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# LA CONNER WEEKLY NEWS

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## Santa stopped in La Conner Saturday



A MERRY GOOD BREAKFAST – Children got to sit with Santa and reveal their Christmas wishlists during the Rotary Club's annual Santa Pancake Breakfast in Maple Hall, Dec. 3. – Photo by Marissa Conklin

### Multiple Santa sightings Saturday

## Holiday treats and trees, tiny and tall

By Max Drews and Ken Stern

What recession? Not in La Conner last weekend. A slew of activities started the holiday festivities – and the season's spending.

The Christmas season began 6:30 p.m. Friday night, when all doors opened at the newly-built La Conner Swinomish Library, letting in a crowd of waiting bidders for the Tiny Tree auction. At 6:45, after remarks from Susan Macek, La Conner Library Foundation director, and library Director Jean Markert, one "Let the auction begin!" sent the audience to the bidding tables.

For the next hour, families and friends circled, studying the 15 specially-ornamented trees and their bidding lists to see if they had to raise their donation. But despite that underlying air of competition, it was an hour of kind community.

In the room of more than fifty people talking about most things except Christmas trees, the sense was palpable that there was really no auction at all; that instead a few dozen townspeople were simply having Christmas early and spending the evening as the biggest family in any given room in Skagit. Or, perhaps it was the wine by the glass.

By 7:30 p.m., over 60 bids had been placed – at an estimated value of \$3,933. As bidding began to close, some, such as Trish Anderson, stood beside their chosen tree to ensure they won at any cost. At 7:39 p.m., Kevin Paul took the mic to say with the voice of an old crooner, "Two minute warn-

ing, people. Two minute warning." The big room chuckled.

The night was over fifteen minutes later, as people started leaving or waiting in line to make payment. One young lady, Finley Hancock, voiced her businesslike disappointment at failing to acquire both of the trees she was after, although she did look happy with her win.

The room was full of final conversations as the crowd dwindled. Then, without prompt or announcement, Paul took up the microphone again. In the tired and quiet end of December's first Christmas, in that old crooner voice, he started into an acapella rendition of "Silent Night." After the first lines a small group joined him. At the end of the first chorus, Paul turned off the microphone and put it back down on the front desk.

"It was an amazing night in our new library," Macek said. "I'm amazed at the number of people who came out to see it."

The next morning was Christmas anew at the La Conner Rotary pancake breakfast in Maple Hall. The breakfast is a longstanding town tradition, dating back over forty years. Once a senior class fundraiser, the event is now run by the La Conner Rotary, whose volunteers started before 7 a.m. and were still working at noon. "Rotary is all about service," said Corrin Hamburg.

It showed. All morning long, volunteers of all ages were in and out of the kitchen, cooking, cleaning, clearing tables. The breakfast itself was complete with the promised pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausages and a hot chocolate

station. And coffee, of course.

Santa Claus sat onstage all morning, meeting children and hearing their Christmas wishes. Landon, Harper and Wyatt Stevens asked for, respectively, a virtual reality headset, an alcohol marker set and an outdoor basketball. Owen Navarrete, said he would ask for "shoes" (white Nike Air Forces). Parents and grandparents snapped photos.

John Milnor was told by Santa that the La Conner children are extra good this year and their parents especially polite.

Meanwhile at the adjacent craft fair, benefiting local service clubs, vendors sat at a dozen tables in three rooms on both floors, waiting to sell their wares; from Eileen Williams' hand-embroidered towels to Cathy Baker's hand-painted oyster shells to the Soroptimists' table of baked goods. Most vendors agreed that the morning was slow, but others such as Julie Jones enthusiastically said that everything had gone really well. Marylyn Johnson declared: "The crowd has been quieter, but no less enthusiastic. It's a jolly good time."

Adam McGarity, the Club's president, said that this year saw higher attendance than it did in years before COVID, with over 125 meals served. Members of a newly organized Skagit Rotaract Club assisted. This is a Rotary supported service organization for individuals; often young professionals or college students; between ages 18 and about 35. Rotaract volunteers were Morgan Elton, Betsy Anorbe, Corrin Hamburg, (continued on page 6)

## Motion against Shelter Bay officers to be filed again in Superior Court

By Ken Stern

Shelter Bay resident Roberta Fontenot did not fair well in the preliminary injunction hearing she brought against the officers of the Shelter Bay Community board of directors in Skagit County Superior Court last Friday. While Judge Laura Riquelme permitted Fontenot to withdraw without prejudice her motion seeking an injunction against Elaine Dixon, Monte Hicks, Louise Kari and Wendy Poulton for breach of fiduciary duty, that seemed to be the only moment of the hearing that went the lawyer's way.

The court found that Fontenot had not properly served the complaints to the defendants or filed documents with the court. Fontenot noted this was her first civil case and that she "might have made some mistakes with the rules of civil procedures." She suggested a recess so she could go home to get proof of service and then properly file them.

Fontenot did not file affidavits of service to three of the seven board members named in the petition. She did not successfully serve the other four, needed to move forward with a case naming them as defendants.

Shelter Bay board members Judy Kontos and Dan McCaughan came to testify in support of Kontos' declaration of fact filed in November. Defense attorney Kyle Rekofke pointed out that was not allowed.

(continued on page 7)

## Historic design review for 306 Center Street?

By Bill Reynolds

An olive branch appeared here Thursday on a cold and wintry afternoon and in the most unlikely of settings – he appeals hearing addressing Kate and Dr. Brandon Atkinson's bid to develop a 20-unit three-story residential complex behind The Slider Café.

The 45-minute session before Town Hearing Examiner David Lowell took an unexpected turn when Atkinson indicated he might be willing for the project to undergo an historic design review.

La Conner residents Linda Talman and Debbie Aldrich had filed the appeal to deny the Atkinsons a conditional use permit to go forward with the project based on a 1986 contract rezone of the property which required development of the former residential lots to be reviewed as if they were located within the Town's Historic Preservation District.

For reasons of which no one is quite certain, the contract rezone that changed the property's designation from residential to commercial was never codified into ordinance form nor formally filed at the Skagit County Courthouse. Further complicating matters, the agreement was misfiled at Town Hall under an incorrect address.

There have been conflicting legal opinions rendered as to whether the contract rezone is valid.

Talman, Aldrich and others residing in the single-family residential neighborhood surrounding the project site have objected to its size and scope – especially related to parking and fire safety issues – as presented in the Atkinsons' application, which had received a split decision go-ahead prior to Talman's sleuthing that unearthed the 36-year-old contract rezone.

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From the editor —

## Your newspaper in your weekly mail all year long

Last week was quite the start of holiday activities throughout the Skagit Valley. From Friday evening's Tiny Tree silent auction at the La Conner Swinomish Library through a myriad of events Saturday in La Conner and holiday markets Sunday at the Vinery next to Christianson's Nursery and at the La Conner Pub and Eatery, people were out and about, shopping and singing — a lot of singing.

Did you know that the La Conner Schools volunteer students from the middle and high school music program played on Gilkey Square at 1 p.m. Saturday? Did you see the English town crier leading the Northwest Junior Pipe Band down First Street onto Gilkey Square before 2 p.m. Saturday? They were nine strong, five bagpipers and four drummers.

Did you make it to Maple Hall Sunday for the Shelter Bay Chorus' set Sunday afternoon? Rumor had it the Pipe Band came back from Edmunds for a return appearance.

There were two Santa visits Saturday, early at the La Conner Rotary Club's annual Santa Pancake Breakfast and at 5 p.m. on Gilkey Square when he "1-2-3" lit the town's Christmas tree before taking children on his lap again to hear their hopes and wishes. Rumor had it that he returned to Maple Hall Sunday afternoon, but, as journalists report, that could not be confirmed.

If you were in La Conner or around the western Skagit Valley last weekend perhaps you attended or ran into one or more of these events. All of them are highlighted in this issue of the Weekly News that you hold in your hands.

Equally vital is knowing the facts of the case of Shelter Bay board officers being challenged in Skagit County Superior Court by one of the community's residents. Some 1,800 people live in Shelter Bay. That is over one-third of the 5,000-plus residents in the 98257. The La Conner Weekly News is best at its job when it reaches past the borders of the town whose name it shares.

Then the staff of your local newspaper are doing their job, reporting the small and large events of the day and week and keeping you up to date of the news in your backyard.

When people say "good job" and offer thanks on a particular story or an overall issue, I always thank them for engaging as a citizen and fulfilling their duty of staying informed. That is a responsibility as well as an obligation. Hopefully it is a whole lot more fun and tasty than eating broccoli or creamed spinach and as nourishing for the mind and soul.

These are the reasons for the Weekly News. Your newspaper is the first draft of history, as the cliché goes. It grounds you in the present moment while also looking to the past and pointing the way to a hopeful future.

Your newspaper will not let go of the fact that you are a citizen in a fragile natural world and that for too many of us there is a tenuous agreement with neighbors and strangers in this ongoing dance we call democracy. Because of our odd and unique circumstances of the last 300 years on this continent, newspapers have been an integral part of society and communities across the land. Today there are far fewer than 10 years ago and, like the salmon, only a sliver — and much smaller, not nearly so mighty — of what graced the land a generation ago.

If you are not a subscriber, this is a subtle but straightforward invitation for you to become one. A lot of your neighbors are glad they are.

— Ken Stern

## LETTER

### Looking for a little help

The all-volunteer Forgotten Children's Fund is collecting new unwrapped toys, children's jackets and cash donations for Skagit Valley families as well as 60 families with children in the Nooksack School District that are still displaced from their homes as a result of last November's devastating floods.

In the 47-year history of the Forgotten Children's Fund, 2022 may prove to be the most challenging for our communities' less fortunate. Many families are now having to make the choice of rent, heat, gas or groceries. Please help us make a difference.

Your donation in La Conner can be dropped off at Washington Federal Bank, or the Edward Jones office.

Nooksack Valley donations must be made not later than Dec. 9. Skagit Valley donations will be accepted through Dec. 22 and used this Christmas. Please visit our web site at [www.forgottenchildrensfund.org](http://www.forgottenchildrensfund.org).

