



Roger Gietzen directs Lincoln Theatre • p 5

Splash: New Year polar plunge in channel • p 8

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# LA CONNER WEEKLY NEWS

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## Swinomish Channel, Dec. 27, 2022



CHANNEL FLOODING AN ALL-HANDS-ON-DECK EMERGENCY – This was the scene mid-Tuesday morning, Dec. 27, looking south from La Conner Town Hall down Third Street. Swinomish Channel flood waters continued to rise, with the deepest pooling in the Caledonia and Fourth streets area. – Photo by Nancy Crowell

## La Conner community combats wave of saltwater flooding

By Bill Reynolds

Normal lasted less than 24 hours last week after La Conner weathered heavy snowfall and thick ice before Christmas that brought the community to a virtual standstill.

Winter king tides along with high westerly winds and low barometric pressure contributing to steady rain and rapid melt-off combined to produce flood conditions causing significant damage to more than a dozen homes and businesses in the town's low-lying areas from Sherman Street (south) to State Street (north) and downtown last Tuesday morning.

The fast-rising Swinomish Channel flooding, fueled by Skagit River run-off, prompted La Conner Mayor Ramon Hayes to issue a state of emergency Dec. 27.

The declaration Hayes signed authorized Town staff to take immediate emergency measures to protect the health and safety of persons, property and the environment in La Conner.

"We're working with (Skagit County) emergency management," he told the Weekly News last Wednesday, "and we're looking to forge a strategy with our legislative representatives."

That strategy would be both short-term and long-range in nature, said Hayes.

"As terrible as this event was and I wish it had never happened," Hayes said, "I think La Conner is the perfect size to put together a model (flood control) plan that we can present to our legislators and the governor."

In the meantime, Hayes and Town Administrator Scott Thomas are asking residents and merchants to report flood

damages by Jan. 11 for potential state disaster relief aid.

"The more damage reports we have," said Thomas, "the better our chances of receiving assistance."

The list should be lengthy. The interior of Santo Coyote

Mexican Kitchen at Morris and Second streets was swamped with six inches of water. After the front entrance was sandbagged, a drain cleared and water swept away, the restaurant re-opened later in the week.

Water gushed inside other businesses as well, including handmade. la conner, Nell Thorn's and Clever Kathy Designs on First Street. The latter store's carpet had to be pulled due to mildew damage and cardboard boxes containing merchandise were soaked, co-owner Al Felkar said.

"We've had flooding before," he said, "but nothing quite like this."

Felkar, Chamber of Commerce Director Mark Hulst, Town Council member Rick Dole, Town public works employees, La Conner firefighters, Swinomish Emergency Manager Brian Geer and others were on the boardwalk early Wednesday to assess flood impact and monitor that morning's king tide.

None anticipated a repeat of Tuesday's torrent, which fortunately proved to be the case.

"Having higher air pressure is definitely a factor," Dole said.

Geer termed Tuesday a "perfect storm" of conditions that bore highly imperfect consequences. Like Dole, he and Adam Avery of La Conner's fire department welcomed the rise of barometric pressure Wednesday.

La Conner is no stranger to winter

flooding, going back decades. But few if any could remember a surge of water from Swinomish Channel as severe as that experienced Dec. 27.

Public Works Director Brian Lease likened it to a river that quickly converted some lawns in town to virtual lakes, requiring prolonged use of pumps to remove the water.

"We were ready for the king tide," said Lease, whose crews had worked Christmas Day on a Maple Avenue water issue, "but there was also the low pressure, high winds and rain that were part of the mix."

A KING-TV news team was in La Conner in the aftermath of the flood to interview Thomas and townspeople.

The Seattle station spoke with former Weekly News editor and publisher Sandy Stokes, a Caledonia Street resident, whose home was inundated with 10 inches of water. Stokes told news staff that she and husband Bill had to pump water out of a bathroom window prior to evacuating.

"We're alive, we're good," Sandy Stokes said. "Everything is good. Nobody drowned. Nobody was hurt."

Stuart Welch said on-air that he considered himself fortunate that water didn't enter his home at Caledonia and Fourth streets.

"The water got to within one inch of coming in the house," said Welch.

Even so, he didn't completely escape the deluge. Deep water collected in his garage, destroying items stored there and forcing Welch to remove his vehicles and employ a large fan to dry out the building.

The timing could not have been worse. Town offices were closed for a

(continued on page 3)

## December was frosty and frozen

By Ken Stern

Just like December 2021, last month was a witch's brew of bad weather the last 11 days of the year. First we froze, with record cold mornings of 7.6, 5.9 and 22.5 degrees Dec. 21-23 (and Dec. 2: 23.5 degrees). Between six and seven inches of snow were measured by volunteer weather recorders in La Conner Dec. 20. But, the opposite of last year, there were record high temperatures of 58.1, 59.1 and 56.6 degrees Dec. 25-27.

The month was thoroughly cold, with the average daily minimum of 34.3 degrees 3.7 degrees below the century average. December's average high of 44.7 degrees was 2.9 degrees below the 23 year average and the daily average temperature of 39.8 degrees was 3.5 degrees under the century average.

Twenty mornings were below 32 degrees, but only two went below 20.4 degrees: Dec. 21-22.

For whiplash, six mornings the last week the low was 41.2 degrees or higher, with highs ranging between 51.4 and 59.1 degrees.

The 2.9 inches of precipitation was 0.4 inches, 12.3%, below the century average of 3.4 inches of moisture. This was one of seven years with less than three inches of rain and matched 2021's rainfall. The other five low rain years were 2013 and prior. Fourteen years there have been over three inches of rain. The seven inches in 2015 was the most rainfall this century.

There are 21 years of data, with no records for 2002 or 2005.

The 28.6 inches of rain in 2022 is 3.3 inches, 10.2%, below the century's average of 31.9 inches. Seven months were below the average rainfall, with June and November's abundant moisture pulling the average up. It rained once in July and September, each, and only Aug. 5-7.

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

(December rain data on page 8)

## Clyde Shavers new state rep for LD 10 Position 1

By Bill Reynolds

After winning a razor-thin race made closer by late campaign charges that he had embellished his military service and civilian career resumes, it is full steam ahead for U.S. Naval Academy graduate Clyde Shavers as he embarks for Olympia as the 10th Legislative District's newest lawmaker.

Shavers said he has already been swamped with work ahead of the Jan. 9 opening of the 2023 legislative session.

"These past few weeks," he told the Weekly News recently, "I have been tirelessly working on researching and drafting legislation that supports public safety and law enforcement, environmental protection, veterans and our military, preservation of farmland, affordable housing and several community projects."

Shavers, a Democrat, eked out a 216-vote victory over incumbent Republican Greg Gilday

(continued on page 8)

## New staff glad to be at La Conner Town Hall

By Bill Reynolds

They come from opposite ends of the country, different generations and work separately at Town Hall.

But Ajah (pronounced Asia) Eills and Lynne Lovejoy, the Town of La Conner's new staff hires, complement one another quite nicely.

