

Holidays aglow with music, song, boats • p 5 Grace Hubbard's 1980s sister city birth • p 8

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LA CONNER WEEKLY NEWS

VOL. 16 • NO. 33

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2023

www.laconnerweeklynews.com

Snow geese numbers are increasing



GROWING IN NUMBERS— Snow geese overwhelmed a field on Polson Road on Fir Island recently, attracting a handful of photographers and amply illustrating why their migration here are becoming a problem for farmers in Skagit Valley.

Snow geese population a problem for Skagit farmers

By Lauren Gallup NWPB, NWNews

In late autumn on the cusp of cool winter days, snow comes early to Washington when thousands of aloft avians, snow geese, land here in a flurry of white feathers.

"We call it a snow storm, they just will move as one," said birder Julie Hagen. "It's just this chaotic whirlwind of birds, they move like a cloud and then they just lift up in the air."

In late October, as the snow geese began landing in the Skagit Valley, Hagen went out to enjoy the sight that many Western Washington birders look forward to each year. Lucky and patient observers might get to see the spectacle Hagen calls a snow storm, when the birds take off in a group. The individual birds become indistinguishable from each other within all those

"The sight and the sound they make, the sound is incredible," Hagen said. "It's just a real, multi-sensory experience, I think, and I think that's what a lot of birders love to experience about the snow geese."

Beloved for their look and sound, the distinct white birds, with black tips on their wings, are lesser snow geese who overwinter here, coming from their summer home of Wrangel Island, a World Heritage site in Russia.

The thing is, there's a lot more of these birds landing and spending their winters here, lately. That's bringing about questions of how species interact with, impact and are impacted by the build environment.

Finding a feast

In the northwest corner of Washington in the Skagit Valley, Port Susan Bay Preserve is a great place to catch sight of the geese; it's within a National Audubon Important Bird Area and within a part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network.

The estuary is settled next to agriculture lands, a paradise for the birds who are seeking food resources, said Amber Parmenter, Puget Sound stewardship manager for the Nature Conservancy, who manages this site. Growing abundantly is bulrush and the geese like to yank out the plant's roots from the marshy landscape for a meal. But it's not just these roots that the geese like to feast on. Foods found on our dinner table – potatoes, winter wheat and corn are crops these birds enjoy too.

"Agriculture is why we have, in large part, the waterfowl populations in North Puget Sound that we have," said Rob Wingard, private lands biologist for the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. "We have, over winter, large numbers of ducks and geese because of the mix of

estuary habitat and prime agricultural ground."

The numbers of snow geese here have been increasing - the population on Wrangel Island has gone from around 50,000 in the 1970s to over 300,000 now.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife does their regional population surveys of the geese later in the winter. For the March 2023 survey flight, the department counted 91,608 birds from southern British Columbia and down south to northern King County. Adding the season's hunting count, the department estimated 102,390 snow geese overwintered in the area.

The department added that this is high, but trending down from the peak increase seen in recent years.

Why the overall increase? A combination of conservation efforts, including better hunting management and a recent string of strong hatching seasons in the Arctic have led to population increases – and snow geese have a long lifespan, more than 15 years.

"So they're doing well, but maybe they're doing too well," Parmenter said.

The geese can damage estuary habitat, ripping out the bulrush roots and preventing sediment from building up, which is crucial for shoring up the

(continued on page 6)

Talmon project design still not in alignment

By Bill Reynolds

After just one meeting, Town staff and representatives of KSA Investments are agreed on 80 per cent of the design revisions La Conner's planning department requires for a proposed three-story apartment/ condo project at 306 Center Street.

But reaching consensus on the remaining 20 per cent could literally be a tall order.

At issue is a planned elevator shaft that planning staff finds exceeds height restrictions. The developer according to Planning Director Michael Davolio and Assistant Planner Ajah Eills, has countered that state building codes do not consider an elevator shaft to be part of a structure.

"The IBC (International Building Code) says an elevator shaft is not part of a building," Eills acknowledged. "But we believe it's part of a building."

Davolio echoed that sentiment. "We enforce the Town code, not the state code,"

Davolio said during the Nov. 21 La Conner Planning Commission meeting at Maple Hall. Considering the firefighting and public safety

equipment available to the fire department, a 30-foot height restriction is imposed on new construction.

Davolio told commissioners that KSA, whose principals are Kate and Brandon Atkinson, has indicated it will explore its legal options on the matter.

However, Davolio noted that the deadline for appellate action has passed regarding a project that has already gone before Town Hearing Examiner David Lowell twice for review. Lowell issued a conditional use permit to construct the multi-family residential building on commercial lots behind the old Chevron Exxon fuel station where several retail ventures now exist, including The Slider Café.

"They have options," Davolio said. "They have an approved site plan for moving forward so long as they address the elevator shaft issue."

Atkinson has said he is building a residential building on the commercial site to help alleviate the town's housing crunch.

Residents of the adjoining neighborhood, though, have voiced objections to the size and scale of the Talmon Project and lodged an unsuccessful appeal of Lowell's initial CUP approval.

(continued on page 6)

Final 2023 election results

By Ken Sterns

Skagit County election office staff certified all local elections Tuesday, Nov. 28. John Agen is the new La Conner Schools director for District 2. He defeated Janie Beasleyt with 53%, 791 votes to 686

Marna Hanneman is La Conner's mayor-elect, with 281 votes. Annie Taylor is elected to Council Position 1. Mary Wohleb is elected to Position 2.

John Doyle and J.J. Wilbur were elected as Fire District 13 commissioners. Loren Bogart was reelected commissioner for Sewer District Position 1 None of these elections were contested.

The state will certify all results by Dec. 7, 2023...

Waterfront Café Thanksgiving meal has record turnout, donations

By Bill Reynolds

A few hours after completing the La Conner Turkey Trot, Jaime Stroebel-Reinstra was keeping a brisk pace as a volunteer server at the Waterfront Café's community Thanksgiving Day

She and others – including her own family members – who pitched in to help with the annual fundraiser for local charities were kept busy throughout a three-hour early afternoon shift last Thursday.

"We had more reservations and more people this year than ever before," Waterfront Café co-owner Marla Vallee told the Weekly News.

Vallee said 154 people were served and dinner donations stood at \$2,375 at the end of the day. The total is expected to rise.

"We often get a few more donations after Thanksgiving," noted Vallee, who said proceeds this year benefit

the La Conner Sunrise Food Bank and Northwest Organization for Animal Help (NOAH) in Stanwood.

On Thanksgiving the Waterfront Café serves a free holiday meal with all the fixings, giving diners the option of donating to selected local worthy

The sit-down format is ideal for those with no family in the area, are unable to prepare their own Thanksgiving dinner, or who simply want to enjoy the company of friends, neighbors and the Waterfront Café staff and event volunteers – like Stroebel-Reinstra.

"It was an amazing day," Stroebel-Reinstra said. "Marla and Guy (Vallee) are so kind and generous. We're thankful we're able to give back."

She and her husband, La Conner Fire Chief/Code Enforcement Officer Aaron Reinstra, know first-hand the positive impact of the Waterfront Café's Thanksgiving. Nearly a decade ago it generated funds to help defray medical costs in support of their daughter, Ashlyn, who was then amid a successful battle with a serious health condition.

"It's been nine years," Stroebel-Reinstra said, "since they donated to Ashlyn on Thanksgiving."

While First Street was unusually quiet with most parking spaces empty, there was a festive vibe inside. The kitchen bustled as a steady stream of diners, including Mayor-elect Marna Hanneman, found their way to tables as soon as they were made ready.

"She's a regular," Vallee said. "We love Marna."

Vallee said their Café, like those who seek local elective or appointed office, is committed to public service.

part of this community." The proof is in the checks that will be sent to the food bank and animal

"We are blessed," she said, "to be



GIVING THANKSGIVING-Chef Dagmar Chislandi and Grant Lucas prepare Thanksgiving meal with smiles.

