

Fire departments purposely burn down a house • p 6 Salish Sea rock garden will grow, produce clams • p 10

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Hats off to our high school seniors



THEIR CAPS CAME OFF AND WENT UP IN THE AIR – It is not every day that kids graduate from high school, but 47 seniors did from La Conner High School June 8. Done with one adventure. Now, on to others, hopefully bigger, better, scarier, more challenging. – Photo by Sarah Walls

Class of '23 graduates in sun-splashed ceremony

By Bill Reynolds

A class that weathered a slew of obstacles, in particular the COVID-19 pandemic, was blessed with warm, sunny conditions and a clear view of snow-capped Mount Baker for La Conner High School's 129th annual commencement exercises Thursday evening at Whittaker Field.

That scenario of emerging from clouds of uncertainty into the bright sunshine of hope and optimism was emphasized in remarks by Class of 2023 Valedictorian Hadley Shears, among a handful of graduating seniors speaking at the well-attended ceremony. character Ferris Bueller.

Bueller, reminded Shears, ended the movie that made him an 80s cult hero with his famous and enduring advice that "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."

Salutatorian Josie Harper, another NHS member, directed much of her address to younger brother, Roman, a La Conner elementary student. She expressed envy at his stage of life but urged him not to fear growing up and taking on new and added responsibilities.

acknowledged as a perpetual display award recipient, the JoAnne Self Determination and Loyalty Award.

Andrew Villard (Vince Sellen Community Service), Madoc Hiller (Kiwanis-Chuck Hedlund Community Service) and Finn Hakenson (Jack Whittaker Achievement) were the other perpetual display award choices.

Hakenson joined Shears, Harper, Raymond Bailey, Jr., Eleanor Drews, Isaias Gonzales-Rojas, Rachel Haley, Ellie Marble, Cole Medeiros and Kennedy Miller in receiving National Honor Society recognition from La (continued on page 7)

MoNA 31st annual auction a night of shared magic

By Ken Stern

There was sharing aplenty at the Museum of Northwest Art Saturday night as MoNA raised \$370,000 through purchases and donations at its 31st annual auction. The First Street museum was humming as people gathered for the second year in a row, with nary an N95 mask in sight. The theme, "Share the Magic of Northwest Art," was visible throughout, with over 300 pieces of art hung and displayed on every gallery wall on the first and second floor, with sculpture and jewelry displayed on stands and tables. Most of the art was donated by local and regional artists and collectors. There were 30 live auction items and 275 items in the silent auction. Staff and volunteers Monday were working to finalize totals.

Supporters were especially generous for the Fund the Future campaign, which raised some \$122,000 Saturday, starting with a \$25,000 challenge match by Rebecca Beneroya and ending with \$25,000 from the estate of Margaret Bickel. Allison Kramer and Sandy McDade offered the first \$10,000. Auctioneer Ian Lindsay pressed people to be generous and brave, prompting for "Anyone who doesn't want to give \$5,000 but will do it anyway." The 100% cell phone fueled donating system seemed to have a glitch, with numbers totaling slowly at first but then pouring in. At the \$81,000 level, another \$10,000 match was offered by "a group of MoNA magicians" (continued on page 7)



"Our class," Shears forecast at one point, "is destined for great things."

Shears and the other class speakers expressed gratitude for the support received from family, friends, community members and school staff.

Recipient of two perpetual display honors, the Megan Lisser Service to School and Varsity in Volunteerism awards, Shears specifically thanked retiring school counselor Lori Buher

for her guidance and counsel. Shears, one of 10 National Honor Society members in the class, closed by quoting former first lady Michelle Obama and the "immortal" film "Getting older isn't that bad," she told Roman. "I'm not trying to scare you away."

In her own case, Harper said she has created lasting memories around school activities, athletics and public service.

"Growing up is inevitable," she said, "but how you grow up is up to you."

A poignant moment occurred when senior Jamie Damien-Sams offered a special remembrance honoring deceased classmate Kerriah Paul. When Damien-Sams, the class president, was overcome with emotion, staff member Theresa James read the remainder of her message.

Like Shears, Damien-Sams was

Holiday Closures

Juneteenth

Monday, June 19 Bank: Closed Buses: No service Library: Closed Post Office: Closed Schools: Closed Town Hall: Closed County government offices: Closed Trash pick up: Regular service Getting to freedom takes a long time.

THIS GRADUATE GRADUATES OTHERS – Dr. Will Makoyiisaaminaa (Nelson) and Dr. Gerry Ebalaroza-Tunnell, doctoral committee member, pose after Saturday's graduation ceremonies at Western Washington University. Nelson earned his doctorate in educational leadership from the university's Woodring College.

- Photo courtesy of Will Nelson

Inslee visits Puget Sound Food Hub Cooperative while in Skagit County

By Bill Reynolds

Gov. Jay Inslee enjoyed a taste of Skagit Valley on several levels when he toured the Puget Sound Food Hub Cooperative near La Conner last Tuesday.

The state's three-term chief executive, who recently announced he would not seek re-election, nonetheless modeled all the ingredients of a campaigner as he spoke with and listened to area farmers and food hub General Manager Andrew Yokom.

Inslee repeatedly praised the cleanliness and efficiency of the warehouse site, a former potato shed located next to Christianson's Nursery on the southwest corner of Best and McLean roads.

"You have a beautiful warehouse here," Inslee told Yokum. "It looks like somebody knows what they're doing."

The proof is in the numbers.

Eighty percent of \$25 million in food hub sales have been returned to producers, a co-op of some 70 Skagit Valley farmers, Yokom said.

Amy Frye of Boldy Grown Farm of Bow told Inslee that co-op membership is a win-win situation,

"This is as far as we have to go," Frye, a past president of the co-op board said of the near La Conner location. "The trucks take it from here to Seattle and elsewhere."

Yokom noted the level of support the food hub has received from state officials. The Washington state Department of Agriculture last year provided \$500,000 to purchase delivery trucks and expand cooler space.

"I think one of the reasons the governor is coming here," Yokom told the Weekly News beforehand, "is because as a farmer-owned co-op we've also been the beneficiaries of state funding."

The food hub delivers to restaurants, schools and other markets – including hunger relief organizations – between the U.S.-Canadian border and Olympia.

"The produce," Frye stressed, "goes out to the people who need it."

Inslee, his staff and State Rep. Dave Paul (D-Oak Harbor) were given a first-hand look at how the food hub works, highlighted by the opportunity to sample favorite delicacies grown by co-op members.

"The food hub," said Yokum, "started out of a need – by the farmers, for the farmers."

Paul came away impressed.

"I was excited to see this," Paul said, "because we're always looking for ways to support and (continued on page 7)



RECOGNIZING THE SKAGIT'S AGRICULTURAL BOUNTY – Gov. Jay Inslee wrapped up a day in Skagit County at the Puget Sound Food Hub Cooperative on Best Road. Farmer member-owners gave him a tour and discussed the co-op's purpose, growth and success.

– Photo by Marissa Conklin

From the editor —

Smoke, fire, heat and hot air

The secondary heading for this editorial is "our ossified leadership." The political state – and status – of our country is our society-wide failure, whether you read many newspapers or none and whether you discuss vigorously, halfheartedly or not at all with your neighbors, families and friends.

About the ossified leadership: Our accepting presidential candidates on either side of 80-years-old is a failure on Joe Biden and Donald Trump's parts, the leadership of the Democratic and Republican parties - and financers - politically involved citizens and all the rest of us. Every one of us needs to both let go of the 20th century and demand 21st century vision and leadership from much younger people. Biden and Trump were avoiding the Vietnam War 60 years ago when gas was eighteen cents a gallon.

Alas, there is little that the common people can influence here.

Most of us love our country dearly, embrace patriotism and will not miss the Fourth of July parade, but facts and analysis will show that way too many of us are civically lazy and woefully ignorant of American history and the duties and responsibility of citizenship. A faction of us are worried about the wokeness of others. The truth is, on the road to voting and civic participation, many of us have not gotten off the couch, much less sat behind the wheel or gotten out of the driveway on the road to the Constitution and involvement in governance.

Our political parties have devolved into tribes, with committed base factions demanding loyalty from each party's leadership. The candid facts of Jan. 6, 2021 and the last two years reveal a portion of the citizenry do not believe in or trust democracy. A large portion of us only believe in the rule of law when our leader rules.

Given that, U.S. Justice Department special prosecutor Jack Smith can say, as he did and believes, that Trump is innocent until proven guilty, that the purpose of a trial is to present the evidence, argue the case on its merits and have a jury decide.

The accused, Trump, can, and does, call it a witch hunt and warn of a deep state that is out to get him, but he is arguing in the court of public opinion. What if he is a wolf in sheep's clothing bleating for all the sheep to follow him into his den?

Compare, as Trump did, the cases of Biden and former vice president Mike Pence having classified documents. Group together the similarities and separate the differences of all three histories. That is each of our obligations, to sort the wheat from the chaff, the facts from fiction, what is rhetoric and what is reality – and what is important.

Trump's trial will determine if he broke the law; the jury will not rule on his character. Republican voters, first, then perhaps all voters, will decide who their candidate and choice for president is in 2024. For now the choices are all in the camp of our Republican sisters and brothers.

For either party, are Trump and Biden the best their nominating processes can offer the American people?

Benjamin Franklin famously answered "A republic, if you can keep it" at the dawn of the Constitution being approved. A citizenship working toward keeping the United States

united would be more critical of its leadership, both elected and aspiring.

LETTER

Great town, bookstore

I've lived in La Conner and the surrounding area for 38 years and continue to be thrilled by all the wonderful organizations here that support gardening, farming, land conservation, the Sunrise Food Bank, Kiwanis, Rotary and Soroptimists, to name a few. And the businesses here are unique and charming. We have a feast of restaurants here to satisfy so many tastes, fish from the sea, burgers, tacos, fine dining, ice cream, breakfasts and sliders. And coffee, the best anywhere.

