



Tanya Houle new assistant principal • p 4

Recognizing local workers on Labor Day • p 8

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Salvage west of San Juan Island



BOTH A LONG AND DEEP HAUL – Sunday, Aug. 28 salvage contractor Global Diving arrived at Sunset Point west of San Juan island. They anchored their barge and crane. It will be take some 10-days to raise the sunken vessel Aleutian Isle and secure it for transport. – Photo courtesy of U.S. Coast Guard

Work to remove sunken Aleutian Isle continues

By Ken Stern

The Aleutian Isle remains in about 200 feet of water on the west side of San Juan Island near Sunset Point. Monday, Aug. 29, salvaging it was about to begin, after a boat and crew from Global Diving & Salvage arrived Sunday, said Petty Officer Steve Strohmaier, a U.S. Coast Guard spokesperson. He confirmed the 49-foot fishing boat is owned by the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community. The barge and crane were secured Sunday, preparing for the 10-day effort to raise the sunken vessel, place it on the barge and remove it to a safe spot to remove pollutants, Strohmaier said. “This is the best course of action to ensure the removal of as much pollutants and contamination as possible from the environmentally

sensitive area,” a Coast Guard statement read last week. The rescue operation is starting its third week. The schedule has been dictated by environmental conditions. Diving to 200 feet requires a specialized gas mixture of hydrogen and oxygen. Produced in Seattle, it had to settle, be tested and shipped to the rescue site. Currents in the region will dictate how fast the rescue can go. “Divers can only go down at flat tides, when current is at its most minimal movement,” Strohmaier explained. Those periods are of limited duration. Weather and tidal currents will limit their window for safely diving the wreck each day. Diving at that depth limits the amount of time divers can work at the vessel and necessitates using

a decompression chamber upon returning to the surface. Once divers can get down there properly to hook up the boat, they will lift up the vessel via the crane. The boat sank in about 100 feet of water Aug. 13. By Aug. 15 it shifted and dropped to about 200 feet below the surface. On Aug. 17, a drone, a Remote Operated Vehicle, was deployed and provided additional information, the Coast Guard reported. The Aleutian Isle was upright at over 200-feet below the surface. It is oriented bow up on a slope with the bow at approximately 210-feet of depth and the stern at approximately 240-feet of depth. Netting and rigging obscured part of the view on the port side, but operators (continued on page 6)

Jared Fair now ex-director of La Conner Library

By Ken Stern

Jared Fair is no longer the director of the La Conner Regional Library. His employer, the Library board of directors, announced Fair’s departure Friday, Aug. 26. Hired in early 2020 with the mission to build and open La Conner’s new library building, Fair will not be finishing the job he started. His last day was Aug. 25. While board members Jean Markert and Jim Airy asked to meet with the Weekly News, they provided few details beyond a short written public statement. Airy said “No comment. People can speculate” and repeatedly replied no comment to questions. Asked if the board had its way would Fair be at his job Monday, Airy said, “If the board had its way he would not. This is obvious: the board had its way. I really don’t want to comment on the reason for it.” He would not discuss whether the decision was mutual, saying, “we want to keep this private.” The library board’s complete public statement: “The Library announces the departure of Jared Fair as Library director. Jean Markert has stepped down from the board of trustees to assume the role of interim director. We thank Jared for his service and wish him well in his future endeavors. In accordance with its personnel policy, the Library will have no further comment on this matter.”

(continued on page 6)

Clarifying 2022 comprehensive plan amendment process

By Ken Stern

When the Town of La Conner considers amendments to its Comprehensive Plan this year, it will be looking at only one request, from the Port of Skagit, Planning Director Michael Davolio wrote in a summary Aug. 25. No others were received in the two month Dec. 1, 2021-Jan. 31, 2022 period for submitting amendments for 2022. In his memo, Davolio wrote “There has been some misunderstanding regarding public submittals for requested amendments. While members of the Planning Commission have encouraged members of the public to submit amendment proposals in September, those proposals will be made a part of the 2023 annual review. They will not be acted upon this year.” The town’s planning commission has been reviewing Uniform Development Code updates, Davolio noted, starting with updating the sign code, a request made by Town Administrator Scott Thomas to ensure it is in state and federal compliance. Before updating the code, Davolio wrote, the planning commission and town council will hold public hearings in September. Council will then vote on a draft ordinance which is sent to the state’s Department of Commerce for a mandatory 60-day review. After the Town receives the state’s comments, council can vote to adopt the proposed regulations in December. The La Conner Uniform Development Code addresses land use and development within the community. It is Title 15 of the town’s Municipal Code.

Bidders were high and glad to be at La Conner Rotary Club auction Saturday

By Ken Stern

Inflation? What inflation? Recession? Not here. The only thing moving up in price at the La Conner Rotary Club auction Saturday evening in Maple Hall was live auction bids. The only thing low that evening were members’ hands digging deep into their pockets for their wallets to pay for the items they purchased. And dig they did, raising \$91,000 for the many programs they manage and support for children and youth in La Conner and internationally. It was as if club members were doubling down on being together Aug. 27, their first live auction in three years, having been shut down by the coronavirus pandemic in 2020 and again last year. Club President Adam McGarity set the stage for the fundraiser in his welcoming remarks. The auction and dinner’s theme was “Imagine” and the night’s purpose “supporting literacy and education.” McGarity challenged his willing listeners to imagine a world with

every child having a full belly, with a new book to read every month, with polio eradicated. “Take the next step with us,” he invited them, the tables of eight each filling Maple Hall. “Make it happen. Bid often and bid high. It takes a generous heart and an open wallet.” They followed his exhortation and opened their wallets wide. The 13 live auction items raised \$13,217, going for between \$225 and \$2,750 for a week in California wine country. Auction item donors Christi King and Marty Pease nudged bids higher by holding their cards up for their own items. The silent auction brought in \$9,046. Asked to raise their bid cards for fund-a-need, they did, for \$41,175. At the high end, three members donated \$5,000. At the low end, 83 times individuals bid \$25 to be the last bidder for a couple of fine bottles of wine and wine glasses, generating \$2,075. In between, someone gave \$2,500, three gave \$1,200, eight gave (continued on page 6)



OUTBIDDING HERSELF – Marty Pease was a generous soul at the Rotary Club of La Conner’s annual auction in Maple Hall Saturday night. The former club president, Bidder 450, was so enthusiastic she bid on items that she had donated. Almost \$100,000 was raised in service to children and learning. – Photo by Ken Stern

From the editor —

When laborers work together

Monday is Labor Day, a holiday unique to the United States. It is a day set aside to honor America's laboring masses, a term — like class — that is out of favor. The rest of the world unites in solidarity May 1st, May Day, International Workers Day. That day masses of people in countries around the world gather and march. International Workers Day recognizes and remembers that in union there is strength. That day affirms, yes it is true, we are all brothers and sisters working together to bring a better world into being for all our fellow brothers and sisters. In the somewhat distant past workers worldwide, and in every country, knew instinctively that an injury to one is an injury to all.

Today, not so much. And even less so in the United States. Because so many know so little of our history, too many are unaware that 19th century working conditions were hellish, full of child labor, brutally long work days and six day work weeks.

Successful organizing over many decades changed that. That is why people display the bumper sticker, "Unions: the folks that brought you the weekend." There is an 8-hour day because workers fought — and died — for it and over a long period of time, won it. But we have neglected and forgot that.

Now we celebrate Labor Day as the summer-ending holiday, the last chance to relax before the weather turns.

This is not meant to be a screed, or a history lesson. For too many, whatever color their collar, workday hours are constantly long and weekends off are too few. Whether in a union workplace or a home office, work is sadly isolating and solidarity oddly absent. Work — our labor — gets too often taken for granted. Too many live to work and too many do it too much of the time in a bubble of stifling individualism.

