deceased. Case No.: 22-4-06559-9 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

The personal representative named below has been appointed as personal representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the personal representative or the personal representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets.

erwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets.

Date of First Publication: October 5, 2022  
 Personal Representative: Erica Lynne Turner  
 Attorney for the Personal Representative: Michael Biesheuvel  
 Address for Mailing or Service: 114 Second Ave. S., Suite 101, Edmonds, WA 98020  
 Court of probate proceedings and cause number: King County, WA  
 Published in the La Conner Weekly News October 5, 12, 19, 2022.

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR THE COUNTY OF SKAGIT**

In the Matter of the Estate of Derek Michael Gannon, Deceased., Cause No. 22-4-00505-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

The notice agent named below has elected to give notice to creditors of the above-named decedent. As of the date of the filing of a copy of this notice with the court, the notice agent has no knowledge of any other person acting as notice agent or of the appointment of a personal representative of the decedent's estate in the state of Washington. According to the records of the court as are available on the date of the filing of this notice with the court, a cause number regarding the decedent has not been issued to any other notice agent and a personal representative of the decedent's estate has not been appointed.

Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.42.070 by serving on or mailing to the notice agent or the notice agent's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the notice agent served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.42.020(2)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.42.050 and 11.42.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets.

probate assets.  
 Date of Filing Notice With Court: September 29, 2022  
 The notice agent declares under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington on September 27, 2022, at La Conner, Washington, that the foregoing is true and correct.  
 Notice Agent: Kathleen M. Paulson  
 Attorney for Notice Agent: FELICIA VALUE  
 WSB No. 27635  
 PO Box 578  
 La Conner, WA 98257  
 (360) 466-2088  
 Published in the La Conner Weekly News October 5, 12, 19, 2022.

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY**

In the Matter of the Estate of Derek Michael Gannon, Deceased., Cause No. 22-4-00505-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(3); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets.

Date of First Publication: October 5, 2022  
 Personal Representative: Gabrielle Valencia Pla  
 Attorney for Personal Representative: Aaron M. Rasmussen, WSBA #29496  
 Address for Mailing or Service: Barron Smith Daugert PLLC, 300 N. Commercial St., Bellingham, WA 98225; Phone: 360-733-0212  
 Published in the La Conner Weekly News October 5, 12, 19, 2022.

**AGENDA**

**MEETING NOTICE**

**TOWN OF LA CONNER PLANNING COMMISSION**  
 Tuesday, October 18, 2022  
 6:00 p.m. Location Lower Maple Center 104 Commercial Street, La Conner, WA  
 And by Zoom  
 Information below and on the Town website

Agenda  
 1. CONVENE  
 2. PUBLIC COMMENT (Topics not otherwise on the Agenda) – Time Limit 3 Minutes

3. MINUTES  
 Approve minutes from the September 20, 2022 meeting  
 Approve minutes from the October 3, 2022 special meeting (tour of La Conner Marina)

Approve minutes from the October 4, 2022 special meeting

4. OLD BUSINESS  
 Continued Review of Draft Impact Fee Ordinance  
 5. NEW BUSINESS  
 PUBLIC HEARING: Historic Design Review, 213 Calhoun Street

6. CLOSING COMMENTS  
 Our next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, November 15, 2022.

Meeting ID: 826 0363 7731  
 Passcode: ZU1stL

**Weekly SUDOKU**

Answer

2	8	4	1	3	9	6	7	5
1	6	7	8	2	5	3	9	4
5	3	9	4	6	7	2	8	1
8	2	6	5	4	1	7	3	9
7	1	3	2	9	8	4	5	6
9	4	5	6	7	3	8	1	2
3	7	2	9	1	4	5	6	8
6	5	1	7	8	2	9	4	3
4	9	8	3	5	6	1	2	7