Eills, a native of Concord, New Hampshire and a 2021 graduate of College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, Massachusetts – a Jesuit school that has produced numerous business and political leaders, actors and sports stars – arrived here in November as the assistant planner.

Lovejoy, who studied at Skagit Valley College, Western Washington University and the University of Washington, hails from the family that

owned the old Paul Bunyan Lumber Yard in Mount Vernon, where as part of the family business she painted the iconic 12-foot sign bearing the image of the legendary lumberjack. She has been a part-time staff assistant since mid-October.

Eills and Lovejoy are glad to have joined the Town ranks and are making a positive impression thus far.

"We're very happy to have them both on board," Town Administrator Scott Thomas told the Weekly News. "It's been impressive seeing what they've been able to accomplish in such a short time."

Eills, tasked with handling permit intake duties, is available on days when planner Michael Davolio is out of the office. Lovejoy, who has an

(continued on page 3)



DOUBLY FOCUSED – New Town Assistant Planner Ajah Eills (left) and staff assistant Lynne Lovejoy have started their jobs here with open eyes---and so far, they like what they've seen. The feeling is mutual as far as Town officials are concerned. Town Administrator Scott Thomas has praised the new hires for their ability to hit the ground running. – Photo by Bill Reynolds

From the editor —

## New year, old challenges

Wow. What weather these last two weeks, ending the year with both a groan and a whimper. Last Tuesday's flood, blown in with rain and mild temperatures, was a stark contrast to the seven inches of snow and bitter cold a week earlier, the Tuesday before Christmas. Then kids could be forgiven for thinking the Washington Street sledding hill would be open all month, maybe all winter.

Recall 2021's post-Christmas week weather: days of record cold, snow and First Street businesses virtually shut down.

Who wanted to – or could – visit La Conner? This year's pre-Christmas shopping week had echoes of last year's post-Christmas shopping here.

Do not bet that two years of similarly ugly weather offers a pattern. Some say the best prediction of future activity and behavior is past activity and behavior. Twin years of rough weather does not make a trend in climate. Still, preparing for channel flooding is both a good and necessary investment independent of any two years – or decades – of flood tides.

The almanac and meteorologists chart end of year tides based on the annual position of the moon and earth to each other. Last year's Jan. 12 Weekly News photo of the king tide was at the boat ramp under the Rainbow Bridge. This is a town on a saltwater channel on the eastern edge of the Pacific Ocean. King tides – and floods – happen.

The climate has already changed, whatever ongoing committed drastic action governments take – or fail to. Locally, heavy lifting requires supporting physical work with planning, including funding investments.

But whether it is channel or river flooding, king tides or snow melt, last week shows that getting ahead of emergencies is a difficult dance. As Dave Hedlin says, "Nature always bats last."

While natural disasters will be devastating to specific people and communities, all of us share the uncertainty. Collective decisions and investments are needed along with the individual changes to electric cars, heat pumps, composting and walking. We need to encourage creative thinking to get our decision makers for the town, the school district, the county and the state to have the courage to move past the status quo and stretch into a future where the only certainty is uncertainty and into a different and more difficult time.

We need to have the courage to continue investing and facing the cost of building into a sustainable future year in and year out for decades to come. Our society has failed to do that with starter homes and the massive quantity of apartments needed for the masses of working Americans all across the country. It is one thing to say that more is needed as we dismantle homeless camps and after we pump out garages and tear out carpeting. It is much harder to fund ongoing measured assessments of generational long term needs. Think of an adequate electric regional ferry system as an example.

Here is the only certain prediction. We live in an epoch of natural and therefore social changes. Choosing to make small changes, one after another, together, in concert and through mutual discussion and decisions will lessen the surprises due all of us.

## Committed to you

With the struggles people faced with seven inches of snow and Swinomish Channel flooding a week later, many stayed home, tending to personal crises. The La Conner Weekly News went to the printer twice last month because of the commitment and stick-to-itiveness of staffers Marissa Conklin and Rhonda Hundertmark, with husband Fred shoveling snow and proof-reading.

We think of hospital workers and first responders as unsung heroes working around the clock to meet the community's needs. Newspapers published on printing dates require staff coming to the office from rural hinterlands after snow Dec. 20 and wading through ankle high water into the office Dec. 27 – and higher water leaving – to get the last two issues out.

This paper – and every issue – is for its readers. The Weekly News delivers because of its staff.

My thanks to Marissa and Rhonda for their ongoing efforts week in and week out. And to Fred, too.

– Ken Stern

## 2022: The year reviewed in its headlines

The coronavirus pandemic roared into 2022 but vaccinations slowed its spread and the story faded from the public consciousness. Fewer people reported their positive tests and infections. People are still getting infected and hospitalized, however.

<b>Skagit Count now over 15,000 COVID-19 cases</b>	<b>Jan. 12</b>
<b>New COVID-19 hospitalizations swamping county</b>	<b>Jan. 26</b>
<b>Indoor mask mandate ends statewide March 21</b>	<b>Feb. 23</b>
<b>Skagit one of 12 state counties with high COVID-19 transmission</b>	<b>Jul. 6</b>
<b>New Skagit COVID-19 cases drop dramatically</b>	<b>Sep. 7</b>
<b>Wearing masks indoors recommended again</b>	<b>Dec. 14</b>

**The La Conner Swinomish Library** was fully funded, built and opened. Activist citizens challenged a 3-story condominium building at Center and Fourth Streets, there will not be a marketing icon on Gilkey Square and Shelter Bay board members were sued by a resident.

<b>Jared Fair now ex-director of La Conner library</b>	<b>Aug. 31</b>
<b>Work to remove sunken Aleutian Isle continues</b>	<b>Aug. 31</b>
<b>Jensons sell Town a south end property</b>	<b>Sep. 21</b>
<b>Jean Markert hired as permanent director for the new La Conner Swinomish Library</b>	<b>Oct. 5</b>
<b>A big day for our little town - library book brigade</b>	<b>Oct. 12</b>
<b>Weekly News win 34 awards in annual state newspaper contest</b>	<b>Oct. 12</b>
<b>Contested Shelter Bay board members served with claim for damages</b>	<b>Oct. 26</b>
<b>No 'Love La Conner' sign at Gilkey Square</b>	<b>Nov. 30</b>

**The economy** was hot for most of the year, reflected in home prices increasing and high Town tax revenue collections.

<b>2021 Skagit median sold homes price hits \$500,000</b>	<b>Jan. 26</b>
<b>Snaptadragon Flats: Apartments planned for north Park Street</b>	<b>Feb. 23</b>
<b>Library gets \$640,000 from state to finish job</b>	<b>Mar. 16</b>
<b>End of an era: last logs towed out of La Conner</b>	<b>Mar. 23</b>
<b>Planning commission advises against Center Street apartments</b>	<b>Mar. 23</b>
<b>Farmworkers end strike against Washington Bulb Company</b>	<b>Mar. 30</b>
<b>Port of Skagit has vision for La Conner Marina development</b>	<b>May 4</b>
<b>Center Street condos approved</b>	<b>May 18</b>
<b>May Town tax revenues new record high, again</b>	<b>Jun. 29</b>
<b>August La Conner median sold home price: \$637,500</b>	<b>Sep. 14</b>
<b>Town administrators determine 1986 contract rezone 'unenforceable'</b>	<b>Sep. 28</b>
<b>State ends Hope Island fish pen operations</b>	<b>Nov. 23</b>
<b>2023 Town budget tops \$6.9 million</b>	<b>Dec. 21</b>
<b>Town of La Conner 2022 tax revenues are golden</b>	<b>Dec. 21</b>
<b>Four parties challenge Center Street condos permit</b>	<b>May 25</b>

**The weather** makes headlines every year, with this Dec. 28's photo caption proclaiming "First we froze, then we flooded." Just like in 2021.