My favorite place in La Conner is Seaport Books. Janna and company have been providing a beautiful space to wander the aisles, sit in a comfy chair, talk authors and series' with the knowledgeable staff, walk out the door with a gem of a book recommended by Marion, for seven years.

I remind you; we are very lucky to have a bookstore in our small, sweet town.

It's so easy, I know, to log on to Amazon and shop away for books. Voila! Delivered.

But think about it. You live in town, you live in Shelter Bay, you live on the Rez.

A short walk or drive to a magical spot on Earth. A real Bookstore. A great conversation awaits you, a new author is ready to surprise you. And, ok, parking is not the greatest in La Conner, so, call and order that book. 360-399-1800. Pick it up on a Monday, avoid traffic.

I'll see you there, I hope. Georgia Johnson Greater La Conner

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. - Ken Stern SEND TO editor@laconnernews.com

Reducing home electrical use reduces costs



By Greg Whiting

is on – that is during a third of the day. So, a 1,200 watt refrigerator would use about 1,200 times 8, or 9,600 watthours, or 9.6 kWh, per day. A hand-held circular saw might require 1,200 watts, but most woodworking hobbyists aren't likely to have a power saw on for more than an hour a day.

Replacing the 1,200 watt refrigerator with a modern 600 watt refrigerator will reduce the energy the fridge uses from 9.6 kWh/day to 4.8 kWh/day. Total 30-day energy savings is 144 kWh; total 30-day dollar savings will be \$17.28.

If you don't want to estimate run times or look for wattage

A citizen's view —

Memorial Day born out of Civil War

By Rick Shorten

Thank you for your spot-on Musings (June 7 Weekly News) in regard to Memorial Day, especially the service at Pleasant Ridge Cemetery on May 29. As always, it was a moving service, conducted quite ably by Rev. Don Robinson.

As I listened to and observed the folding of the flag protocol and recounting of the military conflicts that our flag has symbolized, whether noble or otherwise, I, too, was struck by the omission of the Civil War. This was no careless omission.

The Civil War was the most pivotal point in the history of the United States. It was Jan, 6, 2021 on steroids. It was the point at which we resolved whether we would remain a slave-holding nation, again asserting that we stood for the idea that all men were created equal as set forth in the Declaration Independence.

I pondered, as I stood there, what the flag would look like if the Confederacy had prevailed in that conflict. Would it be a flag minus four stripes representing the founding colonies who fought to leave the Union? It had 34 stars at the beginning of the Civil War. How many would be represented today? Or would we be honoring the stars and bars of the flag of the Confederacy? Many people fly the Confederate flag and display bumper stickers today. I always wonder if they are advocating a reinstatement of slavery.

As the musings noted, Memorial Day was instituted by Maj. Gen. Joshua Logan in 1868, but remembrances for the war dead began before the war ended, notably in Boalsburg, PA. In Charleston, SC, in May, 1865, a march of Black former slaves led by 3,000 school children holding roses marched, commemorating dead Union soldiers buried at a mass grave nearby. In 1866, women in Columbus, GA, put flowers on graves of both Confederate and Union soldiers. It is written that this gesture of reverence for the losses on both sides of the conflict so moved Gen. Logan that he spurred the effort to make Memorial Day a national holiday.

The U.S. flag is important only as a symbol of the actual sacrifice made by all citizens who have taken time out of their lives to serve the nation, and most importantly, those who have paid with their lives.

Rick Shorten lives on Pleasant Ridge and served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War era.

LETTERS

Political parties and fraud

I recently received an invitation from the Skagit County Republican Party to its annual Lincoln-Reagan gala. I've never voted for a Republican, but I do recall long political discussions with my father, a lifelong Republican,. We often disagreed on policy, but never about basic facts.

So, out of curiosity, I explored the website of the Skagit County Republicans and was immediately swept down the proverbial rabbit hole. In one blog post (April 27) county chairman Bill Bruch refers to "the Marxists who are currently running our country", meaning (I guess) the centrist administration of Joe Biden. On April 23, he claimed that "WA State Radical Socialist Democrats continue implementing totalitarian laws and expanding draconian Marxist government powers". Marxists? Really?

Heated rhetoric, no facts. The website includes a podcast (February 23) accusing Arizona governor Katie Hobbs of being "linked to drug cartel money to steal elections". Hobbs beat Republican election denier Kari Lake in 2022, an election which Lake is still contesting.

posts and podcasts on the site accusing Democrats of committing fraud to steal elections, including the 2020 presidential election. Trump and his allies have lost (to date) over fifty court cases challenging the results of that election. Not one - not one - backed up claims of fraud. On the evidence then, the Skagit Republican party and its leader exist on the lunatic fringe of our political system. That's not a good thing – there are no such things as "alternative facts," only lies and misinformation.

Lastly, a post (January 5) on the party's website featured a petition headed "Don't Seat Serial Liar Clyde Shavers in the State House." Democrat Shavers was elected to a District 10 seat in 2022.

Ironically an article about Bruch's own candidacy for state representative in this newspaper (Oct. 21, 2020) pointed out that in 1998 Bruch was convicted in civil court of defrauding elderly investors out of around \$1,750,000. So perhaps local Republicans should clean their own house of its liars and cheats before baselessly accusing others of fraud.

An earlier column emphasized understanding the numbers on your electric bill. Understanding what the bill means, however, doesn't help much in understanding why you've used that much energy, nor does it help you reduce your energy costs. For that, you need to understand how much each of your electric devices contributes to the meter reading.

Electric devices have wattage ratings. Multiply the wattage by the amount of time the device is used to determine how much energy that device is using. For instance, turning a 60 watt incandescent lamp on for ten hours a day uses 600 (60 times 10) watt-hours, or 0.6 kilowatthours (kWh).

Most electrical devices don't operate continuously. A refrigerator may use about 1,200 watts to keep food cool, but it doesn't use 1,200 watts 24 hours a day. It only uses energy when the compressor

The 1,200 watt saw would use 1,200 watt-hours (1.2 kWh) in a day. The 1,200 watt refrigerator, running intermittently but more often, uses 9.6 kWh. The 60 watt light, running continuously for a long time, uses 0.6 kWh. Because it operates so intermittently, the saw uses one-eighth the amount of energy as the refrigerator, even though they use the same amount of energy when they're actually running. The saw only uses twice the energy of the light over the whole day, even though it uses 20 times the energy during the period of time it is actually on.

Replacing the 60 watt light with a 9 watt LED light reduces the energy the light uses from 600 watt-hours/day to 90 watt-hours/day. Over a 30-day month, this saves 510 watt-hours a day, or 15,300 watt-hours (15.3 kWh). At \$0.12/kWh, the new light bulb will take \$1.84/month off your electric bill (\$0.12 times 15.3). labels, get a personal meter like a Kill-a-watt (that is its real name) and plug each of your devices into it for a while. Personal meters will show you how much energy each device is using.

Heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) account for half to twothirds of a typical electric bill. New technologies help you save money and energy while maintaining comfort. Using an energy-efficient heat pump reduces the energy used by the system. Using a programmable thermostat actually programming it, not just installing it - enables you to let the house run to less comfortable temperatures during the hours you aren't home. Your furniture doesn't care if it's 60 degrees inside from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm and you can program the system to return to 70 degrees by the time you get home.

These are just a few examples of literally hundreds of blog

Just saying. Tony Harrah Greater La Conner

Keep the salmon slide

I was very sad to hear that the city council had voted to remove the salmon slide. The letter (Weekly News, June 7) mentioned that it was going to be removed because of the continued cost of maintenance. Having watched it closely for the past few years I know that the only maintenance that was done was done by Ollie Iverson, the parks commissioner. I question the so called high maintenance costs that the city claims. The cost of its removal would be exorbitant and would make no sense.

The salmon slide was the highlight of our grandchildren's visits to La Conner. They got hours of enjoyment from playing on it, especially when they would climb into its mouth and were quickly swallowed. They would talk about it for days.

I want to thank Ollie Iverson for his foresight and all of the hard work he did to bring the salmon slide to La Conner. We need more leaders like him in our community. And let's keep the salmon slide. Keith Clements Greater La Conner

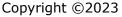
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OBITUARY



Elizabeth Grace Gordon "Betty"

Elizabeth "Betty" Grace Gordon died on Monday, May 22, 2023 at the age of 97. She passed in the home where she had spent most of her life, looking out the windows, the rays of her final golden hour reflected in her eyes. Betty was born to Samuel and Tiena (Drost) Mesman on May 19, 1926, in Rocky Point, Washington. Growing up in the 1930s and 40s, she would share stories of her life on the beaches of the island picking wild strawberries, looking for agates, and finding lady slipper orchids blooming in the nearby forests in the springtime. She often reminisced about the simpler times of her rural island life.

When her family moved to a farm outside of La Conner. Betty found herself happy in her new community; it was one full of engagement and involvement. She attended school in Oak Harbor and La Conner, where she graduated with the class of 1943 from La Conner High School.

Betty met her husband, Eddie George Gordon, while ice skating a frozen pond. No words or introductions were shared, but within six months they were married and had settled on a beautiful farm on McLean Road in Mount Vernon, Washington. Their wedding date was October 22, 1956.

Betty was a mother, a wife, a Girl Scout Troop Leader, a farm owner, and a bookkeeper. Her interests were widespread. She loved baseball, hockey games, crocheting, baking, reading murder mysteries, and solving puzzles. Betty volunteered her time serving shifts in WWII watchtowers, keeping an eye out for suspicious aircraft. Her children remember that she loved eating ice cream, taking long car rides with Eddie, her homemade lemon meringue pie, and her sweet voice as she sang to her grandchild. She loved bright colors and she loved to laugh; her children note how loving and open-minded she was. There was always food on the table, time to spend together on family vacations, and heartshaped peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to help melt away the trials of a hard day.

Center Street project, flood issues heard by planning commission

By Bill Reynolds

With the completion of an on-site soil analysis, applicants Kate and Brandon Atkinson stand on firm enough ground to seek county building permits for their proposed condo project on Center Street, Town of La **Conner Planning Commissioners** were told last week.