-Photo by Bill Reynolds

OPINION

From the editor—

Your community newspaper and you

Dear Greater La Conner Community,

Welcome to the La Conner Weekly News. If you are getting the paper for the first time, I hope you will find your community newspaper an enjoyable and worthwhile read. Valued subscribers, I hope this issue meets your expectations and needs. Thank you, subscribers, for your ongoing engagement with the community through these pages.

This newspaper exists for everyone reading it this week That is you. Decades ago, when the local paper was The Puget Sound Mail, every issue said "Covers La Conner and its Rich Agricultural Region"

on the top of page 1, above the paper's name.

The paper's name has changed but its purpose remains the same. Today's paper was sent to every home in the La Conner School District. La Conner school activities, starting with students and highlighting their classes, teachers, administrators, staff and the school board, are central to this paper's reporting. That includes sports, band and choir and extra-curricular activities. Read today's page 4.

Shelter Bay, some 1,800 people in about 900 homes, is an important part of the greater La Conner community and their issues are regularly reported. Also found in this paper's pages are business developments, local governance, area elections and more.

Equally important are reader voices and they appear as the spirit moves you as letters, guest columns, articles, announcements and photographs. Today's page 2 is a typical example.

Keeping abreast of the news weekly in your community is more than a good idea. Your local newspaper informs and keeps you up to date on the place and the people most important to you.

That is because the paper is about you and your neighbors. The Weekly News is also about democracy. The heart of it is you,

people engaged with your neighbors and friends.

"Democracy depends on an informed citizenry" reads a promotion in the Woodinville Weekly. The punchline: "Staying informed starts here." That is true. You put the community in community newspaper. Your paying attention, discussing, criticizing and participating staying informed – is critical to the health of the community, whether it has to do with a school levy, the town budget, a band concert or a championship volleyball team.

All in all, it is quite a deal for \$60 a year, the price of a subscription. For about \$1.15 a week, the La Conner Weekly News will be mailed to your home. If you find that a good idea, subscribe.

Subscriptions cover a fraction of total expenses, a little more than for the annual printing and postage. Readers are the reason for newspapers, but subscribers do not cover costs. It is advertisers who provide the revenue that make delivering the Weekly News to you possible. That burden has to shift, as the start of fixing the broken model of newspaper publishing.

Please shop at – and thank – the businesses advertising in these pages. I hope you will join your neighbors reading the Weekly News, for your own good, for the good of your community.

Valued subscribers, I hope you want to renew. This holiday season consider giving the gift of a subscription, a love letter from the town you love to your families and friends who care so much about La

– Ken Stern

LETTERS

Always think solar

The Skagit Valley Clean Energy Co-op (skagitvce.coop) is ramping up our Solarize Skagit Campaign which will start in early March 2024. SVCEC's Solarize Campaign connects Skagit homeowners and small businesses with solarizing their homes and buildings with the benefit of volume purchasing. We are a non-profit run by volunteers writing grants and mobilizing the money available from various government entities that can cut solarizing costs with free analysis of your roof site,

tax credits, group purchasing discounts and financial discount on loan interest rates.

Even though signing up for our campaign doesn't start until early March, installing solar panels need healthy roofs. So this is a heads up for getting the word out early. If you have any interest in solar panels on south facing or flat roofs, this is the time to think about the condition of your roof.

Contact: skagitvcec@gmail. com 360-391-0544.

Joan Cross Mary Wohleb La Conner

A citizen's view—

When wine and housing don't mix

By Corky Parker

I recently went out for dinner with a neighbor, a part-time, mostly-here-in-the-summer kind of neighbor. He teaches at a university, leads research and publishes interesting work on human behavior. As we waited to order he mentioned his frustration at it all taking so long — to order and get served. When I responded that it was one more sign of the local housing crisis, he looked confused. He apparently didn't understand why I was bringing up an issue in our otherwise lovely social evening, especially when it had nothing to do with the situation. Or did it? — where was that glass of wine anyway?

I was equally baffled by him. How could he, someone so smart, have a hard time connecting the dots? I thought it was pretty obvious:

- 1. The restaurant owner (substitute hospital, dentist, mechanic, hardware or any other store owner, hair salon, et al.) is struggling to find adequate staff.
- 2. That staff struggles to find
- 3. The customer, patient, client, this guy here across the table, struggles to find local businesses adequately staffed to provide the services desired (read: how long has it taken you to get a dermatology appointment recently? or your car worked on? Probably a lot longer than even that glass of wine).

He didn't get why it seemed worse here in Port Townsend. He thought it had more to do with a general attitude at play. The "folks these days just don't want to work like they used to" theory. What he and I are learning lots of other smart friends and neighbors don't seem to understand, is some of the realities that make the Port Townsend and East Jefferson County's housing situation even worse than – what we see state or nationwide. My neighbor had never thought about the impact of leaving his home in Uptown empty for nine months every winter) has on our local workforce (that's us) – and our

It's more than a problem and it's more than a crunch. We've all likely heard various stories – the woman who had a great job here with the county, but after having to commute from an hour away for over a year because she couldn't find housing here -she gave up and moved away

for another position elsewhere in the state, the guy with a torn rotator cuff, who had to wait over a month to get physical therapy locally. But heck, don't settle for anecdotes. This guy didn't want to either. That's when I started bringing out my favorite factoids (see sidebar below).

After I laid out a few of these to my neighbor he got quiet for a second. I saw little tiny lights starting to sparkle in those professorial eyes of his. He actually looked a little embarrassed as he began to understand. For the first time ever, he realized he, his behavior played a part. As we talked, he began extrapolating to see the much larger effect when reflecting on other friends, neighbors and community members who are also here part-time. Just how many folks could be living in all those homes? My goal was certainly not to guilt trip him my goal was to get us talking and. thinking. Creatively.

I've discovered many of my most learned friends and neighbors see our housing crisis as something vague or

Check your own housing smarts here

By Corky Parker

Did you know:

- Jefferson County ranks 38 out of 39 counties in the state for affordability for first-time, as well as all, home buyers.
- Jefferson County's vacancy rate hovers between 0-1%. The national vacancy rate is 5%.
- At any one moment, almost 14% – that's 2,733 – of the houses in Jefferson County are vacant. That means as we walk through our neighborhoods, the cute houses, we know and love, are empty. No wonder things seem awfully, sort of too, quiet sometimes. But it explains all those drawn curtains and shades.
- 42% of Jefferson County households are single-person occupancy - that's one person living in the home. No wonder we don't hear so many kids playing. I can't help but think about how many empty bedrooms and empty mother-in-law apartments that accounts for.

(continued on page 6)

theoretical; something that affects others. "We all had it hard getting started when we were young too" syndrome. Or, most commonly people assume I'm talking about housing for the homeless. That is indeed a problem, a huge one and although related to workforce housing, a different issue. A lack of workforce housing – for all economic levels, means teachers, doctors, car mechanics, boat builders or waitstaff, folks who want to work here, have jobs here and can't find housing.

A friend of mine in Berkeley knew she wouldn't be able to maintain her four-bedroom home after the kids left, but she also didn't want to move. She wanted to stay in her home. Somehow, starting out by renting one bedroom out to a university student, led to another and another. 20 years later, she now rents three bedrooms at a time. She not only made enough money to pay for a small remodel so she could move downstairs and have more privacy but she's also augmented her retirement (while still keeping the rental rates reasonable). She's learned what works for her. More than anything, she feels like she has enriched her life significantly.

Sharing a home can be a wonderful, positive thing, whether it's to a student or retiree, boatbuilder or surgeon. We hear all too often about the downside without hearing about the positive.