<b>Merchants frozen out of business at year's end</b>	<b>Jan. 5</b>
<b>Town public works staff pumping water and digging into winter tasks</b>	<b>Jan. 12</b>
<b>Dry July has record high temp</b>	<b>Aug. 10</b>
<b>August had 5 days of record hot temperatures</b>	<b>Sep. 7</b>
<b>Wildfire smoke turned air unhealthy last week</b>	<b>Oct. 26</b>
<b>November very cold, pretty wet</b>	<b>Dec. 14</b>
<b>First we froze; then we flooded: Christmas week weather full of surprises</b>	<b>Dec. 28</b>

**The La Conner High School volleyball team** won the state championship again, of course.

<b>School board adopts new mascot</b>	<b>Feb. 2</b>
<b>Harassment boils over into arrests of two La Conner students</b>	<b>Jun. 8</b>
<b>Suzanne Marble's coaching retirement celebrated</b>	<b>Oct. 19</b>
<b>La Conner soars to another state volleyball championship</b>	<b>Nov. 16</b>

## Texas grid failure fueled by rigid politics



By Greg Whiting

The February 2021 Texas energy crisis affected millions of people for up to four days. Its worst effects was where the Electric Reliability Council of Texas manages an electric grid which operates independently from the much larger eastern and western U.S. electric grids.

The crisis caused hundreds of deaths from the cold. Some individual homeowners' monthly electric bills increased to thousands of dollars. The total economic cost was nearly \$200 billion. It could have been worse. The cumulative failures of the system came within five

minutes of shutting the ERCOT grid down entirely. ERCOT CEO Bill Magness said then it would have taken weeks for the grid to recover.

To avoid situations like this one, not just in Texas, but in all locations, regulators and industry must work together to make sound economic investments in a stable, reliable, low-cost grid.

Utility investments in supply-side systems, such as new power plants, transmission interconnections for new plants and resilience systems must be approved by utility regulatory bodies. Demand-side concepts, like time-of-use rates and incentives for voluntary load shedding, must also be approved. Regulators need to understand the grid's existing and likely future problems, and the technological and economic viability of possible solutions. For changes to be lasting and successful, the public must support well-informed regulators' choices.

It is questionable as to whether Texas' regulators and public have learned enough or done enough to prevent a similar future crisis.

ERCOT does not participate in interstate commerce to avoid federal regulation so is separate from the larger U.S. grids. Former Texas governor Rick Perry said, on the second day of the crisis, before people froze to death, "Texans would be without electricity for longer than three days to keep the federal government out of their business."

However, not all of Texas is on the ERCOT grid. Being part of a larger grid contributes to resilience. The part of Texas on the western grid didn't have a crisis. The part of Texas on the eastern grid recovered by the second day. Was Perry right? Does the Texan public clearly understand what happened? Either way, no serious discussion has taken place on interconnecting ERCOT with either larger grid.

During early hours of the crisis, some of Texas' politicians and media blamed wind power. Some

continued to do so even after the much more significant failures of natural gas systems had been recognized by the energy industry.

Intentional misrepresentations about the causes of problems are not unique to the Texas energy industry. However, given that utilities require political support for regulatory reform and new investment, blatant lying by influential politicians and institutions is particularly pernicious in this case. Failure to acknowledge, and discuss honestly, the facts about what actually happened makes it difficult to build public support for new regulations, or for expensive investments in resilience.

Improving Texas' grid resilience, other than by doubling down on the gas system by requiring better preparation for cold weather, does not appear to have been seriously discussed. No proposals passed for more than a year. It is possible that the gas industry has had too much influence on the new regulations, and it is questionable as to how effective the new regulations will be.

## LETTER

### Small town, big village

I am pleased to add my appreciation to the many other thankful letters you received, hopefully, after reading the editorial of our "Local heroes of democracy."

This is some of the "village" that it "takes" to keep a town honest to itself while moving forward as it must. It is many people, offering their talents, time, and tenacity, to make La Conner unique.

Thank you, Ken, for recognizing those you did by name and recognizing that there are even more, unnamed. It is a big village for a small town.

In peace,  
Irene Blanchard  
Greater La Conner

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**OBITUARY**



**Laurence (Larry) Killinger**  
7/25/33-12/2/22

He was born on family farm in Inman, Nebraska during the dust bowl and depression of 1933. Two years later, the sale of their farm, home and equipment netted \$95 and paid the train fare for the family to California. The build up to WWII brought the family to northern California. Larry attended one and two room schools through 9th grade, then boarded with relatives in the Seattle area for high school. After graduation from Lincoln High in 1948 and knowing he would soon be drafted, he enlisted in the Army. He was trained in CB Warfare and sent to Korea where he served on the front lines till the armistice in 1953.

Using his GI benefits, he attended Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, graduating in agriculture in 1959. Larry was chosen Outstanding Student of the Year there twice, among other honors. In 1961, he married MaryLee McRevey, and they remained married for 61 years. Larry received his MS in Ag from the University of Nevada in 1965. The couple raised their three children at their home at Crystal Lake in Woodinville, where Larry was president of the HOA and held other leadership positions. He was Cub Master, then Scout Master for Troop 421. Eight young men achieved their Eagle Rank under his leadership.

Larry credited a 1949 Billy Graham Crusade for his faith, which never wavered. He was active in their churches and in Young Life all his adult life. He worked on Mission projects in the Alaskan bush and Mexico. Larry was a contractor for many years, then worked as the district carpenter at North Shore Schools before his retirement. They bought their retirement home in Shelter Bay in 2000, and enjoyed boating, travel, and visiting friends.

Larry has joined their son Lance (2018) and is survived by his wife MaryLee, son Bryan (Jill) and daughter Kaelin (Pat Hanchett); eight grandchildren; Rachel, Sarah (Mitchell Ryser), Megan, Jacquelyn (Lucas Corbea), Victoria, and Andrew Killinger. Mitchel Hanchett and Alyssa (Justin Gepner), and two greats, Aiden and Skyler Killinger.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, Jan. 14, 2023 at 1 p.m. at the Shelter Bay Club House in La Conner. To leave a memory or condolence, contact wallinfuneralhome.com. info@wallinfuneralhome.com

**Jan. 6 Committee ‘Final Report’ in print**

By Ken Stern

The choice is yours, to download an 845 page PDF file, the “FINAL REPORT of the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol” or buy one of several editions at a bookstore, order it from a library or buy it from the U.S. government. It was published Dec. 22, 2022.