"The applicants have expressed a desire to apply for building permits before the end of June," Planning Director Michael Davolio said as part of a regular status report on the 306 Center Street proposal during a one-hour June 7 hybrid session at Maple Hall.

Davolio said two soil boring tests on the southwest portion of the property, which had previously been part of a fullservice fuel station and storage business, revealed contaminants requiring removal. The analysis indicated those contaminants had not spread to the northeast, he said.

Davolio cited two of the safeguards in place regarding the project, which sparked pushback when proposed last year from those concerned about potential fire protection issues and traffic, parking and noise impacts on the nearby residential neighborhood.

"They will have to have a pre-construction meeting before digging," said Davolio, adding that an engineer at the worksite is required.

The state Department of Ecology is also in the loop, he said. "They know about the project and have been monitoring the site."

In response to a question posed by Center Street resident Debbie Aldrich, Davolio said he wasn't certain if DOE will have staff on site during construction.

Atkinson, who maintains a dental practice in La Conner, has said the local housing crunch makes residential units more suitable than commercial development on the property, which is located behind The Slider Café.

While not on the commission's formal agenda, flood mitigation was discussed at length.

Center Street resident William Smith said that flood threats "are not something we can walk away from." He suggested limiting construction in flood-prone areas.

Jerry George, also a Center Street resident and a member of the new Emergency Management Commission formed in response to December's severe saltwater flooding, said he and his colleagues are exploring both short-term and long-range strategies.

"At this point," said George, "the commission is pretty sure we'll meet the Dec. 27 flood level (of 14 feet). It ain't cheap. It's complicated because of where the barriers have to be.

"William is absolutely correct," George added. "We have to address the threat of floods in our code."

George noted that commissioner Duane Carpenter, a retired National Weather Service meteorologist, has said the local flooding was a rare event, the result of numerous simultaneous conditions seasonal king tides, extremely low barometric pressure, strong westerly winds and melt off from a prior winter storm.

"But the risk of this event being on the horizon is absolute," George stressed.

Commissioners also continued a long-standing discussion on short-term rentals, a topic Davolio said has generated a broad range of opinions.

"Some people say 'no' to any short-term rentals," he said. "Others say not to dictate how to use their property."

Smith cautioned that widespread use of short-term rentals reduces available housing stock and threatens the fabric of communities.

"If you want a community that serves families and supports the education of its children," said Smith, "you don't want shortterm rentals."

Commissioner Marna Hanneman, who will become mayor in December, said the local housing situation is one that is foremost on the minds of many.

"People are trying to get creative," she said, "to figure out ways that people who work here can live here."

As to the fate of short-term rentals, Hanneman said "it's a topic that won't be decided overnight."

Davolio agreed.

"We want to keep this discussion going," he said.

Busy summer wildfire season anticipated statewide

By Bill Reynolds

Summer vacation likely will be an oxymoron for area firefighters.

Forecasts place Washington state at the epicenter of regional wildfires from July to September.

"The outlook for Washington state is not all that great," Skagit County Fire District 13 Assistant Chief Jamie Jurdi conceded last Thursday. "Washington is in the red throughout the whole wildfire season. Not just eastern Washington, but also western Washington.'

Fire District 13, serving Swinomish Reservation and the rural La Conner area, regularly mobilizes personnel and equipment to summer hotspots along the Pacific Coast and interior.

The district commissioners' monthly hybrid meeting at its Snee-Oosh Road station coincided with U.S. Senate hearings focused on wildfire preparedness and response.

"I think America is waking up, at least on the East Coast, to this problem," Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-WA., said during a meeting of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. "And we certainly have known all about it on the West Coast for some time now. And I think that it is time and opportunity for us to really break down the barriers that are prohibiting us from having a faster response and working quickly on the faster response."

In its June 1 assessment, the National Interagency Fire Center forecast "above normal" wildlife risk for July through September for nearly the entire state of Washington.

That level or risk is not typically seen statewide, particularly in historically cooler and wetter western Washington.

During the senate hearing, Cantwell pressed Jaelith Hall-Rivera, deputy chief of state, private and tribal forestry with the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, on the need to improve coordination between the various agencies fighting wildfires to ensure faster fire response.



"We absolutely need to break down barriers with all of our partners, states, tribes, counties, even between the federal agencies," Hall-Rivera said.

Cantwell suggested increased collaboration with Canada, given that recent East Coast smoke originated in Quebec and some of the worst smoke events in Washington state were due to raging fires in British Columbia.

"I think it's really time to engage with the Canadians," Cantwell said. "We can't just be sitting here, thinking that we have solved this problem, because our continent knows no U.S.-Canadian barrier."

In a release her office issued Thursday, she listed billions of dollars she secured to support wildfire response and recovery in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, including \$3.4 billion for Hazardous Fuels Reduction programs and \$500 million for Burned Area Rehabilitation Programs. She helped garner an additional \$1.8 billion for the U.S. Forest Service Hazardous Fuels Reduction Program in the Inflation Reduction Act.

Cantwell also called on U.S. Forest Service Chief Randy Moore to hire more firefighters ahead of the 2023 wildfire season in April.

District Emergency Management Coordinator Ted Taylor, fondly dubbed "Capt. Catastrophe," reminded commissioners of the Great ShakeOut earthquake preparedness event set for mid-October.

"Like I always say," said Taylor, "it's not a matter of if, but when, the Big One happens. We need to be prepared and not have to ask, 'What do we do now?' It could be five to seven days before any significant help can get in after a major disaster."

Also announced was an open house ceremony at the Snee-Oosh station's new residential unit named for former commission chair Larry Kibbee. The event is tentatively scheduled for July 8, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Home Loans Made Simple

Jessica Nguyen

Skagit County Home Loan Specialist Office: (360) 848-7211 | Cell: (360) 420-4192 peoplesbank-wa.com/jessica

Betty is survived by her sons, Todd (Christine) Gordon, Eddie Gordon, and special son, Arne Svendsen; grandson, Cole Gordon; and sister, Darlene of Idaho.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her dearest friend, Harriet; and her husband of 53 years, Eddie George Gordon.

Please consider a memorial donation to the McLean Fire Department, 15452 Beaver Marsh Rd., Mount Vernon, WA 98273.

Betty was laid to rest next to her husband Eddie George Gordon at Pleasant Ridge Cemetery.

Funeral arrangements are under the care of Kern Funeral Home. You may share memories and offer your condolences to Betty's family online at www. kernfuneralhome.com.







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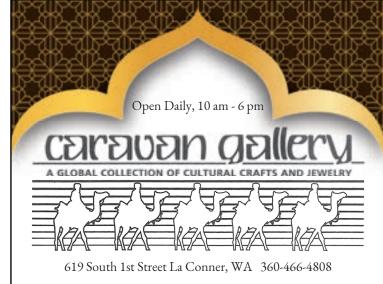
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Kittens do best when

are truly abandoned.

will return to care for

them soon

Mama might be out scrounging for food and

they are with their mama. Before leaping to the rescue make sure they



If kittens are clean and sleeping in a heap, then mama is likely out looking for food and will be back.

noise or appear sick or hurt, making a lot of NiA and possibly gane for good. If you have observed for 12 to 24 hrs and mamo still hosn't returned, she's probably not coming back. If kittens are cold, dirty, thin, making a lot of

MAKE A GAME PLAN

If kittens are in obvious distress and mama is clearly not coming back, call HSSV at 360-757-0445 to discuss bringing them into us for core.

If the kittens appear to be well fed and in good health and mama seems to be nearby or has abviously been there recently, then wait and try to see if you can bring momo in as well. If she's friendly scoop them up, and give us a call. If she isn't keen an contact, again, call us at 360–757-0445 for advice an trapping so you can bring them all in together safely. A trap might be necessary and it's important to get mom first, so you don't scoop up the babies and then realize you can't get mama.

Local scholarship foundation kicks off major six-month fundraising drive

By Bill Reynolds

A good idea never goes out of style.

Thirty-four years after its inception, the concept of an inclusive scholarship program supporting La Conner High School graduates still remains a perfect fit for a community that values education.

The La Conner Community Scholarship Foundation, which evolved from a 1989 Dollars for Scholars campaign launched by then-school administrators Ken Winkes and Norm Hoffman, the local Parent-Teacher-Student Association and civic leaders, including Gail Thulen, Maureen Harlan, John Hastings, Maude Misner and Melphine Schmittou, continues its mission to provide scholarship aid.

And it does so throughout the various ebbs and flows of the business cvcle.

But present economic conditions have led the foundation to return to its roots - a six-month fundraising drive akin to when in the late 1980s Dollars for Scholars volunteers took their cause door-to-door seeking monetary support for graduating seniors.

The foundation's goal is to raise \$100,000 by Nov. 30. A downturn in bond yields

has had a negative impact on the foundation's investment income, necessitating the fund drive to bolster its portfolio.

Thus, Winkes was approached recently by foundation and school board member John Agen to recount how Dollar for Scholars secured its early momentum.

Now retired and living in Conway, Winkes met with Agen and the Weekly News on a Sunday morning at Stompin' Grounds Coffee.

Winkes recounted how he and Misner had attended a Dollars for Scholars reception at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma

where a keynote speaker talked about how students could be encouraged to pursue higher education through creation of community scholarship foundations.

Winkes shared what he and Misner heard during a subsequent PTSA meeting.

"I told them," he recalled, "that it had to be a community effort. It wasn't something that the school could do."

Winkes, also a columnist for the old Channel Town Press newspaper, used his lively writing style to promote the community scholarship concept.

In an April 1989 column, Winkes wrote that he couldn't think of a community project potentially more rewarding than Dollars for Scholars.

He acknowledged, however, that some heavy lifting would be involved.

"In a nation whose founding and still vital myth, is that all possibilities are open to everyone," he wrote, "it is easy to forget how circumstantial most of our lives really are. Did we grow up with parents who communicated love and respect for us and to one another. With parents who valued learning, self-discipline and high standards? With parents of any sort at all?