Sincerely,  
Dick Nord  
Forgotten Children's Fund board member

## Gift drive for local immigrant families

Immigrant Resources and Immediate Support, a non-profit organization serving Skagit and Whatcom counties, has a gift drive for local immigrant families.

Donations will be used to purchase food, blankets, warm winter clothing and household necessities. Additionally, IRIS will connect each family to a local program providing holiday toys.

Donations can be made online at [irisnw.org/donate](http://irisnw.org/donate) or mailed to the IRIS Holiday Drive, 1050 Larrabee Avenue, Suite 104, #498, Bellingham, WA 98225.

Dec. 15 is the deadline for donations. For questions, please call Norma Govea Suarez, IRIS executive director, at 360-935-1688.

Source: IRIS

Have Faith —

## Finding the 'Amazing Grace' of your religious practices

By Paul Magnano

Many of us have trouble speaking about the ultimate but mysterious dimensions of life. We need to rediscover the transcendent — the dimension beyond the physical, the dimension so many of us now struggle to name. For most of us these days, our only contact with the language of grace is through Bible readings at weddings and funerals. Language can be a vehicle for grace, or for disgrace, the most extreme example being the ease with which social media conveys insult and injury.

I myself am not by nature pious. I write with sympathy of St. Teresa of Avila who used to shake the hourglass to make her 30 minutes of prayer pass more quickly. I want people who consider themselves "spiritual but not religious" to reexamine religious traditions, and see whether there might be things of value they are missing out on. Why are people so wary of being thought "religious?" Is it because it suggests judgment, rules, moral tripwires? It might go back to when we ceased to live in communities and hold beliefs and practices in common.

And then if we go back to our earlier years, we see a refusal to accept what is inherited: the insistence that "I have to work it all out for myself. I'm not going to be told what to believe." So what do people mean when they say "I'm spiritual?" They might mean, "I believe in the transcendent," but they haven't got a formal language to describe it. When people say they're spiritual but not religious, they're looking for their own language to express their experience of grace. Grace is at work in everybody's life.

Pope Francis refers to the liturgy as "the first wellspring of Christian spirituality." Prayer and liturgy are intertwined. With Christ at the center, we are given numerous people from the Bible with whom we may identify so that we can learn from their encounters with Jesus. "I am Nicodemus," Francis writes, "the Samaritan woman at the well, the man possessed by demons at Capernaum, the paralytic in the house of Peter, the sinful woman pardoned, the woman afflicted by hemorrhages, the blind man of Jericho, the thief and Peter both pardoned."

Religious formation must be grounded not in what we do, but in the faith-filled discovery of what Christ has done and is doing for us. The whole program of religion originates in God's action, not our own. Placing desire of Jesus in first place, bears a resemblance to the passage on prayer found at the outset of the fourth section of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. There, the image of the woman at the well is used to make the point that prayer begins not with our thirst for God, but with God's thirst for us.

Pope Francis uses the striking expression "the Bread broken" to refer to the Eucharist. This expression is found in the first-century document, The Didache. The expression "Bread broken" is richly symbolic. It points to the Eucharist's communal nature, because bread broken is bread shared. It is precisely in its being broken and shared that the sign of bread achieves its fullness in the Eucharist. Francis joyfully points out that "from Sunday to Sunday the energy of the Bread broken sustains us in announcing the Gospel."

Magnano is the parish priest for the Skagit Valley Catholic Churches.

Have Faith is an occasional column

## LETTER

### Thank you La Conner for all your love and support

Although my heart aches at saying good-bye to my best friend and husband of 45 years, I am grateful for the incredible support you all have been to Jon, me and our children, over the past few months.

Thank you for all the encouragement through cards, flowers, texts, phone calls and visits that were full of love, scriptures, prayers and hugs. For those who helped mow, weed-eat, blow leaves, spread bark, haul garbage, provide meals, hotel rooms and gas cards: thank you. This allowed us to enjoy every minute with Jon.

Special thanks to La Conner Fire Chief Aaron Reinstra, his wife, Jaime and the La Conner Fire Department for taking care of the Maple Hall details, set-up, clean-up, cookies and beautiful flower arrangements at a time when our hearts were breaking and we needed to make plans

quickly. Thank you to Mayor Ramon and Heidi Hayes for stepping in to help, to Pastor Cliff Tadema and Police Chief Chris Cammock for sharing thoughts about Jon, to Connie LeSourd and her team at Kern's for their support and to all of you who were able to join us in celebrating Jon's life.

I also appreciate all who are continuing to support us through cards, texts, visits and prayers of support. It lets us know how much you loved Jon and love our family.

We love you La Conner friends and community, as well as our many friends and family spread across Skagit Valley and throughout the world. Thank you, more than words can ever express.

Love,  
Renee, Jessica, Jesse, Billy and Jenny Skiffington

## Shelter Bay history first class in series

By Aven Wright-McIntosh

Shelter Bay residents had the opportunity to learn about their community's "complicated and unique history" last Tuesday night in the first in a series of new "Know Your Community" classes. Longtime resident, past board member and author Don Newby used photos, maps and archived materials to highlight key historical benchmarks in the first hour and addressed

components of the homeowners' association (HOA) in the second to an audience of 40 onsite at the clubhouse and 90 registered via Zoom.

The Rainbow Bridge, built in 1957, enabled the development as a gateway to the peninsula, Newby explained. Aerial photographs from the 1960s showed a flat, wide-open expanse of land now known as Shelter Bay.

He credited Dewey Mitchell (continued on page 7)

## The path to U.S. energy independence



By Greg Whiting

The path to energy independence leads through "competition with oil," not "more oil."

We've already seen such competition happen. In 1973, a sixth of U.S. electricity was generated using oil. Today, total generation has more than doubled, but almost no U.S. electricity is powered by oil.

Think about that. In one of the four major energy sectors (electricity, domestic heat, industrial process heat and transportation) we are already energy independent. All U.S. electricity is produced in the US, in a competitive market. Prices are reasonable and usually stable. Our electricity is oil independent. Oil price volatility does not affect electric prices. The actions of OPEC and its allied countries hardly affect the availability or price of U.S. electricity.

When oil prices went up in 1973, the market and government reacted. Re-regulation and technology improvements created a competitive generation market. Alternative generation

technologies were improved and developed and became low-cost alternatives. Coal, gas, nuclear, hydro, geothermal, solar, wind, biofuels and waste-to-energy have all had a part in eliminating oil in the electric sector. Oil and its price volatility lost in a competitive market. We became energy independent in electricity.

Competition constrains sudden price changes. Politics around raw materials remain relevant, but any single raw material is less important. If, say, Kazakhstan suddenly decides to stop selling uranium, thus increasing the cost of nuclear power, other forms of generation can be used. Natural gas is usually co-produced with oil, so if OPEC suddenly increases oil production and reduces oil prices to a point where U.S. gas producers close, the natural gas price will go up, but there will not be an electric supply crisis. Utilities will buy more energy from generators not using gas. The electric price may increase, but only a little. There won't be lines for electricity.

Competition with oil is possible in the other three sectors.

Heat, for domestic and industrial uses, can be produced with electricity. Becoming independent of oil for heat can be accomplished by changing infrastructure, over time, to use electricity instead of oil. (As

gas is becoming an international market like oil due to liquified gas exports, forward thinking suggests that electricity should also be substituted for gas, to avoid issues similar to those of the oil market.)

Despite its price volatility, oil has been the best choice for transportation fuels for a long time. Transportation systems using oil-derived fuels were less expensive than and outperformed, alternatives like electricity and coal-based steam.

Oil hasn't had any competition in transportation for decades. Now it does. In 1973, modern electric cars did not exist. Today, electric cars have become competitive with many gas cars on cost and performance. They account for 6% of new U.S. sales. Electric boats and ships and ships with modern sails, are also advancing. It is possible to compete with oil in transportation.

Replacing the existing fleet will take decades. As electric vehicles become common, the U.S. will become less dependent on oil. Even during the transition, the fact that electric vehicles are widely available can constrain oil price increases, by adding elasticity to demand. People cannot stop using oil if all cars and buses use oil-based fuels. People will reduce their oil use once more cars and buses are electric.

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**OBITUARY**



**Robert W. Rosso  
February 29, 1944 –  
November 25, 2022**

Bob was born February 29, 1944, in Detroit, MI to his parents, Marion Brenniman Rosso and William Rosso. The family moved west to Lake Oswego, OR in 1950, and Bob began the life he was proud of. He was a star football player at Lake Oswego HS, and then went on to work his way through the University of Oregon by working with the Bureau of Public Roads, who helped him get his BS in Business and Marketing. He then went to work for Georgia Pacific Corporation where he remained for 30 years, and was the youngest Branch Manager in the country in Boise, ID. He was then transferred to Woodinville, WA, where he turned that ailing branch around to be very profitable. He met his future wife, Judy Doherty, who also worked at GP, a corporate romance, who helped him with his particleboard sales, she was the buyer in the main office in Portland. They married in 1971 and were married for 51 years.

Bob was very close to his family- his mother Marion, grandmother Sarah, sister Sue Trotter, nieces Pam Paaso and Sally Moncrieff, brother-in-law Patrick Doeherty, and nephews Colin and Kevin Doherty.

He was proud of his allegiance to the University of Oregon, and what it means to be a Duck. He always wore a Duck shirt, especially to his many appointments to his diabetic doctor at the University of Washington. He served on the Alumni Board for several terms and was a season ticket holder for all the football games. There were many wonderful football weekends and gatherings with friends, Barbara and Duane Cargill, at their home on the McKenzie River.

Bob had a full, wonderful life and didn't let his diabetes stop him. He always credited his doctor, D. Irl Hirsch, with saving and extending his life. He and Judy spent many summers boating in the San Juan and Gulf Islands in their Tolly Sundown.

After leaving GP in 1990, he started his own business, Evergreen West Wholesale Lumber with his wife and a business partner, Jim Wilharm. It grew from small beginnings to a million dollar business that lasted for 20 years.

In retirement they built a home in Shelter Bay in the town of La Conner in Skagit County. They loved the area and made new friends and also traveled extensively to Italy, the Greek Islands, Scotland, Ireland, Fiji, and Australia.