Start at the front, reading the forwards from former Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi, Committee Chair Bennie Thompson (D-Ms) or Vice-Chair Liz Cheney (R-Wy).

Pelosi’s is titled “The Last Best Hope of Earth,” taken from Abraham Lincoln’s phrase, “nobly save, or meanly lose, the last best hope of earth.”

The table of contents is itself revealing. The eight chapter titles start with “The Big Lie,” go through “I Just Want to Find 11,780 Votes” and “Just Call It Corrupt and Leave the Rest To Me,” the latter two statements former President Donald Trump made. Chapter 8 is “Analysis of the Attack.”

There are 11 recommendations

made, starting with reforming the Electoral Count Act of 1887, to specify that a vice president has no authority or discretion to reject an official electoral slate submitted by the governor of a state.

Under “Accountability,” the committee notes it “has made criminal referrals to the Department of Justice, and both the Department of Justice and other prosecutorial authorities will now make their determinations on whether to prosecute individuals involved in the events resulting in an attack on the United States Congress on January 6, 2021.”

Appendix 2 analyzes how “Trump’s baseless claims of election fraud – the Big Lie” – served as both his foundation for overturning the 2020 presidential election and for “launching a fundraising effort to fund the former president’s other endeavors and to enrich his associates—the Big Rip-off.”

Buy copies at Seaport Books in La Conner or order House Report 117-663 from the U.S. government at bookstore.gpo.gov.

**Flood**

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

municipal holiday Dec. 26 since Christmas was Sunday, leading some to suggest that the Town was caught somewhat off-guard.

Still, flood control response was much in evidence well into Tuesday night. Volunteers of all ages answered the call to fill sandbags at the fire station and public works building. Bags were deployed the length of the waterfront and in low spots around town and likely will remain in place for some time. “We’ll clear space for walking,” said Lease, noting that king tides are anticipated through January.

Lease noted the irony of Thanksgiving Day having been unseasonably warm, sporting spring-like weather. “It was the first Thanksgiving in years that we didn’t have any calls,” he said. “Now, I guess we’re paying for that.”

Hayes said he was heartened by how the community rallied in wake of the flooding. The Rex and COA, area restaurants, fed volunteers while the Mesmans and Fohns, nearby

farmers, provided additional equipment for sandbagging.

“The response on the part of everyone was tremendous,” said Hayes. “It was great to see everybody coming together the way they did. That’s what La Conner is all about.”

Help came from all quarters. The Skagit County Sheriff’s Office, Fire District 13, Fire District 2, Dike District 12, Swinomish Tribal Police and La Conner Schools joined area emergency management officials in answering the call.

The Town planned to strategically place waste containers for disposing of flood-damaged property Monday.

Hayes and Thomas are hoping the Town’s State of Emergency declaration will be enough to enlist state support as well.

They urge residents and merchants to document expenses and take photographs of damages.

Online self-reporting damage assessment forms links are:

English: [skagitcountywa-self.govplatform.com/en/service/Damage\\_Assessment\\_Form](https://skagitcountywa-self.govplatform.com/en/service/Damage_Assessment_Form).

Spanish: [skagitcountywa-self.govplatform.com/es/service/](https://skagitcountywa-self.govplatform.com/es/service/)

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**FLOODING ON NORTH THIRD STREET** – Renee and Jim Matthews will probably agree that all the conditions aligned to create a perfect storm and record saltwater flooding in La Conner Dec. 27th. Their North Third Street property experienced extensive damage. The Swinomish Channel overflowed its banks nearly the entire length of town.

– Photo by Nancy Crowell

**Staff**

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

extensive clerical, banking and human resources background, processes utility payments, sells yard waste tags and meets and greets the public on her mid-morning to early afternoon shifts.

They are teaming up to help fill a void created by the departure earlier this year of versatile office assistant Danielle Freiberger, who accepted a position with the City of Mount Vernon Development Services Department.

Despite her relative youth, Eills is already well acquainted with municipal government work. She interacted with numerous towns and cities in Colorado during a one-year stint with the state’s parks and recreation department.

Eills said she admires the level of civic engagement evident in La Conner.

“It’s important to have such passionate people in the community,” she said. “That’s one of the great things about La Conner.”

After being based in Littleton, Colorado, Eills had a hankering to move still farther west from her New England roots.

“I kept going west,” she said. “Colorado was too sunny for me.”

Eills landed in Seattle and was staying with a family friend there when she saw that La Conner had posted a job opening for an assistant planner.

“I’ve always tended toward open spaces and small towns,” said Eills. “I’m really excited to be here. It’s a wonderful place.”

Lovejoy works primarily under Town Finance Director Maria DeGoede while Eills assists Davolio. But Town Hall is small enough that they’ve rubbed elbows with pretty much everyone on the Town payroll.

“The people here have been so nice to work with,” Lovejoy said. “So far, the best part of the job for me has been meeting the people here. They’ve helped me learn about all the wonderful events in town and have educated me on all the issues going on.”

In her role, Eills deals with many of those issues directly.

“I’m getting settled in,” she said. “I do permit intakes and make sure Michael is kept up to date.”

Eills said when it comes to municipal planning, the goal is to benefit the most people.

“You look at everybody’s views and balance them,” she said. “You just want to see the community thrive. It’s important to remain true to democratic principles and processes.”

Away from work, Eills – who captained the women’s rugby team at Holy Cross – enjoys her daily swims at the Skagit Valley Family YMCA in Mount Vernon.

Lovejoy, meanwhile, is an avid knitter who credits the internet with increasing awareness of a timeless craft which – like her job – involves piecing together different elements into a finished product with great utility.

She and Eills say they are grateful to be part of a community where their efforts are appreciated.

“I’m very grateful,” Eills said, “for the grace everyone has given me. I’m really excited to be here moving forward.”

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**Spotlight on Missy**  
Missy is approximately eight 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 hitty 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@skagitcountymc.org](mailto:shelter@skagitcountymc.org).

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# La Conner alum Sarah Cook soars in two sports at Skagit Valley College

By Bill Reynolds

The two-sport college athlete is a rare bird these days. But Skagit Valley College boasts one in Sarah Cook, who has excelled at both volleyball and basketball in her first year as a Lady Cardinal.

An All-State selection in both sports at La Conner High School, where she graduated in 2022, Cook has seamlessly transitioned to collegiate athletics.

At 5'-8", Cook was versatile enough to be listed as both an outside hitter and libero for the SVC volleyball program last fall.

Her season highlights included a nine-kill effort in a Skagit triumph over Olympic in September and an 11-kill, 12-dig, one service ace performance in the Lady Cards' tough five-set conference tournament quarterfinal loss to Columbia Basin in Tacoma Nov. 18.

After two dozen matches, Cook immediately joined the SVC women's basketball squad, whose ranks include her La Conner teammate Aubrie Sloniker.

Cook's impact has been immediate.

