



**Go to Concrete for gym anniversary • p 4**  
**'Stormy' rescued on a dark, rainy night • p 5**

Your Independent Hometown Award-winning Newspaper

# LA CONNER WEEKLY NEWS

VOL. 16 • NO. 37

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2023

www.laconnerweeklynews.com

\$1.25

## Winter colors



TAKING FLIGHT – A pair of trumpeter swans take flight from a field on Bradshaw Road against the backdrop of winter blueberry bushes

—Photo by Nancy Crowell

## Deadly heat waves to be more frequent, intense

By Courtney Flatt  
*NWNNews, NWPB*

It's cold right now, but even fans of warm summers don't want to endure the extreme temperatures of 2021. That's when a deadly heat dome plagued the Northwest and overstayed its welcome.

New climate research shows stronger heat domes could happen more often as the climate changes.

"What surprised me is that the strongest response is occurring in the Pacific Northwest," said Ziming Chen, a post-doctoral researcher at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and the lead author of the research study.

With this research, scientists hope to discover what strengthened the weather patterns that caused the extreme heat. The study was published in the journal "npj Climate and Atmospheric Science." It starts with warm ocean surface waters in the Pacific Ocean. Like a convection oven, warm, moist air above the water rises and forms clouds, which creates an atmospheric effect called Rossby waves. That starts a pattern. These waves – along with high pressure – get stuck over the Northwest and the heat increases.

"If you have a high pressure system sitting there, then it causes downward motion. Clouds usually wouldn't form, so it would be really clear skies, then the sunshine comes in and builds up the heat," said Ruby Leung, a climate scientist with the lab.

That heat build up also dries out the soil – which can lead to even higher temperatures, Chen said. Moist soil cools the air as the moisture evaporates.

(continued on page 6)

## November homes sales down in Skagit County

By Ken Stern

The 88 homes sold in Skagit County in November was a drop of 22.8% from 2022. The La Conner school district market had seven home sales close, the same as last year, bucking the statewide trend. The two homes sold in the town of La Conner, as reported last month, on Maple Avenue and Benton Street, went for \$725,000 and \$1.25 million, respectively. Three of the Shelter Bay home sold for under \$461,000 so our market's \$565,000 median monthly sold home price was just below the county's median price of \$575,000.

The 88 homes sold are the third month below 100 in 2023, but the \$575,000 monthly median price is the third highest of the year. Seventeen homes sold in Anacortes, two fewer than last year, but the larger fact is their median price was \$625,000, down from \$785,000 in October. Mount Vernon had the largest drop in number of homes sold, 13, to 28, 31.7% fewer.

For the Northwest Multiple Listing Service summary, Mason Virant, associate director of the Washington Center for Real Estate Research at the University of Washington, wrote, "current owners with low-rate mortgages continue to be reluctant to sell. This has led to a continued decline in year-over-year transaction volume and the inventory

(continued on page 8)

## Local banker invests in community volunteerism

By Bill Reynolds

In La Conner, there's always one thing you can bank on.

Tami Mason can be counted upon to pitch in and help when a community need arises.

Mason, customer service supervisor at WaFd Bank's La Conner branch, volunteers for several organizations – from the Skagit County Historical Museum and La Conner Sunrise Food Bank boards of directors to the Chamber of Commerce and La Conner Volunteer Firefighters Association.

"I love giving back to others," Mason told the Weekly News on Friday, as she wrapped up another Christmas Giving Tree campaign at the bank.

"The end results," she stressed, "are always the best."

Her volunteering began more than three decades ago, starting with the Skagit County Relay for Life, part of a global movement in support of those who have fought or are fighting the battle against cancer.

An Anacortes native who studied business at Skagit Valley College, Mason is on her second banking tour here. She had worked at the old Valley Bank branch.



Tami Mason

"It's amazing," she said, "that I've made it full circle and am back in La Conner after 30-plus years. "This is

### Holiday Closures New Year's Day

January 1, Monday

**Bank:** Closed

**Buses:** Regular service

**Library:** Closed

**Post Office:** Closed

**Schools:** Till Jan 3

**Town Hall:** Closed

**County government:** Closed

**Weekly News:** Half day

*New year, new opportunities*

one of the best communities that I've been involved with.

"I absolutely love this town," said Mason. "Coming back to work here has been very satisfying and I'm happy to be a part of this community. People are always amazed that I don't live in town because I'm here so often."

More than one person wanted her to run for mayor. Alas, she is not a resident.

While volunteerism has always been a major focus for Mason, who with her husband, Bo, resides in nearby Bay View, she initially didn't eye a career in banking.

"I didn't really know I was going to have a banking career," she explained. "Thirty-eight years ago, I was working in the pharmacy at Thrifty Drug in Anacortes. I started looking into what I had to do to be a pharmacy technician, which sounded great.

"Then my supervisors told me that our little store in Anacortes was going to be sold to PayLess," Mason recalled. "I didn't want to work for a big company. I had a friend who worked for a small bank in Anacortes called People's Bank. She thought I had great customer service skills. She

(continued on page 6)

## Channel Cove residents meet new director

By Ken Stern

A smattering of Channel Cove residents took new Home Trust of Skagit Director Felicia Minot up on her offer to meet and greet them at the complex's community room Dec. 16. Each of the four residents that came out between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. could have taken a box of donuts home and boxes would have remained.

Minot was hired to replace Jodi Dean in November, who retired after overseeing the completion of five owner-occupied homes on the property's north edge last summer. Many of Channel Cove's 50-plus adult residents were critical of Dean for inattentive management of the property and lack of communication with them.

Jennifer Martin's complaint of her having one parking space and the unfair allocation of spaces exemplified both problems. Minot's list matched

the tenants': parking, keys and locks, past management and board communications, her phone system, unit utility problems. "Safety concerns are at the top of my list," she told them. "Heating, electric, plumbing, they are all a concern in all the units and they all need to be addressed."

For years Mary Lou and Al Williams's lack of heat and inadequate electrical wiring concerns were not fixed. Williams said his unit was cold and they did not feel safe using the heaters.

Minot was aware and sympathetic of both property and communication problems and pledged to address health and safety issues to have an "immediate impact," but warned of the tangle of funding sources from all levels of government and the many contracts involved, saying "unfortunately it is not something that happens very fast" to get agency responses.

Minot said she was getting squared away in her own office and still in the

process for getting a cell phone, credit cards software. She got business cards the day before. She pledged she would respond to emails and phone calls.

She was sympathetic to the complaint of the Home Trust's board of directors not responding and residents not being able to participate in annual meetings. "Every nonprofit has an annual meeting. It is usually a big event," she noted, and "community members can vote on changes in policy." She suggested scheduling it for next spring.

She pledged notification and participation by residents and several times repeated and stressed the need for consistency in their communications



TALKING IS START OF FIXING PROBLEMS – Felicia Minot, center, is the new director of Home Trust of Skagit and manager of the Channel Cove housing campus. Residents Nancy Genera, left, and Jennifer Martin, discussed their needs at a Dec. 16 meet and greet. – Photo by Ken Stern

"It is what I am aiming for."

"I would like to do monthly meetings so we can work through things as a group," she told Williams. New homeowner Justin Barnes, a board member, "is the best person at this time for residents to contact."

The last thing she said to Williams: "The best way to

(continued on page 6)



From the editor—

## Weekly News staff are unsung heroes

From an editor who takes each week's editorial very seriously, I report that this is one of my most important editorials of the year. Each December ends with shining light on unsung heroes in the community, the critical souls who day after day and every week show up, dig in and through their steadfast efforts are contributing to the larger good, making the greater La Conner region the place we are so proud to call home.

I have known for months that I would praise the staff, freelancers and volunteers who make the Weekly News the success that it is as this year's unsung heroes. Without them you would not be holding this issue in your hands and reading the carefully placed words and photos and finding almost all the words spelled correctly.