Yet, laborers are having real, specific present-day successes. The courage and efforts of store and warehouse employees at Starbucks, Amazon, REI and Trader Joe's are gaining some hard fought victories, won under difficult circumstances. They are to be applauded. Alas, they are dribs and drabs, maybe 12 people here or even 100 there, pebbles in the ocean of the U.S. economy.

These new union locals are winning some measure of victory for their members. For the union to make them strong, as the old labor song has it, requires thousands and tens of thousands such victories.

In the 1930s and into the 1960s an organizing victory in the factory or farm fields meant all at once a company or city or region was unionized. People found common ground across the assembly line or while harvesting. Their complaints were clear and so was the source of their pain: the boss, the owner, the corporation.

All that is still true: that is the complaints and bosses and owners. But the comparing notes and sympathy and empathy seem as distant as the thousand car parking lots our parents and grandparents trudged across before and after punching in or out.

Too much of gathering together has people connecting by electrons seen through screens. How real are those relationships? They are often not regularly physical. People unite in their minds, where for many the connections are closer and tighter than in the flesh.

Today workers join in tribes of true believers instead of as sisters bonded by our common blue shirt collars. The sharing is not as laborers struggling side-by-side but too often a mind meld of hopes, yes, but also fear and loathing. We separate ourselves from each other, too often only finding agreement after mental gymnastics of narrowing ideologies.

Success, as always, is in laboring together.

— Ken Stern

LETTER

Who's in charge here?

The Port of Skagit and Town of La Conner propose happily to move ahead on the Port's elaborate proposal based on a few, token, public meetings and little-to-no community understanding of the near and long term implications of the project.

There is no time nor process in place for serious discussion of what we want our town and our Town to be. It is completely reactive to the Port's vision, supported by the town administration, which is hard pressed to describe a comprehensive vision for the community.

The Port knows exactly what it wants to do: generate capital. The administration nibbles at the edges and paves the way with an abbreviated, doomed-to-fail, public process. This is government by default. Proposals of this magnitude, to be respectful of the town and its citizens, must be based on active, creative and robust public participation over months or a year, not days or weeks.

The Port and the administration should realize that it is more important to build communities than to build buildings. Real public participation is inconvenient. Creative public participation takes time and serious support and an administration that is interested in providing that support.

I repeat: Who is in charge of determining the economic, residential, commercial future of our built community? I'm tempted to answer, the Port Commission, in close consultation with a town planner who lives in Bellingham (30 miles distant), the town administrator, who lives in Mount Vernon (12 miles distant) and a mayor excited by construction.

This fourth class town is established as a strong council-weak mayor government. Those roles have been reversed for some time. Our council and our planning commission, should ask — demand — of the administration the information, analysis and time they need to make decisions, approve projects and establish policy that will reflect the priorities of the council, which in turn will be based on their understanding of the will and preferences of the people.

Unfortunately, that is not the way it has been working for La Conner. There is visionary vacuum eagerly filled by a complacent staff.

Who's in charge and whose vision is driving this mega project? The Port, the planner and the mayor. Who should be in charge? The town council, the planning commission and the community.

Stop this rushing train and do it right.
Bob Raymond
La Conner

Last chance for free U.S. COVID-19 tests

Friday is the last day to order free at-home rapid antigen COVID-19 tests from the federal government. The COVID.gov website has a banner reading "Ordering through this program will be suspended on Friday, Sept. 2 because Congress hasn't provided additional funding to replenish the nation's stockpile of tests."

Order at covidtests.gov.
Washington state also offers free COVID-19 tests. Order at: sayyescovidhometest.org.

If I ran the zoo

By MEL DAMSKI



Being a caffeine addict, I was excited to welcome La Conner's new Beaver Tales Coffee & Tea and indigenous gift shop and what I found was so much more than another excellent local outlet to satisfy my addiction.

The owners, Michelle Calvin and her mate Tony Cladoosby, roast coffee in small batches daily to ensure freshness. They are committed to bringing so much more to La Conner than a great cup of coffee. They are a diverse couple and they want to celebrate diversity in our town. Tony is a Swinomish tribal member and Michelle is not a native but an adopted Tlingit, an Alaskan tribe, and she describes themselves as "curious people with a vision."

They have welcomed the local school district to hold community sessions at their shop. "People love the vibe here," says Michelle. The store is an attractive getaway, indoors and out, in a very central part of town. Not only can you get great coffee and munchies, you can also purchase wonderful tribal items for your kitchen or your living room.

They have received excellent google reviews and they now ship coffee and other items all across the continent, from coast to coast in the USA and Canada. They believe in supporting the community and promoting well-being.

This morning I poured my coffee and raised my new Beaver Tales cup and said "Let's drink to unity."

An insider's guide to our energy transition

By Greg Whiting

Unpredictable gasoline and heating costs. Reliable electricity. Wars in the middle east and Ukraine. Energy independence. The environment. And more. The energy industry affects almost everything, from the price of groceries to geopolitics.

People have reacted to energy issues by developing new technologies and policies for the production, delivery and use of energy. These innovations are being adopted faster than energy professionals believed possible 20 years ago.

You are probably aware of solar panels, electric vehicles and fracking for oil, but there is more. Far more. Changes of this magnitude have not happened in energy since electricity was introduced on a large scale in the 1870s and internal combustion engines in the 1890s.

Energy professionals call these changes, collectively, an "energy transition."

Hi. I'm Greg Whiting. The La Conner Weekly News has invited me to write about the energy transition, to help readers make sense of the ongoing, rapid changes in energy technologies, markets and policies. I'll address questions like: How will these changes affect me? Are they long-term changes driven by sustainable economics? What technologies are relevant? Can changes happen faster? What can I do? What can businesses, communities and governments do?

The question you probably have now is: Who is this guy and why is he qualified to write about energy?

I'm an energy engineer. In 2019, I moved to Shelter Bay with my fiancée, Jenelle. Although I'm new to Skagit County, my family has lived in the northwest since the 1850s. I have lived in ten cities throughout Washington, from Blaine to Pullman. In connection with my father's jobs, or my own, I've also moved all over the U.S. and Canada. I most recently returned to Washington in 2016.

I'm a good person to write about the energy transition because — unusual among energy professionals — I have significant experience with a large number of both legacy and new energy systems, on both the supply and use sides. I've worked in fossil and renewable energy; for mining companies and utilities; and for organizations that want to use less energy. I've worked on both electric grid and automotive technologies.

I grew up around resource industries. My mother wrote her master's thesis about the sustainability of western water supplies. She worked at the Solar Energy Research Institute in the 1970s. My father was a professor of mining engineering. In 1968, he started working in oil shale and moved on to gas, coal and oil sands. He even worked in nuclear energy, as a consultant on utility fuels.

I paid attention to my parents' work. I used their energy and mining magazines as source materials for high school science papers. In college, I took petroleum engineering and resource economics courses while working towards a degree in materials engineering. My first assignment after graduating was to research new alloys for deep oil wells.

In 1993, while developing new products at a nickel/cobalt mining company, I was one of the earliest people to work on lithium-ion batteries in North America. In 1999, I went to work for Florida Power & Light's energy conservation group.

Most of my subsequent career, at four utilities and as a consultant, has been focused on developing and introducing sustainable energy technologies. Some assignments have been in generation: fossil, solar, wind, geothermal, hydro and waste-to-energy. Some, in distribution: microgrids, storage and metering. Others, in hydrogen and electric vehicles. More still, in energy-efficient technologies like LED lighting and advanced heating and cooling systems.