She scored 25 points and grabbed six rebounds in a Skagit victory over Tacoma Community College in early December. Cook matched that point total last Saturday in a 66-61 setback to South Puget Sound Community College in the SVC Holiday Classic at DuVall Pavilion.

Cook did pretty much everything for the Lady Cards Saturday. She jumped center on the opening tip-off, scored Skagit's first points on a press break bucket, did damage inside on post-up moves, drained her trademark baseline jumper and



SARAH COOK

was strong on the glass.

"I wish we had her for another year," La Conner girls' basketball coach Joe Harper, part of a large local fan contingent attending the game, said afterward.

Through much of the contest, when Cook was on the floor, SVC flourished. She meshed successive baskets midway through the second quarter to give the hosts a 26-17 lead.

But with Cook getting a rest on the bench, South Puget Sound closed to within 30-28.

Cook started the second half with two field goals and three free throws to extend the margin to 42-32.

Again, with Cook taking a break, South Puget Sound cut into the SVC lead. The Clippers pulled even at 48-48 with 7:45 to play.

Cook, who was the game's high scorer, gave Skagit its final lead at 56-54 with a short jumper in the paint. South Puget Sound, however, closed with a 12-5 run to secure the win.

Despite the final score, there was little disappointment among

Cook's friends and family after the buzzer. They met with her courtside and in the bleachers to congratulate her on having played an outstanding game.

SVC head coach Deb Castle has not been surprised by Cook's success in her first season.

"It's always a pleasure to get local talent to stay home and play for SVC," Castle said when Cook announced her intent to enroll and play two sports at Skagit. "We'll share her with the volleyball team. We're both lucky to get a player with her talent."

As a senior, Cook was a first unit All-State selection for a Lady Braves volleyball team that won the 2021 Washington 2B championship and didn't drop a single set at the state tournament under Hall of Fame coach Suzanne Marble.

Cook followed up by averaging 17 points, seven rebounds, four steals and three assists per contest as the girls' hoops team placed fourth at the 2B Girls' Hardwood Classic in Spokane.

Her tournament appearance featured a 25 point, three steal and three assist outing in a 69-61 triumph over Lake Roosevelt.

Among Cook's many post-season honors were All-State accolades, recognition as the Skagit Valley area's top high school girls' basketball player and being named one of the state's top shooters across all enrollment classifications.

She also proved herself to be a good decision maker on the court – in volleyball and basketball.

And perhaps her best decision was to not choose between which sport to pursue in college, but to play both.



YAY FOR THE NEW YEAR TO COME – Young ones and their parents partied early at the La Conner Swinomish Library Saturday at a "Noon Year's Eve" celebration. Not a drop of alcohol was needed for everyone to have a rousing good time. – Photo by Ken Stern

Painted, hidden on McGlinn Island

## Local golf cart stolen, recovered

By Bill Reynolds

Thieves tried turning the hiding of the golf cart they stole into an art form.

The reviews to date have not been pretty.

The cart, which belongs to North First Street resident Mit Harlan, was recovered last week after having been crudely spray-painted green, camouflaged and partially buried in thickets in the McGlinn Island area.

Whoever was responsible apparently had use for the cart and was not looking to sell the hot wheels: They altered its appearance and concealed it in a remote area just south of La Conner.

The cart was stolen from the front of Harlan's home last fall and was reported in the Weekly News police blotter.

Despite the rough paint job and attempt to hide the cart, it did not elude detection.

Shelter Bay resident and former La Conner business owner Garry Cline happened to see it and wondered if there was a story behind what seemed to be an abandoned golf cart.

"Garry spotted it way back two or three months ago because it's pretty near to where we turn off of the road and head over to the channel to run our dog Tally," said Cline's wife, Zayna. "He noticed this thing poking out from among the bushes. It really was camouflaged."

But when Harlan, the Weekly News and various hikers surveyed the general location they could not find the cart. It was either that well-hidden or had been moved a time or two.

The Clines' curiosity did not wane, however. While taking Tally out on another walk last week, they came across the golf cart again. The couple happened to cross paths with a Swinomish Indian Tribal Community staff member and guided her to the cart.

"Garry showed her the cart and she contacted tribal police, who came right away," Zayna Cline told the Weekly News.

Swinomish Tribal Police took possession of the cart and got word to Harlan via Town Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Aaron Reinstra that it had been located. They arranged for Harlan to pick up the cart and bring it home.

Of course, it was not as simple as that. The thieves have the key to the cart. So, Harlan had to hot-wire it. And there is also the not so small matter of re-painting the cart and replacing the custom license plate removed by the thieves.

All in all, though, Harlan considers himself lucky.

"I don't know why they went to the trouble of taking the golf cart instead of my truck," he deadpanned.

As for repainting, several have suggested flames. Harlan isn't sold on the idea, but he may have no choice.

"I heard Tommy Zimmerman might want to take it and paint flames on it," he said.

Harlan said he is grateful to the Clines and Swinomish Police for the cart's recovery and return. And he doesn't seem to begrudge the thieves too terribly.

"I just wish they'd replaced the battery," he quipped.

## Beaver Tales Coffee offers 'Magic Skagit' tales

By Mel Damski

Three years ago Meyer Sign & Advertising Company launched a blog series dedicated to "telling the stories of the people, places and things that make the Skagit Valley a magical place to live." The Mount Vernon business called this "Tales of the Magic Skagit."

Some 80 episodes later, not counting many other stories that make up the "Behind the Sign" section of their website (www.meyersign/articles), "Tales of the Magic Skagit" has

attracted a respectable and highly engaged audience that not only enjoys reading stories of their community's past and present, but also enjoys sharing their personal relationships to those stories.

Last spring the company expanded the "Tales of the Magic Skagit" media platform beyond its website and Facebook presence to include an eponymous podcast, available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts and Google podcasts. This is where "Beaver Tales" comes in.

In sharing the history of

our Skagit Valley home, it was very clear to Meyer Sign that in defining the timespan as beginning in the mid-19th century, an important and fascinating part of the shared history of Skagitians would be missing. While acknowledging the westward immigrants' contribution to pioneer history, Michelle Calvin and Tony Cladoosby of Beaver Tales Coffee wanted to tell a more inclusive story.

Beaver Tales Coffee has been serving customers in Skagit County and nationally since April 2019. They opened their

(continued on page 5)



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# Roger Gietzen directs Lincoln Theatre successes

By Anne Basye

After struggling through two pandemic years, the Lincoln Theatre in Mount Vernon closed out 2022 in good shape.

Audiences are returning. There is money in the bank. Membership, which dipped to 482 during the pandemic, is on the rise. Programming and ticket sales look good for 2023.

Pull and Be Damned resident Roger Gietzen is a big factor in the Lincoln's good fortunes. A Lincoln staff member since 1999 and executive director since 2015, he has helped lead the theatre, its staff and volunteers through good times and bad.

Gietzen's apprenticeship began in 1997, when the then-co-owner of La Conner's beloved Hungry Moon Café volunteered in concessions. Moving to part-time house manager in 1999, he was fulltime by 2001. For the next 14 years he mastered every area of theatre operations, first as facilities manager, then production manager and finally operations manager.