You get a good-looking paper on Wednesday because Rhonda Hundertmark and Nancy Crowell work hard on Monday and Tuesday designing, laying out and carefully formatting an issue of which they are rightfully proud. Rhonda has been designing ads, promotional campaign marketing flyers and the subscription drive wrap around since my first year of publishing, in 2017. She comes early and stays late, as needed, and keenly understands the rhythms and hiccups of weekly newspaper production.

Nancy is the newest staffer laying out the paper. She has worked diligently to learn the ins and outs and pace and tempo of getting ads, stories and photos on the page. Readers get the bonus of more of her great photography more regularly placed on those pages.

Mel Damski and Pat Paul have been writing award winning columns for years, long before I bought the Weekly News. Their words, thoughts and recipes continue to be weekly and monthly mainstays.

Bill Reynolds has been chronicling the history as well as reporting the news, features, sports, weather and people's stories big and small for over 40 years, checking what's news weekly, decades before there was a Weekly News. I, like the greater La Conner community, am fortunate that he shows up week in and week out and, from his observations, crafts award winning stories.

Anne Basye takes on farm, economic, county government and environment issues, primarily, winning awards while connecting to the people and land she and her family has lived and walked on for decades.

Adam Sowards has agreed to add his observations and his words to the paper this year, coming regularly to story list staff meetings even when he cannot fit adding stories to his schedule.

Eileen Engelstad is a careful and proud proofreader frustrated by her boss's occasional and her own infrequent mistakes.

Tony Harrah and Rick Shorten are perhaps the most valuable participants, for they volunteer. Tony delivers the paper through town and, like Rick, takes on special projects. They are steady performers and important friends.

Jennifer Spritzer follows the money coming in and going out and is a careful observer as well as counter for the business side of the newspaper.

Writing or contributing photos occasionally this year, past years, some years are Judy Booth, Kylee Fortygin, Bob Hamblin, Madoc Hiller, Bobbi Krebs McMullen, Sayer Theiss, Sarah Walls and Aven Wright McIntosh.

Ollie Iversen and Paul Magnano deserve to be on the masthead for their wise counsel as well as words they contribute.

Marissa Conklin and Michelle Havist have moved on, but the Weekly News was important to them when they toiled in the office and the good work they did was appreciated.

Cindy Vest has passed on. She was a great newspaper woman and an even better human being and is missed in all ways.

This did not have to be my last December as publisher to either thank the people who make the Weekly News possible or hold them up to the light. I hope each knows my appreciation on a weekly basis. I hope readers will also take notice and take a moment to stand up, clap and sing their praises, too.

— Ken Stern



Rain rain, go away, come again some other day. No, rain please don't go away, stay so I can breathe another day.

We live in a place with a lot of rainfall, especially at this time of year. This month we've been surrounded by clouds and drenched with rainfall, but every few days the sun comes out and the cloud formations are breathtaking.

As a movie and television director, I had to spend over 40 years based in Los Angeles, although we were filming in wonderful places like Amsterdam, Australia and Budapest. My allergist extended his arm, pointed his finger north and said "You cannot live here" because of the dryness and smog and exhaust from all of the terrible traffic that makes the air even worse.

My pal William Shatner texted me and said, "Find me a place where my kids and grandkids will be able to breathe." He is in his early nineties and

comfortable living out his life in the San Fernando Valley, but he knows the future is not bright there so I've been sending him land for sale ads from Skagit and Whatcom counties.

Yes, if we are socked in with rain for weeks at a time, it can be a bit depressing and keep us from getting out and about. If you do some research, you will find that rain has some negative effects. Rainwater can carry bacteria, parasites, viruses and chemicals that can make you sick and it has been linked to disease outbreaks.

However, rainwater contains microorganisms which have the capacity to produce Vitamin B12 as a metabolic byproduct of their activity. If you want to absorb the vitamin, you can bathe in the rain safely for 10-15 minutes. Make sure you quickly shower with a proper soap after getting drenched.

Getting drenched in rain is an excellent way to balance your hormones. Rainwater is also ef-

fective for ear problems. It treats any kind of ear infections and keeps ear pain at bay.

However, try not to spend too much time getting drenched in rain because it can make you sick. Windy weather during rains can exacerbate these issues. To get a proper healthy balance, it is ideal to spend 10-15 minutes in rain and then hop in the tub for a warm bath.

And if you miss the sunshine, you can hop in a plane in Bellingham and fly to Palm Springs and visit my sister and brother-in-law and rent a car and enjoy a beautiful drive up the coast with the ocean to the left and the mountains to the right.

Or, stay here and enjoy the clean air and beautiful green grass and thick forests and take a short drive up to Mt. Baker to go skiing and snowboarding or jump on the ferry to one of the many beautiful islands we are looking out at from our coast.

In fact, I'm writing this while on the train to visit my son in Portland, Oregon and I'm looking out at beautiful rivers and streams and lush farmland surrounded by foothills and a peek at a beautiful snowcapped Mount St. Helens in the distance so I think I'm going to put off my trip to Palm Springs for a while.

## Regulating tires on state legislative list

By Tom Banse  
*Washington State Standard*

The next time you go shopping for replacement tires, the state of Washington could have greater sway over what's on the rack. That's provided the Legislature agrees to a request from the state Department of Commerce for the authority to regulate tire efficiency.

Auto owners may want to pay attention because the low rolling resistance tires that regulators want to promote typically cost more than budget tires. But over the lifetime of those tires, the average driver could save hundreds of dollars on gasoline.

"There are very few other transportation policies in the short-term that can reduce emissions by this magnitude," said Senior Energy Policy Specialist Steven Hershkowitz during a state Commerce Department

webinar Dec. 20.

The Commerce Department hosted the public webinar to describe its energy policy priorities and requests ahead of the 2024 legislative session, which convenes on Jan. 8. The full text of the proposed tire regulation bill has not yet been introduced.

Government standards for vehicle tires traditionally have been set at the national level. But California legislators a few years ago gave their state energy department authority in this arena as part of a larger campaign to increase fuel efficiency and thereby reduce tailpipe emissions.

In Olympia, the Inslee administration shares those climate goals. So now, the state Department of Commerce is working with friendly legislators to get similar regulatory authority over tire standards. Hershkowitz said Washington wants to work in

partnership with California on the issue rather than just be a bystander when potentially market-changing rules roll out.

The California Energy Commission is currently in the midst of a rulemaking proceeding to set minimum standards for rolling resistance along with setting up a rating system to help consumers compare tire efficiency. The new state standards would apply to replacement tires for passenger cars and light trucks. If adopted, the California rules would begin with what Hershkowitz described as a fairly easy-to-achieve standard in 2026 and then gradually get more stringent after 2028.

Neither California nor Washington proposes to regulate the original tires installed by manufacturers on new cars. Hershkowitz also said that specialty tires sold in low volumes, such as off-road tires, would also probably be exempt.

The California agency projected that the vehicle fuel efficiency gains drivers would achieve through its tire standards would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 1 million metric tons per year in the state.

In California, the rubber industry and tire dealers raised concerns that likely will come up in Olympia as well.

"I maintain that these advancements should not come at the expense of California's independent tire dealers and their customers," wrote Mike Manges, editor of the Modern Tire Dealer trade journal, in an editorial.

"I still believe that a mandate could not only limit consumer choice, but also limit a dealer's ability to sell what he or she wants — based on the customer's budget and preference," Manges continued. "Not all customers will be able to afford higher-priced tires that can meet or exceed whatever rolling resistance target the CEC will require."

In answer to a question posed over Zoom on Wednesday, Hershkowitz said the interested public will have opportunities to

(continued on page 8)

## The future of readily available alternative energies is almost here

By Greg Whiting

I wrote earlier that existing technologies aren't that far from allowing us to produce sustainable energy for as little as a tenth of the cost of conventional electric generation. Solar photovoltaic costs, in particular, are still falling fast.