Bob was the most generous of men and loved to socialize and give parties. He supported many charities. He was a Big man with a Big heart and will be missed in a Big way, leaving us with Big holes in our hearts.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to either Shriners' Hospital for Children, St. Jude's Hospital for Children, or the Alzheimer's Foundation, and would also like to express their undying thanks to the staff of Sunrise View Convalescent Center and to Hospice Continuum Care of Snohomish for their loving care of Bob during his last weeks. Words can't express how wonderful they were to him and the family.

**'Steamboat Town' book launch**

Visit the Skagit County Historical Museum Thursday, Dec. 8 at 5 p.m. to celebrate the publication of Dr. Thomas Robinson's book on the early history of La Conner.

Additionally, buy any Skagit County Historical Society publication and get one of lesser value at half price. Great Holiday gifts! And lots of other great gift ideas for all ages in the museum store.

**Consultant videos explain Shelter Bay lease process**

By Bill Reynolds

Some attending the late November Shelter Bay town hall forum were surprised to learn the community has retained \$10,000 per month consultants for more than two years to negotiate a new master lease with the Swinomish Tribal Community.

Few, if any, should be surprised now, given the release by those consultants, Dr. Wil James and Ava Goodman, of the first two in a series of educational videos addressing key Shelter Bay topics, including the lease due to expire in 2044 and rent adjustments mandated every ten years.

James, who graduated from Stanford University and is a son of the late Landy James, for whom the La Conner High School gym is named, and Goodman, the principals of Akid'nson, LLC, have been tasked with breaking an impasse of several years to bring Swinomish and Shelter Bay representatives back to the table.

The two are Shelter Bay residents with strong familial ties to the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.

In a 45-minute YouTube video focusing on the master lease, James and Goodman use a conversational tone to stress the time is ripe for the two parties to reach a compromise whereby Swinomish realizes a more favorable return based on present regional market values while allowing the Shelter Bay Community to remain sustainable going forward.

James echoes what Shelter Bay officials said at the community's Nov. 20 meeting – that securing a new lease will especially benefit allottees, those individual Swinomish landowners whose property is within Shelter Bay. Without a re-negotiated agreement they face either a reduction or loss of what to date has been steady income.

"You can't rent it out and have the land back at the same time," James says in the video. "The people who receive money and depend on that money, are they going to be willing to get a fraction of what they're getting?"

"Our advice to Swinomish," he adds, "is don't kill the golden goose."

Tribal officials across the nation place great value in real estate after reluctantly agreeing to numerous land cessions through centuries. Swinomish is no exception, says James.

"The leadership at Swinomish has said land is valuable," he explains. "History has not been kind to us since contact and colonization."

He and Goodman say they

are reaching out to all interested parties on the master lease front.

"We're talking to everybody," James says. "This is an opportunity for each side to take a little bit less and come together in the middle."

"Hopefully," he adds, "people will come together. There's strength in cooperation."

Goodman is optimistic the two sides can reach a mutually satisfactory accord "if we stay connected and put forth the effort to stay connected and put forth the effort to listen to one another."

"The Swinomish are loving, sharing, caring people," she says. "There have been some misunderstandings, but I don't think these misunderstandings are insurmountable."

The video offers an overview of the history of Shelter Bay's development. James notes how it took a literal act of Congress for the community's developer to secure a 75-year master lease.

A 25-year term was then the maximum period for which tribal lands could be leased, James says.

"A 25-year lease," he points out, "was not enough time for the developer to get a return on his investment."

With the Shelter Bay lease just 22 years from expiration, Goodman says the trend is for homes to be sold on a cash basis.

"Most homes here," she says, "are cash sales. You're only able to get 15-year mortgages."

James says Akid'nson was approached in 2019 by Shelter Bay leadership "to help navigate negotiations between the Swinomish Tribal Senate and Shelter Bay community," which had stalled out years before.

"We did our due diligence," he recalls. "We went to our attorney to negotiate our contract."

Times have indeed changed in the more than half-century since tribal leaders forged a deal with the Osberg Construction Company to create a residential community on over 400 acres of wild marshland and rolling hills on the Swinomish Reservation southwest of La Conner.

The idea was for primarily seasonal homes and summer cottages to spring up.

"They weren't designed to be year-round residences," James says.

Now there are around 900 homes and its board is bracing to tackle the twin prospects of having to upgrade aging infrastructure and amenities plus control shoreline erosion.

The community in the last couple years has also weathered a controversy involving

(continued on page 7)

**Port open house lays out Marina options**

By Bill Reynolds

Those attending the Port of Skagit's open house Thursday at La Conner Marina lost their marbles.

That was the plan, it turns out. Port consultants handed people Zip-Lock bags containing seven marbles each as they entered the Swinomish Yacht Club for the two-hour event, which offered an opportunity to share ideas and learn more about Marina redevelopment plans.

Attendees were asked to indicate preferences by placing marbles in jars matching the respective Port proposals presented on illustrated placards. They ranged from pedestrian and roadway bridge construction to an emphasis on commercial space and marine recreation areas to installation of an iconic sculpture and flexible use pavilion.

The casual format allowed area residents, business owners and Town staff to chat with executive director Sara Young and Port officials about the future of the 13-acre commercially zoned parcel located at the heart of the marina complex.

"I thought it went well," Town Administrator Scott Thomas told the Weekly News afterward. "It was nice to have illustrations of different proposals. This format is one we are considering for the Town's Comp Plan update, so I was pleased to see it working for the Port."

Residents were also invited to offer specific feedback for marina redevelopment on post-it notes. That input advocated for environmental and green energy issues – solar generation – along with tiny homes and low-income housing and honoring La Conner's maritime history and the previous occupants of the land.

Some skepticism was heard. One person in a small group discussion said, with a not-so-subtle hint of sarcasm, that "this is your tax dollars at work."

However, Port leadership contends maintaining the status quo is not fiscally sustainable. "The marina property is

owned by the public and it's underutilized," Port of Skagit Commission President Dr. Kevin Ware said prior to the open house. "The Port needs to produce a better public benefit from that property, and we hope to do so by improving marine trades opportunities, contributing to the year-round economy of La Conner and incorporating more public access and trails near the waterfront."

The Port first shared a "visioning presentation" of marina redevelopment plan at a public meeting with Town Council and Planning Commission members at Maple Hall in May.

"Since May," said Communications Director Linda Tyler, "the Port has been gathering input from the community and identifying priorities for the underutilized property."

"Early priorities," she emphasized, as did Ware, "include marine trades, improved access to the waterfront, community open space and improved traffic and pedestrian circulation."

The Port of Skagit was created in 1964 to generate jobs in the maritime, agriculture, wood products, fisheries and minerals industries.

One of the Port's earliest projects was construction of the La Conner Marina for vessels using the Swinomish Channel. Its south basin opened in the spring of 1970. Eight years later the north basin, home to several boat building and maintenance ventures, opened.

With the marina now in its second half-century, Port officials are looking to craft a plan that meets the needs of a much different local economy.

The goal, they say, is to reach consensus on a plan that assures retention and support of marine-related uses, complements – but doesn't compete with – the downtown business district, enhances public safety and efficient traffic flow and secures the highest and best use of the property.

**Attend local winter choir concerts**

The Shelter Bay Chorus presents their winter concert, "Peace on Earth" this weekend, Friday, Dec. 9 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. at the Shelter Bay Clubhouse 1000 Shoshone Drive, La Conner. The suggested donation is \$10 and masks are required.

The following weekend is the Skagit Valley Chorale winter concert, "Heralding Christmas," Saturday, Dec. 17 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 18 at 2 p.m. in McIntyre Hall. Purchase tickets online at mcintyrehall.org.

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**Spotlight on Missy**

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

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

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

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

If interested, or for more information, contact HSSV at 360-757-0445 or via email at shelter@skagitshelter.org.



# Girls' hoop team opens with sweep of 2A foes



**VICTORY WITHIN REACH** - Maeve McCormick helped La Conner gain the upper hand in its season opener at home against Squalicum of Bellingham last week.

— Photo by Madoc Hiller

**By Bill Reynolds**

The La Conner High School girls' basketball team brought more than its "A" game to last week's home and road openers.

The Lady Braves, under first-year head coach Joe Harper, bolted out of the gate with their "2A" game, easily downing Northwest Conference non-league foe Squalicum 50-23 at home Nov. 28 and Anacortes 62-42 Dec. 1.

Ellie Marble and Josie Harper each scored in double figures to highlight the season debut at Landy James Gym. The hosts broke it open with a 32-11 run that buried Squalicum in the second half.

Marble, working mostly in the paint, tallied 14 points after intermission when the team took control of the game. Harper, who drained three perimeter treys, scored 10 second half points.

Makayla Herrera, Maeve McCormick, Shaniquah Casey and Kennedy Miller rounded out the attack.

With the score tied 10-10 late in the second quarter, Casey meshed a 10-foot jumper. After Squalicum briefly knotted the score 12-12 with a driving layin, Harper responded with a long three-pointer, putting the Lady Braves ahead for good.

A putback by Herrera and free

throw by Marble closed out the half.

The spurt carried over to the third quarter, with Harper converting a coast-to-coast layup out of the break that triggered a 16-5 spurt.

Marble and Herrera dominated play in the key, wearing down Squalicum with their high-low post game while crashing the offensive glass.

Ten of Marble's game-high 18 boards came at the offensive end. Herrera grabbed nine rebounds, five of which resulted in second shot opportunities.

Herrera was also on the receiving end of a deft bounce pass in transition from Casey that produced a layup and the largest lead at 48-17 midway through the final stanza.

At Anacortes, La Conner opened with a strong first quarter, setting the tone by taking an early 16-4 lead.

Harper led all scorers with 20 points. Herrera and Marble chipped in 18 and 15 points, respectively. McCormick contributed another eight points.

Last night the Lady Braves entertained 4A Jackson High of Mill Creek.

La Conner, the defending NW2B champion, is at 1A Blaine tomorrow, Dec. 8, before returning home for a Saturday game with 4A Skyline at 7 p.m.