Serving under seven executive directors – including one who lasted just three months – Gietzen says he gained important lessons in “things not to do” when you're the boss.

High on the “things to do” list is “adapt to change”. When the Lincoln opened in 1926, vaudeville and silent movies were the main draw. “Talkies” overtook them and were a reliable source of income until in-home streaming services chipped away at movie audiences. Today the non-profit Lincoln shows specialized film series like “Noirvember” and selected Oscar nominees along with Live HDTV broadcasts from the Metropolitan Opera and England's National Theatre Live – but most of Gietzen's team's energy goes into presenting live concerts and community theatre.

In fiscal year 2018-19, there were 80 live performances at the Lincoln. Since August 2022, there have already been 50. Last month, more than 2,700 people attended live



ROGER GIETZEN

performances of “Disney's Frozen Jr.”, mounted by community producing partner the Theater Arts Guild. TAG's musical “Rocky Horror Show” filled seats for 10 performances in October.

Last summer, participants in the Lincoln's annual two-week children's Theater Camp prepped and performed “The Jungle Book”. The Lincoln Players Theatre School offers classes in acting, production, musical theater and auditions.

Concerts also bring in crowds – but until 2015, they mostly lost money. When Gietzen took the helm, he and his team focused on making them profitable.

As a concert presenter, the Lincoln assumes most of the financial risk. The theatre sells tickets, books hotels and rents vans for visiting musicians and arranges food and drink for the green room.

Like stage actors and directors, touring musicians have “big personalities,” said Gietzen, a fan of history and the arts before he joined the Lincoln. “They took me aback at first,” he said, “but I have learned to love and understand their enthusiasm.”

Gietzen and staff now have good relationships with the talent. “They give us their requests and we are usually able to fulfill everything they want,” he said. Repeat performers like Marty Stuart and Robert Cray “have realized we are pretty easy to work with.”

Stuart, Cray and the rest of the stars went away in March 2020,

when the COVID-19 pandemic put everything on pause.

With no revenue from ticket sales, community and government support became the theatre's sole income source. Gietzen used those funds to retain staff members, who spent the lockdown deep cleaning the building and learning how to livestream concerts.

As well, restrooms and concessions were renovated, ventilation improved and a gender-neutral family restroom installed.

The staff also applied for – and won – the Governor's Heritage Award in the category of “heritage organization.” The awards honors outstanding individuals and organizations whose dedication to preserving and promoting traditions and cultural heritage is worthy of state recognition.

The Lincoln was recognized as “the cultural cornerstone of historic downtown Mount Vernon and a central performing arts venue for the entire region.”

The first Heritage Award ever given to any Skagit county organization, it is a feather in the cap for Gietzen and staff.

At the annual “State of the Lincoln” meeting in November, Development Director Damond Morris told the gathering, “This award was earned, not won, on the back of staff and all volunteers who painstakingly painted and preserved our space and everyone who ever bought a ticket for a show.”

## Beaver. . .

(from page 4)

retail location at 602 Morris Street in November 2022. This expansion allowed them to enhance their offerings and bring their services to a broader customer base. The company offers a wide range of products and services designed to honor the spirit in which the company was founded. They feature fresh roasted coffee, blended teas and authentic indigenous artwork and products. They promote

# Two jump into new year, taking a polar plunge



PLUNGING INTO THE NEW YEAR – Anna Rose Martin, left, and her friend Michelle hug to get warm post-plunge. The two did not hesitate in greeting the new year with a jump into the Swinomish Channel just north of Pearle Jensen Way in La Conner Sunday. They came up from Conway prepared, with a bag of warmed towels and a change of clothes.

– Photo by Ken Stern

By Ken Stern

This year's New Year's Day Swinomish Channel polar plunge almost did not happen. At 1 p.m. spectators Lucy Martin, Pieter VanZanden and J. Lonee were looking expectantly but the shore and water at the beach just north of Pearle Jensen Way were empty of people. Calls were made to Rick Dole and John Leaver, who in 2021 led a group of four males into the water. Ollie Iversen, an observer last year, had been called earlier. He had no solid information to share.

But then Martin's sister, Anna Rose Martin, and her friend Michelle walked into view holding a beach bag of warmed towels. Without hesitation they

stripped off their outer clothes and, well, plunged in. Almost as quickly they were back on shore. “Oh, it felt so good,” Martin exclaimed. Michelle chimed in: “I recommend it.” The sibling Martin videoed it all on her phone, streaming it to their mother along with reportage, proclaiming “You were the inspiration.”

Michelle's backstory: she has extensive polar plunging experience from living in Colorado. She noted that there they had to break ice before plunging in.

The two polar plungers returned to their car parked on Pearle Jensen Way to change their clothes. They then returned to Conway, their day's starting point.

local artists and are planning educational programming and workshops in the new year.

In teaming up with Beaver Tales Coffee, Meyer Sign is using its media presence to record interviews with and about the First Peoples of the Magic Skagit. Together they are putting together an editorial calendar that has launched with a multi-part episode on the historical

and cultural significance of the canoe in the lives of the Coast Salish people and speakers of the Lushootseed language. They also welcome and encourage questions from their podcast and social media followers about the First Peoples' history, accomplishments and very real and vital presence in the lives of their Magic Skagit.



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**LEGAL NOTICES**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY In the Matter of the Estate of LOIS P. HALEY, Deceased. No.22-4-006268-29 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 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 RCW 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets.

Date of First Publication: December 28th, 2022  
Name of Personal Representative: SARAI STEVENS  
Attorneys for Personal Representative: David M. Neubeck, WSBA #31321 Sara LC Hulford, WSBA #52098 Todd L. Sliva, WSBA #54298  
Address for Mailing or Service: Elder Law Offices of Meyers, Neubeck & Hulford, P.S. 2828 Northwest Avenue Bellingham WA 98225-2335  
ELDER LAW OFFICES OF MEYERS, NEUBECK & HULFORD, P.S.  
Published in the La Conner Weekly News Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11, 2022.

DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION: January 4, 2022  
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Donn Heflin, Debra Jo Haley, Carolann Haley;  
ADDRESS FOR MAILING OR SERVICE: Donn Heflin, 2503 Stonebridge Way, Mt Vernon, WA 98273.  
Published in the La Conner Weekly News Jan. 4, 11, 18, 2022.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR WHATCOM COUNTY

In re the Estate of: AMY E. POST, Deceased. Cause No. 2-4-01153-37 NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.40.030  
The Personal Representative named below has been appointed and has qualified as Personal Representative of the above 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 probated 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 RCW 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets.

The Administrator named below has been appointed and has qualified as Administrator 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 administrator or the administrator'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 probated proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after the administrator 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 RCW 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets.