There's a lot happening, including the upcoming launch of a co-op to facilitate innovative energy system use in Skagit County. I look forward to discussing the energy transition with Weekly News readers.

LETTER

La Conner aims so small when so much is possible

Dear town residents.

The La Conner Municipal Code is in need of major revision.

Current practice here is to have the planner suggest piecemeal items for the planning commission and town council. He has spent interminable mind-numbing time on sign language, for example. Not exactly the big picture.

A planner-proposed code line to define tiny houses is another example. What is the big, big picture for tiny houses?

Where is the vision? Well, it is in our comprehensive plan — which has general language supporting affordability and neighborhood protection, for example. But those are empty words because no language supporting affordability exists in the Municipal Code of La Conner. There is no concurrency.

Langley's municipal code does have the words for affordability and the innovation that affordability requires. Their code reads like a morph between code and a comprehensive plan — highly

readable, considering.

Google Langley municipal code and see what a local code to support a vision can actually look like. Look for:

INNOVATIVE PERMANENTLY AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECTS

Sections:
18.04.010 Authority and purpose.

18.04.020 Affordable housing defined.

18.04.030 Project application requirements and incentives.

18.04.040 Procedures.

18.04.050 Reporting requirements.

18.04.060 Enforcement.

Our code situation is so flawed that it will require more than one or two meetings in September. It needs more than citizens like me to do it. It needs leadership from the town. The council needs to recognize that our municipal code lacks the language to support our comprehensive plan visions.

Linda Talman
La Conner

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New La Conner Schools administrator has open door policy

By Bill Reynolds

New La Conner Schools administrator Tanya Houle is fond of hats.

Good thing, too, since she will be wearing several in her dual role as La Conner Middle and High School assistant principal and career and technology education (CTE) director.

The personable Houle wears a smile as often – if not more – than her stylish headpieces.

Her approach to school administration is to lead with compassion and create safe and meaningful learning environments for all students.

“A couple of my primary goals will be to make connections and build relationships,” said Houle, who hails from Belcourt, North Dakota. She has spent more than two decades in education, most recently as a teacher and



Tanya Houle

administrator in the Marysville School District.

In Marysville she taught two years at Quil Ceda Elementary on the Tulalip Reservation.

Being raised on a reservation – Houle is an Anishinaabe Metis enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa – she knows the challenges native people face along with the need

to bridge gaps to academic success with culturally responsive teaching approaches.

Houle started here at the district’s summer adventure camp, an ideal atmosphere to put in motion her professional vision of serving with a strong work ethic and passionately leading a school culture embracing community values.

“The people here are so welcoming,” she told the Weekly News, after a clam bake at the Thousand Trails Lone Tree Point RV Resort Lodge. “I noticed right away how the children will come up to talk and are so friendly.

“It reminds me of home,” she said, “except the trees here are bigger.”

Houle uprooted from the Great Plains with her husband, Mark, due to his employment with the BNSF Railway. He is Mandan/Hidatsa of the Three Affiliated

Tribes from New Town, North Dakota. They moved first to Colorado and then to Washington state. Along the way, she continued to teach, instructing at various levels, including CTE courses.

She earned a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from the University of North Dakota and a master’s degree in educational leadership from the University of Mary in Bismarck, North Dakota. She is certified as a principal at all grade levels and holds a special education endorsement.

Houle has an innate ability to relate to students. Her office is their office. “It’s really not my office,” Houle stressed. “It’s a shared space. The door is always open.” She has sought student input on how to decorate it.

“They said, ‘we need to get a couch,’” she grinned.

“My philosophy,” she added, “is I want to be in the classrooms

with the students and staff. I want to be part of their school day. And my goal is that the students want to be here.”

Houle knows bits of the Cree language from her youth. She is glad that Lushootseed, to which she was introduced at Tulalip, is taught here.

“That’s a real crossover benefit,” she pointed out.

Houle said she will be an advocate for equitable education for all students.

She is committed to make things run as smoothly as possible. “Whatever (Principal) Christine (Tripp) and the teachers need,” she said, “I’m there to help.”

She is looking forward to students and staff becoming her extended family.

The Houles have five children and eight grandchildren, with a ninth on the way, due in October.

La Conner volleyball team banks on rich state title tradition

By Bill Reynolds

Great Expectations.

It is not just a famous Charles Dickens novel. It is also the mantra of the La Conner High School volleyball program, winner of six state crowns in the past 20 years, including 2019 and 2021.

Only the pandemic stood in the way of another likely championship run in 2020, when the season was shifted to spring with no post-season.

Despite significant losses to graduation, the team has turned the page while still hoping to write another chapter, as if inspired by the Dickens title.

“We don’t change our expectations from year to year,” state hall of fame coach Suzanne Marble, now in her 30th season, told the Weekly News. “Our expectations are always high, and our main focus is improving every day we’re out here on the court.”

It helps that returnees include the region’s top standout, senior outside hitter Ellie Marble, the

coach’s daughter, and a prized Central Washington University recruit.

Marble posted unworldly stats a year ago, recording 521 kills and 491 digs while serving at a 96% clip in leading La Conner to a perfect 22-0 mark, capped by successive set wins at the state tourney in Yakima.

The reigning state class 2B Player of the Year, Marble will be joined by returning all-state middle blocker Makayla Herrera, a senior who finished with 202 kills, 83 digs and a team-best 73 blocks a year ago.

Seniors Kennedy Miller, who plays the right side, and middle blocker Josie Harper, who delivered 22 kills, 22 blocks, 61 digs and topped 90% on service attempts last year, also return.

Junior Morgan Huizenga continues as a middle blocker-outside hitter combo. She notched 74 kills and 144 digs and was 94% from the service stripe last fall.

Another junior, Abby Udlock, will shift from the right side to succeed graduated All-

State setter Emma Keller, who has moved on to the junior college ranks. Two of Keller’s classmates, Rachel Cram and Sarah Cook, have likewise advanced to college athletics.

The graduation hits have led Marble to revamp the lineup. She sees the restructuring taking shape quite nicely.

“We’re coming together as a team and these players are finding their voices,” she said. “We’re looking for the whole team to step into leadership roles. We want the whole team to rise up into leadership.”

Matches are scheduled against Glacier Peak, Sehome, Nooksack Valley and Mount Vernon. The Lady Braves will also face Eastern Washington teams Chelan and Manson.

They play rival Anacortes, a 2A school, Sept. 8 at 6:30 p.m. in Landy James Gym.

The team will be ready to answer the bell, no doubt, said Marble.

“Our players have been working hard this week,” she said. “We’re putting all the pieces together.”

School Board hears program, sports updates

By Bill Reynolds

Data was the name of the game – along with a fall sports update – when the La Conner School Board met Aug. 22 in a 90-minute hybrid session on campus.

Director of Special Programs Andy Wheeler and Teacher and Learning Director Beth Clothier took lead roles. Clothier provided her update via Zoom on staff summer training for the new all-grades math curricula.

Clothier said more than 50 staffers had participated in nine days of math curricula training this summer. The trainers commended the La Conner staff, ranking it ahead of “90% of other staffs” delving into the new curricula, she reported.

Wheeler reported contractual obligations require the district pre-school program be staffed by three classified instructors rather than one certified teacher and a paraeducator as originally planned.

“There will be no added cost to the district,” Wheeler said. “Having three classified (instructors) will be about the same cost.”

Elementary school Principal

Heather Fakkema-Hovde said interest in the district pre-school format continues to grow with parents of 13 or 14 children expressing interest.

For the district’s summer school program, which received Swinomish Indian Tribal Community support, Wheeler said the credit retrieval component was especially productive.

Middle and High School Principal Christine Tripp reported on student fall sports participation.