# School board may support lawsuit to have state fund district capital projects

**By Bill Reynolds**

La Conner and Wahkiakum are longtime foes in the athletic arena. Soon they might be allies on the judicial front.

La Conner School Board President Susie Deyo raised that prospect during the panel's 90-minute Nov. 28 hybrid meeting.

Deyo asked that the board later this month support a resolution and modest financial contribution — perhaps \$3,000. The Wahkiakum School District is suing the state government to extend the McCleary decision mandating basic education funding to include campus capital improvement projects.

The state Supreme Court in the McCleary case ruled that the state is constitutionally responsible for essential academic funding in grades K-12. That financial support, the court determined, can only be cut due to scholastic and not budget considerations.

Prior to that 2012 ruling, students in school districts with

high property values tended to enjoy access to a level of education not necessarily available to students in lower property wealth districts.

Attorneys for the McCleary family of Chimacum successfully argued that reliance on local property levies created a gap between state funding and actual school operational costs that favored more affluent districts.

But that ruling left unclear whether building and security upgrades are included in what the court termed "amply funded" basic education elements.

Deyo said the Wahkiakum bid to extend McCleary to capital improvements has merit that can benefit La Conner.

"We have a great opportunity to help Wahkiakum," Deyo explained. "If they win, the state will have to fund these capital projects, and we need one."

Deyo did not specify the district's need, but the high school building is nearing the half-century mark. The district has invested recently in significant

security, roofing and siding upgrades on campus.

Deyo gained insight into the Wahkiakum litigation while attending the annual Washington State School Directors Association conference in Spokane last month.

"It was a major takeaway for me," she said, noting that Wahkiakum is a low property wealth district, recalling a basketball trip La Conner there.

"They can't pass a bond to build new buildings," Deyo said. "Bond costs to Wahkiakum (taxpayers) are much higher than they are in (more populated or affluent) districts like Issaquah."

Deyo said that Wahkiakum has seen eight bond issue measures fail at the polls. The southwest Washington district has embraced what she called a "David versus Goliath" strategy and is hoping to "pile on to McCleary" to secure funding for long delayed capital improvements.

"I think this will directly affect us," Deyo projected. "If they win, it helps us."

# Braves rebound for first hoop win of season

**By Bill Reynolds**

The La Conner High School boys' basketball team broke into the win column Saturday with an 84-15 non-league home romp over Cedar Park Christian of Bothell, a multi-campus school with an enrollment topping 1,000 students.

Isaiah Price scored a game-high 26 points and Ivory Damien added 24 to lead the victors, whose suffocating full-court pressure defense forced 21 steals enroute to a wire-to-wire triumph.

The Braves shot 38 of 80 from the field — 34 of 58 inside the three-point line, mostly layups and putbacks — and cleared the glass for 47 rebounds, with Logan Burks and Corran Eisen grabbing nine caroms each.

Eisen finished with eight points. He was the most effective long-distance scorer, draining two of

four perimeter treys.

Christian Fix, Cole Medeiros, Isa Gonzalez-Rojas, Tyler Cicotte, Brayden Pedroza and Burks also landed in the scoring column.

La Conner broke to an 11-0 first period lead, converting Lion turnovers and shaky shot selection into easy transition buckets.

Cedar Park did not get on the scoreboard until nearly six minutes into the game, courtesy of a pair of free throws as La Conner's tight man-to-man pressure drew eight whistles in the opening frame.

Head coach C.J. Woods called off the press late in the second period, by which time the Braves had built a comfortable double-digit advantage.

Points were harder to come by in the home opener Dec. 1 with Sedro-Woolley and at Oak Harbor Dec. 2.

Sedro-Woolley's height and

length limited the Braves open looks and choked their passing lanes.

The team managed just 29% shooting in the 67-37 setback to the Cubs. The Braves were only three-of-21 beyond the trey arc with Price, Eisen and Burks hitting one three-pointer apiece.

Price's 11 points made him the lone La Conner scorer in double figures.

It was a similar script at Oak Harbor, where the Wildcats posted a convincing 73-44 win.

La Conner resumed non-conference action last night at home opposite 1A Meridian. They rounded out the week against Sea-Tac 2B/1B opponents.

La Conner visits Auburn Adventist tomorrow, Dec. 8 at 5:30 p.m. and travels to Rainier Christian for a 6:30 p.m. tipoff on Friday.

# November school board financial decisions

**By Bill Reynolds**

La Conner school board members approved a new district civility policy promoting mutual respect and a positive learning environment throughout the district at its Nov. 28 meeting. This builds on an earlier policy addressing student use of telecommunication devices as part of a campaign to curb bullying.

Student school board representative Taylor-Rae Cayou said

bullying issues related to uncivil behavior and mental health awareness were topics of discussion at the Washington State School Directors Association conference.

"I'm excited you went (to the state forum) and enjoyed your sessions," Superintendent Will Nelson responded, "and that you came back with information we can use here."

The board accepted with appreciation a \$7,500 donation by the Town of La Conner to

the Braves Club after-school program. That might increase to \$10,000 when the town council passes their 2023 budget.

The board also approved a new salary schedule for school staff not represented by either of the district's two labor unions.

Board President Susie Deyo said the agreement, retroactive

(continued on page 8)

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# La Conner childhood adds up for tax accountant

By Bill Reynolds

Neil Bretvick was in his early 20s when he left La Conner to embark on a career as a tax accountant. Along the way he has traveled the world and attended concerts played by the biggest acts in the music industry.

Even so, he insists that his hometown – where as a youth he enjoyed sledding down Maloy Hill (Second Street), smelt jigging on Swinomish Channel, swimming in the nearby Skagit River, learning to drive big farm trucks at West Shore Acres and scoring one of the more storied touchdowns in La Conner High School football history – “is still in my blood and bones.”

The connections are many, including Jeff Hellam, owner of Hellam’s Vineyard on North First Street, the son of a co-founder of the Bellevue accounting firm where Bretvick has worked since 1985.

Bretvick insists his career is truly rooted here. The 1976 La Conner graduate then earned degrees from Skagit Valley College and Central Washington University and a master’s from Golden Gate University.

“I was good in math in high school,” he recalls, “thanks to teachers like Mr. (Steve) Crawford and Mr. (Rudy) Leander. They really left a positive impression on me with their ability to explain complex concepts.”

“Initially,” Bretvick notes, “I thought I’d be a math teacher like them. Unfortunately, I didn’t seem to have the gift nor the patience, so I thought accounting would be a good choice, and it was. I remember my business and accounting classes at La Conner High with Mr. (Gene) Fowler and how much I enjoyed them.”

He received no small amount of encouragement at home.

“My parents, Duane and Helen Bretvick, grandmother LaVerne Bretvick and aunt Lorraine and uncle Bill Van Brocklin were my most consistent advocates for college and career success,” Bretvick says. “My aunt and uncle, being educators in the Stanwood Schools, were hugely encouraging to me. Your education is something that can never be taken away from you,” my mother used to say.”

Bretvick grew up on the hill here, where summer weekends were highlighted by salmon barbecues at home or with neighboring families.

“It seemed like every week in the summer, the Alvords, Byrns, Van Wieringens, Wipfs or we would have one,” he says. “Our neighbors were an extension of family to me. Actually, the whole town felt that way.”

His youth was an idyllic time of playing sports – “We ‘hill kids’ would often compete in basketball or baseball against the ‘flats brats,’” says Bretvick – and parlaying a paper route into getting to know just about everyone in town.

“As a paperboy in the early ‘70s,” Bretvick says, “I knew so many of the people who lived in town.”

A favorite customer was legendary artist Guy Anderson. “When collecting the paper route money,” he says, “I would sometimes get a glimpse of what he was working on.”

In high school, where he first caught the accounting bug, Bretvick made his mark

as a top-flight tennis player, outstanding musician and author of a signature touchdown play for the 1973 Braves team that reached the state playoffs under head coach Landy James.

“We were playing Friday Harbor at home,” Bretvick says, looking back almost 50 years. “Their running back had made some big runs cutting to the outside. Landy put me in at defensive end and told me; ‘Whatever you do, turn the play in. Don’t let him get outside of you.’”

“Two plays later,” says Bretvick, “they attempted an outside run in my direction, but the quarterback initially fumbled the snap, and in his rush, pitched the ball to me instead of his own player. I ran about 60 yards for my first and only touchdown. My legs felt like lead as I was so shocked to be holding the ball. Thanks to some key blocking by my teammates, I made it to the end zone untouched. I heard that someone in town filmed the run, but I never saw it.”

It was no accident that

Bretvick took to music at an early age – a favorite pastime that has since led to attendance at concerts headlined by Elton John, Bruce Springsteen, Led Zeppelin, Peter Frampton, Jethro Tull, James Taylor, Steely Dan, Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, Chicago, The Moody Blues, John Prine, Al Stewart and Brandi Carlile.

Bretvick’s dad was an accomplished accordionist, taught by the famed Hugo Helmer.

“My dad’s father, Lud Bretvick, also played a small accordion,” he says. “Dad said when he was very young, he asked grandpa where the music came from, and grandpa had told him there was a little man inside making the music. So, one day, dad cut the bellows open to see if he could find the little man.”

Neil Bretvick opted for the trumpet, inspired by his mom’s two Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass records.

“I loved them,” he says. “They made such an impression on me

(continued on page 7)

# Art auction supports wildlife sanctuary

By April Grossruck

Come on down to Skagit Cellars Winery tasting room this week to view and bid on over 50 original artworks to benefit Predators of the Heart. Bid now and come to the auction on Dec. 10, 5-7pm.

Predators of the Heart is a 501(c)3 nonprofit wildlife sanctuary and education and conservation center in Anacortes. Our mission is to educate children and adults about wildlife, to build a culture of respect and compassion towards wild animals and the environment. We strongly believe that each animal plays an active, critical role in our shared ecosystem; an animal’s value is not determined by its similarity or services to humans. We aim to open the eyes and hearts of the public to showcase how we cannot thrive if our wildlife and natural world are not cared for and respected.