Solar resources cannot produce energy at their lowest possible cost everywhere, but there are other low-cost renewable energy sources. Wind, hydroelectric power, advanced waste-to-energy technologies and several devices that can convert energy into useful forms from the heat of the ground or water are also advancing. Some of these are commercially available and cost competitive. In most cases, their costs are declining.

Pumped hydroelectric storage systems pump water to a high elevation using energy available when the price is low, for use in producing electricity during times of higher prices. Pumped hydro systems can cost around a



third-of-a-cent per kilowatt-hour to operate. They've been a well-established, reliable, inexpensive technology for decades.

Other storage technologies are starting to catch up. Lithium-based batteries are the most advanced and lithium batteries for stationary energy storage don't have to be as lightweight as batteries for cars, so they don't need materials that might be in short supply. Innovative concepts, including heat storage in water, bricks or molten salt; electrolysis of water to produce hydrogen; and flow batteries are advancing.

The computer controls and weather prediction systems needed to incorporate fast-changing renewable resources and the leg-

islation and utility management systems required to incorporate energy from tens of thousands of small sources, instead of hundreds of big sources, are also improving.

This means that inexpensive renewable energy — say, solar energy on a sunny but cool spring day in southern California — doesn't have to be curtailed when too much is being produced to be used locally. It can be delivered to other markets, or stored for later use. The long-obvious criticism of renewable energy (that it can't provide a reliable grid because the sun isn't always up and the wind isn't always blowing), becomes less and less true as renewable energy, storage and control capabilities and costs fall.

In La Conner, we might soon find that it isn't necessary to use fueled electric generation at all.

Suppose, for instance, that we had a water-source heat pump that would move heat into and out of Puget Sound, combined with pipes that would deliver hot

or cold water to home radiators. This could conceivably eliminate about half of the fueled or electric energy needed for homes, without changing water temperatures enough to affect wildlife.

Or, suppose we installed small radiators made with well-insulated bricks, to store electricity in the form of heat. We could buy renewable electricity when it's available at very low costs (e.g., when California solar or eastern Washington wind are overproducing relative to immediate needs) and then release the stored heat into the room where it's needed the most (e.g., a bedroom overnight, or a living room in the earlier evening). This system isn't an engineering dream. It's already in use, in Scotland, to store excess wind power and reduce fueled heating requirements.

Inexpensive batteries, or even batteries in parked electric cars, could similarly store off-peak renewable generation for home electric loads.

### La Conner Weekly News

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

#### Subscriptions

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

Member of Washington Newspaper Publishers Association

Copyright ©2023



### Ken Stern, Publisher & Editor

editor@laconnernews.com

Continuing the tradition of weekly publishing in La Conner since 1878

*The Weekly News sits on the original homelands of the Coastal Salish peoples*

#### La Conner News Publishing Co., LLC

119 N. Third St., La Conner, WA 98257  
USPS 363-550

360-466-3315 • Fax: 360-466-1195

www.laconnerweeklynews.com

#### Postmaster:

Send change of address to:

La Conner Weekly News

PO Box 1465, La Conner, WA 98257

Bill Reynolds, News Editor  
news@laconnernews.com

Rhonda Hundertmark, Design and Layout Editor  
production@laconnernews.com

Nancy K. Crowell, Production Manager  
Eileen Engelstad, Proofreader  
Rick Shorten, Special Projects

#### Contributors:

Anne Basye, Judy Booth, Nancy Crowell, Don Coyote, Mel Damski, Kylee Fortygin, Janna Gage, Bob Hamblin, Madoc Hiller, Ollie Iversen, Bobbi Krebs-McMullen, Patricia Paul, Adam Sowards, Claire Swedberg, Sarah Walls, Aven Wright-McIntosh

#### LETTER POLICY

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

Send to: editor@laconnernews.com



## OBITUARY



**Marlys Ann Rodgers**  
Aug. 5 1935 - Dec. 16, 2023

Marlys Ann Rodgers, 88, died peacefully on Dec. 16, 2023 at Dimensions Living in Appleton, Wis. To read the entire obituary, please go to [www.clinehansonfuneralhome.com](http://www.clinehansonfuneralhome.com)

## Pleasant Ridge Cemetery seeks new commissioner

By Bill Reynolds

The new year is bringing a new opportunity for local public service.

Pleasant Ridge Cemetery, Skagit County Cemetery District No. 1, needs a commissioner.

Candidates must reside within the cemetery district, according to cemetery district secretary Lori Buher.

"Interested persons can check their property tax statements to determine if they do reside in our district," Buher told the Weekly News. "This position would become effective in January 2024."

The vacancy was created when Curt Miller moved to Anacortes.

Duties include meeting with parties interested in purchasing plots or niches, marking graves for burials or inurnments and overseeing the grounds. Those duties are not compensated but commissioners are paid \$90 per monthly meeting.

Training by incumbent commissioners Tim Goodman and Rick Anderson is required prior to being able to mark graves, said Buher.

Contact Buher for information: 360-630-0809; [ljbuher@gmail.com](mailto:ljbuher@gmail.com).

Located at 17666 Valentine Road on a promontory two and a half miles east of La Conner, historic Pleasant Ridge Cemetery is the oldest cemetery in Skagit County.

## Skagit Transit adds La Conner bus service

Skagit Transit is increasing bus service on both Route 513 and 615. Route 513 starting Jan. 2, 2024

Route 615 will run between Mount Vernon, La Conner and the March's Point park and ride lot every two hours.

Route 513 will run between Burlington and the March's Point park and ride lot every hour.

Skagit Transit is committed to providing reliable and superior service to the communities it serves.

Questions: 360-757-4433.

**Moving?**

Email your address change to [info@laconnernews.com](mailto:info@laconnernews.com)

**KERN**

**FUNERAL HOME**

RECEPTION ROOM  
MOUNT VERNON CEMETERY  
MOUNT VERNON CREMATORY  
MOUNT VERNON

**360-336-2153**  
"Since 1913"

## December planning commission meeting

# Comp plan amendments accepted without fees in January

By Bill Reynolds

La Conner Planning Director Michael Davolio has come up with a way to follow both the letter and spirit of a new state policy that limits to a single public meeting topics reviewed by a hearing examiner.

He wants the planning commission to receive all pertinent information in advance of hearing examiner sessions so they can chime in before a decision is rendered.

"I want to make sure the public and planning commission has an opportunity for input," Davolio said at the 90-minute Dec. 19 hybrid meeting at Maple Hall. "I want the planning commission to still be actively involved in the decision-making process."

State lawmakers seeking to streamline applications for affordable housing projects across Washington mandated the policy.

"The goal of encouraging affordable housing is why the state did this," Town Assistant Planner Ajah Eills said. "What Michael is suggesting is for planning commissioners to be at hearings as citizens so their comments can be taken into account by the hearing examiner."

Davolio said the view statewide is the new policy will lessen the role of planning commissions. The goal is for the commission to be an active and involved entity in land use matters, he said.

"Our staff," vowed Davolio, "will commit to giving the planning commission necessary information and reports before public hearings so that they can provide input at those hearings."

Davolio's recommendation, though not acted upon, received support from commissioners and those in attendance, including incoming Mayor Marna Hanneman.

"Michael's idea gives the planning commission an opportunity to review information well in advance and provide input to the hearing examiner," said Hanneman, who just resigned from the commission. "He's requesting that the hearing be held in person (rather than solely on Zoom) so that our constituencies can give their input in person."

"Or goal," Davolio said, "is to make this process as democratic as possible."

Eills agreed. "This reflects the spirit of democracy," she said. "We want

to be as open and transparent as possible."

During this wide-ranging meeting, commissioners pored over residents' recommendations for amendments to the comprehensive plan and development code. Several have already been addressed and embraced. Perhaps more important, Davolio and Eills announced that such recommendations will now be accepted year-round rather than limiting submissions to a two-month window Dec. 1-Jan. 31.

Proposed amendments will be accepted on a no-fee basis in the month of January. Fees, however, will be imposed – covering expenses for staff time – on proposals received Feb. 1-Dec. 31.