She said that “on paper” 20 students signed up for football, though only about half that number attended the first week of practices.

“It’s always difficult in a small school when you’re doing different sports at the same time,” Tripp explained. “For the boys, we have football and soccer. And with the girls we offer volleyball and soccer in the fall. So, it’s been a struggle a lot of years.”

Head football coach Charlie Edwards was optimistic that the roster could grow as summer jobs and vacations wound down.

Superintendent Will Nelson raised the possibility of eight-man football, a move Darrington and Concrete have made.

Tripp said the boys’ soccer team has 20-22 players turning out, while the girls’ team has 14 players on its roster.

The state champion volleyball team had 18 players report to two-a-day workouts, she added.

The board also approved 2022-23 student fines and fees schedule and accepted a Department of Commerce Energy Efficiency grant and Comprehensive School Counseling Program.

Director of Operations and Planning Bobby Vaughn was designated as the district’s Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act contact person.

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LAST CHANCE TO BOOGIE – Jerry and Jeri Kaufman danced away to rock band Chill DeVille Aug. 28. The La Conner Live Sunday concerts are coming to an end Sept. 4. Like the others, Mama Dirty Skirt will play 1-4 p.m. in Gilkey Square.

– Photo by Marissa Conklin

Town wins grants for wastewater treatment, CDBG planning

By Bill Reynolds

The Town of La Conner is in line for state funds to help with long-planned upgrades to its nearly half-century old wastewater treatment plant.

Town Administrator Scott Thomas told council members at their hybrid meeting Aug. 23 that La Conner’s application for a Puget Sound Nutrient Reduction grant was successful.

The question is just how much money will arrive here from Olympia.

“Unfortunately,” he said, “we don’t know what we’ll receive in terms of the amount.”

Thomas said the state legislature in its 2021-23 biennial budget set aside \$9 million for a grant program to help towns and cities prepare and plan for treatment facility improvements and modifications necessary to maximize nutrient removal from

existing treatment processes. Grant awards are variable depending on populations served, treatment plant age and community economic status.

The funds will help La Conner comply with the Washington Department of Ecology’s Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit requirements.

“The first step of this project is to retain an engineering consultant to prepare an engineering report,” Thomas said. “The report is required under Washington law and will provide the Town with a 20-year plan for upgrading the Town’s wastewater treatment plant and collection.

The Town’s \$30,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to study the industrial area south of downtown for revitalization was also approved, Thomas reported. The state Department of

Commerce did not select La Conner for an Energy Retrofits for Public Buildings award that would have funded installation of solar panels at the fire station, however.

Councilmember Mary Wohleb said she will reach out to a DOC contact in early September to ascertain why La Conner didn’t receive the solar grant.

The Town was making a presentation Aug. 25 for its Recreation Conservation Office grant application to construct its new park on Maple Avenue, Thomas said.

“We remain hopeful that we will be successful in this application,” Thomas said, “although there will be budget implications if we are successful.”

The \$539,325 proposal requires a 50% match.

Aug. 23 meeting –

Town council announcements

By Bill Reynolds

At the La Conner Town Council Aug. 23:

Planning Director Michael Davolio presented a draft of a proposed impact fee ordinance for review. This would raise funds toward priorities such as acquisition of a fire boat and ladder truck and/or support for parks and recreation initiatives here. Impact fees are often used by municipalities to cover local match requirements tied to grant awards.

“I’ve done this before in other jurisdictions,” Davolio said, “and it has worked well.”

Mayor Ramon Hayes announced dedication ceremonies for the new La Conner-Swinomish Library will be 1 p.m. Oct. 15.

“The best projects we’ve been involved in are the ones you can’t do by yourself,” said Hayes, noting the various entities that have collaborated to make possible construction of the new library.

Councilmember Annie Taylor said there will be a Sept. 3 Art Walk to view public art installed in town since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council agreed to list the Center Street apartment building proposal as a regular meeting agenda item.

“It might be helpful,” Hayes said, noting it was recently suggested to him by a citizen.

Town Administrator Scott Thomas said the Town has retained the Kenyon Disend law firm to provide advice on legal questions regarding the Center

Street project that were remanded to the Town by Hearing Examiner David Lowell.

“We have shipped questions off to the law firm,” he noted. “That office is starting to look at those issues.” He said their practice focuses exclusively on municipal law.

Resident Linda Talman suggested that the public comment segment of meetings be extended beyond three minutes when citizens propose municipal code changes next month. She also questioned whether the Maple Hall upstairs meeting room is large enough to accommodate the number of people expected to attend the planning commission and council meetings.

“People want to have input,” Talman said. “Is this venue going to be large enough? We anticipate a large turnout.”

Comment on possible new airport in Skagit County

By Ken Stern

Is a commercial airport in Skagit County possible to relieve pressure on SeaTac, the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport? Washington State’s Commercial Aviation Coordination Commission has identified two county sites on their list of 10 possible locations. The Southwest location is Skagit Flats, between Highway 20 and La Conner. The Northwest location is Samish Flats. Both are opposed by at least Skagit Audubon, the Skagit Land Trust and Evergreen Islands.

A virtual public meeting today, Aug. 31, at 5:30 p.m. provides information and offers the opportunity to comment. Staff for the CACC are charged with developing a communication plan that provides meaningful ways broad public input for people who want to be included and involved in the planning process. Local governments, the aviation industry, airports and regional planning agencies will have “timely information to assure meaningful input.”

In 2019, the state legislature created the CACC to recommend a location for a new, large airport within 100 miles of Seattle by June 15, 2023

Email comments: CACC@wsdot.wa.gov. For information on the CACC: wsdot.wa.gov/travel/aviation/commercial-aviation-coordinating-commission

The Aug. 31 Zoom link: us02web.zoom.us/j/87575575208?pwd=TWlwdjhqVG1NY2dNWnRwRkVKNXRRCQT09#success.

Astound increases fees \$18.50+

By Ken Stern

Customers of Astound Broadband will see price increases of up to \$22.44 starting Sept. 28, the company notified the Town of La Conner by email Aug. 25. Fees for services will increase by at least \$17.50, with an additional \$1 monthly for telephone service. Expanded content customers will also be charged \$1.92 monthly to offset the cost of programming content.

The letter states the company must adjust pricing “as the amounts programming networks charge us continue to rise, along with overall cost increases.”

The fee increases are:
 • \$2 for local broadcast tier.
 • \$3.72 for local TV stations’ fee.
 • \$1.92 for expanded content programming tier.
 • \$3 for TV equipment.
 • \$2 for modems and/or routers

for internet service.
 • \$3 for whole-home WiFi.
 • \$2.80 for the network access and maintenance fee/internet infrastructure fee.
 Customers pay for either WiFi or the router.

The letter states the company must adjust pricing “as the amounts programming networks charge us continue to rise, along with overall cost increases.”

The increases are not government mandated nor a tax, Astound notes in its letter.

Customers will save \$2 by making payments over Astound’s website, a \$1 fee. Payments will cost \$3 made through “agents” – phone calls – and will be \$2.95 when paid by phone or text.

La Conner was notified because it regulates communications services Administrator Scott Thomas said.

Pat Paul reappointed tribal court judge

The honorable Patricia Paul was reappointed as a tribal court appeals judge with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, in Grand Ronde, Oregon in July, her fourth two-year appointment. She is a member of the Inupiaq Tribe.

Paul received her law degree from Seattle University School of Law. She earned a bachelor’s degree in liberal studies from Antioch University in 1993.

Paul is a business and estate-planning lawyer specializing in land use law and federal Indian law and practices law in La Conner. She lives on the Swinomish Reservation with her husband, Kevin Paul.

Patricia Davis and Robert Miller were also reappointed to the three-member panel.