To be clear, I am not suggesting we have to turn our homes into communes or rooming houses. I am saying it's time to think out of the box a little bit. The truth is, we are all impacted by the housing shortage – whether we are looking for housing or not. And sadly, solutions aren't just going to happen without all of us committing. It's not like something the City Council can just handle or the government can just deal with. We are going to have to shift our mindsets around this. We have to work together to brainstorm, create and employ solutions. Like anything else it starts with understanding and acknowledging the root(s) of the problem. This is real. Now... where's that glass of wine?

Corky Parker lives in Port Townsend. She is the 2022 Nancy Pearl Award winner for memoir and won the 2022 University Press Award for book and cover design. corkyparker.com.

Alternative energy growth will bring job growth as economy grows

By Greg Whiting

In the 1880s, thousands of businesses in the U.S. depended on horse-drawn transportation. Carriage manufacturers, blacksmiths, horse breeders, stables and related enterprises were major employers.

Of hundreds of American carriage manufacturers, only two – Studebaker (now out of business) and Fisher (now a part of General Motors) – made the transition to automobiles and survived past World War II. For decades, the example of the buggy whip manufacturer that failed to develop a new niche when automobiles were introduced was so over-used it had become a cliché. The transition from horses to cars for mass transportation basically eliminated long-established



professions like farrier and stable hand.

However, the new industry created jobs that stable hands and buggy whip assemblers couldn't have imagined fifteen years

As I've written before, we're going through a similar technological revolution in the energy industry. The renewable energy transition is, like the auto industry before it, creating a vast array of new jobs. According to the International Renewable Energy Agency, around 12 million people were employed in renewable

energy globally in 2020. Their analysis suggests that up to 42 million people could be working in the renewable sector by 2050.

It has been well-publicized that jobs related to the supply and operation of fueled power plants are declining. Outside the utility industry, it's less well-known that the number of those jobs have been declining for decades, for reasons unrelated to renewable energy. Improved materials and operating practices have reduced the need for power plant maintenance employees.

Automation of practically every aspect of power plant operation has reduced the need for operators. When I was working at a major utility almost 25 years ago, one of their coal-fired plants had already reduced its full-time workforce to just four operators. A running joke inside

the company was that it wouldn't be long till that plant would only have one operator and one dog, with all plant operations controlled by a single button. The job of the operator would be to push the button once a day, and the job of the dog would be to bite the operator if he tried to do anything else.

Geographically dispersed renewable energy plants like solar arrays and wind turbines generally don't require operators. They do require some maintenance – solar panels need to be cleaned. However, different jobs are being created. The utility industry needs people who can do engineering work to ensure power will be delivered onto the grid safely. Downstream from solar and wind generators, utilities now need people who can analyze weather and forecast local

solar generation and manage the question of which power plants on a given grid management system should be on or off.

Solar sales, installation, cleaning and systems integration jobs didn't exist 25 years ago and are all growing fast now. The solar industry employed about 3.8 million people worldwide in 2020. Wind energy offers jobs in manufacturing, installation and maintenance of wind turbines. The wind energy sector employed over 1.2 million people globally in 2020.

The new jobs being created aren't traditional like coal mining, but they're growing and they pay a living wage. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2021 listed the median annual wage for wind turbine techs as around \$56,230 and solar installers averaged \$46,470.

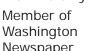
La Conner Weekly News

An adjudicated Skagit County Newspaper. Published every Wednesday in La Conner, WA

Subscriptions

 Skagit County Print & Online: \$60

 Out of County Print & Online: \$75 Online only: \$60



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Continuing the tradition of weekly publishing in La Conner since 1878 The Weekly News sits on the original

homelands of the Coastal Salish peoples

La Conner News Publishing Co., LLC 119 N. Third St., La Conner, WA 98257 USPS 363-550

www.laconnerweeklynews.com Postmaster:

Send change of address to: La Conner Weekly News PO Box 1465, La Conner, WA 98257

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LETTER POLICY

Please write! Letters up to 350 words are welcome as are longer analyses and statements. Write a 450 word guest column. Deadline: 5 p.m. Sunday for next issue. Include your name, address and phone number for verification. Letters are edited for civility clarity and style. Send to: editor@laconnernews.com

Skagit home prices high, with supply limited

By Ken Stern

At the end of October, the only four homes for sale within La Conner town limits were two Landed Gentry residences on Maple Avenue and the two BYK Construction properties on High Street, near Whatcom and Douglas streets. The other 11 homes are in Shelter Bay or

Two pending La Conner properties closed in November, a resale of a Landed Gentry home for \$725,000 and an 1890 mansion on Benton Street bought for \$1.25 million, On Snee Oosh Road south of Kukutali Preserve a home sold for \$1.8 million. Four properties in or near Shelter Bay were pending at the end of October; 11 of 15 active listings were in or near Shelter Bay.

The 101 homes that sold and closed in Skagit County in October had a median sales price of \$550,000, led again by the Anacortes market, with \$785,000 the median price of its 21 sold homes.

Sold home prices in Burlington and Sedro Woolley were above the median, at \$612,000 and \$578,000 respectively.. More homes, 32, were sold in Mount Vernon, but at a median price of

The seven sold homes in the La Conner area were in Shelter Bay for prices between \$210,000 and \$933,300, with \$460,900 the average price. Larger homes on



MILLION DOLLAR VIEW - Two new homes are for sale on the rock called Snapdragon Hill by locals. This one priced at \$1.375 million has

-Photo by Nancy Crowell

the 101 closed sales was down 17% from September and 40% from October 2022.

supply of homes for sale is 71 days countywide, about the same in the La Conner market and 100 days in Anacortes, highest of any municipalities.

The NWMLS analysis was that "increases in interest rates continue to influence the expected seasonal slow-down during fall and winter months:" At October's end the median

11 out of the region's 26 counties and increased in 14 the regional listing service reported.

Data are from the Kirklandbased Northwest Multiple Listing Service and Don Elliott, managing broker, Coldwell Banker Bain Real Estate. The real estate broker organization..

the La Conner School District's boundaries.

The median sales price is the point where half of the home sales are above it and half are below it.

If I ran the zoo

If you are heading towards Whatcom County or Canada and you are not in a hurry, Chuckanut Drive is a wonderful alternative

Chuckanut is a winding road that goes along the Pacific coast and features beautiful forestry and spectacular views of the ocean and islands because at some points, it's right at the edge of the continent. The southern part of the 20-mile drive features beautiful views of Mt. Baker in the distance and Blanchard Mountain nearby. You are surrounded by beautiful farmland and have the pleasure of seeing many fenced in farm animals and enormous flocks of birds.

As you get closer to the coastline, the road becomes much narrower because the mountains and foothills to the east slope right down to the road you are on. When Chuckanut was first created in October 1915, dynamite was used to break through the rocky slope of the foothills. You can witness how difficult this must have been when you drive alongside the rocky wall on your right.

In 1910 construction began using convicts from the Walla Walla Penitentiary who were put to work on the road while being monitored by armed guards. The convicts were not skilled at road

construction and the road was hard to build as it required heavy rock work. Parts of the roadbed had to be blasted out of the cliffs overlooking the water. Still the convicts were able to complete more than five miles of roadway along its southern end in Skagit County.

A ceremony was held Oct. 23, 1915 to celebrate completion and in 1921 Chuckanut was designated a State Scenic Byway.

Chuckanut Drive is the site for many moving events, involving groups of bicyclers, motorcyclers, and joggers. Because it is surrounded on many parts by very big trees, there are sometimes slowdowns after large tree branches fall down and block the road. This time of year there are many traffic halts until crews arrive to pick up timber.

If you are in a hurry to get to Whatcom or Canada, you are better off taking the I-5 freeway. But if time is on your side, sit back and enjoy a beautiful ride up Chuckanut Drive. And if you just want a peaceful getaway, head up to Larrabee State Park where you can launch your boat or your kayak or spend the night in your RV or just sit at the edge of the continent and watch the tide roll in as you look out at the islands in the bay.