Commissioners made preliminary edits to Planned Urban Residential Development (PURD) regulations and definitions for short-term rentals, topics to be re-visited when they next meet on Jan. 16.

Planning staff reported on their outreach to the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

"We're very interested in building a rapport with Swinomish," Eills said. "We're trying to foster that relationship." Eills said tribal input is being

sought for the Town comp plan's community profile section.

The town's projected population growth adds 211 residents by 2045, a rate of about one per cent per year. Eills said conducting a land use capacity analysis should help assess future housing density here. She said the current population projections equate to 124 new housing units by 2045.

"Those can include ADUs (Accessory Dwelling Units), for instance," said Eills, "which is a very good option for older family members who want to age in place."

Commission Chair Carol Hedlin praised staff efforts to increase interaction with Swinomish and La Conner Schools.

"We're providing a lot of water for horses," quipped Eills, referring to the time-honored adage about creating opportunities whenever possible.

A case in point is next month's window for free submissions of comp plan and municipal code changes.

"We may be receiving a whole lot of additional citizen code amendments in January," Eills predicted.

# Cindy Elliott appointed to town planning commission

By Bill Reynolds

Cynthia Elliott isn't the retiring type.

The proof is in her willingness – eagerness, actually – to become a La Conner Planning Commissioner, a role not for the faint of heart, just 13 months after wrapping up a 35-year career.

Mayor Ramon Hayes announced his choice of Elliott during the Dec. 12 town council meeting to fill the seat vacated by Marna Hanneman, who becomes mayor Jan. 1. Hayes stressed that three "very qualified candidates" had applied and that he and Hanneman reviewed applications. Elliott brings a wealth of career experience and volunteer service to the position, he said. Her term is through 2026

"As a Town of La Conner resident and homeowner," Elliott told the Weekly News, "I have a strong desire to be involved in our community as well as con-



**Cynthia Elliott**

tribute to a sustainable and inclusive future for generations to come. I look forward to serving the Town of La Conner and contributing to the continued success of the planning commission."

Elliott began at the Dec. 19 meeting. She serves with recent appointee Sommer Holt, former town council member John Leaver, Bruce Bradburn and

chair Carol Hedlin.

Elliott was a deputy chief information officer for the Ventura (California) County Information Technology Services Department for a decade. She was on the Ventura County Management Council, participating on the communications subcommittee 2014-2017.

"My career provided me an opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and experience in organizational leadership, strategic planning and fiscal management," she said. "I also believe that communication and collaboration are the foundation of success."

"What originally attracted me to La Conner," said Elliott, "was the art, history and natural beauty of the area."

A bonus, she said, has been the strong sense of community here.

"What I like best about La Conner," she said, "is the people. I've received such a warm welcome to La Conner."

Away from the planning table, Elliott enjoys yoga, hiking, cycling and traveling.

"After moving to the Skagit Valley," said Elliott, "I began taking yoga classes in La Conner. In addition to the health benefits, I've met an incredible group of La Conner residents."

Elliott said she draws inspiration from famed 74-year-old author and radio host Joni Eareckson Tada, who was paralyzed as a teenager from the shoulders down following a diving accident.

"One of my most rewarding experiences," Elliott recalled, "was serving on a Wheels for the World team in Brazil and distributing wheelchairs to those in need."

Elliott is optimistic her new mission, helping to retain the town's character and shape its future, will likewise be fulfilling.

**JL's Contracting Solutions**

Home renovations · remodels · flooring · drywall · decks  
door/window replacement · siding · interior/exterior painting  
big and small jobs

**Josh Lockrem** 360-840-5538  
Licensed\* Bonded\* Insured [Joshlockrem@gmail.com](mailto:Joshlockrem@gmail.com)

**Home Loans Made Simple**

**Jessica Nguyen**  
Skagit County Home Loan Specialist  
Specializing in Shelter Bay lending  
Office: (360) 848-7211 | Cell: (360) 420-4192  
[peoplesbank-wa.com/jessica](http://peoplesbank-wa.com/jessica)

Peoples Bank

**WILLOW AND QUARTZ**  
*A space for your moment*  
Located in the heart of Edison, Washington

A classy and quirky space with 12ft tall ceilings, an abundance of natural light, and 10x20 in size. Perfect for a retail pop-up location in such a bustling and historical area.

**KXA ESTATES**  
[WWW.KXAESTATES.COM](http://WWW.KXAESTATES.COM)  
[WILLOWANDQUARTZ@YAHOO.COM](mailto:WILLOWANDQUARTZ@YAHOO.COM)  
[KXALLC@YAHOO.COM](mailto:KXALLC@YAHOO.COM)

Address: Alley side of 14022 Mactaggart Ave.  
Edison, WA 98232

*Please Note:* While Willow and Quartz is an exceptional venue, it's important to mention that we do not have access to power or water. As such, it's not suitable for food vendors.

**Evans**  
Funeral Chapel & On-site Crematory

On-site Crematorium Memorial Markers  
Burial Services Prearrangements

360-293-3311  
1105 32nd Street, Anacortes  
[www.EvansChapel.com](http://www.EvansChapel.com)

**ARNE SVENDSEN TRUCKING**

Rockery Rock · Rip Rap  
Dump Trucking  
Crush Rock · Grading · Pit Run

**360-424-0258**  
ARNEST1044BW

**Port of Skagit**

Aerospace Manufacturing  
Marine Manufacturing  
Value-added Agriculture  
Broadband Infrastructure  
Economic Development  
General Manufacturing  
Business Aviation  
Outdoor Recreation

*And so much more....*

**Good Jobs for the Skagit Valley**

[www.portofskagit.com](http://www.portofskagit.com) | 360-757-0011



## La Conner basketball teams swamp South Whidbey

By Bill Reynolds

In recent months La Conner has leaned heavily on Langley as a model for community livability issues, from tiny homes and affordable housing to parking.

Last Friday it was La Conner's turn to school Langley – on the basketball court.

The high school girls' team drubbed South Whidbey 73-34 that afternoon at Landy James Gym while at the same time the high school boys routed the 1A Falcons 60-23 in Langley.

"It was a good game on the road while on the holiday break," first-year Braves coach Lance Lopez said of his club's triumph, which saw four La Conner players score in double figures.

Brayden Pedroza continued his torrid scoring pace of late, leading the victors with 17 points.

Ivory Damien, Corran Eisen and Tyler Cicotte finished with 13 points apiece for La Conner. Logan Burks and Jarrett Hatch added two points each as the Braves improved their season

ledger to 5-3 going into the Hoop on the Hill Holiday Tournament in Seattle this Friday.

"We played hard and got some good scoring," Lopez said of the balanced attack at Langley.

### Boys beat Neah Bay

It had been a similar recipe that fueled a 70-66 La Conner home win over 1B power Neah Bay earlier in the week.

The Braves closed with a 28-15 run to erase a nine-point deficit early in the fourth quarter. Damien (9), Pedroza (6), Eisen (6), Burks (3), Cicotte (2) and C.J. Edwards (2) landed in the scoring column during the decisive frame.

"It was a quality win for us against a very good Neah Bay team, especially after having been down in the second half," Lopez told the Weekly News afterward. "We were able to hustle and fight back to come out on top."

### Girls whip Whidbey

The Lady Braves, meanwhile,

led from wire-to-wire Friday in their return home after dropping a non-conference test at 2A Squalicum on Wednesday.

Maevie McCormick (15), Shaniquah Casey (14), Kim Williams (12) and Nora McCormick (11) each scored in double digits to lead nine players on the point parade. Izzy Villard (7), Jackie Lam (4), Reese Bird (4), Kiana Jenkins (4) and Dela Souryavong (2) rounded out an attack that capitalized on getting turnovers throughout the game.

The team's half-court offense was also effective as Jenkins and Lam were solid in the paint and Williams and Villard each drained a perimeter trey. The Lady Braves shot 51 per cent (34 of 67) from the floor and converted two of three free throws.