"The who we are," Winkes insisted, "depends so much on where we are and where we have been."

Winkes, who grew up in Arlington and graduated from Stanford University, contended that the fragile nature of human destiny underscores the community scholarship format.

"Such a program," he stressed, "would fulfill the promise that a high school education implies. Through it, our community could influence our children's dreams, expand their sense of possibilities and provide a source of control over our own lives that many do not,

in fact, possess."

The community scholarship program dream Winkes championed received a huge boost in 2009 when the late Lea McMillan Diacos, a La Conner and Western Washington State College alum, bequeathed \$1.6 million to the foundation.

Today the organization receives contributions from community members while working alongside groups such as the La Conner Alumni Association, La Conner Soroptimists, La Conner Kiwanis and the La Conner Rotary Club, among others, that regularly award scholarships to La Conner graduates.

Meanwhile, the prose Winkes composed more than three decades ago rings as true today. Citing its many possibilities, Winkes conceded that a community scholarship program would not be a panacea for all society's problems.

"I see it instead," he opined, "as a powerful way to bring a community that already supports its schools to buoy and direct its children more personally and with even more effect.

"As I told the PTA," Winkes added, "(it is) a way for La Conner to further define and celebrate its commitment to youth and their dreams into new and more open channels. It's a wonderful thing we can all do together.

Nelson graduates with highest honors

Gwyneth Nelson graduated with highest honors, from Montana State University May 12. The greater La Conner resident earned a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.7. Source: Montana State

University



IT IS BUTTERFLY SEASON - Look around, say on Myrtle Street, and probably throughout town and you may find the western tiger swallowtail butterfly. There is an eastern species, but it does not get over the Rockies. The western is not as large, but it is beautiful enough. – Photo courtesy of Don Coyote

History museum re-opens Native American exhibit a song of blessing with tribal

members Tony Cladoosby and

Telford then discussed the

collection's wide array of items -

from stone tools to bone imple-

ments to wooden canoe replicas.

immediately pursue a master's

degree after earning her under-

grad degree. Instead, she wanted

to gain some practical experience.

apply all the hard work I had put

decided, would do just that. She

was thrilled to learn of an intern-

ship just 40 miles from her home

Local History Grant provided by

the Washington State Historical

Society, the opportunity allowed

Telford to exercise her eye for

detail and fulfill an eagerness to

broaden the scope of her studies

"Doing inventory," she said

after Thursday's program, "was

a huge part of the job, especially

during the first five months."

Telford, collaborating with local tribal communities, became especially enamored

with the collection's basketry,

most notably items donated by the Peter Campbell family for

She and Wolfe agreed that

digitalizing the North American

collection makes it more accessible than previously possible, since

public display is limited to protect

safekeeping until the Upper

Skagit Tribe opens its own

cultural center.

of societies and cultures.

Made possible by a Diversity in

in," she said.

in Everett.

"I wanted a job where I could

Hiring on at a museum, Telford

Telford said she didn't want to

Dean Dan at his side.

By Bill Reynolds

Jo Wolfe knew it would take a lot of energy to reorganize the extensive Native American Collection at the Skagit County Historical Museum.

Fortunately, there was someone perfect for the job.

Intern Maggie Telford, a 2022 University of Washington graduate in anthropology, used her technology skills and love of history to inventory, identify, document and care for the 804 Native American items at the La Conner museum over the course of an eight-month assignment.

She shared her mission Thursday evening with an engaging presentation before a standing room only audience in the museum's east wing.

"It was wonderful to learn about this thriving culture," said Telford, who plans to attend graduate school in the fall. "I'll definitely hold on to this knowledge."

Wolfe, the museum's director, opened the program introducing Swinomish tribal member Kevin Paul. Paul drummed and offered



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each item's longevity. "We don't want to put any of the items at risk," Telford said. (continued on page 7)



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A SUNNY DAY ON THE WATER - It might as well be summer for Kelly Harper and Jen Jen McFarland paddleboarding under the Rainbow Bridge last week. Washington State University meteorologists are predicting highs in the 60s and 70s. Some days might be breezy. - Photo by Nancy Crowell

Cascadian Farm now owned by Rodale Institute Pacific Northwest Organic Center

SKAGIT VALLEY -

The Rodale Institute Pacific Northwest Organic Center at Cascadian Farm, the historic property formerly known as Cascadian Home Farm, has opened its fields to the public for u-pick strawberries. A beloved destination for tourists and local residents traveling along Highway 20, the idyllic 90 acre farm is nestled between the Cascade Mountains and the Skagit River.

Founded in 1972, the site is the birthplace of the Cascadian Farm brand of grocery products. While the Cascadian Farm brand quickly outgrew the Home Farm, it remained a working organic farm and hosted visitors at its farm stand for over 50 years. General Mills was the steward of the Home Farm from 2000 until 2022 when it donated the property to Rodale Institute, a global agriculture research and education nonprofit.

"We are grateful to General Mills for the generous donation of the historic Cascadian Farm Home Farm," said Jeff Tkach, CEO at Rodale Institute. "We are excited to bring Rodale Institute's renown research, education and consulting capabilities to the Pacific Northwest via the Home Farm and create a beacon in the region for all farmers, producers and consumers. We look forward

Institute and regenerative organic farming practices.

Beyond u-pick, the Rodale Institute Pacific Northwest Organic Center will serve as a regional resource for farmers interested in utilizing regenerative organic farming practices.

Pacific Northwest farmers face many challenges related to unpredictable climate: extreme heat, wildfire, smoke, drought and flooding - impacting both the health and financial wellbeing of farmers, farm workers and farm economies. The region's organic farmers are in need of guidance on research-based practices that allow them to adapt to extreme weather events while improving soil health and successfully managing pests and diseases. The Center will help farmers navigate these challenges by conducting regionally focused research, providing training and direct farmer consulting services and serving as a demonstration and education hub.

The Center's website notes the state "has a large and growing organic industry with over 900 certified organic farms and over 145,000 acres of certified organic production, representing \$795 million dollars in farmgate sales. The region has been identified as an organic hotspot-counties in the U.S. that have a high level

climate with increased heat, drought and flooding and weed and pest pressure.

• Support farmers through training and consulting aimed at improving yields, profitability and soil health using organic and regenerative organic practices.

• Serve as a demonstration and education hub for farmers, agricultural professionals and the public interested in organic and regenerative organic methods.

Information: rodaleinstitute. org/PNW and rodaleinstitute. org/u-pick/.

Source: The Rodale Institute

State parks free Sunday

Celebrate Juneteenth with a free visit to a state park June 19. Visitors will not need a Discover Pass for day-use visits to a Washington state park or on lands managed by the Washington Department of Natural Resources or Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Source: State Parks



La Conner Art Circle show at Beaver Tales Coffee



THEIR FIRST COLLECTIVE ART SHOW – At Saturday's opening at Beaver Tales Coffee were Annabelle Vergne, Roberta Gregory, Jan Vevoda-Aguero, Lisa VerSteegh, Simme Bobrosky and Pam DeVries, from left. Their work is at the Morris and Sixth streets coffeehouse this month Photo by Ken Stern

By Ken Stern

The enthusiasm of the Art Circle artists holding their first exhibit at Beaver Tales Coffee and Tea this June is fueled by more than an intimate showing space, good coffee, a great hostess in co-owner Michelle Calvin and support of Margaret Hillard, La Conner Senior Center coordinator and group champion in her own right.

The artists: Pam DeVries, Simme Bobrosky, Lisa VerSteegh, Annabelle Vergne, Roberta Gregory, Jan Vevoda-Aguero and Kaye Stephens, create in a variety of media, including acrylic, oil, watercolor and pen and ink.

DeVries willed the group

into existence with a notice on Facebook last August. She wrote that Calvin opened "her heart and her shop to us, as she continues to make this place about community, not just coffee" in the artists statement.

Hillard saw the group's social media. She invited them to the Senior Center's Maple Hall space as the weather turned in the fall. "They have a room upstairs with a view of the channel," Hillard said, and others are invited to join.

DeVries' statement ends "I'm thankful for each and every person that decided to join me.'

The show runs through June at the Morris and Sixth streets location.

Intuitive Arts Fair June 24-25

The Intuitive Arts Fair is a must-attend event for anyone interested in exploring their intuition and spiritual side. Taking place on Saturday and Sunday, June 24-25, from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at Maple Hall.

The event will feature a talented lineup of intuitive artists including psychics, tarot readers, energy healing sessions, spiritual counseling and a flash mob by Witches of Skagit. There will be a variety of classes and workshops on the second floor of Maple Hall. Attendees will also browse and shop from a range of specialty vendors offering crystals, jewelry,

essential oils and other spiritual merchandise.

To see our Speaker Forum schedule, visit IntuitiveArtsFair. com and follow us on social media. Tickets can be purchased in advance online or at the door. The \$5 admission includes a day-long pass to all classes and workshops and a chance to win a free tarot reading in our Tarot Lotterv!

The Intuitive Arts Fair promises to be an exciting and informative event for those seeking to deepen their spiritual practice or curiosity about the intuitive arts.

Source: Intuitive Arts Fair



to welcoming people to the Rodale Institute Pacific Northwest Organic Center at Cascadian Farm for u-pick this season."

U-pick strawberry, raspberry and blueberry fields are open Friday-Sunday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. mid-June-August, dependent on crop availability.

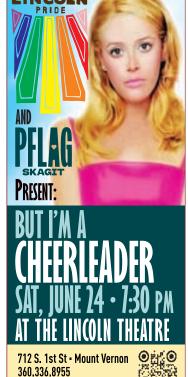
Farm tours will be offered every Friday June-August, 10 am-11:30 am. Tours will focus on the history of the farm, Rodale

of organic agricultural activity. Organic hotspots have been proven to increase economic viability."

The Center's goals include:

• Regionally focused research on organic practices for spotted wing drosophila, mummy berry, soil health and native pollinators in blueberry production.