Staff are also 'no' on in-house short-term rentals

By Bill Reynolds

Mingling pays off in La Conner. The proof is in the long-term results from an October forum on short-term rentals.

Residential input on short-term rentals at the Civic Garden Club building – referred as "a mingle," by Town officials – produced much-anticipated planning department recommendations. The staff report was well

received at the Nov. 21 Town Planning Commission hybrid session at Maple Hall by community members concerned that the green light for inclusion in town neighborhoods could be

That possibility appears highly unlikely now, based on staff analysis by Planning Director Michael Davolio and Assistant Planner Ajah Eills.

"After fully considering the

arguments on all sides of this issue," Davolio and Eills said in a memorandum issued prior to the planning meeting, "we recommend that little change be made in our current regulations. This means that short-term rentals would continue to be prohibited in the Town's residential zone, with the continuing exception for bed-and-breakfasts.

"Short-term rentals," they added, "would continue to be permitted – with better definition in the commercial zone."

Davolio and Eills noted that current legally initiated shortterm rentals in residential areas would be deemed as grandfathered uses and allowed to

"Based on what we heard from the mingle, we looked at the issue and heard what the public had to say and what you (commissioners) had to say," Davolio told commissioners, explaining the staff's decision to maintain the status quo in principle.

The mingling, said Mayorelect Marna Hanneman, provided added perspectives to the yearlong debate over short-term rentals.

"We might just do it with our larger issues," she said, "to make sure we're listening to the

Staff will continue to review definitions governing short-term rentals to ensure consistency with any code revisions proposed in the future.

"We'll be looking at definitions and other sections (of the municipal code) and bring back something more substantive," Davolio said.

He and Eills have endeavored on the short-term rentals matter to equally weigh neighborhood integrity and economic interests, he said.

'Throughout the discussion of this topic," the memo stated, "the staff has encouraged a balance between protecting the quality of

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life in residential neighborhoods and enabling the stability of local businesses in La Conner's tourism-based economy." "It's a moral issue," Center

Street resident William Smith has frequently stressed. His view, shared by others, is

reflected in the planning staff's recommendations. "Short-term rentals are

prohibited in the residential zone," Davolio assured. "We're not proposing to change that. What we want to do is change some language for clarity on short-term rentals allowed in the commercial zone.



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"Since 1913"

price of homes sold declined in larger lots brought the highest Fewer homes sold countywide; Inventory is increasing. The

NWMLS is a member-owned The La Conner area is roughly

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LA CONNER WEEKLY NEWS

Leadership Skagit class takes notes during annual Swinomish conference

By Bill Reynolds

True leaders are found at the bottom rather than top of the totem pole.

That lesson, steeped in the ethic of servant leadership, was repeatedly stressed during a nine-hour conference for the 2023 Leadership Skagit hosted by the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community Nov. 17.

The group made its annual visit to Swinomish Reservation, where they were greeted by past and present tribal leaders, a series of heritage speakers, the tribe's canoe family and Swinomish Archives Department staff

"I always look forward to this conference," noted Skagit County Assessor Danny Hagen, a 2018 Leadership Skagit graduate and former Shelter Bay resident.

Hagen and fellow Leadership Skagit alumnus Janie Beasley of Swinomish facilitated the busy agenda. Included were tours of the Swinomish Smokehouse and cedar hat pavilions at Swedebs Park and a traditional salmon luncheon prepared by Cathi Bassford, Gail Cayou, Eric Day and Lenee Schuyler.

The program began with remarks by former Swinomish Tribal Senate Chair Brian Cladoosby, present Chair Steve Edwards and Swinomish tribal member Hillary Edwards, an attorney with the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde in Oregon

Cladoosby, who served two terms as lead officer of the National Congress of American Indians – during which he forged an alliance and friendship with President Barack Obama –introduced the time-honored merits of servant leadership.

"I was told by our elders that the most important figure on a totem pole is the one at the bottom," Cladoosby said. "That's because the figures at the bottom are the ones that hold everyone else up."

Cladoosby shared with the class the often painful histories of Native American tribes, including Swinomish, which in 1855 ceded the bulk of its lands to the federal government in exchange for the reservation here as well as guarantees that traditional ways of life would be protected.

The Grant administration enforced what Cladoosby termed an illegal executive order that removed March Point from Swinomish Reservation in 1873, just 18 years after regional tribal leaders signed the treaty at Mukilteo with Washington territorial officials.

Cladoosby also lamented the period of residential boarding schools, when tribal children were forcibly removed from their homes, further worsening a sense of generational trauma.

Cladoosby said he vowed to be forward thinking as a leader, however, opting for pursuit of health, educational and economic development policies designed to purge historic trauma and improve the standard of living at Swinomish. That approach has allowed Swinomish to grow from a handful of paid staff in the 1960s to more than 1,000 employees today.

"We're a great contributor to the Skagit County economy," he noted.

In the '60s, said Cladoosby, it was rare for Swinomish youth to attend college. Now, he said, scholarship programs have been developed that make undergraduate studies and graduate school well within reach for Swinomish students.

Hillary Edwards, daughter of chairman Edwards, provided the class a prime example.

After graduating from La Conner High School, she earned a bachelor's degree in business from Seattle University and completed law school at Arizona State University.

"I want to help inspire our tribal youth to do what their hearts desire," she said. "I grew up not knowing a Native American attorney. Now we have a female tribal general manager."

Soft-spoken and modest, Edwards recounted how she became goal-oriented at a young age.

"I decided," she recalled, "that I didn't want to be at the table. I wanted to bring something to the table."

Her chosen path wasn't easy. "Law school was hard," she conceded. "There were many times when I missed my community and its cultural events and being with my family."

Her father has served on the tribal senate since 2004. He alluded to his collaborative leadership style to address current issues related to public health, education, environmental protection and the economy.

"I sit down with other governments, as Brian did, to figure out how to go ahead," he said.

Edwards said he was taught early in his tribal service to take a long view and "look out for seven generations."

Both he and Cladoosby advised the group to trust those who are in their charge.

"You want the right people for the right jobs and then trust their work," Edwards said.

"My philosophy as a leader," added Cladoosby, "is to surround myself with people smarter than myself. Everybody has their own area of expertise and there's always more than enough credit to go around."

School board in thankful mood at November meeting

By Bill Reynolds

The holiday has passed, but La Conner Schools officials still had much to be thankful for Monday night.

Several awards presentations marked the 90-minute school district's board meeting, including recognition of middle school teacher Madison Huscher. the 2023-2024 Northwest **Educational Services District** Teacher of the Year; high school volleyball players and coaches for their league and bi-district championships; music teacher McKenzie Clark and students Hayden Bill and Sammy Williams on their San Juan Music Educators Association Honor Band participation; and board members themselves for their selection as the 2023 Washington State School **Directors Association School** Board of the Year.

The board announced the district has received generous donations from the La Conner Arts and Rick Epting foundations for purchases of music and pottery equipment.

The foundations combined to make possible the acquisition of three ukulele storage racks, two alto xylophones and a soprano xylophone valued at just under \$2,000.

The Epting Foundation has contributed an additional \$1,000 toward a pottery wheel for the high school arts program. It will be formally received in December.

Huscher was tabbed for the elite regional honor earlier this year based in large measure on her ability to effectively present Mastery-Based Learning material in the classroom and taking on a wide range of extra-curricular assignments, including coaching high school soccer and middle school rock climbing.

The embrace of Mastery-Based Learning, which drew a visit this fall by State Sen. Lisa Zellman, one of Olympia's leading advocates of public education, was among key factors in the choice of the La Conner district's governing panel as the state's school board of the year for small school systems.

Larry Francois, superintendent of the Northwest Educational Services District, lauded the five board members and presented Huscher with an engraved memento marking her selection.

"It's unusual," Francois said, "for a teacher as young as Maddie to rise to the level of regional teacher of the year.