The hosts set the tone early, bolting to a 19-7 first quarter lead. The edge expanded to 40-19 at intermission.

The lead was 30-points (58-28) to start the final stanza, when a

(continued on page 6)

## La Conner plays again on anniversary of Concrete High School gym opening

By Bill Reynolds

Throughout their shared histories, La Conner and Concrete high schools have been fierce foes vying for league, district and state sports titles.

But when they next meet it will be a friendly rivalry in the truest sense of the term.

La Conner teams and fans have been invited to participate in celebrations Jan. 5 honoring the "70-plus anniversary" of the opening of the Concrete High School gymnasium to coincide with that night's girls' and boys' basketball games.

La Conner was the visiting team in the first-ever boys' high school junior varsity and varsity basketball games played at the Concrete gym in 1952, according to Paul Bianchini, who is helping coordinate the anniversary event.

Bianchini said the tentative Jan. 5 schedule includes a 4:30 p.m. dinner served by the Concrete Booster Club, a 20-minute

program with the surviving members of the 1952 La Conner and Concrete teams will be introduced following the girls' contest and a 10-minute ceremony with introductions of past Skagit County scoring leaders Gail Thullen and Andy Otis of La Conner and Tyler Clark of Concrete at halftime of the boys' game.

Bill Newby of Concrete and Dave Alvord, Sr. of La Conner – who played in the teams' 1952 matchup – have been selected as honorary coaches for the anniversary festivities.

Bianchini grew up in Concrete and was a star athlete at Mount Vernon High School before playing tight end on iconic University of Washington coach Don James' first Husky team.

"It will be a night to celebrate not only the Concrete High School gymnasium," said Bianchini, "but to celebrate each and every person who has

(continued on page 8)

## Santa, Grinch join forces to celebrate children at Swinomish dinner

By Bill Reynolds

The Grinch was on his best behavior at the Swinomish community dinner last Wednesday.

The reclusive green grump, best known as the Dr. Seuss character intent on ruining Christmas for the cheery citizens of Whoville, showed his softer side during an appearance alongside beloved toymaker Santa Claus.

The Grinch entertained dozens of children before and after they shared with Santa their Christmas gift wish lists.

The spirit of goodwill was present throughout the gymnasium. A mountain of door prizes was given away to those holding no-charge tickets. Cathi Bassford and her kitchen crew and Ronald Day and his salmon cooks pro-



Santa and friend

vided a holiday feast served by Swinomish youth and enjoyed by a large, festive gathering of young and old alike.

"We thank everyone who came out to celebrate," said Swinomish

Senator and Cultural Events Director Aurelia Bailey, who was master of ceremonies for the event.

The meal was blessed in prayer by Swinomish elder Joe McCoy, a legendary figure in the 1960s and 1970s movement to restore treaty fishing rights in Washington state.

Six decades ago the Skagit County Superior Court ruled McCoy was legally fishing on reservation property – cited as a usual and accustomed fishing ground – when arrested near the mouth of the North Fork of the Skagit River south of La Conner.

McCoy and Bailey readied everyone for the much-anticipated arrival of Santa from his famed toy factory at the North Pole.

"I think our friend with the

(continued on page 6)

### LA CONNER COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Fund Drive 100 KGoal

To our Community-

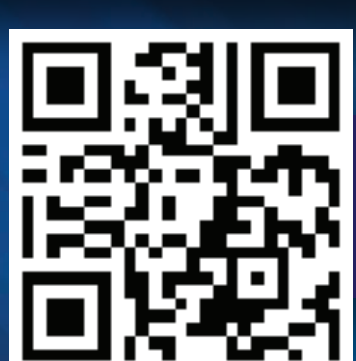
This is the final week of our Fund Drive that receives a 100% match from a generous La Conner Alum. We appreciate the \$17,000+ that has been donated. Unfortunately, to date, only about 50 households have contributed. You likely know a student who has or will receive scholarship money from the Foundation. Please consider a last minute contribution - of any amount. Continue La Conner's strong tradition of supporting our young people!

Please mail your donations to:  
LCCSF • P.O. Box 1277 • La Conner, 98257  
or [laconner.dollarsforscholars.org](http://laconner.dollarsforscholars.org)

# 2024

*New Year,  
New Promotions!*

## Bonus Tier POINT MULTIPLIERS



[swinomi.sh/events-calendar](http://swinomi.sh/events-calendar)



## Logo Apparel



GAMING | DINING | EVENTS | GOLF | LODGE

1.888.288.8883 | [SWINOMISHCASINOANDLODGE.COM](http://SWINOMISHCASINOANDLODGE.COM)  
Must be 18 to gamble. Management reserves all rights.







## Library Happenings

Thank you to everyone who came out for the Tiny Trees Auction on Dec. 1 and to those of you who came to the library during the week to preview the trees. This year we had trees, gift baskets and art. The library was very festive and this year the trees were more beautiful than ever. Thank you to all who purchased items; the library received approximately \$10,000 which will be used for library programs and resources. Thanks to our volunteers, tree decorators and to the committee for all the work that went into making this a successful event!

The library was very festive in December: We had a visit from Santa Claus and those who didn't get to see him in person, had the opportunity to send him a letter through our magical Santa mailbox. A big thank you to Warren and Julie Smith for making this possible! Santa received lots of letters from La Conner this year; we are sure you are all on the nice list!

Kids and kids at heart, come to the library on Thursday, Dec. 28 from 12-1:30 p.m. to watch a movie and make a fun noise maker for New Year's Eve.

Amazing opportunity for tweens and teens! Join us Thursdays, Jan. 11, 18 and 25 from 3-5 p.m. for a free 3-part song writing workshop taught by professional song writer Keeth Apgar. Pre-registration is required, so call or stop by the library today to reserve your spot. This is going to be an amazing series so

don't miss out!

Tired of the winter doldrums, want to travel without the hassle of the airport? Come to the library on Wednesday, Jan. 17 from 5-6 p.m for our first armchair travel series by Travels with Teri. Take a virtual trip to Nepal for a Himalayan Adventure with Teri. This promises to be an exciting trip. Stay tuned for more adventures in Italy and Ireland coming on Feb. 28 and March 20!

It is the time of year to cozy up with a good book and hot drink and the perfect time to sign up for Winter Reads. This year we are going to read around the world in 80 days. Read your way to exotic locations, remote outposts, even outer space all without leaving your living room! Winter Reads will start on Jan. 2 and go through March 21. Your adventure awaits, pick up your map at the library on Jan. 2. Complete your map and receive your reward!

Start your Winter Reads adventure in outer space with the "Project Hail Mary" by Andy Weir. Ryland Grace is the only survivor on a spaceship whose mission is to save the planet Earth – only he doesn't know that, in fact he doesn't even know his name. Andy Weir takes readers on a funny, fast paced mission to save the planet. I couldn't put this book down!

Happy Holidays from all of us at the library. We can't wait to see you all in the New Year.

## Take a 'First Day Hike' on Jan. 1

OLYMPIA —Begin the new year with Washington State Parks on a First Day Hike Jan. 1.

Over 20 of the more than 40 state parks participating are in northwest Washington with both staff-led and self-guided hikes, snowshoe excursions, dog walks, bike and trail rides, paddle adventures and more. The northwest parks range from Larrabee, Rockport and Deception Pass to Fort Casey, Fort Ebey and South Whidbey on Whidbey Island to Camano Island State Park

First Day Hikes is led nationally by America's State Parks, encouraging people to get outside. Last year, more than 1,500 participants hiked, biked and snowshoed 2,653 trail miles in

Washington's state parks.

Most First Day Hikes require advanced registration and group sizes may be limited.

Visitors will not need a Discover Pass to park on state recreation lands. Sno-Park permits are required. Info parks.wa.gov/find-activities.

Source: Washington State Parks

A true cat tale

## It was a dark and stormy night . . .



AN EASY DECISION – One look into those plaintive eyes and the author knew this rescue had found a home in her heart.