• Conduct research trials focused on practices that help farmers adapt to a changing



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It will help fund his trip to a one-of-a-kind institution for Neuro Immune Axis Disorders (complex chronic illnesses that trigger dysfunctional interactions across multiple body systems, including the nervous, immune, endocrine, and gastrointestinal systems) Treatment at this time is self-pay only.

Your by donation only dinner will include: 1/2lb Prime Rib Dinner OR Any Menu Choice. Show up, give what you can, and enjoy some good company as we send Frank off.

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Local fire departments burn house down on purpose

By Ken Stern

Burning the Hedlund house to the ground Saturday was only the last straw and the least important fire of the day for the La Conner and Fire Districts 2, 13 and 17 fire departments. By the time the last of the piles of wood pallets were brought into the house and the last of the interior fires were started with a propane tank and torch at 1:15 p.m., the various firefighting crews had spent hours in every room of the two story structure, examining, fighting, putting out and being tested on a variety of room, wall, floor and ceiling fire scenarios.

The June 11 training was the third day of controlled burns at the house, donated by the Hedlund family. Patriarch Chuck Hedlund was a long time Fire District 13 commissioner until his death in 2019.

By Saturday some rooms had been repeatedly prepped, charred and burned for and from the earlier trainings. This day staffs from the four departments, as independent teams and integrated groups, finished the job. Throughout the morning the practices increased in scope, with pallets to be burned brought into individual rooms.

Windows had been removed and the openings covered with plywood modified with hinges and handles. Manipulating these shutters adjusted air flow, a critical factor in fire intensity.

Each room had three to five burn events, said La Conner Fire Chief Aaron Reinstra. "The first one was pretty exciting then we dialed it down." Several of his firefighters, and those from other departments, were getting their first exposure in this live fire training. "Live fire training is always one of the hardest things to get," he noted.

FD 13 Fire Chief Wood Weiss stressed the importance of the day "so the first time you get to see a live fire it is not a large fire. Getting to practice on a real house is beneficial." He called it "a real special moment."

Fittingly, it was FD 13 staff

inomish

who spent months preparing for the day. La Conner Fire Chief Aaron Reinstra praised his colleagues: "Fire District 13 has been amazing to get everyone together for this event."

Weiss recognized his staff: Live fire training officer Duane Dent for planning and executing a well-run. safe and informative burn; training officer Captain Olbu for running water supply; Battalion Chief Jurdi for saving the trees right next to the house with a dedicated hose stream,;and for all our instructors who worked so hard to make this house burn a total success.

John Tanaka, a retired captain formerly with the City of Everett Fire Protection and a former FD 13 assistant fire chief, was the technical advisor.

Thirty people from four departments participated: 12 from FD 13; La Conner, seven; Fire District 2, McLean Road, 10; and the Guemes Island fire chief, FD 17.

The support crew, which managed the food tent, was led by Chris Weiss cooking hot dogs and dishing out baked beans.

Reinstra, Weiss and Stephanie Banaszak, a La Conner Firefighter Association member chronicling the day, emphasized the cross-department work and communications aspects, Banaszak noting the interesting social dynamics, that between exercises intra-department groups formed.

Reinstra explained, "The nice thing about these trainings is we integrate with each other. We use the same terminology. You can plug anyone into with each other and it goes just the same."

Throughout the morning small groups went in and out of the house and worked various hose lines connected to tender trucks. There was a 3,000 gallon portable pool filled with water. Firefighters with air tanks on their backs were rocking and swaying slightly to minimize the chirping and tweets from sensors detecting people not in motion.

When the house was set on fire at 1:15 p.m., the training was done. The departments took



PROUD OF THEIR WORK WELL DONE - Firefighters from Fire District 13, in black, Fire District 2, in brown, La Conner Fire Department, in brown, and the chief of Fire District 17, are in high spirits - and maybe feeling a little warm – after spending a day putting out fires they had set inside the Hedlund family house, behind them. They are not the least bit worried that now it is burning down. They set that fire. Do not try this at home.



group photos and spent the next hour walking around. The grass, trees, outbuildings and fencing to the west were continuously hosed down against the heat and so were department vehicles on Dodge Valley Road. By 2 p.m. the heat was noticeable to those standing on the road.

Banasczk reported the fire took over five hours to die down. She posted "By the day's end, all house beams fell in anticipated directions, and as if for posterity, one (of two) chimneys remained

– Photos by Ken Stern Smoke Ready Week is now through June 16 upright resembling a totem pole."

OLYMPIA – As our climate changes, the threat of wildfires looms larger. The Washington state Department of Health is urging the public to prepare for smoke that can make air unhealthy to breathe. Smoke Ready Week, June 12-16, is an opportunity to take proactive steps to protect yourself and your family.

"We are expecting to have above normal fire activity in Washington by July," said Kaitlyn Kelly, MPH, air quality policy specialist, DOH. "We have an outlook for below normal precipitation and that's going to last into fall, so conditions are trending to a long fire season."

Reduce exposure to smoke by staying up to date on the forecast and air quality index, limiting time outside and keeping indoor air as clean as possible. After several days smoke can enter homes and buildings through leaky gaps in windows and doors. Filtering indoor air will benefit your health. Prepare by buying supplies in

advance.

Filter indoor air by using a: HVAC system with MERV 13 filter.

• HEPA portable air cleaner.

• DIY box fan filter.

Smoke from wildfires contains fine particles and gases including carbon monoxide. Exposure to smoke can cause a number of health problems ranging from minor to severe. Those with pre-existing conditions, infants and children, pregnant individuals, adults 65 and older and people with heart and lung disease can be most sensitive to wildfire smoke. Minor symptoms include headaches, stinging eyes, runny nose and trouble breathing.

The WA Smoke Blog has updates on wildfires, air quality, the forecast and health information. The DOH's Smoke from Fires webpage has information for protection from wildfire smoke: doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/air-quality Source: WA DOH





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Renew Town business licenses MoNA

The deadline for businesses to renew their Town of La Conner licenses is June 30. The state of Washington requires processing licenses through the Washington Department of Revenue's website.

Get licenses at the DOR website: dor.wa.gov. Click on "Get or renew a license" and log in or create an account. Follow the steps to completion. General business license renewals are through June 30, 2024.

The annual fee starts at \$25 for

home occupation licenses and booth/desk fees. There are three general license fees, from \$108 to \$238 based on annual gross earnings.

Electronic payment can be made through checking accounts or credit cards.

The license are printed from the website and must be displayed "in a visible location."

To renew or apply: dor.wa.gov. Follow directions, clicking through several screens.

(from page 1)

and, poof, the total quickly grew above \$100,000.

The live auction started with Diana Klein having the winning Golden Ticket, one of 100 sold at \$100 each. She chose Paul Havas' untitled northwest landscape, a 12" x 40" oil on canvas painted in 2012 with an estimated value of \$3,800, donated by Margaret Miller.

The evening's big ticket item was Guy Anderson's "Floating Figure," mixed media on board, 61" x 61" painted in 1976. Valued at \$38,000, the bidding started at \$15,000, rose above \$20,000 and sold at \$25,000. It was donated by the estate of Dr. Saul Spiro.

Auctioneer Lindsay reprised his role of horserace announcer, again selling works in sets of three. It did not matter if bidders were in the main gallery or online. All used the online cell phone app. Lindsay hyped, prodded and encouraged bidders in what he termed two minute segments but went longer as he patiently worked to increase final offers by prolonging the time, saying once "I am going to count down in more real time, starting with five seconds to go. Only three second so go. A very long three seconds." Then, finally, "sold." Another time he insisted "You have one very long second. You have less than one second."

Bidding started online June 2 and ended at 8 p.m. June 11 for the silent auction. The show opened for previewing May 26.

Before the live auction started, a video tribute recognized longtime museum director Susan Parke, who died in March. Parke was executive director from 1990 to 2007, beginning her tenure while the museum was still in Gaches Mansion.

Videos through the evening recognized programs and people. The 31st Art Auction Honorees Patricia Christine Aqiimuk Paul, Esq. and Candice Wilson, Quatz'tenaut, co-curators of last year's exhibit, "Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

Town Hall closed Monday

La Conner Town Hall will be closed Monday, June 19 in observance of the Juneteenth holiday.

titles, a string that began in 2018 and was interrupted only by cancellation of the 2020 state tournament due to COVID-19 is an example she cited. "Now," said Haley, "we're ready to kick-start our next phase of life.' But not before reflecting nostalgically on the past four years. "I couldn't have asked for a better class," Haley insisted, "to have grown up with."



THIS WAS ONE OF 30 ITEMS SOLD THROUGH LIVE BIDDING AT THE 31ST ANNUAL MONA AUCTION - Saturday night, art handler Lucy Mae VanZanden held up the "Frog Bowl," bronze, no date, created by sculptor Ann Morris, before the bidding for it started. Mary Rytand bought it for \$2,000. – Photo by Ken Stern

and Girls: Honoring Our Stolen Sisters." In introducing Wilson, Executive Director Stefano Catalani called the exhibit "an incredible experience for the museum to collaborate with these two talented curators." In the program notes he called it one of the most important highlights of the past year. Wilson spoke to the group live.

Also highlighted were the educational programs and the museum's docents.

The evening was scaled back from the pre-COVID-19 years, which kicked-off with a Friday night preview and had the auction start with a sit-down dinner in a huge tent set up in the parking lot on Second Street. The last two years it has been billed as "pre-dinner," starting at 4 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres, wine and the noted oyster bar, finishing

up with desserts anchored by chocolate covered strawberries.

Monday evening the museum posted social media of the total and photos.

Catalani echoed those remarks, in an email: "It was truly a magical night for MoNA! I want to personally thank everyone who attended in person and those who joined us from around the world. Kudos to the Board of Trustees and the indefatigable staff for delivering such an amazing performance!"

He noted the amount raised bested 2022's \$320,000, making 2023 perhaps the second largest auction result of the past 15 vears.

Tickets to attend were \$100 or \$250 for patrons funding artists attending.