"She's the type of teacher I wish I would've had," he added. "She's the type of teacher I'd want my children to have. And she's the type of teacher I'd want my grandchildren to have."

Francois read testimonials from parents and Huscher's faculty colleagues citing her willingness to collaborate with peers, ability to develop innovative, inclusive and engaging lessons and penchant for positive communication.

Moments later, Clark introduced and praised Williams, a trumpeter and Bill, who plays tenor saxophone. They joined top music students in the four-county (Skagit, Whatcom, San Juan and Island) region to rehearse and perform as part of the elite honor band.

First-year high school volleyball coach Pam Keller, assistant coach Kamea Luna and players were saluted for playing in the state tournament.

"Congratulations to you on your first year of coaching," President Susie Deyo said to Keller, "and you're doing a wonderful job. When we go to our

(continued on page 6)



LA CONNER WEEKLY NEWS NOVEMBER 29, 2023 • PAGE 5

Time to celebrate holidays with lights, music, boats and Santa

By Ken Stern

Santa is coming to town early this long holiday shopping season. He makes his first appearance today, Wednesday, Nov. 29, at the La Conner Swinomish **Library** to read stories to children from 4:30-5:30 p.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 2 he is at the La Conner Rotary Club's Pancake Breakfast at Maple Hall, 8-11 a.m. After a breakfast that includes scrambled eggs and sausage, Santa is waiting on stage for dog friendly photo taking. Cost: \$10, adults, \$5 kids; free, under five.

Your wallet will be needed as you browse and buy from your neighbors selling their wares at the La Conner Kiwanis and La Conner United sponsored Craft Fair, 9 a.m-3 p.m. on the first and second floors of Maple

Santa returns at the other end of First Street, probably on a 1941 white fire truck, for the annual Christmas tree lighting **in Gilkey Square**. Folks will gather at 5 p.m. Santa shows around 5:30 p.m. Poof! He makes the tree's lights come on and then stays and takes kids on his lap to make sure he has their wish list right.

There are tiny Christmas trees Friday, Dec. 1 at the La Conner Swinomish Library's annual **Tiny Tree Auction**, 6:30-8:30 p.m. View them now and come back to bid, mingle and munch on refreshments and then buy and take one home.

Lights, action, music "Elf the Musical" opens Thursday, Nov. 30 and plays at the Anacortes Community **Theater** through Dec. 16. This family friendly show has a cast of over 20 to tell the story of Buddy, a young orphan who mistakenly crawls into Santa's bag of gifts and is transported to the North Pole. The would-be elf is raised, unaware that he is actually a human until his enor-

mous size and poor toy-making

Shelter Bay Chorus

The Shelter Bay Chorus' annual holiday concerts are Dec. 8, 7 p.m. and 2 p.m. Dec. 9 in the Shelter Bay community club-

house, 1000 Shoshone Drive.

The program offers "Joy to

the World," "God Rest Ye Merry

Gentlemen," "Let It Snow," and

sacred songs, including "There is

Lyle Forde directs. Sally Rig-

gers is the pianist/accompanist.

Admission is by donation.

Faint Music.'

holiday concert

abilities cause him to face the truth. Tickets and times: acttheatre.com.

"Seussical the Musical" opens Dec. 1 at the Lincoln **Theatre** in Mount Vernon. It is a whimsical romp through some of the classic Dr. Seuss stories from our youth. With heart, joy and a little bit of holiday cheer, this delightful musical features a cast of over 40. Based on the works of Dr. Seuss, it is fun for the whole family.. Shows are weekends through Dec. 16 with Dec. 14 a "Pay What You Want" performance. This is a NITE production. Schedule and tickets: lincolntheatre.org.

The **Shelter Bay Chorus**' annual holiday concerts are Dec. 8, 7 p.m. and 2 p.m. Dec. 9 in the Shelter Bay community clubhouse, 1000 Shoshone Drive. The program offers "Joy to the World," "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen," "Let It Snow," and sacred songs, including "There is Faint Music." Admission is by

The Skagit Valley Chorale's "Heralding Christmas" concerts are Dec. 16-17 at McIntyre Hall in Mount Vernon. Special guests include the Madison Elementary School, Mount Vernon's children's choir. Come and sing along. Tickets and times: skagitvalleychorale.

Return to Gilkey Square and spread out up and down the Swinomish Channel boardwalk early on Saturday, Dec. 9 for the 6 p.m. La Conner Lighted **Boat Parade**, sponsored by the Swinomish Yacht Club and featuring, as they write, "stunning, hand-decorated yachts and boats illuminating the Salish Sea waters of the Swinomish Channel for a waterborne parade that travels from the La Conner Marina along the La Conner boardwalk and under the Rainbow Bridge to Shelter Bay." Information: swinomishyachtclub.org.



THE HOLIDAYS ARE HERE – Thanksgiving came early this year, but lights started appearing on houses and in yards throughout La Conner weeks ago. The Slider Cafe brightened up Morris Street significantly, turning their multiple Christmas lights and displays on Friday evening after turkey day.

Skagit County Historical Museum's holiday fundraiser is this Saturday

By Adam Sowards

Head up the hill in La Connerto the Skagit County Historical Museum on South Fourth Street Saturday, Dec. 2, to celebrate the holidays. The museum is The combined holiday party and annual appeal kickoff is 6-8 p.m.

The museum is decorated for the holidays with trees and lights. Even some of the displays are spruced up for the festivities. A dessert buffet and interactive activities are part of the evening, which is open to the public.

"It's just a time to celebrate and let people see what we're doing at the museum," said Executive Director Jo Wolfe. She looks forward to a fun evening.

The annual appeal is a critical part of the museum's funding. Unrestricted giving goes to the operation budget. "It's the most important part," said Wolfe, "because without that, we can't operate." The highest priority, Wolfe said, is to maintain the staff.

The funds raised pay for the services the public expects, including research appointments, collection care, exhibits and staff salaries. There is maintenance on six buildings. Keeping the lights on and insurance paid are fundamental needs that the annual appeal

helps fund. Donations can be mailed in,

Wolfe looks forward to a "fun evening" no matter how many people show up, although the more is merrier.

There is no need to RSVP. Just head to the Skagit County Historical Museum on South Fourth Street Saturday night.

ONLINE GO TO: www.laconnerweeklynews.com

Presented by: Rotary Club of La Conner AND La Conner United

Breakfast with Santa

December 2, 2023 Breakfast 8 a.m. to 11a.m. Holiday Craft Fair 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Photos, Goodies, Fun!

Maple Hall, 103 Commercial, La Conner, WA \$10 Adults \$5 Children & under 5 is free Bring your camera for family photos with Santa!





12/31 NYE Bash with Eden

712 S. 1st St - Mount Vernon

360.336.8955

lincolntheatre.org

feat. Savanna Woods



Holiday Treasures!

Burton Jewelers would like to share with you our wonderful tradition of excellent jewelry!



A must see!





We have a fantastic selection of jewelry with colored gemstones of all kinds, diamonds both white and natural colored, and pearls in rings necklaces and pendants.

18K Yellow Gold

Come see our extensive collection of barware for your holiday toasts and timeless ornaments for your tree.



on Pearce Handblown Glass Christmas Trees





When you give these gifts they will be treasured for generations.



Open till 9pm on Friday, Dec. 1 for the Holiday Art Walk featuring the paintings of local artist Linda Henley. **Classical and Holiday favorites** live guitar music by Richard Rorex

Hours 10:30am - 5:00pm, Monday - Saturday till Christmas

We encourage you to work with us by appointment for custom design, mplex jewelry repairs, appraisal questions or personalized shopping experiences Complimentary gift wrapping, always. Shipping service available



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Raven's Cup Coffee & Tea & Art Gallery

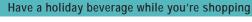
Winter candles Scented wax melts Scented 4 and 8 oz. tins Decorative beeswax

Reclamation

CANDLE COMPANY

MONEY

Store yours, and your credit cards, photos, insurance cards and so forth, in a beautiful new leather wallet, with colorful designs by noted Native American artists. We have ravens, of course, and more - check them out!