—Photo by Nancy Crowell

By Nancy Crowell

Dec. 9 was a wretched, cold day with sideways rain and bone-chilling wind. The annual La Conner lighted boat parade, put on by the Swinomish Yacht Club, was scheduled for 6 p.m. and all day long people were speculating whether it would happen due to the inclement weather. I was not looking forward to my assignment to get some photos for the Weekly News. I have shot this parade for years and tried just about every possible angle and I always return to the Rainbow Bridge. Despite the weather, that was my plan for this year.

At 5:15 p.m. I got confirmation that the parade was on and I steeled myself for a cold and wet location shoot. I knew no one else would be there. When I drove up to the bridge I first crossed the west side to park, then changed my mind and turned around. Strategizing for a quick exit, I parked on the east

side, facing town. I bundled up, attached my camera to the tripod, covered it with a rain cover, pulled out my phone to use as a flashlight and crossed the street with my gear in tow.

I carefully stepped on the narrow bridge walkway. As I started walking across the bridge I heard an awful noise. I pointed my phone light forward and there, on the walkway, directly in front of me, I saw a small, wet lump of fur, wailing in distress. I immediately recognized it was a kitten. On the bridge! In the rain and cold! I made my way to it, scooped it up and tucked it into my jacket. It was shivering and crying, but quickly calmed down next to my warmth.

We headed back to the car, where I turned on the heat and sat cuddling it for a while. I called my husband, who was planning to watch the parade from some warm spot in town, told him what was going on and asked him to notify me the minute he saw the boats heading

down the channel. When he did, I tucked the kitten into a spare down vest I had in my car, turned on the seat warmer and left the car running as I headed back to the bridge to take photos.

I brought my first stray kitten home when I was five years old and I have been a friend of cats ever since, so besides getting over the shock and horror of this tiny being alone and wet on top of the bridge, where it could easily have fallen off into the channel or wandered into traffic, I knew what to do. I took it home, dried it, fed it and warmed it up. It settled right in. My two adult cats were unhappy with its presence, but I separated them and gave the older cats extra treats to reassure them they were not being displaced.

A trip to the vet revealed his gender and, as I had suspected, that he was about eight weeks old. My vet declared him "one of the healthiest kittens I have ever seen!" This was not a feral kitten.

As for what to call him, there was only one possible name: Stormy. And true to his name, he has disrupted my household routine in the delightful and hilarious way only a kitten can. I have been documenting his adventures on social media for friends and now people stop me in the post office to ask how he's doing. While he's likely forgotten that rainy night, I'm still traumatized by how he came into my life.

I don't know how that kitten ended up on the bridge. My first thought was a raptor had dropped it, but there were no puncture wounds. I hate to think a human abandoned it there, but I can't see any other logical explanation.

If you have a pet you can't care for, please don't abandon it. The Skagit Humane Society will help. I'll be making extra donations to animal shelters and rescues this season. Stormy will appreciate it if you do, too.

**SWINOMISH SHELLFISH COMPANY**

**FRESH, LIVE LOCALLY GROWN OYSTERS**  
Available DAILY from the Chevron Market at the Casino: 12939 Casino Dr., Anacortes  
FRIDAY 3-6  
from our Retail Store: 11455 Moorage Way, La Conner  
ORDER ONLINE FOR PICK-UP  
[www.swinomishshellfishcompany.com](http://www.swinomishshellfishcompany.com)

**LINCOLN THEATRE**

THE SCREWBALL COMEDIES OF **CARY GRANT**  
TUESDAYS IN JANUARY

712 S. 1st St - Mount Vernon  
360.336.8955  
[lincolntheatre.org](http://lincolntheatre.org)

**The Garden Bug**

This showy orange rose can display multiple blooms throughout spring, summer and fall. Its growth habit is upright, with 3'-4' possible in height. It likes warmer climates and full-sun exposure. It does well when cut for display indoors, giving a mild, pleasant fragrance. It is very attractive to pollinators. It can be propagated from cuttings, budding and by grafting. It is resistant to black spot, mildew and "rust."

— Brenda Weaver

Sources: garden.org, davesgarden.com

© 2023 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

**NELL THORN**  
WATERFRONT BISTRO & BAR

**OPEN 7 DAYS AND 7 NIGHTS**

LUNCH MONDAY-FRIDAY  
11:30 AM TO 3:00 PM

BRUNCH SATURDAY-SUNDAY  
11:30 AM TO 3:00 PM

DINNER 7 NIGHTS A WEEK  
4:00 PM TO CLOSE

360 466 4261  
[nellthorn.com](http://nellthorn.com)

**BEAVER TALES**  
Coffee & Tea

Love the smell and taste of Fresh Roasted Coffee?

Pick up in the shop at 602 Morris St., La Conner, WA or order online with Free Delivery in Skagit County

Subscription program and discounts and free shipping available... Check us out!

**SHOP NOW!**

[WWW.BEAVERTALESCOFFEE.COM](http://WWW.BEAVERTALESCOFFEE.COM)

**Humane Society of Skagit Valley**

Spay and Neuter Saves Lives!  
Please Spay, Neuter, Adopt, Volunteer, Donate!

Spay and Neuter Saves Lives!

**Humane Society of SKAGIT VALLEY**

360-757-0445  
[skagithumane.org](http://skagithumane.org)  
[info@skagithumane.org](mailto:info@skagithumane.org)

360-757-0445 [info@skagithumane.org](mailto:info@skagithumane.org)  
18841 Kelleher Road, Burlington, WA 98233

**Raven's Cup Coffee & Tea & Art Gallery**

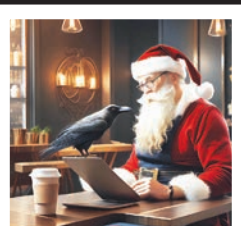
**LAST CHANCE FOR 2024 CHRISTMAS SHOPPING**

Buy a candle! Scented candles Wax melts and melters Beeswax candles Tapers & holders!

Super-soft stuffed animals – funny and artistic coffee mugs – The Queen's Teapot and other coffee & tea equipment – Christmas cards – jewelry – local handmade purses – art from Skagit & Whatcom artists **AND MORE!**

Have a delicious latte or award-winning cocoa while you're downtown

Give a gourmet food gift! Chocolates & truffles from Forte; McCrea's caramels, and Tree Juice maple syrup for Christmas pancakes Buddy the Elf would love!



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



# Banker

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

encouraged me to apply.” The next thing Mason knew she was a bank teller working with people she had known her entire life, having grown up in Anacortes.

“We had five branches owned by Joshua Green,” she said. “The bank was like a family.” But then People’s was acquired by US Bank. “Once again,” said Mason, “I didn’t want to work for a big company, so I looked for another small-town bank.”

She found one in Valley Bank and was delighted to be transferred to La Conner.

However, as is common within the financial industry, yet another bank acquisition was in the works.

“This time,” Mason said, “Key Bank was taking over and I didn’t want to work for a big company.”

After a brief hiatus, which included a travel job with her husband, Mason hired on with Washington Federal Savings & Loan (now WaFd Bank) in Mount Vernon. She celebrated her 30th anniversary Dec. 13.

“I was in Anacortes for a couple of years,” she said. “Then the customer service supervisor position became available in La Conner and I wanted that position very badly.”

“The rest is history,” said Mason, “and I’ve now been back in town for 10

years.”

For Mason La Conner represents a small community with big hearts.

“The people in the town of La Conner are so giving and they care,” she said.

The Soroptimist Giving Tree project, for which Mason has volunteered the last six years, is a prime example.

“This town,” Mason said, “brings huge results. I work with the Forgotten Children Fund, too, and our community and business owners give to this as well. I’ve never seen a more giving and caring town.”

Mason deflects attention away from her own efforts, choosing instead to praise the work of others.

“The business owners here are remarkable,” she said. “They don’t compete against each other. They care, work together and are always willing to give when I ask for help with charity activities or donations.”

Mason said she doesn’t have any traditional hobbies. She leaves that to her husband, who enjoys hunting, fishing and golfing in equal measure.