**Super Crossword**

**Answers**

R	E	P	S	U	T	E	R	H	A	M	M	H	E	A	T	S
E	D	I	T	T	A	L	O	N	A	L	O	E	A	G	L	O
B	U	L	L	M	A	R	K	E	T	L	A	T	E	I	R	I
C	O	U	C	H	W	E	L	S	H	R	A	R	E	B	I	T
R	A	T	K	A	N	G	A	R	O	S	K	E	P	T	I	C
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S	N	A	P	S	R	E	S	A	T	S	O	R	E	S		
S	C	O	T	T	I	S	H	S	M	P	H	O	N	Y	W	I
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F	O	X	N	E	T	W	O	R	K	D	O	O	N	E	S	N
C	I	A	T	H	E	I	O	S	A	C	T	E	S			
A	R	B	I	T	E	R	S	S	I	L	K	Y	S	M	O	O
B	O	R	D	E	R	S	T	A	T	E	S	L	I	A	R	S
A	D	A	I	R	H	O	M	E	T	E	R	R	I	E	R	M
S	E	T	O	N	I	R	O	N	T	O	P	S	E	T	I	
H	O	S	T	S	P	E	S	T	O	D	E	T	S	E	D	E

**Answers to October 12 puzzles**

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**ATTORNEY AT LAW**  
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 Mon.- Fri. 8 am - 5 pm closed Sat. & Sun.  
 1304 Memorial Hwy. Mount Vernon, WA

**Edward Jones**  
  
**Scott A Price**  
 Financial Advisor  
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 La Conner, WA 98257  
 360-466-2933  
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\*Offer valid when purchased at retail. Solar panels sold separately.



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Complete Events Calendar on [laconnerweeklynews.com](http://laconnerweeklynews.com)

## SERVICE

**La Conner Sunrise Food Bank.** Food distribution every Monday from 2:30-5 p.m. 602 S. 3rd St., La Conner. 360-488-3878. [laconnerfoodbank.com](http://laconnerfoodbank.com).

## LIBRARIES

**La Conner Library.** 614 Morris St, La Conner. 360-466-3352. [lclib.wa.us](http://lclib.wa.us). Closed indefinitely to start the move process to new building.

**Anacortes Public Library.** 360-299-8067, [CityofAnacortes.org](http://CityofAnacortes.org). 1220 10th St, Anacortes.

**Tech Help.** Every weekday at library front desk. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Drop-in for hands-on help.

**Mount Vernon Public Library.** 360-336-6209, [mountvernonwa.gov](http://mountvernonwa.gov). 315 Snoqualmie St, Mount Vernon.

**Virtual Reality.** Every Saturday 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Must be 18 or older.

**Baby Storytime.** Every Friday 10:30-11 a.m.

**Burlington Public Library.** 360-755-0760, [burlingtonwa.gov](http://burlingtonwa.gov). 820 E Washington Ave, Burlington.

**Book Sale.** Oct. 28-29. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday. Low priced books, DVDs, CDs and magazines for all ages.

**Costume Swap.** Oct. 10-31. Bring your old costume and leave with a new one. All ages. Donations accepted.

## MUSEUM EXHIBITS

**Museum of Northwest Art.** Hours: Mon-Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun 11 a.m.-4 p.m. [monamuseum.org](http://monamuseum.org), 360-466-4446.

**Pacific Northwest Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum.** Hours: Wed-Sun 11 a.m.-5 p.m. [qfamuseum.org](http://qfamuseum.org), 360-466-4288. 703 S Second St, La Conner.

**Exhibit: Tangled Fibers.** Through October 30.

**Exhibit: Honoring 25 years.** Through October 30. Group exhibit from former and current members of the museum's board of directors.

**Skagit County Historical Museum.** 360-466-3365 or [skagitcounty.net/museum](http://skagitcounty.net/museum). Hours: Thurs-Sun 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Exhibit: Hunt and Peck.** Through October 31.

## NOT TO BE MISSED

**SWAN.**

**2022 Women of the Year Banquet.** Oct. 20, 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Swinomish Casino. More info at [swanskagit.com](http://swanskagit.com).

**American Legion Post 43.**

**Fall Craft Bazaar.** Oct. 21-22, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at 701 Murdock St, Sedro-Woolley. Vendors are \$10 per table per day. Call 360-855-0520 for more info.

**Fir-Conway Lutheran Church.**

**Fall Bazaar.** Oct. 22, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at 18101 Fir Island Rd. Produce, lefsa, pies, arts and crafts.