Eggnog lattes, made with real eggnog. Pumpkin spice lattes, made with delicious pumpkin maple syrup. Peppermint mochas. HOT CHOCOLATE!!!!!



106 S 1st St., La Conner Open at 7 am daily!

Talmon

■ ■ (from page 1)

"The Talmon Project," refers to a biblical reference says Atkinson and is not to be confused with Center Street resident Linda Talman, a frequent critic of the development.

One of the agreements reached in the meeting is that six rather than five short-term rentals will be provided on the ground

Geese

■ ■ (from page 1)

habitat. The geese can also

threaten crops farmers rely

on for their livelihood.

While many farmers

ing sometimes, Wingard

said, the birds can be

detrimental to a farm.

into the fields in large

numbers, they can real-

ly mow down and graze

down that field heavily,"

Jason Vander Kooy is

a dairy farmer in Skagit

County, where he grows

grassland for his cows to

graze on. Unfortunately for

him, the geese like to graze

on the grass, too. In recent

years, the number of dairy

farms in Skagit County has

gone down while the num-

ber of geese has gone up,

meaning more birds and

on, Vander Kooy said.

- somewhere between

\$50,000 and \$100,000

Housing

■ ■ (from page 2)

We can start by being

aware of the issue and our

are in the learning process,

keep going. If you haven't

part in it. Wherever you

begun, then Housing

Solutions Network, a

local nonprofit commit-

ted to providing housing

education, resources and

workforce is a good place

to start, with Housing 101;

or their survey to see how

you and or your friends

advocacy for the local

worth of feed for Vander

Kooy for a season. When

less acres for them to graze

That equation makes for

a costly impact to farmers

close to 1,000 acres of

Wingard said.

don't mind the geese graz-

"When the geese come

Grazing dilemmas

Yet agreement on the elevator shaft proved beyond reach, Davolio lamented.

"The original plan showed no elevator," he said. "Their later plans showed an elevator shaft. But we've been consistent

"We said you can have a shaft for a two-story building," he added, "or you can have a three-story building without a shaft."

At the meeting Commissioner Marna Hanneman encouraged the public to consider filing for the position she is vacating in January to become mayor. Interested residents need to contact Eills at Town Hall. Hanneman and Davolio said there are multiple training sessions available for new planning commission members.

a wildlife rescue to try to give them the best chance," Parmenter said.

Of course, there are other options besides hunting, like setting up decoys that fool birds into thinking there's predatory eagles in the fields – even something as simple as a plastic bag on a stake flapping in the wind kind of looks like an eagle, Wingard said.

It's a real balance that requires a lot of monitoring to figure out how the geese are doing in the wild and what impact they might have on the environment to know how to respond and one that can change over time.

And while the snow geese population is in many ways a success story, there are many threats facing birds, particularly during the tenuous time of migration. Last year, avian flu killed a number of snow geese and it's impacting cackling geese in Oregon in big numbers this season.

First published Nov. 22, 2023. Copyright 2023 Northwest News Network and NWPB. Reprinted with permission. Story and photos at: nwpb.org.

Have you

seen our

Board

new website?

■ ■ (from page 4)

conferences, everybody

knows La Conner volley-

(to state) and keeping the

tradition going," Keller

honor for the board to

"We plan on going back

Deyo said it was a great

have been chosen for state

recognition, an award that

included \$500 and certifi-

cates for each director.

La Conner was se-

lected as small school

board of the year based

on its implementation of

new academic programs,

ricula, designed to reach

"This award," said

That was affirmed

by Superintendent Will

sive," Nelson said. "It

ment to this community

New Braves Hub

Director Ryan Patrick

expanded local after-

school program, which

shared his commitment

and that of his staff to the

achievement.

crop.'

Nelson.

including a K-12 math cur-

increased levels of student

Deyo, "is the cream of the

'This award is impres-

shows the board's commit-

and love for our students."

Laconnerweeklynews.com

he loses that homegrown grass feed for his cows, he has to supplement and buy hay from Eastern Washington.

Vander Kooy doesn't even plant cover crops anymore; he said it's just too much of a loss.

With the population increases, hunting regulations, overseen by the Department of Fish and Wildlife, are allowing people to bag more birds. In the eight years Wingard has worked for the department, the daily limit for hunters has gone from four geese to 10.

"That is a reflection of how successful the population has been over the last few years," Wingard said.

Yet hunting has to be done responsibly. The department, which oversees hunting regulations for the state, works with other states to set the hunting season dates and regulations of how many animals hunters can take.

Parmenter will sometimes find geese that have been injured from hunters, but that are still living and are able to be saved.

"If the injuries aren't terrible, I will take them to

LEGAL NOTICES

CONTRACTOR **NOTIFICATION** TOWN OF LA CONNER Small Works Construction

Program 2024 HVAC Upgrades More information provided at www.townoflaconner.org. Published in La Conner Weekly News Nov. 29 and Dec. 6, 2023.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SNOHOMISH COUNTY In the Matter of the Estate of ROGER S. YOUNG, Deceased.

No. 23-4-02127-31 PROBATE NOTICE TO **CREDITORS** RCW 11.40.030

The personal representative named below has been appointed as personal representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the personal representative or the personal representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were

commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1) (c); or (2) four (4) 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 Clerk of Court:

November 13, 2023. **FIRST** PUBLICATION: Nov. 15. 2023

R S O N A L REPRESENTATIVE: JEANIE H. YOUNG ATTORNEY FOR PERSON-AL REPRESENTATIVE:

on a no-fee basis thanks

to long-term funding

through a 21st Century

grant award. Patrick said

work as Braves Hub site

and excited about things,

Patrick said of Madison,

who has been crafting ac-

both fun and educational.

engagements and commu-

nity connections – and he

has already reached out to

La Conner Kiwanians and

Rotarians - are key priori-

He is also seeking to fill

Finance Director David

district's negative fund bal-

ance is now \$25,297 on the

positive side. "We're in the

black again!" exclaimed

Deyo, leading a round of

applause for Cram. "This

and hard work. To be in the

black is very positive after

we thought we would be in

a big hole." Cram respond-

ed he believes the district

continues to "move in the

The board also approved

a state proclamation designating November as Native

right direction."

American Month.

is due to your expertise

ties for the Braves Hub.

two staff positions.

Cram reported that the

tivities for students that are

Patrick said that family

coordinator.

Chloe Madison has begun

"She's young, energetic

WASHINGTON OF KING MATTHEW LAWRENCE PRATT, Deceased. NO. 23-4-07633-5 SEA PROBATE NOTICE TO **CREDITORS** (RCW-11.40.030) Representative of this estate. against the Decedent that death must, before the time the claim would be barred by any limitations, present the claim on or mailing to the Personal 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. within the later of: (1) 30 days after the Personal Representative served or mailed the Notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020 (1)(c 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 or RCW 11.40.060. This bar is effec-

Name of Personal Represen-

Service: Anneliese E. Johnson

10900 NE 4th Street Bellevue, Washington, 98004 Court of probate proceedings

K i n g Cause number: County Superior Court 23-4-07633-5 SEA Published in La Conner

WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY No. 23-4-00611-29

PROBATE NOTICE TO **CREDITORS**

(RCW 11.40.030) In the Matter of the Estate of Neil T. Eastvold, Deceased The personal representative named below has been appointed as personal representative of this estate. Any person having claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the personal representative or the personal representative's attorney at the address stated below, a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate

Date of first publication: November 22, 2023

assets.

Lynn J. Smith

SKAGIT LAW

Personal Representative

KRISTA MACLAREN, WSBA No. 27550 HUNTER ANDERSON LAW FIRM, P.S. 2707 Colby Ave., Suite 1001 Everett, WA 98201 COURT OF PROBATE PROCEEDINGS: Snohomish **County Superior Court** AND CAUSE NUMBER: 23-4-02127-31

PLLC

Attorneys

Representative

Drive, Suite B

29 and Dec.6.