Blood donors needed today

There is an urgent need for blood donations heading into Labor Day weekend. Donating blood takes about an hour. Encourage a friend to book an appointment with you.

Appointments, masks, and photo ID required.

A pop-up blood drive is today, Aug. 31, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Salem Lutheran Church in Mount Vernon. Appointment and donation information can be found at BloodworksNW.org or 800-398-7888.

Source: Bloodworks NW

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DRESSED FOR SUCCESS – The Slider Café crew made a fashion statement on Saturday by donning La Conner Braves Club apparel. They also punctuated that support by raising nearly \$900 from the restaurant’s sales receipts and donation jar for the after-school program. Left to right, after serving up the successful day-long fundraiser event: Kelly Price, Pat Ball, Levi Howell, Brian Minch and Kimberly Howell.
– Photo by Karla Reynolds



Library closing Sept. 1 begins transition

By Jared Fair

The La Conner Library will close Sept. 1 in order to transition to the new La Conner Swinomish Library building at 520 Morris Street. The Library will reopen in October. We are very excited to be moving to the new location and look forward to welcoming everyone to the new La Conner Swinomish Library!

What to expect until we reopen:

- The book drop will remain open throughout the move. Please keep your items as long as you like. We do not charge late fines, but if you wish to return your items before we reopen in October, the book return at the old library remains available.
- Phone service during September will be message only. If you need assistance, please leave a voicemail or send us an email at library@lclib.lib.wa.us and we will get back to you as soon as we are able.
- WiFi will no longer be available at the old library. We hope to have a smooth transition to the new location and will announce when it is available on the library Facebook and web pages.
- We will be communicating updates and other information during the transition through the following means: La Conner Weekly News, library Facebook page, library website, voicemail and email.

Moving the books

We greatly appreciate the many offers to assist with moving the collection to the new library. Because of supply chain delays, interior work on the library, including shelving, is still ongoing. We will be contacting everyone who has expressed interest in moving the books as soon as we know dates for this. Parents and children are welcome! If you would like to assist with this move and have not already signed up on our contact list, please give us a call or email library@lclib.lib.wa.us and we will add you to our list.

Washington Anytime Library

While library services will be paused during the move, access to the Washington Anytime Library will still be available through your personal electronic devices connected to the internet. Visit the app store on your smartphone or tablet and download Libby. With this, log in with your library card number and the last four digits of the phone number connected to your account and continue borrowing eBooks, audiobooks and eMagazines from us. Or, search Washington Anytime Library on your computer and login the same way.

Summer reading program complete

Visit the Library before Sept. 1 and show your reading log and collect your free book! If you missed us in August, please contact us by phone or email and we will schedule a time to connect. We are sure all the children did a wonderful job and we are excited to see how much reading everyone did this summer!

Fair is the former library director.

Washington State Poet Laureate Rena Priest reads at Lincoln

Washington State Poet Laureate Rena Priest reads her poetry Saturday, Sept. 3 at 7:30 p.m. at the Lincoln Theatre. A generative poetry workshop with audience participation follows.

Salmon, and its cultural impact on the peoples of the Salish region, will be the theme, as salmon are sacred to her tribe, the Lhaq'temish (Lummi) Nation.

Her debut collection, "Patriarchy Blues," received an American Book Award. Her most recent book "Northwest Know-How: Beaches," includes poems, legends and descriptions of beaches in Washington and Oregon.

Priest is the Maxine Cushing Gray Distinguished Writing Fellow, the recipient of an Allied Arts Foundation Professional Poets Award and fellowships from The Academy of American Poets, Indigenous Nations Poets, and the Vadon Foundation. This free event is sponsored by Humanities Washington.

Source: Lincoln Theatre

'14000 Miles' film at Lincoln Sept. 2

The film "14000 Miles," showing free at the Lincoln Sept. 2 at 7:30 p.m., has already been beamed to the North Star by NASA.

Burlington native Björn Stickle is the film's director, actor, cinematographer and producer. He drove 14,000 miles across North America in 64 days and conducted 50 interviews ranging from billionaires to poor farmers, and members of Gen Z to Centenarians, searching for truth in a truthless age.

He found an answer; perhaps it is wrong, but that is for you to decide.

A Canadian and Norwegian-American, Stickle has spent the past decade studying and working in film. His filmography has appeared from Times Square to Oslo Norway's Central Station.

Stickle is donating all proceeds from the screening to the Lincoln Theatre.

Source: Lincoln Theatre

Grease at Whidbey Playhouse

The Whidbey Playhouse presents the musical "Grease" Sept. 9-Oct. 3. The play will run at 7:30 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, and 2:30 p.m. on Sundays. The Whidbey Playhouse is located at 730 SE Midway Blvd, Oak Harbor. Tickets are available at the box office from 2-6 p.m. and online at whidbeyplayhouse.com.

Source: Whidbey Playhouse

Drive sober or get pulled over

Additional law enforcement DUI patrols will be out for Labor Day weekend. Skagit County deputies are participating in the statewide "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" Sept. 2-5. If you see a friend or family member about to drive impaired, intervene. You can be the difference that prevents a crash and saves a life.

Source: Northwest Region Target Zero

Overdose Awareness Day

Today, Aug. 31, is Overdose Awareness Day. The awareness walk starts 5 p.m. at Cleveland Park in Mount Vernon. From 5-8 p.m. there will be speakers, music, food, resource booths and more. Anyone with questions can call 360-826-2661.

Source: Skagit County

A Celebration of La Conner Art

The La Conner Arts Commission presents A Celebration of La Conner Art, Sept. 3 at 4 p.m. in Maple Hall. This event will be dedicating the works of artists Richard J. Nash, Bob Patterson, Tom Pemberton, Tracy Powell and Roger Small.

Source: La Conner Arts

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Aleutian. . . (from page 1)
of the ROV were able to see that no major fractures appeared anywhere on the hull and the fuel tanks remain intact.
The boat had about 2,500 gallons of diesel out of a 4,000-gallon capacity, the crew estimated. Another 100 gallons or so of hydraulic fluid and lubricant oil were on board.

Sheening from periodic venting of diesel from the fuel tanks has been minimal, the Coast Guard has reported. The first week 4,300-feet of absorbent boom was laid along Smallpox Bay, near Sunset Point, to the south end of Henry Island and both sides of White Point Peninsula to ensure environmentally sensitive areas are protected if fuel came ashore.

To ensure a safe work environment for divers, safety zones extending 1,000 yards around all responding dive boats established the first week remain in effect.

The Federal Aviation Administration issued a Temporary Flight Restriction around the incident site. The public may not fly drones/UAS within this TFR zone, as they may distract crews during this complex operation and hamper recovery efforts, the Coast Guard reported.

The Coast Guard has stressed that a paramount goal of the Unified Command remains the protection of all marine mammals, including the Southern Resident Killer Whale population. A dedicated wildlife team conducted an area assessment both along the shoreline and in open water; no marine, terrestrial, or airborne wildlife appear to have been affected by the pollution incident.

The Unified Command, made up of the Coast Guard, the Washington State Department of Ecology, the San Juan Office of Emergency Management and the Swinomish Tribe, was formed the morning of Aug. 14.

Support agencies include NOAA, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, Islands' Oil Spill Association, National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Coast Guard reports that the final disposition of the boat once recovered remains to be determined. The cause of the incident remains under investigation.

"Swinomish will not be providing any comments on the vessel sinking," Amy Trainer, the Tribe's environmental policy director wrote in an email Aug. 29.

Fair. . . .

(from page 1)

Airy noted, "I know this is a standard phrase but it is true: We thank him for his service. He worked hard. He was conscientious. He is very personable. He knows how a library works. We wish him the best."