“I always joke with him saying that I think my volunteering is my hobby,” Mason said.

She and Bo together have passed on the values of volunteerism to their 22-year-old daughter, Ashleigh.

“I got Ashleigh involved volunteering at the age of four,” said Mason. “We’ve done Relay for

Life, volunteered for the hospital foundation’s Festival of Trees and at Burlington-Edison School District, where she lettered two years in a row with Varsity in Volunteerism, reaching 100 hours each year. My husband also helped and got Ashleigh involved at the age of three with Ducks Unlimited and the Washington Brant Foundation. We all are still involved in some way or another.”

Many of her bank customers view Mason’s volunteerism as more of a second career than a hobby.

“It makes me smile,” she said, “hearing people say they’ve never had a banker be so involved.”

At times, Mason catches herself thinking about retirement. Not from volunteering, but from banking.

“But then,” she said, “a community member or business owner comes in the bank and talks to me and then I think I can’t leave this town. I’ve really grown to care about La Conner, the people and business owners.

“I’ll have to retire someday,” Mason acknowledges, “but I hope to continue volunteering. Like I said, I think being involved is my hobby. People always ask and joke, ‘how do you do what you do?’ I don’t know. I just keep giving and caring sincerely with all my heart.

“And this small community,” she said, with emphasis, “truly makes my heart happy.”

such as air conditioning.

For example, many houses and apartments in Seattle don’t have air conditioning, which hasn’t always been a problem. That’s likely to change, Leung said.

“Imagine in the future, if these kinds of really extreme temperatures could happen much more frequently, then I think one should start adapting to this.”

She said if greenhouse gas emissions, such as burning fossil fuels, aren’t reduced, the Northwest will likely see more and worse heat domes in the future.

*First published Sept 22, 2023. Copyright 2023 Northwest News Network and NWPB. Reprinted with permission. More at: nwpb.org. Study at: nature.com/npjclimatsci.*

# Heat

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

Other patterns, such as changing wind conditions, could push the Rossby waves toward North America more often, the study found.

Leung said climate change’s effect on these atmospheric waves means the Northwest will need to improve infrastructure,

# Basketball

■ ■ ■ (from page 4)

running clock was employed.

La Conner recorded 23 steals, six by Maeve McCormick and five each from Casey and Nora McCormick.

“You just never know with such a young team,” said coach Joe Harper, who

started three eighth graders (Jenkins, Williams and Nora McCormick). “It was a great bounce back effort for us after that tough (52-21) loss at Squalicum. The great thing is everyone got playing time and contributed to the win.”

South Whidbey was led by southpaw sharpshooter Jane Haines, who scored a game-high 19 points, in-

cluding five three-pointers. No other South Whidbey player scored in double figures.

La Conner improved to 6-3 overall. The team is idle until Jan. 5 at NW-2B/1B rival Concrete, a game that coincides with festivities marking the ‘70-plus’-year anniversary of their historic gymnasium, which opened in 1952.

helped Santa deliver door prize gifts throughout the festive two-hour program.

Other highlights included brief remarks from members of the Swinomish youth royalty court, acknowledgement of those with December birthdays and singing and drumming by the Swinomish Canoe Family.

Bailey asked the Swinomish royalty to share their goals for 2024.

“My goal,” said current Miss Swinomish, “is happiness for all you guys.”

By all appearances, that goal was achieved on Dec. 20.

# LEGAL NOTICES

**THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SKAGIT Estate of Marilyn Jean PENNINGTON, Deceased, Michael T. PREIKSA Petitioners.**

**Case No. 23-4-00634-29 NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

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. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the Personal Representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(3); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective for claims against both the decedent’s probate and non-probate assets.

Date of First Publication: December 20, 2023

Personal Representative: Michael T. Preiksa  
Attorney for the Personal Representative: JOSEPH D. BOWEN,  
WSBA #1763117631

Address for Mailing or Service: 401 South Second Street Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Published in La Conner Weekly News Dec. 20, 27, 2023 and Jan. 3, 2024.

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY Estate of:**

**CONSTANCE CHARDI NO. 23-4-00643-29 NOTICE TO CREDITORS PLEASE TAKE NOTICE**

The individual 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 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, and filing the original of the claim with the Court identified herein. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after service or mailing this Notice as provided in RCW 11.40.020(3); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of this 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 for claims against both the Decedent’s probate and non-probate assets.

Date of First Publication: December 20, 2023

Cheryl Havens, Personal Representative  
Attorney for Personal Representative  
Dewey W. Weddle, WSBA #29157

Address for Mailing or Service of Claims:

LAW OFFICE OF DEWEY W. WEDDLE, PLLC  
909 Seventh Street Anacortes, WA 98221  
Telephone: 360-293-3600  
Published in La Conner Weekly News Dec. 20, 27, 2023 and Jan. 3, 2024.

**SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SNOHOMISH COUNTY In the Matter of the Estate of**

**JOHN A. SAYRE, Deceased. No. 23-4-02414-31 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.40.030**

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

The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four (4) months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the

decedent’s probate and non-probate assets.

DATE OF FILING COPY OF NOTICE TO CREDITORS with Clerk of Court: December 21, 2023.

DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION: 27 December 2023

P E R S O N A L REPRESENTATIVE:

PATRICIA A. SAYRE ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE:

Amy C. Allison, WSBA #34317

Anderson Hunter Law Firm, P.S.

2707 Colby Avenue, Suite 1001

Everett, WA 98201

COURT OF PROBATE PROCEEDINGS: Snohomish County Superior Court AND CAUSE NUMBER: 23-4-02414-31

Published in La Conner Weekly News Dec. 27, 2023, Jan. 3 and 10, 2024.

# Channel Cove

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

be transparent is to have everyone together in one place. It is little baby steps. I wish I could do more faster.”

The first action Minot took Saturday after the meeting was emptying out Bob Abrams apartment, a more straightforward cleanup process. Abrams had died in October.

Home Trust of Skagit has owned the Channel Cove campus neighborhood since 2011. There are a mix of some 30 rentals and owner-occupied homes. Skagit Habitat for Humanity built some five of the homes. Home Trust of Skagit is a community land trust owning the land underneath the homes.

Home Trust of Skagit Mount Vernon properties are the Summerlynd neighborhood and some scattered housing.

# AT YOUR SERVICE DIRECTORY

**TILLINGHAST**

**POSTAL and BUSINESS CENTER**

**TILLINGHASTPOSTAL.COM**  
(360) 466-0474  
521 MORIS ST, LA CONNER, WA 98257

**MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:30-5:30**  
**SATURDAY 9-1**

- GRAPHIC DESIGN
- OFFICE SUPPLIES
- PRINTING
- SHIPPING
- PO BOXES
- NOTARY PUBLIC
- AND MORE!

**JP**  
*Automotive*

*Full service automotive repair & maintenance shop.*

**360-336-3496**  
Mon.- Fri. 8 am - 5 pm closed Sat. & Sun.  
1304 Memorial Hwy. Mount Vernon, WA

# LA CONNER MARINA

Permanent and Guest Moorage  
Dry Boat Storage, Boating Services  
Public Laundry, RV Park

**Office: 613 N. 2nd St., 360-466-3118**  
[www.portofskagit.com](http://www.portofskagit.com)

# Super Crossword

## Answers

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

**Moving?**

Email your address change to [info@laconnernews.com](mailto:info@laconnernews.com)

# SUDOKO

## Weekly SUDOKU

### Answer

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

**It’s not just a generator. It’s a power move.**

Receive a free 7-year warranty with qualifying purchase\* - valued at \$735.

Call 888-674-7053 to schedule your free quote!