MEGAN OTIS MASON-

for

P.O. Box 336/227 Freeway

Published in La Conner

Weekly News Nov. 22, Nov.

SUPERIOR COURT OF

WASHINGTON FOR

SKAGIT COUNTY

Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Personal

HOLDER, WSBA #29495

Published in La Conner Weekly News Nov. 15, 22 and

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF IN AND FOR THE COUNTY In the Matter of the Estate of:

SALLY MARIE PRATT has been appointed as Personal Any person having a claim arose before the Decedent's otherwise applicable statute of in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney(s) The claim must be presented), or (2) four months after the tive as to claims against both the Decedent's probate and

nonprobate assets. Date of first publication of Notice to Creditors in Skagit County: Wednesday, November 22nd, 2023.

tative:Sally Marie Pratt

Attorney for the Personal Representative: Anneliese E. Johnson, WSBA #30465 of Inslee, Best, Doezie & Ry-

Address for Mailing or Inslee, Best, Doezie & Ryder,

Skyline Tower, Suite 1500

Weekly News Nov. 22, Nov. 29 and Dec. 6, 2023 SUPERIOR COURT OF

IN THE MATTER OF THE **ESTATE OF:** GARY LEE LATTING, Deceased. NO. 23-4-00631-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO **CREDITORS** RCW 11.40.030 THE PERSONAL REP-RESENTATIVE NAMED BELOW has been appointed as personal representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the personal representative or the personal representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame. the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and RCW 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets. DATE OF FIRST PUBLICA-TION: November 29, 2023. Monica Lynn Williams Personal Representative Personal Attornev for

Representative: Steven J. Peiffle, WSBA #14704 Address for Mailing or Service: P.O. Box 188 103 North Street

Arlington, WA 98223 Court of probate proceedings and cause number: Snohomish County Superior Court,

Cause No. 23-4-00631-29. Published in La Conner Weekly News Nov. 29, Dec. 6

and Dec. 13, 2023.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE

ESTATE OF: GEORGE EDWARD MCINTOSH, Deceased. NO. 23-4 00612 29 PROBATE NOTICE TO

CREDITORS RCW 11.40.030 PERSONAL THE REP-RESENTATIVE NAMED BELOW has been appointed as personal representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the personal representative at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after

the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and RCW 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both

DATE OF FIRST PUBLICA-TION: November 29, 2023. Personal Representative Robert Lee McIntosh Address for Mailing or

the decedent's probate and

non-probate assets.

Service: 23 Makah Way, La Conner, WA 98257

Court of probate proceedings and cause number: Skagit County Superior Court, Cause No. 23-4 00612 29.

GROUP, Published in La Conner Weekly News Nov. 29, Dec. 6

and neighbors are affected by the housing shortage. barista or farmer. From there, we need to look at ways to help and that might involve some behavior change.

As seemingly "unpleasant" or irrelevant as it may feel for us, whether we're homeowners or renters; newcomers or longtime locals, in our tiny homes, mid-century ranch ramblers and Victorian

manors, every one of us might want to begin to look at our housing behavior — and see if there's anything we can do to help. This is more than just those looking to rent, it's help for the restaurant owners, the hospital and everyone else. It helps us and our community thrive. For example:

- Turn your AirBnb into a long-term rental,
- Move your art studio to your spare bedroom and
- rent out that ADU, • Share your home with an on-call hospital staff,
- · Ask your favorite nonprofit/business/community group if they have a housing need for even short-term interns or long-term staff that might fit your space.

Get creative. There are so many great things about home sharing that we don't hear about. And so many different ways of doing it.

SUDOKO Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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Super Crossword

<u>Answers</u> J O C K E Y S I N A S N I T OXEN MONTANE I A M N A E S V E L E Z EVERYLETTEROF Q E D U L A E L K L A S E R T A X S K O S H I I O W A N M Y H E R O JERK SEANN AGAPE A R I A N A R I G B Y G I N X A C T O E S Q R I G Q T R
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A X E S H E S E S S E N C E I S E

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The Sarden This fragrant substance is harvested from the Boswellia sacra species, also known as the olibanum. This tree is native to Oman, Yemen and Somalia, and has a long history in folk medicine throughout Frankincense

Africa and Asia. In the Bible, it is one of three gifts offered to Jesus

by the "wise men." It is said to control bleeding, help heal wounds, fight inflammation, improve oral health, and studies have shown it may even help treat cancer. - Brenda Weaver

wstoday.com, thetruthaboutcancer.com, wikipedia

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By Patricia Aqiimuk Paul, Esq., Food Editor

Blueberry Cobbler

This was the perfect sweet treat for a busy day. We buy the local blueberries in season and freeze them. Butter is at room temperature. Use the blueberries frozen. Amazingly, this recipe has no eggs. It requires three mixing bowls.

Ingredients

- Blueberries, 2 cups,
- fresh or frozen Sugar, 1 cup, divided
- Butter, ¼ cup, softened
- Flour, 1 cup Baking powder,
- 2 teaspoons
- Salt, 1/8 teaspoon
- Milk, ½ cup



Lightly oil an 8 x 8 baking pan. Preheat the oven to 375 F. Combine the blueberries and ½ cup of sugar in a small bowl. I used frozen blueberries and mixed the sugar in with my fingers. In a second bowl, cream the softened butter with ½ cup of sugar. In the third bowl whisk the flour with baking powder and salt. Add the flour mixture into the sugar mixture. Mix as you add the milk. The batter will be thick. Spread the batter evenly in the oiled baking pan. Spread the blueberries on top of the batter. Addiany extra sugar over the top. Bake for 40 to 45 minutes. Serve warm or at room temperature.

AqiimuksKitchen@outlook.com

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads now in print and online * same low price Submit your ad by Sunday noon for next issue publishing • Iaconne

HELP WANTED: The Museum Gift Store at Museum of Northwest Art in La Conner is looking for a permanent part time Store Consignment Coordinator.

This position requires a flexible schedule, computer competence and excellent customer service skills. This is an interesting and fun environment that includes Northwest art and artists. Please email resume to Marthab@ museumofnwart.org by Dec 30.

WANTED: La Conner apartment rental wanted by a mature, able-bodied veteran with excellent local references. 360-421-2423

THANKSGIVING IS OVER: So take a break and get a massage. Call Jo's Healing Hands LMT 360-708-2022

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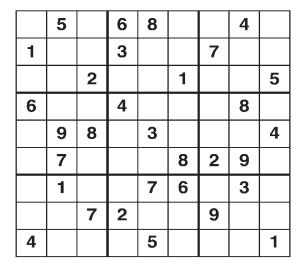
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Sudoku, Crossword answers on page 6

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Complete Events Calendar on laconnerweeklynews.com

NOT TO BE MISSED

Breakfast with Santa

Presented by La Conner Rotary and La Conner United, Saturday, Dec. 2, 8-11 a.m., Maple Hall, 103 Commercial Ave., La Conner. Adults \$10, children \$5, under 5 free. Bring your camera to take photos with Santa.

Kiwanis Craft Fair Saturday, Dec. 2, 9:00 a.m. -

3:00 p.m Maple Hall, 104 Commerical St., La Conner

Shelter Bay Chorus holiday concert Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 9 at

At the Shelter Bay community clubhouse, 1000 Shoshone Drive. Admission is by donation.

Town of La Conner Planning **Commission Meeting**

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 6 p.m. For a current Agenda go to www. townoflaconner.org Sign up for "Notify Me" to get current Town Information

SYC Holiday Boat Parade Saturday, Dec. 9, 6:00 p.m. Decorated boats presented by Swinomish Yacht Club. Viewing along the La Conner Boardwalk.