Beyond rescuing animals, our focus is childhood education thru virtual custom curriculum for classrooms and youth programs. We believe youth education should be free and we offer this opportunity thru sponsorships and grants. However, our most famous and reliable income stream is our Howling With Ambassadors wolf encounter for adults, which provides a safe environment to interact with and learn about wolves in a natural setting.

In February 2022, Skagit County blocked our tour program. For 10 months, we’ve been pinching every penny to give our wolves and rescue wildlife the quality of life they deserve. We’re negotiating with the county to receive a permit in order to reopen - a process which has taken a huge toll on our daily operations. Artwork sales will keep the lights on and support our virtual education events!

At the same time, we are fighting a lawsuit served by individuals who are antithetical to our work and who are fully aware that if we close, over 100 exotic animals will be euthanized.

Predators of the Heart expertly cares for wolves, cougars,

bobcats, birds of prey, many different species of reptiles, small mammals and more on our 10-acre sanctuary. We are insured and licensed by the USDA, who have granted POTH Class C Exhibitor Licensing – the highest level of licensing available to civilian organizations. This standard ensures the safe keeping, proper care and humane exhibition of our animals in the comfort of their forever homes.

That said, these hurdles are a great opportunity!

POTH would like to purchase a second location. Through fundraising, we will be able to turn our Anacortes location into our farm life, exotic bird and reptile educational and rescue center, while housing our wolves and other exotic animals at a different location. This will allow us to expand our mission and help more than the animals we already have! But we need your help! Artists include Teresa Saia, Dawn Emerson, Amanda Houston, Janet Laurel and many more!

Artwork is on view online at [www.myminiauction.com/poth](http://www.myminiauction.com/poth) and in person at Skagit Cellars in Gilkey Square in La Conner.

Grossruck is on the board of directors of Predators of the Heart.

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# Hunt and Peck program perfectly typecast for museum showing

By Bill Reynolds

There were many keys to the Skagit County Historical Museum drawing a standing-room-only crowd to Sunday afternoon’s program in La Conner.

One was the role played by actor Kevin Tighe, star in the popular 1970s TV series “Emergency,” among many highlights in a career dating to the 1967 film “The Graduate.”

Tighe and stage director Angela Marinella provided voices for famous authors who credited use of typewriters for much of their literary success.

A key component of the 45-minute presentation was the clever, briskly paced video compiled and edited by writer Brian Young, guest curator of the museum’s “Hunt and Peck” north wing exhibit featuring vintage typewriters.

And, of course, there were the keys themselves, aligned in the familiar 150-year-old QWERTY format on the array of classic typing machines Young set out for viewing.

Museum Director Jo Wolfe, opened the program, sharing how Young had approached her with the idea of displaying his unique typewriters for a museum exhibit. She was on board from the start, though initially unaware of quite how extensive his collection is.

“He showed up with carloads of typewriters,” she recalled, “and it’s been so well received.”

Young began with video clips of typewriters portrayed in famous movies from “Citizen Kane” to “All the President’s Men” to “The Shining.”

“The typewriter,” said Young, “is one of the most revolutionary inventions in the history of mankind.”

He credited Mark Twain as the first author to submit a manuscript written on a typewriter.

Tighe then channeled his inner Twain by reading a lengthy quote from the revered humorist spelling out his impressions

of early typewriters. Tighe later shared observations from novelist Ernest Hemingway and beat writer Jack Kerouac.

Marinella shared passages from prolific author Danielle Steel, a fan of her 1946 Olympia typewriter, which she fondly named “Ollie.”

“It weighs as much as I do and I’m happy to say it’s older than I am,” said Steel, via Marinella.

Marinella also brought to life Katherine Anne Porter, whose novel “Ship of Fools” was made into a 1965 movie starring, among others, Vivien Leigh, in her final film role.

Young emphasized that unlike computers, typewriters were made solely for composition.

“Not being able to access the internet is a feature, not a bug,” he joked.

Composing on a typewriter requires greater concentration and focus than doing so with a computer, on which it is much easier to edit copy and correct keystroke errors. Typewriter composition, he noted, requires a certain precision and concise writing style.

“They are beautiful machines,” said Young, stressing that first-generation typewriters were not mass produced and embraced a sense of elegance.

He values both their history and utility.

“I’m just a steward of these machines,” Young said. “When I find them and restore them, my hope is they will be around long after I’m gone.”

Young told the Weekly News afterward that he, Tighe and Marinella had rehearsed their presentation a couple times.

“I couldn’t have done this without them,” he stressed.

Young was grateful for the large turnout at the trio’s “Hunt and Peck Stories” forum.

“I’m a bit overwhelmed,” he admitted. “I was just expecting five of my closest friends.”

Instead, he discovered a much wider circle bonded by a common appreciation of a writing machine whose impact appears timeless.

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# Holiday happenings around La Conner



The Hancock family, Tracy, Finley and Robert, from left, and the favorite tiny tree that they took home..



This English town crier is Ernie Gomez. Jasmine Dillard is his English maid.



Robyn Burdick from Tillinghast Postal & Business Center selling stickers with her art at the Holiday Craft Fair in Maple Hall Dec. 3.



Martha Bufkin, Marci Plank and Kim Hildahl at the MoNA Holiday Open House Saturday, Dec. 3.

## Holiday. . . (from page 1)

Heather Guterrez and Evan Rodriguez.  
La Conner High School volunteers were again the server team. Rotary thanks Andrew Villard, Natalie Koch, Ray Barker, Hallie Walls, Thomas Kitchen and Emily Smith.

The Santa Breakfast is not a fundraiser, it is a Rotary Club of La Conner community service event. Breakfast fees are structured to cover costs.

### Weekend holiday happenings

The Pacific Northwest Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum, in its 25th year, offered its annual open house with free admission for folks to find holiday decorations throughout the Mansion, hot cider and cookies. Down on South First Street the Museum of Northwest Art also provided treats, including wine, for its gift shop open house.

At 1 p.m. volunteer students from the middle and high school music program started playing and singing Christmas carols at the entrance to Gilkey Square, near Morris Street. They were perfectly positioned when nattily dressed English town crier Ernie

Gomez, complete with bell and cane, led the Northwest Junior Pipe Band, not all the way from Edmunds, but from the plaza at Maple Hall. The five bagpipers and four drummers marched up the middle of First Street.

And that is how you draw 50 people, not all tourists, to Gilkey Square on a sunny but cold Saturday afternoon. They were joined by a half dozen belles dressed in Edwardian – that's after 1901 – finery. Called into creative existence by Gina Torpey of Enchanted Locks Hair Design, with assistance from Stompin' Grounds Kim Broadhead, both were joined in costume by their compatriots, Jasmine Dillard and Jennifer Goellner, among them.

This OPAL (Organized Patrons Advancing LA Conner) project included an elf hunt and other children's games at Gilkey Square Saturday and music in Maple Hall Sunday, starting with the Shelter Bay Chorus. The Pipe Band might have returned and perhaps Santa did, too.

All that, with holiday markets at the La Conner Pub & Eatery and the Vinery at Christianson's Nursery Sunday. There are still 17 shopping days till Christmas.



The Shelter Bay Chorus sang Sunday in Maple Hall. They sing Friday and Saturday in Shelter Bay. – Photos on this page by Marissa Conklin or Ken Stern and courtesy of MoNA

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# POLICE BLOTTER

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**Tuesday, November 29**  
**1:21 p.m.: Abandoned truck impounded** – A Ford F-150 was left abandoned for several days just east of Best Road. Law enforcement attempted to contact the registered owner several times and they never answered. The truck was marked for removal and after 24 hours the truck was still there. It was eventually impounded. Calhoun Rd., Greater La Conner.

**Thursday, December 1**  
**9:26 p.m.: Camped overnight** – A

recreational vehicle was parked in the fire department parking lot overnight. The occupants were not in the RV when law enforcement attempted contact. Later they were contacted and advised it would be moved in the morning. Beaver Marsh Rd., Greater La Conner.

**Sunday, December 4**  
**9:13 a.m.: Suspicious vehicle** – A suspicious parked vehicle was reported in the area. It turned out the owners live on a boat in the marina. Maple Ave., La Conner.

## Process . . .

(from page 3)

unauthorized tree-cutting at Rainbow Park by Steve Swigert, a former Shelter Bay board member. The Swinomish Planning Department responded by imposing \$92,000 in penalties and fines, which James says works out to just over \$100 per household.

At the November public forum, Board President Wendy Poulton indicated the consultants have made headway in getting Swinomish and Shelter Bay closer to engaging in con-

structive talks.

James and Goodman stress it is in everyone's best interest to avoid costly arbitration and reach agreement on a new lease.

"I tell people it's the best deal we (Swinomish) ever got," James says of Shelter Bay. "It didn't cost us anything and it has given us millions of dollars. Why kill the golden goose?"

"This is a wonderful opportunity to grow and walk your talk and find a way to work together," he says. "The time for pushing the can down the road and selling the blue sky is over. It's time to come together."

## Accountant . . .

(from page 5)

I decided to learn to play the trumpet when I was about nine. I played in the high school band starting in seventh and grade for Mr. (Bill) Hoy."

After college, and as his career grew, Bretvick and his late first wife Donna embraced public service, devoting time to PTA, scouting and recreational league soccer.

"My accounting career has given me many wonderful opportunities to learn about businesses and communities and provide the financial wherewithal to travel and pursue philanthropic endeavors," he says. "Through my career I have become associated with a number of wonderful charities, becoming a supporter and board member of a couple that advocate for homeless and for high school and college mentoring for students who are often left behind in our society."

As a member of the Bellevue Breakfast Rotary Club, Bretvick is involved in projects related to autism, promotion of clean water and malaria and polio eradication.

Being an accountant has had its stressful moments, he concedes, but there was also the time Bretvick flew in a client's helicopter in heavy fog to tour oyster beds at Willapa Bay.

"The pilot had to put the chopper down on the side of a hill until it was safe to take off again," says Bretvick. "Watching him negotiate the fog and make that landing was quite a thrill."

He and his current wife,

Carolee, also a La Conner alum, travel as time allows, often in their RV. It was on a trip to Cannon Beach, Oregon where he proposed.