**Skagit Valley YMCA.**

**Halloween Spooktacular.** Oct. 22, 3:30-7:30 p.m. at YMCA on Hoag Rd, Mount Vernon. \$5 suggested donation. Pumpkin patch, carnival games, sweet treats and more. Visit [skagitymca.org](http://skagitymca.org) for more info.

**Love La Conner.**

**Halloween costume parade.** Oct. 31, 3 p.m. Parade will run south down 1st St. Staging on State St. Adults, kids and pets welcome.

## MUSIC

**La Conner Sips.**

608 1st St, La Conner. 360-610-9773. [laconnersips.com](http://laconnersips.com).

**Live music.** 5-7 p.m. No cover charge. Steve Padilla, Oct. 29.

**Skagit Community Band.**

**Variations on America.** Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m. at Maple Hall. Oct. 16, 3 p.m. at Brodriak Hall in Anacortes. Free admission. More info at [skagitcommunityband.org](http://skagitcommunityband.org).

**Skagit Symphony.**

**Ukraine Benefit Concert.** Oct. 15, 3:30-5:30 p.m. at Edison Lutheran Church, 14201 Church Rd, Bow. \$35 suggested donation goes to Doctors without Borders. Skagit Symphony will perform and Susan Rich will read her poetry.

**Ukelele Fun & Song Circle.**

**Meet every Wednesday.** 1-2 p.m., Burlington Senior Center. Beginners and all ages are welcome. Loaner ukules available. For more info, email [yogaheartspace0@gmail.com](mailto:yogaheartspace0@gmail.com).

## MEETINGS

**Town of La Conner**

204 Douglas St, La Conner. 360-466-3125. Zoom info @ [Townoflaconner.org/calendar](mailto:Townoflaconner.org/calendar).

**Parks Commission.** Oct. 12, 9:30 a.m. at Maple Hall and Zoom.

**Arts Commission.** Oct. 13, 9:30 a.m. at Civic Garden Club.

**Planning Commission.** Oct. 18, 6 p.m. on Zoom.

**Town Council.** Oct. 25, 6 p.m. at Maple Hall.

**La Conner School District**

305 N 6th St, La Conner. 360-466-4113. [lcsd.wednet.edu](http://lcsd.wednet.edu).

**Board Meeting.** Oct. 24, 5 p.m. at district office board room.

**Skagit Conservation District 2021**

E. College Way #203, Mt. Vernon. 360-428-4313. Zoom info @ [skagitcd.org](mailto:skagitcd.org).

**Board meetings.** Every fourth Wednesday 7:30-9 a.m. Next meeting Oct. 26.

**Rotary Club of La Conner.**

[laconnerrotary.org](http://laconnerrotary.org). Meetings Monday, 6-7 p.m. at the Farmhouse restaurant - optional dinner at 5:30 p.m.

**Skagit Cemetery District One.**

**Regular meetings.** Every second Thursday, 5 p.m. at Lori Buher's home, 17604 Valentine Rd., Mount Vernon.

**Little Mountain Gamblers.**

**Gamblers Anonymous.** Every Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. at Senior Center in Mount Vernon. 1401 Cleveland Ave. Any questions, call Washington State Gamblers Anonymous hotline at 855-222-5542.

## VOLUNTEER

**Skagit Land Trust.**

**Grandy Creek Volunteer Event.** Oct. 14, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Grandy Creek Conservation Area. Parking is limited so meet at Rasar State Park to carpool. Visit [skagitlandtrust.org](http://skagitlandtrust.org) to RSVP.

## ART & THEATRE

**Lincoln Theatre.**

712 S 1st St, Mount Vernon. 360-336-8955. [lincoltheatre.org](http://lincoltheatre.org).

**The Rocky Horror Show.** Oct. 21-Nov. 4. Purchase tickets online.



By Patricia Aqiumuk Paul, Esq., Food Editor.

## Instant Pot Chicken Adobo

Chicken adobo cooked in the Instant Pot. An Instant Pot is the modern version of a pressure cooker. I have been making chicken and pork adobo for about 20 years and this one is the best yet. I selected chicken thighs over drumsticks, but you may have your own preference. I also leave the skin on, which I rarely do when preparing cut pieces of chicken. There are many variations. I once heard from a family friend who adds a can of beer. I may try adding fresh slices of ginger next time.