Airy would not say if the Library board was paying Fair severance. He said the library will not contest Fair applying for unemployment. A person may qualify for unemployment benefits if "fired through no fault of your own, such as not having the skills to do the job" the state's Employment Security Department's website states.

Asked for the personnel policy, Airy replied, "It's a practiced policy, not a written policy."

Airy did say that he and Markert, at least, met with Fair Thursday at 6 p.m. for a scheduled meeting and that "Fair knew the topic of the meeting

generally." He emphasized "I don't want you to think we blindsided him," repeating "blindsided." He also said, "We would like to come out of this where it's not a blame game."

The pair met with Fair again late Friday afternoon, probably for over an hour, as their cars were parked by both library buildings past 6 p.m.

Coincidentally, Fair came to the Weekly News office 4:30 p.m. Thursday to renew his and two subscriptions for the library. In a casual conversation, he was upbeat, reviewing some of the many large difficulties faced in the two-and-half years since the start of the coronavirus pandemic and his tenure in La Conner. Without the pro bono assistance provided by design firm BuildingWork and other vendors, the new library would not have been built, he noted. That generosity alone allowed the library to see the project through to completion, he said.

It did not appear to staff that Fair was 90 minutes away from leaving,

or losing, his job.

Friday evening Fair declined to comment on anything in a phone call.

Katryna Barber, library youth specialist, declined to comment Friday evening, also, though she did say she was surprised. She said she was cooperating with the people for whom she works, which is the board and Markert as the interim director, saying, "I have been instructed not to say anything except what Jean and Jim have said."

Fair started in La Conner in April 2020. He came from Yakima Valley Libraries, where he was the manager of 14 libraries. He was one of six candidates interviewed for the position.

The library board of directors relieved Joy Neal of her duties without notice in November 2019. She had a yearly contract and negotiated December's pay and all her leave and vacation time as her severance, she said in a phone call Monday.

Rotary. . . .

(from page 1)

\$1,000, and folks contributed on down to 16 offering \$100.

Doug VanderSanden won the 50/50 raffle, giving him \$1,500 in auction bucks. He donated it back and it was auctioned off. Brandon and Kate Atkinson bought it for \$1,500 dollars.

The money kept flowing in, with the dessert dash totaling \$5,017.05. Sponsorships added \$7,000.

Terry Brazas was recognized

with the Club's 2022 Paul Harris Recipient for his long time and varied support of community activities while owning the Farmhouse Restaurant. There was a heartfelt video postcard of longtime customers sharing memories and honoring him, led by farmers Dave Hedlin and John Roozen. Brazas in turn praised the Club as his most frequent and consistent meeting group, with their standing weekly Monday night dinner gathering.

It takes a village. Other service club members volunteered to support the evening, with PEO for

registrations, in the back office and running numbers during the auction. Rotary Club of Fidalgo Island members recorded bids and tended bar. Cathy Squires, a longtime Farmhouse Restaurant server, who handled the Monday night dinner meetings, was in charge of the La Conner High School students who served, helped clean-up and cheerfully did whatever they were asked. All members of the Rotary Club made the evening possible.

Full disclosure: The Weekly News donated as an auction sponsor.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY In the Matter of the Estate of Matthew W. Gifford, Deceased. Cause No. 22-4-00437-29 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

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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: August 31, 2022

Personal Representative: Adrienne E. Nydegger

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 August 31, September 7, 14, 2022.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SKAGIT In the Matter of the Estate of: HARLEY GUSTAVE WALDEN, Deceased. PROBATE NO. 22-400356-29 NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The personal representative named below has been appointed as personal representative of the estate of Harley Gustave Walden. 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 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 (08/13/2022). 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: August 13, 2022, Personal Representative Mechel A. Bell, 3339 Butler Creek Road, Sedro Woolley WA. 98284

Published in the La Conner Weekly News August 17, 24, 31, 2022.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WHATCOM IN RE THE ESTATE OF MARGARET DEMAINE, DECEASED. NO. 22 4 00819 37 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

JUDGE: EVAN P. JONES

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 nonprobate assets.

Date of First Publication: August 31, 2022

Personal Representative: Donna Moodie

8710 214th Street Langley, B.C. V1M 1Z9 CANADA

Attorney for the Personal Representative: KATTI ESP

301 Prospect Street Bellingham, WA 98225

Address for Mailing or Service: KATTI ESP

301 Prospect Street Bellingham, WA 98225

Court of Probate Proceedings Superior Court of Whatcom County and Cause Number: Cause No. 22 4 00819 37

Published in the La Conner Weekly News August 31, September 7, 14, 2022.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY

WILDERNESS VILLAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, a Washington nonprofit corporation, Plaintiff vs. CHARLES R. STAHL, or his heirs and devisees if deceased, Defendant. No. 22-2-00492-29 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF WASHINGTON TO: CHARLES R. STAHL, OR HIS HEIRS AND DEVISEES IF DECEASED,

Defendants: You are hereby summoned to appear within sixty days after the date of the first publication of this summons, to wit, within sixty days after the 27th day of July, 2022, and defend the above entitled action in the above entitled court, and answer the complaint of the plaintiffs, and serve a copy of your answer upon the undersigned attorney for plaintiffs at his office below stated; and in case of your failure so to do, judgment will be rendered against you according to the demand of the complaint, which has been filed with the clerk of said court.

The object of this action is to foreclose liens for unpaid community assessments against certain real property, located in Skagit County, Washington, and described as follows:

Lot 1, "WILDERNESS VILLAGE DIV. 1", as per the plat recorded in Volume 10 of Plats, pages 48-50 inclusive, records of Skagit County, Washington.

CRAIG SJOSTROM #21149 Attorney for Plaintiff

1204 Cleveland Ave. Mount Vernon, WA 98273 (360) 848-0339

Published in the La Conner Weekly News July 27, August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 2022.

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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Answers

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

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Complete Events Calendar on laconnerweeklynews.com

ASSISTANCE

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.

LIBRARIES

La Conner Library. 614 Morris St, La Conner. 360-466-3352. lclib.wa.us
Anacortes Public Library. 360-299-8067, 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.
Bag-O-Books Sale. Sept. 2, 10 a.m. in the library lobby. Fill your bag for only \$5
Mount Vernon Public Library. 360-336-6209, mountvernonwa.gov. 315 Snoqualmie St, Mount Vernon.
Virtual Reality. Every Saturday 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Must be 18 or older.

MUSEUM EXHIBITS

Museum of Northwest Art. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun 11 a.m.-4 p.m. monamuseum.org, 360-466-4446.
Exhibit: Alfredo Arreguin. Painter from the New World. Through Oct. 2.
Exhibit: In Pursuit of Abstraction. Instructors at the UW School of Art in the 1960s. Through Oct. 9.
Pacific Northwest Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum. Hours: Wed-Sun 11 a.m.-5 p.m. qfamuseum.org, 360-466-4288. 703 S Second St, La Conner.
Exhibit: Essence of Japan. Through October 9.
Exhibit: Tangled Fibers. Through October 30.
Skagit County Historical Museum. 360-466-3365 or skagitcounty.net/museum. Hours: Thurs-Sun 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Exhibit: Lavone Newell-Reim: A Life Well Lived. Through October 2.
Exhibit: Hunt and Peck. Through October 31.