Date of First Publication: January 4, 2023  
Name of Administrator: Iris Kingston of Senior Support Services, Inc.  
Attorneys for Administrator: David M. Neubeck, WSBA #31321 Sara LC Hulford, WSBA #52098 Todd L. Sliva, WSBA #54298  
Address for Mailing or Service: Elder Law Offices of Meyers, Neubeck & Hulford, P.S. 2828 Northwest Avenue Bellingham WA 98225-2335 Telephone: (360) 647-8846 Facsimile: (360) 647-8854  
DATED this 4 day of January, 2023.  
ELDER LAW OFFICES OF MEYERS, NEUBECK & HULFORD, P.S.  
Published in the La Conner Weekly News Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF SKAGIT WILDERNESS VILLAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, a Washington nonprofit corporation, Plaintiff, vs. CHARLES R. STAHL, or his heirs and devisees if deceased, Defendants. Cause No.: 22-2-00492-29 SHERIFF'S PUBLIC NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

To: CHARLES R. STAHL, or his heirs and devisees if deceased, Judgment Debtors  
The Superior Court of Skagit County has directed the undersigned Sheriff of Skagit County to sell the property described below to satisfy a judgment in the above-entitled action. The property to be sold is described as:  
Assessor's Parcel/Tax ID Number: P78184 / 4208-000-001-0001  
Lot 1, "WILDERNESS VILLAGES DIV. 1", as per the plat recorded in Volume 10 of Plats, pages 48-50 inclusive, records of Skagit County, Washington. Also commonly known as 7265 Skagit View Dr., Concrete, WA 98237.  
The sale of the above-described property is to take place:  
Time: 10:30 AM  
Date: Friday, February 3, 2023  
Place: Skagit County Courthouse, Mount Vernon, Washington.  
The judgment debtors can avoid the sale by paying the judgment amount of \$7,635.54, together with interest, costs and fees, before the sale date. For the exact amount, contact the Sheriff at the address stated below.  
Dated this 9th day of December 2022.  
Don McDermott, Sheriff  
By: Melinda Larsen, Civil Assistant  
Skagit County Sheriff's Office  
600 South Third Street  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
360-416-1913  
Published in the La Conner Weekly News Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR SKAGIT COUNTY In re the Estate of: ROBERT WENTZ, Deceased. Cause No. 21-4-00609-29 NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.40.030

The Personal Representative named below has been appointed and has qualified as Personal Representative of the above 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 probated 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 RCW 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets.

The Administrator named below has been appointed and has qualified as Administrator 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 administrator or the administrator'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 probated proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after the administrator 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 RCW 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets.

Date of First Publication: December 28th, 2022  
Name of Administrator: Iris Kingston of Senior Support Services, Inc.  
Attorneys for Administrator: David M. Neubeck, WSBA #31321 Sara LC Hulford, WSBA #52098 Todd L. Sliva, WSBA #54298  
Address for Mailing or Service: Elder Law Offices of Meyers, Neubeck & Hulford, P.S. 2828 Northwest Avenue Bellingham WA 98225-2335 Telephone: (360) 647-8846 Facsimile: (360) 647-8854  
DATED this 4 day of January, 2023.  
ELDER LAW OFFICES OF MEYERS, NEUBECK & HULFORD, P.S.  
Published in the La Conner Weekly News Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR SNOHOMISH COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: MONA HENKEN, Deceased. NO. 22-4-02449-31 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 RCW 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets.

Date of first publication December 21, 2022.  
Scott A. Button Personal representative P.O. Box 561 Conway, WA 98238  
Published in the La Conner Weekly News Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 4, 2022.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, KING COUNTY Estate of PAUL A. GINNETT, deceased. Case No. 22-4-07922-1 SEA NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any persons 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 RCW 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets.

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DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION: December 28, 2022  
Teresa P. Kenworthy Personal Representative  
Attorney for Personal Representative: Steven J. Peiffle, WSBA #14704  
Address for Mailing or Service: P.O. Box 188, 103 North Street, Arlington, WA 98223  
Court of probate proceedings and cause number: Snohomish County Superior Court, Cause No. 22-4-02449-31.  
Published in the La Conner Weekly News Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11, 2022.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY In the matter of the estate of IRA ROGER BUTTON Deceased. No. 22-4-00612-29 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 at the address 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.

Date of first publication December 21, 2022.  
Scott A. Button Personal representative P.O. Box 561 Conway, WA 98238  
Published in the La Conner Weekly News Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 4, 2022.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, KING COUNTY Estate of PAUL A. GINNETT, deceased. Case No. 22-4-07922-1 SEA NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any persons 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.

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DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION: December 21, 2022.  
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Zachary C. Ginnett  
ADDRESS FOR MAILING OR SERVICE: Heather S. de Vrieze, WSBA#28553 de VRIEZE | CARNEY, PLLC 3909 California Avenue SW #101 Seattle, WA 98116-3705  
COURT OF PROBATE PROCEEDINGS: King County Superior Court  
CAUSE NUMBER: 22-4-07922-1 SEA  
Published in the La Conner Weekly News Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 4, 2022.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WHATCOM IN RE THE ESTATE OF BRIAN WOLFE, DECEASED. NO. 22 4 01184 37 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

JUDGE: ROBERT E. OLSON  
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.

Date of First Publication: December 21, 2022  
Personal Representative: Kathy Wolfe 14940 Benson Heights Place, Bow, WA 98232  
Attorney for the Personal Representative: KATTI ESP  
Representative: 301 Prospect Street, Bellingham, WA 98225  
Address for Mailing or Service: KATTI ESP 301 Prospect Street, Bellingham, WA 98225  
Court of Probate Proceedings and Cause Number: Superior Court of Whatcom County Cause No. 22 4 01184 37  
Published in the La Conner Weekly News Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 4, 2022.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF SKAGIT WILDERNESS VILLAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, a Washington nonprofit corporation, Plaintiff, vs. CHARLES R. STAHL, or his heirs and devisees if deceased, Judgment Debtors

An Order of Sale has been issued in the above-captioned case, directed to the Sheriff of Skagit County, commanding the Sheriff as follows:  
THE STATE OF WASHINGTON TO: SHERIFF OF SKAGIT COUNTY  
THIS MATTER having come on before the undersigned Judge or Commissioner of the above-entitled Court on the 26th day of October, 2022, and the Court having entered a Judgment and Decree of Foreclosure directing that the subject property be sold;  
AND WHEREAS, the principal amount of the judgment is \$3,412.94, plus costs of \$1,722.60 and attorney's fees of \$2,500.00, for a total judgment of \$7,635.54, with interest on such amounts accruing at the rate of 12% per annum from the date of judgment;  
AND WHEREAS, no payments have been received by Plaintiff following the date judgment was entered;  
AND WHEREAS, the said judgment was recorded on November 16th, 2022 under Skagit County Auditor's File No. 202211160046;  
Now, therefore,  
IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the Sheriff of Skagit County, Washington, shall sell, in the manner provided by law, the following described real property, which is situated in Skagit County:  
Lot 1, "WILDERNESS VILLAGES DIV. 1", as per the plat recorded in Volume 10 of Plats, pages 48-50 inclusive, records of Skagit County, Washington. (P78184)  
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the proceeds from the said property be applied to the payment of the judgment, accrued interest, attorney's fees, costs, and increased costs, attorney's fees and interest; and,  
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Plaintiff has waived any deficiency judgment.  
The sale date has been set for February 3, 2023. YOU MAY HAVE A RIGHT TO EXEMPT PROPERTY from the sale under statutes of this state, including sections 6.13.010, 6.13.030, 6.13.040, 6.15.010, and 6.15.060 of the Revised Code of Washington, in the manner described in those statutes.  
Dated this 9th day of December 2022.  
Don McDermott, Sheriff  
By: Melinda Larsen, Civil Assistant  
Skagit County Sheriff's Office  
600 South Third Street  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
360-416-1913  
Published in the La Conner Weekly News Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022.