### Ingredients

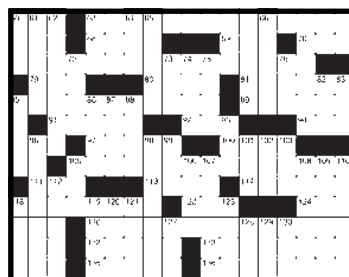
- Chicken thighs, 4 or 5, skin on
- Red onion, 3 thick slices, chopped
- Garlic cloves, 3 chopped
- Olive oil, 1 and 1/2 tbsp
- White vinegar, 1/4 cup
- Soy sauce, 3/4 cup
- Bay leaves, 3
- Black peppercorn, fresh ground, 1/2 tsp
- Water, 1 cup



### Preparation

On the sauté mode of a 6-quart Instant Pot, add the onion and garlic. As it cooks, stir and add the chicken in, skin side down. Sauté lightly and turn over. Take care not to touch the inner cooking pot. Use tongs and a long-handled metal spoon. Turn off the Instant Pot. Add in the vinegar, soy sauce and water. Use the spoon to loosen any pieces of onion, garlic or chicken sticking on the bottom. Add the bay leaves and crack the black peppercorns over all. Secure the lid and select meat/stew button, which is a 35-minute cook, once pressure is reached. Overall, the cooking time is more realistically an hour, once the lid is secured. Allow the pressure to naturally release before opening the lid. Serve over rice and enjoy the adobo sauce ladled over it.

[AqiumuksKitchen@outlook.com](mailto:AqiumuksKitchen@outlook.com)



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See our new online puzzle page

[laconnerweeklynews.com/puzzles](http://laconnerweeklynews.com/puzzles)

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**FOR RENT.** In town small 1 bedroom apartment. \$1500 per month off street parking and utilities included. Call Mari at 360-708-6495 or Jack at 206-669-2447.

**ESTATE SALE.** Passionate collector/dealer downsizing years worth of antiques and collectables. Glassware, china, Asian, mid-century furniture, pictures/oils, toys, vintage clothing and more. 10871 Samish Beach Lane, Bow, 98232. Oct. 14, 15, and 16, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Masks preferred.

**FOR RENT.** Historical house, 2,000 square feet; 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, beautiful view, great lights, hardware floors. Available now. 360-982-8612.

**LA FOUNTAIN'S PLANTS.** Beautiful healthy plants can be found right here in La Conner. 125 Washington St. Open 24 hours - cash or checks only. Questions? Call 360-708-2022.

**FIND YOUR CHURCH CONNECTION** at Skagit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Our welcoming and loving congregation promotes spiritual growth, justice and cares for the planet. Sunday services at 10:30 a.m. in person and

online. Please request a link to the service: [skagittuu@gmail.com](mailto:skagittuu@gmail.com). Address: 500 W Section St, Mount Vernon.