Heritage Flight Museum. Hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Thurs-Sat. 15053 Crosswind Dr, Burlington. heritage-flight.org.
September Fly Day. Sept. 3, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

MUSIC

AMPfest Music Festival. Sept. 3, 12-9 p.m. at Seafarers Memorial Park in Anacortes. Admission is by suggested donation. \$20 each or \$50 families.
La Conner Live. *Sunday Concert Series.* Sundays, 1-4 p.m. in Gilkey Square.
Port of Anacortes. *Free Summer Concert Series.* Wednesdays & Fridays, 6-8 p.m. at Seafarers Memorial Park. List of events at portofanacortes.com.
City of Burlington. *Summer Night Concert Series.* Fridays, 6-8 p.m. at Burlington Visitors Center on Fairhaven Dr. Free admission.
Ukelele Fun & Song Circle. Meet every Wednesday. 1-2 p.m., Burlington Senior Center. Beginners and all ages are welcome. Loaner ukuleles available. For more info, email yogaheartspace0@gmail.com.

ART & THEATRE

Anacortes Community Theatre. 918 M Ave, Anacortes. 360-293-6829. actheatre.com
Show: "A Calculated Retreat" Through Sept. 3. Thurs-Sat 7:30 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m.
La Conner Arts Commission. *A Celebration of La Conner Art.* Sept. 3, 4 p.m. at Maple Hall. Artists Richard Nash, Bob Patterson, Tom Pemberton, Tracy Powell and Roger Small.
Whidbey Island Woodworkers Guild. *Woodpalooza.* Sept. 3-5, 12-5 p.m. at Whidbey Island Center for the Arts (WICA) in Langley. Free. Visit woodpalooza.com for more info.
Whidbey Playhouse. 730 SE Midway Blvd, Oak Harbor. 360-679-2237. whidbeyplayhouse.com
Show: "Grease" Sept. 9-Oct. 2. Fri-Sat 7:30 p.m., Sunday 2:30 p.m.

Lincoln Theatre. 712 S 1st St, Mount Vernon. 360-336-8955. lincoltheatre.org.
Film: "14000 Miles" Sept. 2, 7:30 p.m. Directed by Burlington native Bjorn Stickle.

NOT TO BE MISSED

The Friendship House. *Benefit Concert.* Sept. 4, 12-7 p.m. at Christianson's Nursery. Live music from 5 bands. Tickets available at skagitfriendshiphouse.org.
Skagit Flats Marathon. *45th Annual Marathon & Half Marathon.* Sept. 11, 8 a.m. start at Burlington-Edison High School. Register at skagitflats.skagitrillers.org.

MEETINGS

Town of La Conner 204 Douglas St, La Conner. 360-466-3125. Zoom info @ Townoflaconner.org/calendar.
Arts Commission. Sept. 8, 9:30 a.m. at Maple Hall and Zoom.
Town Council. Sept. 13, 6 p.m. at Maple Hall.
La Conner School District 305 N 6th St, La Conner. 360-466-4113. lcsd.wednet.edu.
Skagit Conservation District 2021 E. College Way #203, Mt. Vernon. 360-428-4313. Zoom info @ skagitcd.org.
Board meetings. Every fourth Wednesday 7:30-9 a.m. Next meeting August 24.
Rotary Club of La Conner. 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.



By Patricia Aqimuk Paul, Esq., Food Editor.

Pasta with Pesto

I was recently gifted pesto on two occasions. One from Jane Stephens, who lives in town and one from Ann Maroney, who works in town. The balsamic vinegar is a bit overpowering in flavor and color. After seeing and tasting the results, I may use less balsamic vinegar next time. To expedite the preparation, I added the cherry tomatoes in whole and after they cooked two minutes, I used a potato masher to burst out their flavor. If you like the visual effect of cut cherry tomatoes, you will cut them in half before cooking them. For the garlic, I used a garlic press, pressing each clove separately.

Ingredients

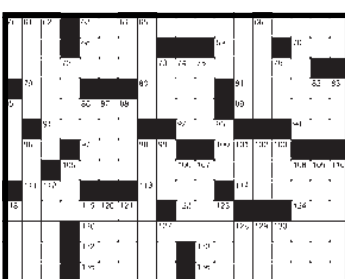
- Cherry tomatoes, 1 to 2 cups
- Olive oil, 1 tbsp
- Red onion, 1 small
- Garlic, 3 cloves, crushed
- Balsamic vinegar, 1 tbsp
- Pesto, 4 tbsp
- Linguine, 12 oz, cooked
- Salt and pepper to taste



Preparation

Prepare the linguine, according to the package directions. When done, reserve 1/2 cup of the pasta water. In a shallow sauté pan, heat the olive oil. Chop the onion and cook one minute and add the garlic. Stir around and cook another minute. Add the cherry tomatoes and cover the pan. Cook for ten minutes, stirring occasionally. The tomatoes will become soft. Add the pesto and stir around. Add the balsamic vinegar and the reserved pasta water. Mix gently. Reduce the temperature to low. Add the linguine and lift to mix the pasta with the sauce. When serving, you can add a dab of pesto on top of the pasta.

Aqimukskitchen@outlook.com



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Super Crossword

POD-TIME WORK

- | | |
|--|--|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Picture | 1 Challenge as questionable |
| 6 Lo — (Chinese dish) | 2 — d' |
| 10 Eyes, to bards | 3 French for "years" |
| 14 Step heavily | 4 Prepare alcohol |
| 19 Like zebras' necks | 5 Tokyo, once |
| 20 Author Sarah — Jewett | 6 Dough |
| 21 Beet or yam | 7 Off-course |
| 22 Womanizer, perhaps | 8 As originally found |
| 23 Spotted steed | 9 Once called |
| 25 Womanizer, perhaps | 10 Hatch of Utah |
| 26 Bacteriology gels | 11 Large crucifix |
| 27 Some sporty trucks, briefly | 12 Unlimited |
| 28 Jai — | 13 Wheel turner |
| 29 Illegal boxing blow | 14 Von — family ("The Sound of Music" group) |
| 31 Superhero with a magic ring | 15 Rascally sort |
| 34 Fruit such as a peach or plum | 16 Arab country |
| 35 Chicks' hangouts | 17 Bygone Ford div. |
| 36 Heavy horn | 18 Sumptuous |
| 37 Baldwin of "Drunk Parents" | 24 TV's Linden |
| 38 Rascally sort | 29 "Sauer" hot dog topping |
| 41 Moniker for Lincoln | 30 New Mexico's flower |
| 44 Royal Dansk treat | 32 Top-secret govt. org. |
| 48 Speaker's stand | 33 Fade away |
| 52 Cash caches requiring PINs | |
| 55 Wingtips' tips | |
| 56 Impassioned | |
| 57 Bee or Em | |
| 58 Neighbor of Burkina Faso | |
| 60 Off. helper | |
| 62 Their young are kids | |
| 63 The clear, open outdoors | |
| 66 Epps of "Juice" | |
| 68 City in southern California | |
| 69 Stephen of "Angie" | |
| 70 A tyrant rules with one | |
| 74 Prefix with skeleton | |
| 75 Common chamber group | |
| 77 Conductor Solti | |
| 80 Capital of Peru | |
| 82 Painter Dufy | |
| 83 TV's — May Clampett | |
| 84 Annie player Quinn | |
| 86 Ankle-length skirt | |
| 88 Caused to propagate | |
| 89 Airline to Tel Aviv | |
| 90 Spur-of-the-moment choice | |
| 93 Federal benefits org. | |
| 95 "Yoo-hoo!" | |
| 96 — Hashana | |
| 97 2006 Nintendo debuts | |
| 100 Taj — | |
| 105 Bursts in space | |
| 107 Figure at Madame Tussauds | |
| 110 Former Seabee, say | |
| 114 Scottish island | |
| 115 Agts. going after tax evaders | |
| 116 Banishment | |
| 117 Fix up text | |
| 118 What someone who completes this puzzle does? | |
| 120 "Daniel" singer John | |
| 121 Solemn act | |
| 122 The Beatles' "Let —" | |
| 123 Arm bones | |
| 124 School VIPs | |
| 125 Luminary | |
| 126 Warty critter | |
| 127 Actress Sharon | |
| 37 "This is only —" | |
| 38 Swedish retail chain | |
| 39 Floss flavor | |
| 40 Furry adoptees | |
| 42 — Cafe" (old Whoopi Goldberg sitcom) | |
| 43 Drinking alcohol | |
| 45 Exactly | |
| 46 Leia's last name | |
| 47 Unscented | |
| 49 Halo effect | |
| 50 Hip to | |
| 51 Florida or Ohio pol, e.g. | |
| 53 Poet Angelou | |
| 54 NBC fixture since '75 | |
| 59 Short-hop plane | |
| 61 Rotational forces | |
| 64 Doggoned | |
| 65 Berlin loc. | |
| 67 Gives shape to, to a Brit | |
| 70 Humpbacked lab helper | |
| 71 — do you good" | |
| 72 Actress Ward | |
| 73 "Gotta go," to a texter | |
| 75 Pulverize | |
| 76 Catch | |
| 77 Deep cut | |
| 78 Article in Augsburg | |
| 79 Big name in skin cream | |
| 81 "That went right by me" | |
| 85 Chutzpah | |
| 87 Cedar Rapids native | |
| 91 Paint apliers, e.g. | |
| 92 Veto | |
| 94 Sound box at a concert | |
| 98 Really digs | |
| 99 Floor-washing robot | |
| 101 "Insomniac" comic Dave | |
| 102 Showing benevolence | |
| 103 Sports spots | |
| 104 Contacts, e.g. | |
| 105 Floss fiber | |
| 106 Cake bakers | |
| 107 Sea filler | |
| 108 Single | |
| 109 — Vegas | |
| 110 Necessity | |
| 111 Wheel turner | |
| 112 "La Dolce —" | |
| 113 Hayworth of old films | |
| 118 Set of parts to be assembled | |
| 119 Ant or beetle | |