Travels abroad have taken Bretvick through Europe and the Mediterranean rim, including a stop at the D-Day beaches at Normandy, which he says every American should visit.

"If you have the opportunity," he advises today's La Conner students, "do a bit of travel abroad. It will provide some perspective outside your own world."

Having put his 40th tax season in the books, Bretvick counsels teens to take an accounting of their lives and explore potential avenues for personal growth.

"Don't be afraid to step outside your comfort zone and try new things," he implores. "Talk to your elders. Listen to their stories and learn from their experiences."

And when it comes to varied experiences, few can match Bretvick, who anticipates even more adventures in the years to come.

## Class . . . (from page 2)

and Axel Osberg (with sons Allan and John) for key development roles, making special note of Tandy Wilbur's legislative work to allow for the 75-year lease signed in 1968.

The first lots sold in the 1970s. What began as a summer/vacation getaway community slowly became a retirement/residential community.

After a short break, the second hour's topics addressed structural components of the HOA including articles of incorporation, bylaws, rules and regulations, 34 protective covenants and how Shelter Bay's HOA differs from others. Members were encouraged to join the many volunteer committees,

get involved in their community and share their talents.

Newby assigned homework to anyone who could shed light on the legendary "Martha" source named for Martha's Beach and Martha's Bay.

The second class is Dec. 12, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Tribal land and lease topics will be presented by Rod Proctor. Pat McGarry and Vanessa Finch will speak to the marina's history, business plan, operations and benefits to Shelter Bay residents. Classes are coordinated by Shelter Bay Community and the communications committee. All sessions are recorded and available on the residents' website, shelterbay.net.

### Just the Facts:

The Treaty of Point Elliott of 1855 created the Swinomish

Reservation. There are 800 registered Swinomish tribal members. There are 326 Indian reservations in the U.S. and 574 federally recognized tribes, with 3.4 million registered tribal persons in the U.S.; 20% live on reservations.

Shelter Bay Community is a for-profit entity. Shelter Bay Community, a non-profit entity, formed in 1979. Shelter Bay Community purchased Shelter Bay Community in 2004 for \$2 million.

Shelter Bay has 870 homes and 10 undeveloped lots.

Shelter Bay is divided across two of three Swinomish Reservation political precincts

The 75-year master lease of 1968 expires in 2044

## Shelter . . . (from page 1)

The judge responded, "This is highly irregular." Rekofke called it "prosecution by ambush" and cited rules for oral testimony that were not followed. Fontenot owned her mistake even as she continued to interrupt the judge.

Fontenot did not file discovery materials, either.

Rekofke pushed for the case to be dismissed with prejudice, arguing that her claim was not based in law or fact, asserting she did not follow the court's rules for filing the case.

Fontenot apparently convinced the judge not to dismiss the case based on the merits and that Fontenot has standing, as a member of the Shelter Bay Community, to challenge the board officers' handling of the

association's finances under the state's statutes.

Fontenot said, "There is no way that the officers, that the board of directors of a multimillion-dollar corporation owes no duty of care to the membership. That simply is irrational. It's in the law. It's in the bylaws."

Rekofke, representing board officers Elaine Dixon, Monte Hicks, Louise Kari and Wendy Poulton, failed to get the injunction dismissed or require that Fontenot post bond to continue.

Several Shelter Bay residents watched the Zoom-available hearing and were less than impressed, some noting that the judge scolded and reprimanded Fontenot for interrupting.

Riquelme was critical in her final remarks, asking, "Is it proper

procedure to interrupt the judge when you're in federal court? Is that something that's normally all right?"

The judge warned Fontenot "It's going to have to be significantly improved upon, in terms of demonstrating those standards, if this motion is going to be brought again."

Fontenot moved to Shelter Bay last spring from Louisiana, where she had been an assistant federal public defender.

The board officers, including Joe Hurley, and former members Steve Swigert and Jack Galbraith are listed on Fontenot's Nov. 7 complaint.

Defendant Philip Buri's motion to dismiss his case is scheduled Dec. 15 with Judge Elizabeth Neidzowski. Buri has been the association's attorney.

## Design . . . (from page 1)

Town Planner Michael Davolio determined the Atkinsons' proposal met Town code guidelines. The Town Planning Commission recommended against approving the couple's application, citing potential negative impacts on the neighborhood.

Lowell approved a conditional use permit for the project in May, before the contract rezone had been entered into the record.

"We said six months ago that we could do the same project with an historic design review," Atkinson, who maintains a dental practice in La Conner and has developed properties elsewhere, insisted on Thursday, "but these guys wanted to forward with this other baloney."

However, Atkinson representative Roger Vallo seemed less eager to agree to the historic design review accommodation.

"We've offered this before," Vallo said. "The Letter of

Determination from the Town on the issue makes it clear it's not in the Historic Preservation District. I don't see a reason to do it, but that's a question for Brandon. It would cost additional money.

"Our goal on this project," Vallo added, "is to be in compliance with the Town's zoning and all its codes. We've been in compliance, and we've gone through a lot of hoops at tremendous cost to Brandon."

David Bricklin, Talman and Aldrich's counsel, has contended the contract rezone was a legislative act and as such remains in effect. During the hearing he noted for the record that his analysis has gone un rebutted. He repeated that the contract rezone has not been repealed and it modified the Comprehensive Plan.

"They have to comply with the Historic Preservation District guidelines," he said.

Atkinson, responding to Lowell, said the project has been

on hold for over a year.

"We met with the Town before we bought the property," he said. "We've done everything we've been asked to do."

Lowell asked if a different approach would have been taken had he known about the contract rezone. Atkinson replied: "We wouldn't have spent money on the property if we couldn't do with the property what we were told we could do."

Lowell suggested the two parties spend the following five business days working toward an accommodation.

"We're not opposed to it," Atkinson confirmed. "We're not asking for anything that's unreasonable."

Town Administrator Scott Thomas requested that if an accommodation, which Lowell referred to as extension of an "olive branch," is reached, that the Town and Lowell be notified forthwith.

# WISH LIST!

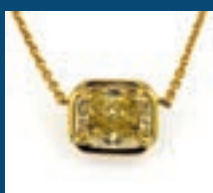
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**AGENDAS**

**La Conner Park Commission Agenda**  
 December 14th 2022 9:30 a.m.  
 Maple Hall Fireside Room  
 104 Commercial Street,  
 La Conner and by Zoom.  
 Information below and on the  
 Town website  
 Public comments  
 Old Business  
 A. Gilkey Sign  
 B. Pavilion Permit Update  
 C. Maple Street Park Fence  
 D. Fish Slide Budget Update  
 New Business  
 Meeting ID: 898 2834 7462  
 Passcode: S6Qx0p

**Town Council Agenda**  
 December 13, 2022, 6 p.m.  
 104 Commercial Street Upper  
 Maple Center and by Zoom  
 Information is below and on  
 the Town Website  
 I. Call to Order  
 II. Pledge of Allegiance  
 III. Public Comments (Limit:  
 3 minutes per person)  
 IV. Presentations:  
 V. Consent Agenda  
 A. Consent Agenda (Ap-  
 proved without objection 5/0)  
 1. Approval of the Minutes:  
 Council Meetings of Novem-  
 ber 8 and 22, 2022  
 2. Finance:  
 Approval of Accounts Pay-  
 able  
 Approval Payroll  
 B. Items Removed from the  
 Consent Agenda  
 VI. Reports  
 1. Chamber Report  
 2. Revenue /Expenditure Re-  
 port  
 3. Department Head Reports  
 4. Mayor's Report  
 5. Council Committee Re-  
 ports  
 VII. Unfinished Business:  
 1. Center Street Project - Dis-  
 cussion  
 2. Jenson Property - Discus-  
 sion  
 3. Ordinance - 2022 Budget  
 Amendment  
 3. PUBLIC HEARING -  
 2023 Final Budget  
 4. Ordinance - 2023 Final  
 Budget  
 5. Ordinance - Impact Fees  
 6. Policy - CDBG Standards  
 of Conduct  
 New Business:  
 1. Resolution - 2023 Fee Up-  
 dates  
 2. Agreement - Planning  
 Services  
 3. Agreement - 2023 La  
 Conner After School Program  
 4. Agreement - Town Hall/  
 Sheriff Cleaning - Andrea's  
 Cleaning  
 5. Cancellation of the Decem-  
 ber 27, 2022 Council Meeting  
 & Approval to Signoff Claims  
 6. Assignment of Mayor Pro  
 Tem - Councilmember Dole  
 VIII. Mayor Roundtable:  
 IX. Executive Session:  
 There may be an executive  
 session immediately preced-  
 ing or following the meeting  
 as allowed by RCW 42.30.110  
 and as announced by the pre-  
 siding officer.

**Decisions...**

(from page 4)

to Sept. 1 and based on  
 a lengthy salary study  
 led by finance director  
 Brian Gianello, allows  
 the district to "pay our  
 people comparable to other  
 schools our size and other  
 districts in our county."

Gianello reported that  
 school districts across  
 Washington state are  
 grappling with declining  
 student enrollment, forcing  
 them to spend down their  
 reserve fund balances. La  
 Conner is not immune, he  
 cautioned.

"There are some tough  
 decisions ahead," he  
 predicted.

Board policy is to  
 maintain at minimum a  
 reserve fund equal to 10%  
 of the district budget. At  
 the start of the this school  
 year, the district's reserve  
 fund was \$1.6 million.

Deyo said she had  
 understood, based on  
 summer fiscal projections,  
 that the total would be  
 closer to \$1.95 million.

"There were some  
 costs that occurred in July  
 and August, the (new)  
 math curriculum being  
 one of them," Gianello  
 explained. "It's never one  
 thing, in particular. It's a  
 combination of things."