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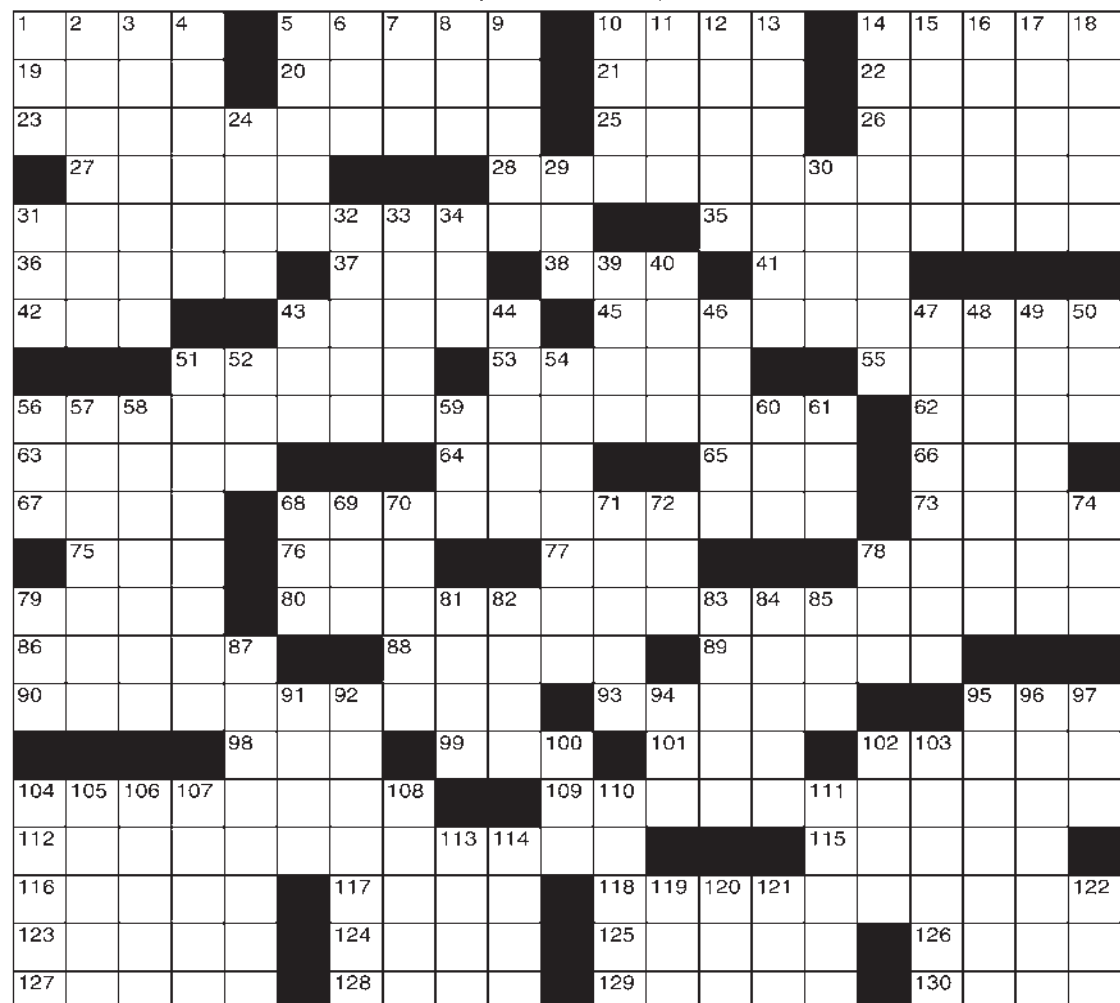
### ACROSS

- 1 Agents, informally  
5 Wombs  
10 Soccer great Mia  
14 Warm up  
19 Fix up copy  
20 Condor claw  
21 Emollient plant juice  
22 Incandescent  
23 Good occasion to buy securities  
25 After-hours  
26 Youngest of Chekhov's "Three Sisters"  
27 Davenport, e.g.  
28 Dish of melted cheese on toast  
31 Small marsupial with long hind limbs  
35 Doubters  
36 Dutch painter Jan  
37 Actress Thurman  
38 Depot: Abbr.  
41 Financier  
42 Rocker Nugent  
43 Tiny flash of light  
45 Light classical orchestra  
51 Flips out  
53 Met again, as a legislature  
55 Painful spots  
56 Mendelssohn orchestral piece in A minor  
62 Merlot, e.g.  
63 "Yentl" actress Feldshuh  
64 Paranormal gift, for short  
65 Prankster's messy missile  
66 Prankster's messy missile  
67 Hunt quarry  
68 Pack animals around Lhasa  
73 Actor Julia  
75 "Dr." of rap  
76 Lean red meat source  
77 — Bo  
78 Eisenhower's wife  
79 On Soc. Security, say  
80 Popover served with roast beef  
86 Thin as —

- 88 Gorbachev's wife  
89 "Count" of jazz  
90 "The Simpsons" ailer  
93 "Lorna —"  
95 — cone  
96 U.S. spy org.  
99 Part of OTC  
101 Platform for iDevices  
102 Entr— (interludes)  
104 Dispute go-between  
109 Very sleek  
112 Maine and Montana, to Canada  
115 Fact fudgers  
116 Firefighter Red  
117 Residence  
118 Crossbreed apropos to this puzzle (hint: see the starts of 10 long answers)  
123 Resolved to accomplish  
124 Fairway club  
125 At the zenith  
126 Org. looking for aliens  
127 Party givers  
128 Annoyer