**Weekly SUDOKU**

Answer

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

**Super Crossword**

Answers

P	E	E	V	E	S	T	O	E	B	A	P	F	A	S	C	I	S	M			
D	R	S	A	L	K	N	O	B	A	M	A	A	S	H	A	N	T	I			
F	L	A	S	H	I	N	T	H	E	P	A	N	S	C	O	F	F	A	T		
S	E	S	T	I	N	A	S	L	A	P	I	N	T	H	E	F	A	C	E		
			T	V	S					N	E	E				E	M	I	R		
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E	N	T	E	R	E	R		M	A	T	A	T	A		A	V	E	N	G	E	
T	E	A	S	E	R	S		A	S	I	D	E	S		T	I	D	I	E	S	

**Answers to January 4 puzzles**

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JAMMING THE NEW YEAR INTO BEING – Chris Eger rocked the crowd Saturday night at Maple Hall with his namesake The Chris Eger Band inspiring some 120 people to dance the old year away. They brought in 2023 with a champagne toast at midnight. About \$9,000 was raised for funding the La Conner Live Sunday summer concert series.

– Photo courtesy of La Conner Live

# POLICE BLOTTER

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## Monday, December 26

**1:55 a.m.: Sound asleep** – A male was located sleeping outside the public restrooms. He was asked to move away from the doors by a cleaning service employee. The male complied and didn't cause any problems. Morris St., La Conner.  
**4:26 p.m.: Found phone** – A cell phone was found by employees. The owner returned and claimed the phone. Morris St., La Conner.

## Thursday, December 29

**8:49 p.m.: Loud music** – Report of loud music coming from the street. The music was eventually turned down. Fir Island Rd., Greater La Conner.

## Friday, December 30

**9:34 a.m.: Found and returned** – Found property turned out to be an employee's who was not on site. The property was given to the employee's spouse to be returned. Maple Ave., La Conner.

## Clyde

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

following a machine recount, flipping the seat. The district covers Island County and portions of northeastern Snohomish and southwestern Skagit counties, including La Conner.

Gilday inferred allegations lodged by Shavers' father, Brett Shavers, if made earlier, that his son had falsely claimed to have served as a naval submarine officer and was a working attorney, would have altered the outcome in Gilday's favor.

According to Gilday, numerous people reached out afterward to learn if they could change their votes. The Everett Herald, which had endorsed Shavers, rescinded that endorsement after Brett Shavers went public writing a letter citing his concerns.

Shavers and his campaign, while apologetic, disputed the accuracy of the allegations.

Their response was the younger Shavers never said he was deployed on a sub – only that he was commissioned as a nuclear submarine officer. They said the candidate was a lawyer, having graduated from Yale Law School, but never represented himself as an attorney who had passed a state bar exam.

"My father's letter was entirely political," Shavers explained to the Weekly News. "He is a deeply partisan person who attended the January 6th insurrection. While we haven't had a close relationship, never did I think that he would personally attack me. He remained largely absent while I attended the U.S. Naval Academy, graduated from Naval Nuclear Power School and trained at a nuclear power plant as a nuclear submarine officer and served in the Middle East and Southeast Asia as a public affairs officer.

"Serving in the military is one of the greatest honors of my life," Shavers stressed, "and I stayed in the U.S. Navy longer than my

service requirement."

Shavers has much preferred talking about district issues than the resume flap.

"All of my legislative priorities come directly from voters in our communities," he said. "Every idea, proposal and piece of legislation comes from ordinary people, like all of us. Throughout the campaign, I had the honor and privilege of connecting with so many people and listening to their stories – farmers and farmworkers who feed us and the world, public safety and healthcare workers who protect us each and every day, veterans who continue to serve, teachers and administrators who care for our children and small business owners who support our communities.

"My job," stressed Shavers, "is to fight for all these voices and stories so that they are heard in Olympia."

Shavers will start his tour in Olympia as vice chair of the House Education committee and as a member of the Innovation, Technology and Economic Development, Veterans and Capital Budget panels. He has worked with Rep. Dave Paul (D-Oak Harbor) on a proposal that will allow government entities to contract with local groups on bills designed to directly benefit communities with less state involvement.

"This means that our schools, park services and other organizations can find ways of helping our own community members while also saving money," he said.

Shavers has also been meeting with municipal and county officials in the district "to make sure that we are closely working together every step of the way."

What he experienced during his navy career and legal education were key factors in Shavers' decision to make a run for the state house.

"I became concerned that Americans are more focused about being politically right or left instead of being simply right or wrong," he said. "We need public servants who can break through this that makes us ugly towards each other. I decided to run for office because I believe that for all of us to build a better future, we need to walk away from today's divisive politics and usher in a new generation of young public servants and leaders."

Shavers was not surprised at the tightness of his race with Gilday, a Camano Island attorney and real estate broker who prioritized housing, public safety and environmental preservation.

"The 10th Legislative District has always had close elections," Shavers said. "Our district represents the best of America with people of so many different backgrounds, experiences and ideas.

"Our district," he said, "is wonderful because at the end of our elections we always come together and move forward."

Coming off an election decided by less than three-tenths of one percent, that outlook will likely be put to the test more than usual in the next two years.

## Rain. . . (from page 1)

### Rain Report: December

Rain last week: Dec 25-31: 1.8  
 Rainfall in Dec: 2.95  
 Number of rain days: 19  
 Least rain, one day: 0.01, 2 days  
 Most rain, one day: 0.91, Dec. 27  
 Year least rain: 2009, 2011, 1.25  
 Year most rain: 2015, 7.05  
 Average rainfall, 2000-2023: 3.4 \*  
 Rainfall last month, Nov.: 5.6  
 All totals in inches.  
 \* 21 years: no data 2002, 2005.  
 Data from WSU Mount Vernon.

## Disaster-relief aid damage assessment forms

Residents and merchants are asked to report flood-damages from Tuesday's flood for possible disaster-relief aid from the state of Washington. Disaster funding may come from different sources.

The forms are here:  
 English: [skagitcountywa-self.govplatform.com/en/service/Damage\\_Assessment\\_Form](https://skagitcountywa-self.govplatform.com/en/service/Damage_Assessment_Form)  
 Spanish: [skagitcountywa-self.govplatform.com/es/service/Damage\\_Assessment\\_Form](https://skagitcountywa-self.govplatform.com/es/service/Damage_Assessment_Form)  
 Source: Town of La Conner

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