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**TOWN OF LA CONNER  
 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEAR-  
 ING 2023 FINAL BUDGET**  
 Notice is hereby given that  
 the 2023 Final Budget of the  
 Town of La Conner has been  
 filed with the Town Clerk and  
 that a copy will be furnished  
 to any citizen who requests  
 it from the Clerk's office. A  
 public hearing will be held on  
 the 2023 Final Budget during  
 the regular Council Meeting  
 on Tuesday, December 13,  
 2023 at 6:00 p.m., Located at  
 204 Commercial Street (Upper  
 Maple Center) or via Zoom.  
 Information to join will be  
 published in the La Conner  
 Weekly News and on the Town  
 Website. At this time any citi-  
 zen may appear and be heard  
 in favor or against any part of  
 the 2023 Budget Ordinance.  
 Maria DeGoede, Finance  
 Director  
 Published in the La Conner  
 Weekly News Nov. 30, Dec.  
 7, 2022.

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 FILING COPY  
 OF NOTICE TO CREDI-  
 TORS with the Clerk of the  
 Court: December 6, 2022**  
**DATE OF FIRST PUBLICA-  
 TION: December 7, 2022**  
 PR: /S/ Gale Hickok Address  
 of PR 1301 Riverside Drive,  
 Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
 Attorney: William G. Knud-  
 sen WSBA #6064  
 Published in the La Conner  
 Weekly News Dec. 7, 14, 21,  
 2022.

**SUPERIOR COURT OF  
 WASHINGTON COUNTY  
 OF KING Estate of:  
 JUDITH LEE CROSS,  
 Deceased. No. 22-4-07206-4  
 SEA PROBATE NOTICE TO  
 CREDITORS RCW 11.40.030**  
 The Personal Representa-  
 tive named below Personal  
 Representative has been ap-  
 pointed and has qualified as  
 the Personal Representative  
 of this estate. Any person hav-  
 ing a claim against the dece-  
 dent must, before the time  
 the claim would be barred by  
 any otherwise applicable sta-  
 tute of limitations, present the  
 claim in the manner as pro-  
 vided in RCW 11.40.070 by:  
 (1) 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 (2) 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 publication in Skagit  
 County: November 23, 2022.  
 Personal Representative:  
 Fritz E. Wollett  
 Attorney for the Personal  
 Representative: Denelle G.  
 Reilly  
 Address for Mailing or Ser-  
 vice: Denelle G. Reilly  
 Somers Tambyln Isenhour  
 Bleck, P.L.L.C.  
 701 Pike Street, Suite 1510  
 Seattle, WA 98101  
 Published in the La Conner  
 Weekly News Nov. 23, 30,  
 Dec. 7, 2022.

Washington, and described as  
 follows:  
 That portion of the platted  
 alleyway appurtenant to Lots  
 1-6 inclusive, and that por-  
 tion of the platted alleyway  
 appurtenant to Lots 28-31 in-  
 clusive, Block 19, "TOWN  
 OF McMURRAY, SKAGIT  
 COUNTY, WASHINGTON",  
 as per the plat thereof record-  
 ed in Volume 2 of Plats, page  
 107, records of Skagit County,  
 Wash.  
 EXCEPT any portion thereof  
 that may lie within the right-  
 of-way of the P.S. Pulp &  
 Timber Co., a Delaware cor-  
 poration, as conveyed by the  
 English Lumber Co., a Wash-  
 ington corporation, by instru-  
 ment dated January 1st, 1945  
 and recorded November 3rd,  
 1948 under Skagit County Au-  
 ditor's File No. 424512.  
 (P75144 & P75146)  
 DATED: November 2nd,  
 2022.  
 CRAIG SJOSTROM #21149  
 Attorney for Plaintiff  
 1204 Cleveland Ave.  
 Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
 (360) 848-0339  
 Published in the La Conner  
 Weekly News Nov. 9, 16, 23,  
 30, Dec. 7, 14, 2022.

**SUPERIOR COURT OF  
 WASHINGTON FOR  
 SKAGIT COUNTY Estate of  
 Charles Elmer Brown,  
 Deceased Probate No. 22-4-  
 00588-29 Dated: November  
 23, 2022. PROBATE NOTICE  
 TO CREDITORS  
 (RCW 11.40.030)**  
 The personal representa-  
 tive named below has been  
 appointed as personal repre-  
 sentative 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

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
 OF THE STATE OF WASH-  
 INGTON IN AND FOR THE  
 COUNTY OF SKAGIT IN  
 PROBATE No. 22-4-00577-  
 29 PROBATE NOTICE TO  
 CREDITORS RCW 11.40.030**  
 In the Matter of the Estate of  
 MILDRED JUNE LANDRY,  
 Deceased.  
 The personal representa-  
 tive named below has been  
 appointed as personal repre-  
 sentative 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

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
 OF WASHINGTON FOR  
 SKAGIT COUNTY  
 DWANE E. PORTER &  
 STEPHANIE L. PORTER,  
 h/w Plaintiff vs.  
 ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN  
 CLAIMING ANY INTEREST  
 IN OR TO THE SUBJECT  
 REAL PROPERTY**  
 Defendants. No. 22-2-00832-  
 29 SUMMONS BY PUBLI-  
 CATION  
 THE STATE OF WASHING-  
 TON TO: ALL PERSONS  
 UNKNOWN CLAIMING  
 ANY INTEREST IN OR TO  
 THE SUBJECT REAL PROP-  
 erty, Defendants:  
 You are hereby summoned to  
 appear within sixty days after  
 the date of the first publication  
 of this summons, to wit, with-  
 in sixty days after the 9th day  
 of November, 2022, and de-  
 fend 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 un-  
 dersigned attorney for plain-  
 tiffs at his office below stated;  
 and in case of your failure so  
 to do, judgment will be ren-  
 dered 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  
 quiet title to certain real prop-  
 erty, located in Skagit County,

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
 Estate of CARMELIA ANN  
 THOMPSON. IN THE SU-  
 PERIOR COURT of the State  
 of Washington in and for the  
 County of King. In the Matter  
 of the Estate of Carmelia Ann  
 Thompson, Deceased. No.  
 22-4-07570-5 KNT Probate  
 Notice to Creditors. (RCW  
 11.40.030).  
 The Personal Representative  
 named below has been ap-  
 pointed as the Personal Rep-  
 resentative 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 Representa-  
 tive'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 as-  
 sets.  
 Date of First Publication:  
 11/23/2022  
 Personal Representative:  
 Kimberley Anne Thompson  
 Attorney for Personal Rep-  
 resentative: MICHAEL SA-  
 FREN, WSBA # 46377  
 Address for Mailing or Ser-  
 vice: The Law Offices of Jen-  
 ny Ling, 14900 Interurban  
 Ave S, Suite 280, Seattle, WA  
 98168, (206) 859-5098.  
 King County Superior Court  
 Cause No. 22-4-07570-5 KNT  
 Published in the La Conner  
 Weekly News Nov. 23, 30,  
 Dec. 7, 2022.



- 1. Black Panther: Wakanda Forever** (PG-13) Letitia Wright, Lupita Nyong'o
  - 2. Strange World** (PG) Jake Gyllenhaal, Gabrielle Union
  - 3. Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery** (PG-13) Daniel Craig, Edward Norton
  - 4. Devotion** (PG-13) Jonathan Majors, Glen Powell
  - 5. The Menu** (R) Ralph Fiennes, Anya Taylor-Joy
  - 6. Black Adam** (PG-13) Dwayne Johnson, Aldis Hodge
  - 7. The Fabelmans** (PG-13) Michelle Williams, Gabriel LaBelle
  - 8. Bones and All** (R) Timothee Chalamet, Taylor Russell
  - 9. Ticket to Paradise** (PG-13) George Clooney, Julia Roberts
  - 10. Homecoming** (NR) Shahar Isaac, Jonathan Roumie
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**Weekly SUDOKU**  
 Answer  

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

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**Super Crossword**  
**Answers**  

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

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

## NOT TO BE MISSED

**Lights of Christmas.**  
Dec. 8-11, 14-23, 26-31. Hours: 5-10 p.m. Located at Warm Beach. Purchase tickets online at [thelightsofchristmas.com](http://thelightsofchristmas.com).

**Holiday Lighted Boat Parade.**  
Dec. 10, 6 p.m. on Swinomish Channel.

**Fairhaven Holiday Pop-up Market.**  
Dec. 10, 2-8 p.m. at Firehouse Arts & Events Center, 1314 Harris Ave, Bellingham.

**Fidalgo Dance Works.**  
*Winter Celebration.* Dec. 17, 6-7:30 p.m. at Brodniak Hall, 1600 20th St, Anacortes. More info at [fidalgodance-works.org](http://fidalgodance-works.org).

## ART & THEATRE

**GalleryW.**  
101 N 1st St, La Conner. 360-265-2374. [galleryw.art](http://galleryw.art)  
*Exhibit: "Connected" featuring Sherry Ying Ruden.* Through Feb. 26.

*Art White Elephant.* Dec. 17, 7-11:30 p.m. An evening of friends and fun exchanging and stealing creative gifts.

**Lincoln Theatre.**  
712 S 1st St, Mount Vernon. 360-336-8955. [lincolntheatre.org](http://lincolntheatre.org)  
*Live theatre: Frozen Jr.* Dec. 9-17 at 7 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Sundays.

## LIBRARIES

**La Conner Swinomish Library.**  
520 Morris St, La Conner. 360-466-3352. [lclib.wa.us](http://lclib.wa.us). Open 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. *Storytime.* Every Friday at 11 a.m.

**Anacortes Public Library.**  
360-299-8067, [CityofAnacortes.org](http://CityofAnacortes.org). 1220 10th St, Anacortes.  
*Tech Help.* Every weekday at library front desk. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Drop-in for hands-on help.  
*Winter Wonderland.* Dec. 9-10, 5-8 p.m. at Washington Park. Free stories and songs by elves.

**Mount Vernon Public Library.**  
360-336-6209, [mountvernonwa.gov](http://mountvernonwa.gov). 315 Snoqualmie St, Mount Vernon.  
*Virtual Reality.* Every Saturday 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Must be 18 or older.  
*Baby Storytime.* Every Friday 10:30-11 a.m.

**Burlington Public Library.**  
360-755-0760, [burlingtonwa.gov](http://burlingtonwa.gov). 820 E Washington Ave, Burlington.  
*Fragrant Shrubs for PNW Gardens.* Dec. 15 at 6 p.m. Presented by Diana Wisen, WSU-Skagit Master Gardener.