- 129 Playwright Clifford  
130 Eve's garden  
**DOWN**  
1 Yank's rival  
2 Instruct  
3 Flew, as a plane  
4 Patron of physicians  
5 Ogdon native  
6 Pothole filler  
7 Lean red meat source  
8 Fish spawn  
9 Bisected  
10 Corridor  
11 " 'Tis so sad"  
12 "Fliers drawn to flames"  
13 African mongoose  
14 Very sharp road curves  
15 Heron variety  
16 Cover story  
17 Pick-me-up  
18 Hits hard  
24 Thom — shoes  
29 Canon camera  
30 Prefix with space  
31 Q-U link  
32 Big swallows  
33 Mennonite subgroup  
34 Oversaw  
39 Recipe amt.

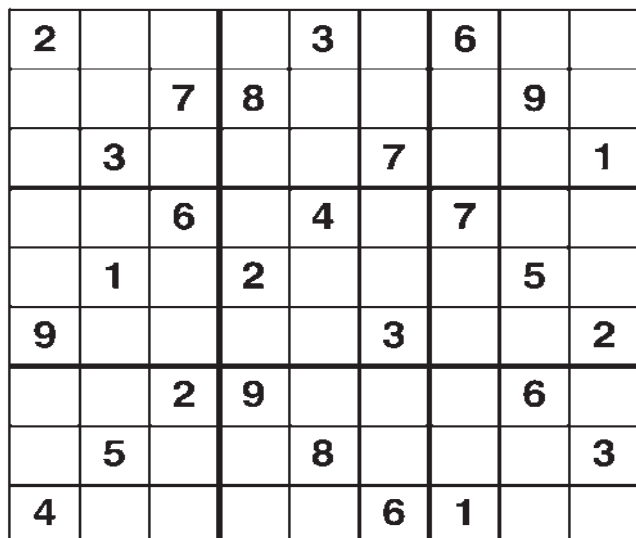
- 40 Ark builder  
43 Moo goo — pan  
44 Lovers' get-together  
46 "You can't — train"  
47 Sports drink brand  
48 Art of paper folding  
49 Waddling bird  
50 Opposite of NNW  
51 Didn't leave the house  
52 To the — degree  
54 Ones who can sense others' feelings, in sci-fi  
56 Engine additive  
57 Jockey Angel or baseballer Wil  
58 Burden too heavily  
59 Lay eyes on  
60 Suffix with neat  
61 "Absolutely!"  
68 Novelist Josephine  
69 "I believe ..., " in texts  
70 Small donkey  
71 Water nymph  
72 "— darn tootin'!"  
74 Chair piece  
78 Roman 1,501 Brit. mil. fliers  
81 Go — (kid's racer)  
82 Certain Indian believer  
83 Kindle buy  
84 Violet variety  
85 Purpose  
87 Podiums  
91 Stadium part  
92 Frigate, e.g.  
94 Engine additive  
95 Really raged  
96 Web location  
97 —Kosh B'gosh  
100 Suffix with Vietnam  
102 Luc's gal pal  
103 Vulgar  
104 Embarrass  
105 Calf-roping competition  
106 Littleimps  
107 — -proof  
108 Place to shop  
110 Retort to "It ain't so!"  
111 Ice mishaps  
113 "Famous" cookie guy  
114 Tepee  
119 Purpose  
120 No. on a road sign  
121 Decay  
122 Mark, as a ballot square



Puzzle Answers Page 10

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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# POLICE BLOTTER

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**Sunday, October 2**

**11:49 a.m.: Suspicious couple** – Report of a suspicious male wearing all red and a suspicious female in black. The two walked through the homeowner's yard and left when they noticed someone there. Rainier St., La Conner.

**Tuesday, October 4**

**10:48 a.m.: Abandoned Ford** – A white Ford Expedition was left abandoned on the side of the road with its windows down. The vehicle was marked to be towed if not removed in 24 hours. The vehicle was moved the following day. Calhoun Rd., Greater La Conner.