Skagit River Poetry annual auction

The Skagit River Poetry Foundation is hosting their third annual auction, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" June 24 at Hillcrest Lodge in Mount Vernon. Doors open at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$70 per person or \$125 per couple. Buy your tickets at skagitriverpoetry.org.

Source: Skagit River Poetry

Joy, gentle friends! Joy and fresh days of love Accompany your hearts!



Best Road construction finishes

The Skagit County Public Works phase-one construction on Best Road from McLean Road to the Fir Island/Moore intersection will finish Thursday, June 15.

Phase-two, the upcoming chip seal program in July and August

Inslee

(from page 1)

protect agriculture in Skagit County.'

Maura Vasquez of Silva Family Farm drew chuckles, including from the governor, when she reflected on the hectic nature of farm life this time of year.

"My whole family was going to come," she told Inslee, "but they're very busy today.'

Inslee, meanwhile, stayed busy comparing notes with co-op farmers and food hub staff while keeping a tight schedule that cut short this stop by 30 minutes. He had previously visited Mount

does not yet have a start date. Evervone will need to expect delays during this time of construction. Source: Skagit County Public Works

Vernon High School to attend a performance by its mariachi and folklorico ensemble and toured the Mount Vernon Library Commons construction site, the Lincoln Theatre and the Martha's Place permanent supportive housing complex.

Still, he had enough time at the food hub to pledge continued support.

"You've got everything here," he said. "We'll continue to urge our legislators."

Despite the tight time window, Inslee told his staff he had one pressing need before getting back on the road.

"I'm not getting out of here," he insisted, "without a carrot."

Exhibit

(from page 4)

"With digitalization, hopefully, the public can get to see things it ordinarily wouldn't get to see.'

Wolfe said Telford was an ideal choice for the multi-tiered internship, which has included re-designing and updating the museum's permanent exhibit spaces.

"She was the perfect person for the job," Wolfe told the Weekly News. "She was a tremendous team player who was always willing to help even if it was outside of her area. She was such a good fit for us."

Telford received at the end of her museum presentation, Wolfe's appraisal was quite fitting.

Ceremony

Conner Middle and High School Principal Christine Tripp. Superintendent Will Nelson formally presented the class

And judging from the applause

unique circumstances the class and staff overcame during the pandemic.

"Their lives have been something no one could've imagined," she said. "We thank this staff for its dedication and for taking care of these students. Haley, the student body president, elaborated upon the singularity of the class's sojourn. This class is unique," she stressed. "Life has thrown us some curveballs with the pandemic and tragedies. But we've also had great triumphs. We've made our mark on this school." The La Conner High volleyball team's run of state

and Buher called class memb forward to receive their diplomas.

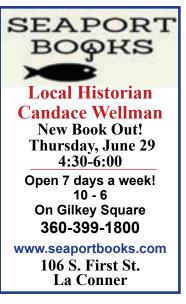
Each graduate enjoyed his or her personal cheer section, perhaps none louder than that enjoyed by student musician Ian McCormick.

"Rock and roll, Ian!" a voice yelled out as McCormick was handed his diploma.

Afterward, the Swinomish Canoe Family treated the class to an honor song, for which the audience stood.

"We're so honored to be invited to share our song with all the graduates of the Class of '23," Swinomish Tribal Senator and Cultural Events Director Aurelia Bailey said prior to the presentation. "We pray the next steps on their walk will be blessed and successful.

"We have prayers for everybody and those family members who couldn't be here," Bailey added, then noted the





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AGENDA

Meeting Notice Town Of La Conner Planning Commission Tuesday, June 20, 6 p.m. Lower Maple Center 104 Commercial St, La

Conner And by Zoom Information below and on the Town website

1. Convene

2. Public Comment (Topics not otherwise on the Agenda) – Time Limit 3 Minutes

3. Minutes

Approve minutes from the June 6, 2023 meeting

4. Old Business Status Report: 306 Center

Street Status Report: Public Partici-

pation Program Comprehensive Plan Update: Discussion of Transportation

Element Ongoing Discussion: Short

Term Rental Regulations 5. New Business

Tiny Home Contract Rezone (Applicant dependent)

Report on Legislative Actions: Part 1

6. Closing Comments Meeting ID: 860 0376 5360 Passcode: 427767



On June 26, 1927, the Cyclone roller coaster opened at Coney Island in New York City. Notable riders are said to have included Charles Lindbergh, who reportedly described the experience as "greater than flying an airplane at top speed."

• On June 27, 1833, American schoolteacher Prudence Crandall, a white woman, was arrested after she refused to shut down the academy she'd founded for "little misses of col-or" in Canterbury, Connecticut. Ultimately, the case was dismissed on a technicality, though Crandall ended up closing the school in fear for students' safety after a mob attack the following

• On June 28, 1976, Janet C. Wolfen-barger and 156 other women became the first women to enter the United States Air Force Academy. Wolfen-barger went on to further make U.S military history in 2012 when she also became the first woman in the Air Force to receive the rank of a four-star General.

• On **June 29, 2000**, rapper Eminem's mother, Debbie Mathers-Nelson, filed a \$10 million lawsuit against her son, claiming slander and defa-mation of character for comments he made about her on his 1999 debut album. "The Slim Shady LP," and in • On Ium 20 125

• On June 30, 1859, Charles Blondin became the first person to cross Niaga-ra Falls by walking across a tightrope. He managed the feat in about 23 minutes, walking the complete length and back again on a line that was just 2 inches thick and 2,200 feet long.

• On **July 1, 1972**, the feminist mag-azine Ms., founded by activists Gloria Steinem and Dorothy Pitman Hughes, published its first regular issue, featur-ing Wonder Woman on the cover. Steinem's choice to showcase the Amazonian superhero was inspired partly by DC Comics' decision to have the long-running character lose her super-

powers (which were soon restored).
On July 2, 1505, on the verge of becoming a lawyer, Martin Luther was caught outside in a violent thunderstorm. Praying aloud for St. Anne to save him, he promised to become a monk if his life was spared. He survived the tempest and entered an Augustinian monastery several week

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASH-INGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SKAGIT IN PROBATE No. 23-4-00312-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.40.030 In the Matter of the Estate of MARGARET S. DAY,

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

Date of filing Notice to Cred-

Date of first publication:

DATED this 8th day of June,

JONES BUTLER DOLAN,

JAMES B. DOLAN, WSBA

Counsel for Personal Rep-

Published in the La Conner

Weekly News June 14, 21, 28,

SUPERIOR COURT OF

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

(RCW 11.40.030) In the Mat-

ter of the Estate of Edward M.

Oczkewicz, Deceased

The personal representative

named below has been ap-

pointed as personal representa-

tive of this estate. Any person

having claim against the dece-

dent 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

FOR

No.

PROBATE

WASHINGTON

23-4-00316-29

SKAGIT COUNTY

3833

2023.

Deceased.

the Personal Representative The personal representative named below has been or the Personal Representaappointed as personal repretive's attorney at the address sentative of this estate. Any stated below, a copy of the person having a claim against claim and filing the original the decedent must, before the of the presented within the time the claim would be barred later of: (1) thirty days after by any otherwise applicable the Personal Representative statute of limitations, present served or mailed the notice the claim in the manner as to creditor as provided under provided in RCW 11.40.070 RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) by serving on or mailing to four months after the dates of the personal representative or first publication of the notice. the personal representative's If the claim is not presented attorney at the address statwithin this time frame, the ed below a copy of the claim claim is forever barred, except and filing the original of the as otherwise provided in RCW claim with the court in which 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This the probate proceedings were bar is effective as to claims commenced. The claim must against both the decedent's be presented within the latprobate and non-probate aser of: (1) Thirty days after sets. the personal representative served or mailed the notice to itors: June 8, 2023 the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) June 14, 2023 four months after the date of first publication of the notice. 2023. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the PS claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW No. 29190 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims resentative SUN-AH LEE against both the decedent's PARK P.O. Box 458 Stanwood, WA 98292 360-629-

probate and nonprobate assets. Date of filing copy of NO-TICE TO CREDITORS with Clerk of Court: 6/8/2023.

Date of first publication: June 14, 2023.

Deborah G. Ruble

Personal Representative LAW OFFICE OF COLE & GILDAY, P.C. By Gregory L. Gilday WSBA #36608 Attorney for Personal Representative 10101 270th St NW Stanwood, WA 98292 Office: 360-629-2900 or FAX: 360-629-0220

Published in the La Conner Weekly News June 14, 21, 28, 2023.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASH-INGTON IN AND FOR SKAGIT COUNTY In re Estate of CHONG C. BROWN. Deceased. No. 23-4-00305-29 NOTICE TO CREDITORS Sun-ah Lee Park has been



1. Spider-Man: Across the Spider-

(PG) Halle Bailey, Jonah Hauer-King

(PG-13) Chris Pratt, Chukwudi Iwuji

Rodriguez 6. The Super Mario Bros. Movie

(PG) Chris Pratt, Anya Taylor-Joy
 7. About My Father
 (PG-13) Robert De Niro, Sebastian

(R) Bert Kreischer, Mark Hamill9. You Hurt My Feelings

(R) Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Tobias

(R) Gerard Butler, Navid Negahban

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(PG) Shameik Moore, Hailee

3. **The Boogeyman** (PG-13) Sophie Thatcher, Chris

4. Guardians of the Galaxy

5. Fast X (PG-13) Vin Diesel, Michelle

2. The Little Mermaid

Verse

Steinfeld

Messina

Volume 3

Maniscalco

Menzies

10. Kandahar

8. The Machine

LEGAL NOTICES

al Representative P.O. Box 336/227 Freeway Drive, Suite B Mount Vernon, WA 98273 Published in the La Conner Weekly News June 14, 21, 28, 2023.

THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASH-INGTON IN AND FOR THE

COUNTY OF SKAGIT Estate of Carol Jean WHIT-NEY Deceased, David WHIT-NEY Robert WHITNEY Co- Petitioner. Case No. 21-4-00371-29 NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO: ALL CREDITORS OF THE DECENDENT.