## MUSEUM EXHIBITS

**Museum of Northwest Art.** Open daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m. [monamuseum.org](http://monamuseum.org), 360-466-4446.  
*Exhibit: Consonance by Richard Nash.* Through Feb 5, 2023.  
*Exhibit: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Honoring our Stolen Sisters.* Through Feb 5, 2023.  
*MoNA Collection: New Acquisitions.* Through Feb 5, 2023.

**Pacific Northwest Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum.** Hours: Wed-Sun 11 a.m.-5 p.m. [qfamuseum.org](http://qfamuseum.org), 360-466-4288. 703 S Second St, La Conner.  
*Exhibit: Celebrating 25 Years - Treasures from the permanent collection.* Through Jan. 29.

**Skagit County Historical Museum.** 360-466-3365 or [skagitcounty.net/museum](http://skagitcounty.net/museum). Hours: Thurs-Sun 11 a.m.-4 p.m.  
*Book Launch: Steamboat Town.* Dec. 8, 5 p.m. By Thomas H. Robinson.

## MUSIC

**Ukelele Fun & Song Circle.**  
*Meet every Wednesday.* 1-2 p.m., Burlington Senior Center. Beginners and all ages are welcome. Loaner ukas available. For more info, email [yogaheartspace0@gmail.com](mailto:yogaheartspace0@gmail.com).  
**McIntyre Hall.**  
2501 E College Way, Mount Vernon. 360-416-7727. [mcintyrehall.org](http://mcintyrehall.org).  
*Feliz Navidad.* Dec. 10-11. Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Purchase tickets online.

**Shelter Bay Chorus.**  
*Peace on Earth Winter Concert.* Dec. 9, 7 p.m. and Dec. 10, 2 p.m. at Shelter Bay Clubhouse, 1000 Shoshone Dr, La Conner. Masks required.

**Skagit Valley Chorale.**  
*Heralding Christmas Winter Concert.* Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 18, 2 p.m. at McIntyre Hall. More info at [skagitvalleychorale.org](http://skagitvalleychorale.org).

**Buxton's.**  
1904 Commercial Ave., Anacortes. [buxtons.co](http://buxtons.co).  
*Yule Bizarre.* Dec. 17, 6-10 p.m. Tickets are \$25.  
*Jingle Jazz.* Dec. 16, 7-9 p.m.  
A Town Big Band performs your favorite Christmas music. Free admission.

## MEETINGS

**Town of La Conner**  
204 Douglas St, La Conner. 360-466-3125. Zoom info @ [Townoflaconner.org](mailto:Townoflaconner.org)/calendar.  
**Arts Commission.** Dec. 8, 9:30 a.m. at Civic Garden Club.  
**Town Council.** Dec. 13, 6 p.m. at Maple Hall.  
**Parks Commission.** Dec. 14, 9:30 a.m. at Maple Hall and Zoom.

**La Conner School District**  
305 N 6th St, La Conner. 360-466-4113. [lcsd.wednet.edu](http://lcsd.wednet.edu).  
**Native American Parent Advisory Meeting.** Dec. 7, 6:30 p.m. at Swinomish Social Services Staff Room and Zoom.

**Skagit Conservation District 2021**  
E. College Way #203, Mt. Vernon. 360-428-4313. Zoom info @ [skagitcd.org](mailto:skagitcd.org).  
**Board meetings.** Every fourth Wednesday 7:30-9 a.m.

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

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

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

## SERVICE & VOLUNTEER

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

**Skagit Valley Humane Society.** 18841 Kelleher Rd, Burlington. 360-757-0445. [skagitvalleyhumane.org](http://skagitvalleyhumane.org). Operating by appt. only at this time. Find volunteer/donation opportunities online.

**Skagit Land Trust.**  
*Barr Creek Volunteer Event.* Dec. 9, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Conrad Road. Visit [skagitlandtrust.org](http://skagitlandtrust.org) for more info.



## Vegetarian Spaghetti Sauce

*By Patricia Aqimuk Paul, Esq., Food Editor.*  
*Spaghetti is one of our favorite home cooked meals. When we travel, it's the meal I cook first, upon returning home. I also make lots. Lots of sauce. It's one of those recipes I have not written up. Documenting each time I added garlic granules and Italian seasonings I can not accurately record. I am too busy, stirring and adding another ingredient. I simplified my usual standard recipe to create this simple yet tasty one. This recipe creates one large serving.*

### Ingredients

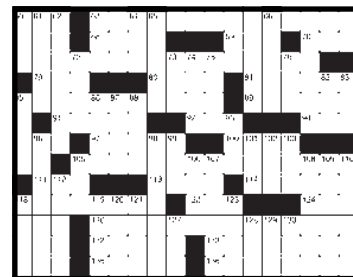
- Olive oil, one tsp
- Garlic cloves, two
- Onion, one slice, minced
- Mushrooms, 3, sliced
- Garlic granules, 1 tsp
- Italian seasoning, 1 tsp
- Pasta sauce or tomato sauce, 3/4 cup
- Tomato paste, 1/8 cup



### Preparation

Using a small sauté or fry pan, add the olive oil and as it heats up, add the onion. You can prep the garlic, with a press or by smashing with the side of a knife, or mincing tiny. Add the garlic to the pan, stir over low heat. When the onion becomes translucent, add the mushroom slices. Cook and stir for around 5 minutes. As they cook, sprinkle with garlic granules and Italian seasoning. The mushrooms will darken and soften. Add the pasta or tomato sauce and the tomato paste. Slowly mix well. The tomato paste is a bit thick, so keep blending it in. Add more garlic granules and Italian seasoning. Lower the heat and simmer for several minutes. Serve over your choice of pasta.

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



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## Super Crossword

### ZERO CHECKING

- ACROSS**
- 1 James of "Alien Nation"
  - 5 Lead-in to hazard
  - 8 "My opinion is ..."
  - 13 Tried very hard
  - 19 Tumblers, e.g.
  - 21 Actress Hunt
  - 22 Fatal
  - 23 Start of a riddle
  - 26 Strong metal
  - 27 Vertical line on a graph
  - 28 Attack like an alligator
  - 29 Land north of Mex.
  - 30 -country (music genre)
  - 32 Peruvian of yore
  - 34 Toronto Maple —
  - 37 Riddle, part 2
  - 44 Wild party
  - 47 Battle (for)
  - 48 See 60-Down
  - 49 Triumphed
  - 50 "Right now!"
  - 51 First class for painters
  - 53 City law: Abbr.
  - 54 Sea predator
  - 56 Actor Mickey
  - 57 Paint crudely
  - 58 Riddle, part 3
  - 61 Borgnine of Hollywood
  - 63 Gulf country
  - 64 Sandler of "Spanglish"
  - 65 Refine, as metal
  - 66 What a hot rod may race on
  - 70 Words on an apartment rental sign
  - 74 Strong metal
  - 76 City near Provo
  - 77 Purple Hearts, e.g.
  - 78 Riddle, part 4
  - 85 Composer Satie
  - 86 Apple app for importing video
  - 87 "I suffer so!"
  - 88 Pan coverer
  - 89 Gave for a while
  - 90 Sole servings
  - 91 Buddhism branch
  - 92 Just kills time
  - 94 Two, in Spain
  - 95 Occupied
  - 96 End of the riddle
  - 100 For the — (temporarily)
  - 102 Blow a horn
  - 103 Stephen of "Blackthorn"
  - 104 Flower holder locale
  - 106 Kailua Bay
  - 109 Creator of Tom Sawyer
  - 112 Gave a monetary penalty
  - 116 Riddle's answer
  - 121 Nogales nap
  - 122 How figure skaters skate
  - 123 Of financial matters
  - 124 Rich, eggy cakes
  - 125 Entertained lavishly
  - 126 Boxing ref's ruling
  - 127 Court dividers
  - 9 Utter failure
  - 10 Sever
  - 11 Competitor of Ben & Jerry's
  - 12 Yard feature
  - 13 Place to ski
  - 14 Vietnamese holiday
  - 15 Road sign no.
  - 16 "Banjo on my knee" song
  - 17 Winery tubs
  - 18 "Frozen" snow queen
  - 20 "— Hollywood Screen Kiss" (1998 film)
  - 24 Be alive
  - 25 Fifty percent
  - 31 Talk show emcee, e.g.
  - 33 Egypt's Sadat
  - 35 Formally abolish
  - 36 Displayed example of a product
  - 37 Gives the slip to
  - 38 Aviation military branch
  - 39 Fix the pitch of again
  - 40 Architect Saarinen
  - 41 Sierra Nevada evergreen
  - 42 Blister, e.g.
  - 43 Like GIs peeling potatoes
  - 45 Flower holder
  - 46 Santa's bagful
  - 50 Egg on
  - 52 "Yes, if memory serves"
  - 54 Benefit bagful
  - 55 Chewbacca's companion
  - 59 —la-la
  - 60 With 48-Across, record of arrests, slangily
  - 62 Put in financial distress
  - 66 Gene-splicing stuff
  - 67 Verifiable
  - 68 No longer practicing: Abbr.
  - 69 Marcos of the Philippines
  - 71 Texas city
  - 72 Poet Wylie or novelist Glyn
  - 73 Double cluck of reproach
  - 75 Some till bills
  - 77 Sweetie
  - 78 LP player of old
  - 79 Uganda's Idi
  - 80 Donator of services
  - 81 Old TV clown
  - 82 "Fer —!" ("Like, totally!")
  - 83 Take responsibility for something
  - 84 Easter flower
  - 92 Spot's jingler
  - 93 Tennis player Edberg
  - 96 Fava —
  - 97 Catch sight of
  - 98 Dressed for a ball
  - 99 Serve, as at a restaurant
  - 101 Concluding musical parts
  - 104 "You, over there ..."
  - 105 Dayton locale
  - 107 Horse foot
  - 108 — Reader (eclectic quarterly)
  - 110 "Oh, sure!"
  - 111 Part of a vase
  - 113 Alaska city
  - 114 Revise text
  - 115 "ER" folks
  - 117 Marshall Plan prez
  - 118 Swallowed
  - 119 Big success
  - 120 Overly

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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Further developments in 2023*



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