**12:38 p.m.: Tool thief** – Gardening tools came up missing from a detached garage at this house. The homeowner loaned the tools to a hired contractor to remove shrubs and paint the house. At this time there are no witnesses to identify who took the tools. Center St., La Conner.

**4:23 p.m.: Post office accident** – Report of a two vehicle non-injury collision in front of the post office. A Honda was setting up to parallel

park and a truck was turning into the post office when they collided in the roadway. 1st St., La Conner.

**Wednesday, October 5**

**8:40 a.m.: Suspicious field roamer** – Report of a white male wearing a brown top and jeans walking in a neighborhood field. The caller reported at one point the male had a tie down and moved a log into the roadway. The male was contacted by law enforcement and given a ride home. Fir Island Rd., Greater La Conner.

**Friday, October 7**

**12:25 p.m.: Hit and run** – A motorcyclist was hit by another vehicle on the road. A car passed on a curve, knocked down the motorcyclist and drove off without stopping. The fleeing vehicle was described as a metallic gray passenger car, unknown make or model. Law enforcement checked the area, but the vehicle was not located. The motorcyclist was transported to the hospital for treatment. Fir Island Rd., Greater La Conner.

## Larsen toured Swinomish Reservation marsh restoration

By Bill Reynolds

Fishing and farming don't have to be mutually exclusive.

The Smokehouse Ditch Estuarine Marsh project on Swinomish Reservation, where restoration of critical salmon habitat is planned next to agricultural land the Tribe leases to local farmers, proves that.

Near the SR 20 bridge north of La Conner, the site is one of several local estuarine areas – Similk Beach is another – considered for restoration.

U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen, D- Everett, visited Sept. 27, where he met with Swinomish and Skagit River System Cooperative leaders for an update on their salmon enhancement efforts.

Larsen wrote a letter of support for SRSC's application for a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration grant to fund work designed to restore salmon habitat and address climate change.

"Restoring these estuaries," Larsen said, "is critical to the survival of migrating juvenile salmon and the recovery of local endangered species, such as the Southern Resident Killer Whale. The project will also reduce flood risks and improve resiliency to climate change on Swinomish Reservation and along the lower Skagit River."

At Smokehouse Ditch, the plan is to restore about 120 acres of salmon habitat by setting back a 1930s era dike along Swinomish Channel. That will re-establish salt marsh vegetation and tidal processes to a portion of just over 900 acres of tribal land.

The project would also increase protection of the Swinomish Economic Development Zone on the property's north side while continuing to allow farming on the remaining acreage.

"Nobody wants agriculture to go away," Swinomish Tribal Senate Chairman Steve Edwards, who was joined by Tribal Senator Eric Day, stressed to Larsen. "We have leased this out to farmers. We want them to do well, obviously. We just need a small amount (of land) back. There's got to be a balance."

Devin Smith, SRSC director of habitat restoration, reinforced the point, saying, "We want these lands to function as they do now when we're done with the restoration."

Swinomish Wildlife Program Manager Kino Villaluz said estuary restoration is a key factor in the salmon enhancement equation.

"We're committed to taking the best actions possible for salmon recovery," he said. "Land is the most valuable thing we have. So, we're committing our land to salmon restoration."

Edwards shared with Larsen memories from his youth of having fished for salmon in row-boats on Swinomish Channel.

"Our fishermen used to fish in the channel and they could catch Chinook," he said. "That's who we are. It's part of our culture."

Swinomish and SRSC are at present completing technical studies at Smokehouse Ditch. Those include wetlands delineation, geotechnical assessment, hydraulic modeling

and ongoing surface and groundwater monitoring.

Various sources have provided funding for the project, said Joseph Tutino, Larsen's director of communications.

The Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board supported initial tidal gates replacements and riparian plantings. The SFRB, Estuary Salmon Restoration Program and Seattle City Light are providing funds for the design phase. NOAA is supporting design work with funding through the Pacific Salmon Treaty.

SRSC is hopeful of securing future construction support from federal and state fund programs once designs are complete.

The Similk Beach restoration project involves a tidal marsh that would provide just under 20 acres of estuary habitat for rearing juvenile Chinook, chum and pink salmon plus steelhead/rainbow trout and forage fish species. Funding support for that project has been provided by SRFB and the Pacific Salmon Treaty program.