YOU AND EACH OF YOU TAKE NOTE that the co-Personal Representative named below has been appointed as co-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 co-Personal Representative or the co-Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the Court. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the co-Personal Representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(3); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets. Date of First Publication: June 7, 2023

Personal Representative:

David Whitney, Robert Whitney

Attorney for the Personal Representative: JOSEPH D.

BOWEN, #17631 Address for Mailing or Service: JOSEPH D. BOWEN ATTORNEY AT LAW, P.S. 401 South Second Street Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Published in the La Conner Weekly News June 7, 14, 21, 2023.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASH-INGTON FOR KING COUN-TY In Re the Estate of JAMES M. ST. JOHN, Deceased. NO.

23-4-03731-3 SEA PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.40.030 The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the Decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court 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 publication: June 7, 2023

Personal Representative:

Bonnie L. St. John Attorney for the Personal

Representative: Christopher P. Frost

Address for Mailing or Service: 11120 N.E. 2nd Street, Suite 100 Bellevue, WA 98004

Court of Probate Proceedings: King County Superior Court 516 Third Avenue #E-609 Seattle, WA 98104 Cause Number: 23-4-03731-

3 SEA Published in the La Conner

Weekly News June 7, 14, 21, 2023.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY Estate of JOYCE V. BAKE, Deceased. 23-4-00294-29 PRO-NO. BATE NOTICE TO CREDI-TORS (RCW 11.40.030)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

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

this Notice: June 7, 2023

Jesse Parish Bake c/o Jayne Marsh Gilbert, WSBA #24656 Attorney for Personal Representative 314 Pine St., Ste 211

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

this Notice: June 7, 2023

Michelle Manduchi, Personal Representative c/o Jayne Marsh Gilbert, WSBA #24656 Attorney for Personal Representative 314 Pine Street, Sute 211 Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Published in the La Conner Weekly News June 7, 14, 21, 2023.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASH-INGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WHATCOM In Re the Estates of CAROL L. WILKOM (A.K.A. CAR-OL -WEAVER WILKOM) & ROBERT H. WILKOM, Deceased. NO. 23-4-00294-37 NOTICE PROBATE CREDITORS; RCW TO 11.40.030 JUDGE: DAVID E. FREEMAN

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

later, despite the efforts of his friends to persuade him otherwise. © 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.



Answer

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Answers

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Answers to June 14 puzzles

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

Date of first publication: June 14, 2023.

Nancy L. Oczkewicz

Personal Representative SKAGIT LAW GROUP,

PLLC MEGAN OTIS MA-WSBA SONHOLDER, #29495 Attorneys for Person-

Mount Vernon, WA 98273 Published in the La Conner Weekly News June 7, 14, 21, 2023.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY Estate of

VIOLET P. LOFTIS (a/k/a VIOLET PATRICIA LOF-TIS), Deceased. NO. 23-4-00295-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030) PLEASE

TAKE NOTICE The above Court has appointed me as Personal Representative of the Decedent's estate. Any person having a claim against the Decedent must present the claim: (a) Before claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.

DATE OF FIRST PUBLICA-TION: MAY 31, 2023

PERSONAL REPRESEN-TATIVE: TAMRA K. RE-NICK

ADDRESS FOR MAILING OR SERVICE: C/O Attorney for Personal Representative: Aaron Rasmussen, North Sound Law Group, PLLC, 300 North Commercial Street, Bellingham, WA 98225, 360-671-7700.

Published in the La Conner Weekly News May 31, June 7, 14, 2023.

AT YOUR SERVICE DIRECTORY

GHAS MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:30-5:30 YOU LOOKED SATURDAY 9-1 2-*** GRAPHIC DESIGN** O POSTAL and OFFICE SUPPLIES YOUR CUSTOMERS WILL, TOO PRINTING BUSINESS CENTER SHIPPING O PO Boxes Place your ad here **TILLINGHASTPOSTAL.COM** * NOTARY PUBLIC (360) 466-0474 521 Moris St, LA Conner, WA 98257 AND MORE! LA CONNER MARINA Permanent and Guest Moorage Dry Boat Storage, Boating Services Public Laundry, RV Park automotive repair & maintenance shop. Office: 613 N. 2nd St., Port of 360-336-3496 Mon.- Fri. 8 am - 5 pm closed Sat. & Sun. 360-466-3118 Skagit 1304 Memorial Hwy. Mount Vernon, WA www.portofskagit.com WE ARE EXPANDING OUR Edward Jones AT YOUR SERVICE DIRECTORY: Scott A. Price LARGER PRINT AD PLACED WEEKLY **Financial Advisor** APPEAR IN OUR ONLINE BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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edwardjones.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR Complete Events Calendar on laconnerweeklynews.com

NOT TO BE MISSED

Berry Dairy Days. June 16-18. Parade on June 17, 11 a.m. down Fairhaven Ave. Fire District 13.

Adopt-A-Hydrant. June 17, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at John K. Bob Park, 17400 Reservation Rd. City of Anacortes.

Pride Parade. June 17, 11 a.m. in downtown. Celebration at Causland Park afterwards. Skagit Animals in Need.

Tack Sale & Raffle. June 24, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and June 25, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Westside Stables, 14429 McLean Rd, Mount Vernon. More info at skagitanimalsinneed.com.

La Conner Kiwanis.

Summer Craft Fair. June 24, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Braves Clubhouse.

ART & THEATRE

Whidbey Playhouse. 730 SE Midway Blvd, Oak Harbor. whidbeyplayhouse.com, 360-679-2237.

Live Theatre: The Birds and the Bees. Through June 18. Fri-Sat shows at 7:30 p.m. and Sun matinees at 2:30 p.m. Skagit River Poetry Foundation.

3rd Annual Auction: A Midsummer Night's Dream. June 24, 5 p.m. at Hillcrest Lodge. Tickets at skagitriverpoetry.org.

Intuitive Arts Fair. June 24-25, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at Maple Hall. Admission is \$5. Hosted by Magnus Marketing. More info at intuitiveartsfair.com

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Laconnerweeklynews.com

CLASSIFIEDS

classified ads now in print and online • same low price Submit your ad by Sunday noon for next issue publishing • laconnerweeklynews.com/classifiedads or 360-466-3315

LA FOUNTAIN'S PLANTS & FLOWERS has beautiful plants. If your dad is a gardener say Happy Fathers Day with plants. 125 Washington St. Open 24/7

cash or check only. SHELTER BAY COMMUNITY WIDE GARAGE SALE. Come join the fun! The famous Shelter Bay Garage Sale returns June 24, starting 9am. Lots of wonderful items for sale in many different categories! Baked Goods and Hot Dogs for Sale by Shelter Bay Chorus at the Clubhouse. Maps online June 23. https://grco.de/be3VAQ

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS **ADVERTISE STATEWIDE** with a \$325 classified listing or \$1600 for a display ad. Call this newspaper or 360-344-2938 for details.

LIBRARIES

La Conner Swinomish Library. 520 Morris St, La Conner. 360-466-3352. Iclib. 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

Tech Help. Every Monday, 4-6 p.m. One on one technical support.

Dungeons & Dragons Club. Every Tuesday, 3-5 p.m. No previous gaming experience necessary.

Anacortes Public Library. 360-299-8067, CityofAnacortes. org. 1220 10th St, Anacortes. Mount Vernon Public Library. 360-336-6209, mountvernonwa. gov. 315 Snoqualmie St, Mount Vernon.

Virtual Reality. Every Saturday 1-3 p.m. Must be 12 or older. Burlington Public Library. 360-755-0760, burlingtonwa.gov/ library. 820 E Washington Ave, Burlington Knitting Club. Every Wednes-

day at 6 p.m. All ages.

MUSIC

Ukelele Fun & Song Circle. Meet every Wednesday. 1-2 p.m., Burlington Senior Center. For more info, email yogaheartspace0@gmail.com. Shelter Bay Chorus. Meet every Thursday. 4:30-6:30 p.m., Shelter Bay Clubhouse. No auditions required. Questions, call Joan 360-941-7507. Lincoln Theatre. 712 S 1st St, Mount Vernon. 360-336-8955. lincolntheatre.org. Live Music: The Soul Rebels. June 20, 7:30 p.m. La Conner Live Concert Series. Live Music Every Sunday. 1-4 p.m. in Gilkey Square.

MUSEUM EXHIBITS

MEETINGS

204 Douglas St, La Conner.

360-466-3125. Zoom info @

20, 6 p.m. at Maple Hall.

p.m. at Maple Hall.

info @ skagitcd.org.

Wednesday 7:30-9 a.m.

O'Donnell's Farmhouse

5:30 p.m.

One.

Rotary Club of La Conner.

laconnerrotary.org. Meetings

Monday, 6-7 p.m. at Shawn

restaurant - optional dinner at

Skagit Cemetery District

Regular meetings. Every

second Thursday, 5 p.m. at

Lori Buher's home, 17604

Valentine Rd., Mount Vernon.

Gamblers Anonymous. Every

Little Mountain Gamblers.

Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. at Senior

Center in Mount Vernon. 1401

Cleveland Ave. Any questions,

call 855-222-5542.

Emergency Management

Commission. June 27, 4:30

Skagit Conservation District

2021 E. College Way #203, Mt.

Vernon. 360-428-4313. Zoom

Board meetings. Every fourth

Townoflaconner.org/calendar.

Planning Commission. June

Town of La Conner

Museum of Northwest Art. Open daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m. monamuseum.org, 360-466-4446. Pacific Northwest Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum. Wed-Sun, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. qfamuseum.org, 360-466-4288. 703 S Second St, La Conner. Exhibit: The Undead. Through July 2. Exhibit: Unfolding. Through Julv 23. Exhibit: Life in the Mountain West. Through July 30. **Skagit County Historical** Museum. 360-466-3365 or skagitcounty.net/museum. Hours: Thurs-Sun 11 a.m-4 p.m. Exhibit: Quilt Until You Wilt. Through June 2023. Design your own paper quilts. Exhibit: "I Do" the History of

Weddings. Through Sept. 24.