LIBRARIES

La Conner Swinomish Library. 520 Morris St., La Conner. 360-466-3352.www.lclib.lib.wa.us. Open 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday.

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ACROSS

- Storytime for Children. 11 a.m. every Friday.
- Book Club. Meets at 2 p.m. every fourth Wednesday. Info: Richard Wisniewski at wisniew10@gmail.com
- Tech Help. 4-6 p.m. every Monday. One-on-one technical support in 30-minute
- Dungeons & Dragons Club. 3-5 p.m. every Tuesday. No previous gaming experience necessary.

Mount Vernon Public Library. 315 Snoqualmie St., Mount Vernon. 360-336-6209, mountvernonwa.gov.

· Virtual Reality. Every Saturday, 1-3 p.m. Must be 12 or

Anacortes Public Library. 1220 10th St., Anacortes. 360-299-8067, City of Anacortes.org.

Burlington Public Library. 820 E. Washington Ave., Burlington. 360-755-0760, burlingtonwa.gov/ library.

Knitting Club. All ages, Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

MUSEUMS

Pacific Northwest Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum. 703 S. Second St., La Conner.11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. qfamuseum.org, 360-466-4288 . See two new exhibits:

Skagit County Historical Museum. 360-466-3365 or

skagitcounty.net/museum. Hours 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday-Sunday. • Exhibit: "More than just a little off the top: barbershop historians."

Museum of Northwest Art.

10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, noon-5 p.m. Sunday and Monday. monamuseum.org, 360-466-4446.

 Teen Art Club. A free program for youth in grades 6-12, where you can bring your friends and your creativity to make art together and inspire your art. Pizza, snacks, and art supplies will be provided.

MUSIC

Ukelele Fun & Song Circle.

Meets 1-2 p.m. Wednesdays, Burlington Senior Center. For info, email yogaheartspace0@ gmail.com.

Shelter Bay Chorus. Meets 4:30-6:30 p.m. every Thursday, Shelter Bay Clubhouse. No auditions required. Questions, call Joan at 360-941-7507.

SERVICE & VOLUNTEER

La Conner Sunrise Food Bank. Food distribution from 2:30-5 p.m. every Monday, 602 S. Third . St., La Conner. 360-488-3878. laconnerfoodbank com

Food Bank. Food distribution from 2-5 p.m. every Thursday. Non-essentials every first Thursday, 17444 Snee Oosh Road, La Conner. 360-856-2211 helpinghandsfoodbank.org

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Swinomish Helping Hands

Skagit Valley Humane Society. 18841 Kelleher Road, Burlington 360-757-0445. Find volunteer and donation opportunities online at skagithumane.org.

MEETINGS

La Conner Swinomish Regional Library. Library board of trustees meets at 5 p.m. the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the library, 520 Morris St., La Conner

Skagit Cemetery Dist. 1.

Regular meetings at 5 p.m. every second Thursday, at Lori Buher's home, 17604 Valentine Road, Mount Vernon.

Skagit Conservation District. 2021 E. College Way No. 203, Mount Vernon. 360-428-4313.

Zoom info at skagitcd.org. Board meetings 7:30-9 a.m. every 4th Wednesday. Rotary Club of La Conner.

laconnerrotary.org. Meetings 6-7

O'Donnell's restaurant. Optional

p.m. every Monday at Shawn

dinner, 5:30 p.m. Little Mountain Gamblers.

Gamblers Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Mount Vernon Senior Center, 1401 Cleveland Ave.

Town of La Conner. 204 Douglas St., La Conner. 360-466-3125. Zoom info @ Townoflaconner.org/calendar.

Super Crossword 99 Acorn trees 38 Solidifies

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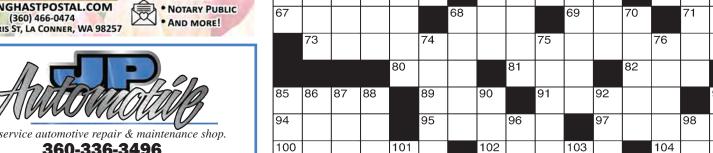
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A TO Z

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- 98 Points of convergence 101 Prizes highly 103 Animals:
- Suffix 105 Kismet
- 108 Wolf down 110 Suppress 112 Pre-liftoff
- expression 113 Hot dog
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 - utensil 120 Basra
 - citizen 121 Mexico's -California
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 - 130 Partakes of 131 "Grimm" airer 132 Wye follower

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POLICE BLO

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sunday, November 19

2:23 p.m. What a drag—A sailboat had dragged anchor and was not on the rocks off Skagit Island. Nobody was in danger and a tow vessel was headed out to assist. No action by sheriff's office.Greater La Conner.

5:58 p.m. Cold dog— Caller had found a shepherd type dog that seemed to be lost and cold. The caller just wanted dispatch to be aware in case anyone called in and needed her information. Caller was keeping the dog until an owner could be found. Morris St., La Conner.

Monday, November 20

2:59 p.m. Hissy fit —Report of an aggressive cat but no detail on how it was aggressive. The call was sent to the town of La Conner for animal control followup. State St., La Conner.

Tuesday, November 21

2:19 p.m. Move it—Hotel had a vehicle parked in a way that was partially blocking a hotel parking area. The owner of the car was

located at a local business, and she moved her car right away. First St., La Conner.

Friday, November 24

10:27 a.m. Hunter hunted-Subjects who had been hunting returned to find their vehicle had been prowled. The window had been broken out and a coat was taken from inside. Unknown suspect info. Fir Island Rd., Mount

15:17 p.m. Mystery car—Suspicious vehicle parked in the lot of the nursery. A deputy responded and found the vehicle but could not locate anyone around. The vehicle lights were on with keys in the ignition, but nobody was in the area. A deputy walked the area and called out with no response. Vehicle did not return stolen. Best Rd., La Conner.

Saturday, November 25

10:27 a.m. Found wallet-A wallet was found with ID inside. The wallet was collected for safe keeping by the sheriff's office. First St., La Conner.

Grace Hubbard helped birth a sister city



LINKING HANDS ACROSS THE WATERS - In this 1984 town picture of La Conner residents, they have gathered on the west side of the Swinomish Channel dressed in their representative work clothes to share a view of themselves and their community with their unofficial Soviet sister town of O'lga, Kamchatka.

Photo courtesy of Joan Cross

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By Joan Cross

Grace Hubbard's 100th birthday celebrated last week in the Weekly News reminded me of the sister cities project we worked on together in the early 1980s. Grace has an excellent memory, which helped to jog mine. So I'm adding to her story.

I had returned from Peace Corps in the Fiji Islands a decade previously and birthed my first baby. Ronald Reagan was

president, which worried some of us as to the saber rattling with the Soviets. I went to a Peace Corps reunion that was electric with creative ideas, enthusiasm and engagement for common citizens to help shape a more peaceful world. One idea that came out of the gathering was to promote a sister city program between similar cities in USA and USSR. Seattle paired with Tashkent and La Conner paired with O'lga in the far east

Kamchatka Peninsula. It was a fishing village and had an indigenous population of similar size to us. Grace Hubbard immediately

tuned into this people to people approach and together with other likeminded friends we organized a photo album of La Conner, a petition favoring peaceful relations, a song composed by Holly Graham, "Song to a Russian Mother" and letters of welcome and peace from our mayor, Mary Lam, and many La Conner families individually.

Grace was instrumental in this organizing effort because she had organized projects before and I was fortunate enough as a neophyte to learn at her elbow. We sent off the package of photos, letters and petitions hoping but not expecting it would get through the censors.

Even so, we thought, the censors might also be interested. Seven years later we got a response from a teacher and his family! Several subsequent letters and photos were exchanged and we still think of O'lga as our sister city. One never knows whatever efforts are thrown into the Universe, which ones will

Longtime La Conner resident Joan Cross started Balance Point, served on town council and continues to support her community.

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