At Similk, the intent is to reconnect an historic pocket estuary with the bay, improving habitat and altering Satterlee Road to take the roadway out of conflict with natural processes.

The project will raise the road and construct a bridge over the primary tidal channel.

"I think I'm going to stay here awhile," Larsen said, in spite of a tight schedule that afternoon. He lingered for a time, enjoying the tranquil setting on a sunny, warm autumn afternoon.

Eventually he departed, but left open the option of returning.

## Flood Awareness Week presentations

Flood Awareness Week in Skagit County has kicked off and will run through Oct. 14. Flooding has been of serious concern to some residents since the late 1800s, with the threat of extreme flooding generally occurring in the Skagit Valley between the months of October and March.

Two free webinars will be held this week. The Flooding Preparedness Webinar is today, Oct. 12, from 6-7:30 p.m. on Zoom. The Weather Spotter Training is Oct. 13 from 6-9 p.m. on Zoom and in person at 911 Building, 2911 College Way, Mount Vernon.

You can watch these presentations online at [skagitcounty.net/flood](http://skagitcounty.net/flood).

Source: Skagit County

## 'Variations on America' concert

The Skagit Community Band presents "Variations On America," music selections that reflect the spirit of America, Friday, 7:30 p.m. in La Conner's Maple Hall and in Anacortes 3 p.m. Sunday at Brodniak Hall. Information: [Skagitcommunityband.org](http://Skagitcommunityband.org).

Source: Skagit Community Band

## Reflecting on annual International Day of Peace

By Father William Treacy

Every year, September 21st is a day to remember. While there are 365 days in a year, each day presents us with different opportunities. That day I reflected on the 20th Anniversary of the United Nations Assembly declaring the day the annual International Day of Word Peace.

The theme this year was Peace among Races. There are many events around the world to mark the occasion and create awareness of the Power of Peace. Some are large and some are small events. Everyone was asked to have a moment of

silence at noon in their towns across the world to say a prayer for Peace and harmony.

It is another opportunity to help one another person in need or simply an opportunity to reflect on our own Blessings.

A friend of mine was driving home recently and saw a homeless man walking on the roadside. She stopped to pick him up and discovered he had not had breakfast, so she took him to a restaurant she bought him lunch and a dinner to-go. I'm sure he considered it a good day and felt valued as a human being.

Like my friend, we are all faced with opportunities where we can either share our gifts

freely or let others know we see the worthiness in them or chose to turn away from our brother.

Yet in America, one of the world's richest countries, we are facing many challenges that threaten our quality of life and our globe. Each year we pause to celebrate our Blessings on Thanksgiving and pray for Peace. And in the midst of our celebrations, we also realize that our Peace is transitory.

Peace is difficult to be realized when we continue to spend our resources to develop and produce atomic weapons that are capable of destroying our world. Once we see each other as Brothers and Sisters will we have the reverence for life that we will cease pursuing atomic weapons and find true Peace.

J. Robert Oppenheimer, considered to be "the father of the atomic bomb," acknowledged later in his life that he regretted his role in developing such a destructive weapon. His sense of humanity and World Peace changed after deep reflection on his previous "opportunities" and "choices."

On the other hand, Floyd Schmoe, who was a Quaker

living in the Seattle during World War II, saw the dropping of the atomic bombs in Japan, as an opportunity to choose Peace. Schmoe earned Japan's highest civilian honor for his peace activism and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize three times. He also was instrumental in collecting donations and approval from the Seattle mayor to rebuild homes in Japan and create what is known as Peace Park in Seattle, located by the University of Washington. This little known sanctuary of Peace should be a reminder of the destructive power of atomic weapons and that Peace is our human birthright.

Hopefully, there will not have to be an International Day of Peace in the near future. My dream is that every day is a Day of Global Peace and Harmony. We all have a choice how we want to live our lives and how we respond to life's challenges. We can all do something as simple as give a smile to one another. It does not cost us anything and can be given anytime. As Mother Teresa once said, "Peace begins with a smile."

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Sarah Stoner, Program Coordinator

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