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. **Swinomish Helping Hands** Food Bank. Food distribution every Thursday from 2-5 p.m. Non-essentials every first Thursday. 17444 Snee Oosh Rd, La Conner. 360-856-2211. helpinghandsfoodbank.org. **Skagit Valley Humane** Society. 18841 Kelleher Rd, Burlington. 360-757-0445. skagithumane.org. Find teer/donation opportunite



ACROSS

1 "Bluff City

Law" network

4 Mandible site

7 Talks lovingly

11 One painting

19 Long-popular

22 Indy 500, e.g.

23 Outdoor food

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26 Old Texas

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50 Wedding

51 Top-notch

53 Major

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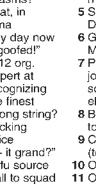
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49 A noble gas 97 Time of day for muscle spasms? 102 That, in 52 Genetic stuff Lima 103 Any day now 104 "I goofed!" 105 K-12 org. 106 Expert at recognizing 61 Coastal inlet the finest strong string? 112 Lacking 66 Musical sign spice 67 "Say again?" 113 "- it grand?" 68 One working 114 Tofu source 115 Call to squad cars, for short 116 Lamp dweller 117 Arbitrator 75 Fuzzy picture 120 Super-itchy wool cloth?



Genoa 13 Ending for 36 Oregon's

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 - one
- 44 Royal Botanic
- Gardens site
- 45 Pan's cousin
- 46 Corsage flower
- 47 Get a whiff of
 - 48 In conclusion
 - 51 In regard to
 - 54 Fathers
 - 55 Eggs 57 Bacterium in

 - the gut 58 Furry TV ET 59 Small cask
 - 99 Ending of 60 "So cute!"
- some pasta names



By Patricia Aqiimuk Paul, Esq., Food Editor.

Goulash

Goulash is a family recipe. My adopted father was Polish American. This meal was a regular favorite and adapted to our Alaskan lifestyle. My mother made this with moose burger. My polish grandmother, Margaret made sure all her favorite ingredients were stocked in our cupboards. She loved adding a can of dark kidney beans and seasoning with a bit of ground sage. I adapted the recipe by adding chopped bell pepper and substituting jarred/canned spaghetti sauce. Our original family recipe used canned whole tomatoes, tomato sauce and the small can of tomato paste. You can also add fresh chopped tomatoes. Each tomato product creates a richer base to the goulash.

Ingredients

- Ground beef, 1/2 pound
- Onion, 1/2 medium, chopped Bell pepper, ¹/₄ chopped
- Garlic granules, 2 tsp
- Spaghetti sauce, one can/jar
- Italian seasoning, 2 tsp
- Olive oil, 1 tbsp
- Elbow pasta, 2 cups Water, 2 quarts
- Salt (1/4 tsp) and olive oil (1 tsp) for the pasta water.

Preparation

Brown the ground beef in the olive oil. Add the chopped onion and begin seasoning. Use just one teaspoon of the garlic granules and one teaspoon of the Italian seasoning for the meat. Add the chopped bell pepper. Stir occasionally to brown the meat. When the meat browns, if it becomes too dry, add a bit more olive oil. Then add in the spaghetti sauce. The additional spices go in next, stir as the sauce heats. Cover and simmer while the water for the pasta heats. To the pasta water, add the salt and olive oil. Cook the pasta to your liking. Drain. Add into the sauce. Mix well. Simmer for five to ten minutes. Serve with Parmesan.

AgiimuksKitchen@outlook.com



Super Crossword **TWOULD BE NICE**

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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 A Challenging HOO BOY!

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Puzzle Answers Page 8

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POLICE BLOT SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sunday, June 4 8:07 p.m.: Utility pole crash – One vehicle non-injury collision. The driver lost control of her vehicle and crashed into a utility pole. Fir Island Rd., Greater La Conner.

Wednesday, June 7 3:41 a.m.: Suspicious flashing car – Report of a dark colored sport utility vehicle driving around the area of the La Conner Marina with its flasher on. Law enforcement checked the area, and the vehicle already left. Pearle Jensen Way, La Conner.

6:48 a.m.: Candy thief – A male entered the Pioneer Market and took a candy bar without paying for it. The suspect was described as a white male, approximately in his 50's with a scraggly beard. He came to

the store on a bicycle with a trailer behind it. The male left the store and the area before being identified. Morris St., La Conner. 10:54 a.m.: Concerning voicemails - A citizen reported receiving strange messages from an unknown source on her voicemail. The messages were not threatening but concerning. They blocked the number to prevent it from occurring in the future. McLean Rd., Greater La Conner.

Thursday, June 8 8:19 p.m.: Saving an animal - The driver of a vehicle traveling northbound swerved to miss an animal in the roadway and collided with a guardrail. The driver was not injured. Bay View Edison Rd., Greater La Conner.

MARINA MOORINGS

Port of Skagit

The docks are super busy this week with crab boats. There is a commercial opener going on and the activity is frenetic on the commercial pier. The buyers have six people on hand and a forklift to keep up with deliveries. We only have a few of these days per year, but they are so busy they really leave an impression.

The marina used to have a lot more commercial fishing vessels than it does now, but time has changed the industry and our moorage customer base has changed as well. We have two purse seiners who call the marina home, but only the two. We still have over 35 other fishing boats, most of which are out crabbing this week, but which also go out for halibut, salmon, geoducks, shrimp, prawns, urchins - whatever fish are available. Even though the boats have changed, these fishermen remain a link to the history of La Conner, and they are part of the fisheries management system that will hopefully see them working out of this marina forever.

Safety Reminder: We had an incident this week with a tenant's electricity. All was fine until the boater put a load on the connection by running the microwave and a hair dryer at the same time. It turns out that he had a loose connection that wasn't readily apparent. The plug looked all right from the outside, but the increased load produced enough of an internal arc that the plug and receptacle both had, shall we say, a melting moment together. He reacted quickly and turned off everything immediately, preventing any further damage. One new cord and a rebuilt receptable, and all is now well thankfully. The moral of the story is to check your electrical connections often and make sure they are solid. Also, replace your boat's electrical cord every few years. It's a small investment in safety that can keep you alive.

Finally, I have received some really nice compliments about the marina staff this week, and I have to say ... keep them coming! Thanks to everyone who had something nice to say about our fantastic summer crew. I think they're fabulous, too.

See you on the Channel!

- Chris Omdal, harbormaster

Clam garden work day Monday part of Salish Summit at Swinomish

By Bill Reynolds

Moving several tons of rocks and boulders by hand and dolly at Kukutali Preserve on Swinomish Reservation last week inched the local tribal community ever closer to a significant milestone.

A large work party did the heavy lifting to extend rock walls that create terraces in tidal flats to optimize clam production and increase species diversity at the site of the nation's first developing modern clam garden.

The assembly line was comprised of Swinomish members and staff plus representatives of nearly three dozen Pacific region tribes here to attend the multi-day Salish Summit.

Participants also spent time exploring area waters, learning about other stewardship efforts led by neighboring tribes and organizations and enjoying traditional meals prepared by Swinomish cooks.

The June 5 gathering in warm, sunny conditions at Kukutali – privately owned for eight decades before a landmark 2010 agreement allowed Swinomish and the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission to coown and co-manage the pristine 84 acres for public use - was the summit's highlight.

Sought at various times as location of a commercial summer resort or nuclear power plant, Kukutali enjoys revered status with the Swinomish.

Generations ago, seasonal villages were established there to harvest plants and food. Clams were a key item on the natural menu, noted Joe Williams, a former Swinomish Tribal Senator now serving as the community's shellfish liaison through the tribe's fisheries department.

"This project goes back to the original stories of how these clam gardens work," he said. "It's important that we have to be good stewards here. To be in this place today, I feel full. I feel awesome."

Williams paid tribute to the late Lorraine Loomis, of Swinomish, who chaired the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission prior to her death



BUILDING A ROCK GARDEN ONE STONE AT A TIME - When hundreds gather together, best to plan a work party. That is what the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community did June 5 at Kukatali Preserve Hours were spent together, fire brigade fashion, moving rocks from Kukutali beach to the shoreline. Photo by Bill Reynolds

in 2021. Williams credited Loomis with envisioning the rebirth of a clam garden at Kukutali.

"She lived for this," Williams said. "She wanted to make sure the next seven generations would be able to carry on our way of life.

"If you saw her in her free time," he added, "she was at the beach. It was her way of life. Lorraine didn't get to witness the start of our garden here, but we know she's with us in spirit."

Williams praised the foresight of former Swinomish Senate Chair Brian Cladoosby and his leadership team for partnering with the state to return Kukutali to public access. When the park was dedicated in 2010 the honored dignitaries included then-Gov. Christine Gregoire.

Swinomish Tribal Senate Vice-Chair Alana Quintasket likewise stressed the importance of tribal and public access at Kukutali.

"Welcome to our beautiful homelands," Quintasket said in remarks to Salish Summit participants. "I'm obsessed with them.

"But," she added, "I didn't get to come here until I was 18-years-old. We weren't allowed to come here because it was owned privately. I'm so uplifted, so happy to be able to come back to this place.

Quintasket offered a bilingual

invocation in Lushootseed and English before dismissing the work party to the beach.

The Salish Summit was a key gathering of the Cross-Pacific Indigenous Aquaculture Collaborative, a project co-developed by Swinomish, Washington Sea Grant and other tribes, nations and organizations in Washington, British Columbia, Alaska, Hawaii, Palau and Guam.

"The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community is excited to bring together indigenous communities across the Pacific and Coast Salish waters and celebrate indigenous marine management," Swinomish **Environmental Policy Director** Amy Trainer said in a release issued prior to the Summit.

She said the gathering was designed to share teachings about caretaking tidelands and the relationships that are central to indigenous aquaculture and food sovereignty.

Quintasket focused on the camaraderie evident as the assembly line formed and volunteers began tilling the clam garden's bed.

"These are my favorite kinds of days," she said, "where we can all work together."



SUMMER CRAFT FAIR



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