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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, August 21
4:30 p.m.: Tesla technology – Report of a dog locked inside a Tesla. The Tesla was set to “Dog Mode” which means the AC was on. 1st St., La Conner.

Monday, August 22
9:13 a.m.: BB through window – Report of a small hole found in a house window. The hole was caused by a BB or small rock. The actual cause was not able to be determined and there were not any witnesses who saw the damage occur. McLean Rd., Greater La Conner.

Tuesday, August 23
10:17 a.m.: Feral cats – Two reports of a feral cat problem in town. La Conner code enforcement was notified to handle it. Washington Ave., La Conner.

Wednesday, August 24
1:48 p.m.: Missing signs – Campaign signs were reported missing from the roundabout. It is

unknown who took the signs. La Conner Whitney/Chilberg Rds., La Conner.

Thursday, August 25
10:37 a.m.: Boat scratch – A boat owner noticed a scratch on the side of their boat and believes it was caused by another boat in the marina. The damage was not witnessed. 2nd St., La Conner.

3:04 p.m.: Lost keys – A Mercedes key fob with keychain was lost while the owner was walking in the area. The keys have not been turned in yet. 1st St., La Conner.

Friday, August 26
3:19 p.m.: Trespasser not found – The apartment complex owner reported a subject who is not living there trespassing on the property. The subject's vehicle was there, however someone else was using it. The subject to trespass was not located. Maple Ave., La Conner.



GREEN PASTURES OF PLENTY – This “Rainbow Carrot Crew” was harvesting Aug. 18. Plenty of crops are harvested in the Skagit Valley, from daffodils in March through kale, leeks, onions and potatoes in December. Willing hands cut, pick and pull from each field and then move on. They “come with the dust and we go with the wind,” as Woody Guthrie sang. Monday is Labor Day. Read this week’s editorial, page 2.

– Photo by Craig Barber

MARINA MOORINGS

Port of Skagit

The guest docks again recorded over 300 boat nights this week. Well over half of these have reservations, but about 40% are drop in customers. We’re happy La Conner is such a popular destination for recreational boaters and provides a wonderful backdrop for their spontaneous cruising vacations.

Most of the people we meet on the guest docks are local cruisers, out enjoying the scenery and attractions of their home seas. But every now and then we run into true world travelers who are happy to tell us about their adventures. Yesterday I spoke with a couple on a sailboat that they have taken across the Atlantic twice and cruised throughout the Mediterranean, Europe and the Baltic. They did this for a number of years, keeping the boat over winter wherever their cruising ended that season and picking up the next year. Their sailboat was addressed as a member of the family. They had it built to specifications almost 40 years ago by a yard on the east coast, and the shakedown cruise was from Delaware to Bermuda, continuing on through the Panama Canal and up to Seattle. The boat is kept as tidy as any vessel that has spent time offshore and knows the peril of loose items flying around the cabin, and everything was in perfect condition. Clearly, these sailors are serious about their sailing and their vessel. It was a pleasure to hear them laughing as they told me about their adventures, at least one of which left them aground in a fast-running tide, while the mayor of the French town in which this occurred bought them lunch and wine as they waited for the water to return.

The real closer came at the end of the conversation, though, when one of them said, “You know, we’ve been all over the world, and there just isn’t any place we’ve found that is prettier than this” as the other nodded. I was reminded once again about why we love living in this corner of the world and that we should be grateful for it.

– Chris Omdal, harbormaster

Skagit PUD needs you to reduce water usage

Due to seasonal low water flow conditions in the Skagit River, the City of Anacortes and Skagit Public Utility District water customers are asked to voluntarily reduce their water usage by 10%. The Washington State Department of Ecology has established minimum instream flows for the Skagit River. These minimum flow levels fluctuate throughout the year and are designed to protect fish habitat primarily.

There are generally two times a year when we anticipate the Skagit River falling below instream flow levels – once in late winter and early spring, and again in late summer and fall.

When the river falls below these prescribed levels, Skagit

PUD and the City of Anacortes are required to provide public notification under a long-term water rights agreement signed in 1996.

We ask every customer to help by saving 15-20 gallons of water daily. Here are some simple water-saving ideas you can use at home:

Shorter showers – five minutes or less.

Turn the water off when brushing your teeth.

Let lawns go dormant in the summer.

Water plants deeply and less often.

Flush the toilet less.

Direct questions regarding water conservation to Brian McDaniel, water system

manager, at 360-299-1510 or brianm@cityofanacortes.org. Visit the Anacortes Public Works Facebook Page for alerts.

Source: Skagit PUD

Tommy Thompson Trail fire Tuesday morning

By Bill Reynolds

The Swinomish Police Department responded with two vessels Aug. 30 to assist the Anacortes Fire Department with fighting a blaze near the center of the Tommy Thompson Trail trestle, Anacortes Police Department Community Service Officer Brent Lindquist told the Weekly News.

Lindquist said APD arrived on scene to assist the Anacortes Fire Department just prior to 2 a.m.

First responders found the fire had fully engulfed the width of the bridge and the pylons below.

“After the fire was extinguished,” Lindquist said, “an officer checked the bridge and found that the damage appeared to span the width of the bridge and about 60 feet of its length, including support pylons and railings.”

The cause of the fire is under active investigation, according to Lindquist. Those with information are urged to call 9-1-1. Anonymous tips may be phoned to 360-299-1985.

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LINCOLN THEATRE

- September 2 Film: 14000 Miles ONE SHOW ONLY! FRI 7:30
- September 4 & 5 Film: The Hunt for Planet B SUN 5:30 / MON 7:30
- September 24-26 Film: Manhattan Short Film Festival SAT & MON 7:30 PM / SUN 5:30 PM

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