**GENERAC**

**THE REX BAR & GRILL**

*Featuring gourmet sandwiches, local beer and homemade treats!*

**TACO TUESDAY • BIKE NIGHT ON WEDNESDAY**  
**HAND-DIPPED FISH & CHIPS ON THURSDAYS**  
**FRIDAY - SUNDAY: We have delicious burgers featuring Mesman’s organic beef**

19271 Best Rd., Mount Vernon  
Hours: Thurs.-Sun: 9 to 8 • Fri. & Sat.: 9 to 9  
Give us a call for orders to go: 360-466-5522  
Find us on Facebook @ The Rex Bar and Grill





# Aqimuk's Kitchen

By Patricia Aqimuk Paul, Esq., Food Editor

## Chicken pot pie

You can substitute cooked turkey. This recipe is prepared in stages. It takes a while. It uses ingredients you probably keep on hand. I had a gluten free powdered turkey gravy mix. You can use the gravy mix that you find at the local grocery store.

### Ingredients

- Cooked cubed chicken, 2 cups
- Celery, two stalks
- Onion, chopped, 3/4 cup
- Olive oil, 1 tablespoon
- Carrots, 4 to 5 medium
- Potatoes, 5 medium
- Gravy mix, one packet
- Frozen peas, one cup
- Butter, 2 tablespoons
- Pie crust, single layer



### Preparation

Peel and cube the carrots. Cover with water and cook for 20 minutes. Prepare the potatoes separately. I cooked mine in the Instant Pot in 10 minutes. Cool, peel and cube. In a sauté pan, add olive oil, chopped onion and celery. Cook lightly for 10 minutes. Use a deep-dish pie or baking pan. Add in the cooked celery and onion first. Add the carrots, potatoes and chicken. Mix lightly. Follow directions on the gravy mix. When done, mix into the pie dish. Sprinkle in the frozen peas. Add dabs of butter on top. Cover with pie crust. Bake in preheated oven for 40 to 45 minutes. Serve warm.

### NOT TO BE MISSED

**The Stanwood Area Historical Society presents:**

Jazzin' with the Classics for Christmas  
Thursday, Dec. 28 7 p.m.  
Lloyd Norgaard Cultural Center, Stanwood, 27130 102nd Ave. NW  
more info: 360-629-6110 or www.candlelightnw.org  
Suggested donation: \$20; 18 & under free

**Saturday, Jan 6:** Indivisible Skagit is planning a signwaving at 2 p.m. along George Hopper Road up to the intersection with Burlington Boulevard in Burlington (by Costco). The theme will be protecting our democracy/rights. We welcome sign waivers for immigrant rights, reproductive rights, LGBTQ+ rights, rights to a free appropriate public education, rights to clean water, air and soil, health care, housing, justice and more.

### LIBRARIES

**La Conner Swinomish Library.** 520 Morris St., La Conner. 360-466-3352. www.lclib.lib.wa.us. Open 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday.  
• Storytime for Children. 11 a.m. every Friday.  
• Book Club. Meets at 2 p.m. every fourth Wednesday. Info: Richard Wisniewski at wisniew10@gmail.com  
• Tech Help. 4-6 p.m. every Monday. One-on-one technical support in 30-minute blocks.

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

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

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

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

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

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

### MUSEUMS

**Pacific Northwest Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum.** 703 S. Second St., La Conner. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. qfamuseum.org. 360-466-4288.

**Skagit County Historical Museum.** 360-466-3365 or skagitcounty.net/museum. Hours 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday-Sunday.  
• Exhibit: "More than just a little off the top: barbershop historians."

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

• Teen Art Club. A free program for youth in grades 6-12, where you can bring your friends

and your creativity to make art together and inspire your art. Pizza, snacks, and art supplies will be provided.

### MUSIC

**Ukelele Fun & Song Circle.** Meets 1-2 p.m. Wednesdays, Burlington Senior Center. For info, email yogaheartspace0@gmail.com.

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

### SERVICE & VOLUNTEER

**Pacific Northwest Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum** is looking for volunteers as a Museum Host or in our Gift Shop. Six hours per month. Fill out a Volunteer Application online www.qfamuseum.org or stop by the Museum. Open Wednesday - Sunday 11 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., 703 Second Street OR call Jacque Chase 360.466.4288 x 101.

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

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

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

### MEETINGS

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

**Skagit Cemetery Dist. 1.** Regular meetings at 5 p.m. every second Thursday, at Lori Buher's home, 17604 Valentine Road, Mount Vernon.

**Skagit Conservation District.** 2021 E. College Way No. 203, Mount Vernon. 360-428-4313. Zoom info at skagitcd.org. Board meetings 7:30-9 a.m. every 4th Wednesday.

**Rotary Club of La Conner.** laconnerrotary.org. Meetings 6-7 p.m. every Monday at Shawn O'Donnell's restaurant. Optional dinner, 5:30 p.m.

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

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

## 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

**THANK YOU** for all of you who supported me this year. Hope to see you next year. love, Jo. Call 360-708-2022.

**CLEANING SERVICES OFFERED:** Home or office. Estimates provided. Good quality work. Reasonable rates. Call for estimate. References available. 360-202-1288.

## Year's last day may add up to good fortune

By Bill Reynolds

There's uncertainty about whether a happy, healthy 2024 is in the cards.

But the numbers seem to indicate it is a strong possibility.

Those who dish up black-eyed peas and cabbage or some other good luck fare on New Year's Eve might do just as well to focus on the distinct numerical sequence of this Dec. 31 as a clue to what 2024 portends.

This New Year's Eve is 12/31/23. Or, more significantly, 123123.

The experts in such matters see this as a good sign, noting that 123 and 123123 are sequences referred to as "angel numbers," reflective of special numerical patterns believed to convey messages from the universe.

Those messages, they say, trend positive.

For instance, the number one represents fresh starts. The number two evokes emotions and enjoyment of good times. The number three is believed to symbolize learning and personal growth.

Thus, the numerical sequence for New Year's Eve implies a message something in terms of: "Embark on a new journey, enjoy the process and navigate the steps needed to bring it to fruition."

The 123123 pattern, then, is said to symbolize a collective opportunity for progress and gaining insights into the future, emphasizing a sense of unity and shared advancement.

"It's like a day with a double message," according to a numerical guru, "because of the repeated 123 sequences. Experts see it as a time for everyone to move ahead together and get insights into the future."

Whether it truly adds up to a fortuitous 2024 remains to be seen, however. That won't be known until we check back in a year's time. For now, the 123123 factor encourages optimism.

"When you see 123123," said one numerologist, "it's like saying: 'Hey, start something new, have fun with it and then figure out what you need to do to make it happen.'"

### ACROSS

- 1 Warning about a racy web pic
- 5 "West Side Story" knife
- 9 Seasoned vet
- 15 Bro
- 19 French for "yours"
- 20 Treat for feet, for short
- 21 Pope after Marcellus II
- 22 Scads
- 23 RFORM
- 26 Rapper Snoop —
- 27 Variety show hosts, e.g.
- 28 ACLU interests: Abbr.
- 29 Farming unit
- 31 Pasty luau food
- 32 Flight takeoff abbr.
- 33 NTR
- 38 "Peek- —!"
- 40 Classic comic Martha
- 41 Uplifting poems
- 42 Place full of video games
- 43 UBL
- 46 Chicken cordon —
- 47 British chums
- 48 Stars and Stripes' nation

- 49 —'wester (certain storm)
- 50 "Oh, God!" actress Garr
- 54 Cousins of aves.
- 55 Name of some newspapers
- 57 GHTE
- 62 Actors Fiennes and Macchio
- 65 Very top
- 66 Flying response to
- 67 TRONI "Who wants ice cream?"
- 72 Cast out of the country
- 73 Official helper
- 74 Pays out
- 75 EAKI
- 79 Diner check
- 80 Start for existing
- 83 Name of some newspapers
- 84 Vetoer's vote
- 85 U.S. tax org.
- 88 Aromatic aftershave liquid
- 90 QBs' blunders: Abbr.
- 92 RKE
- 96 Person doing a crossword puzzle, e.g.
- 99 Outer limit

- 100 Chimney grime
- 101 Great serves
- 102 HEER
- 105 2000-15 CBS series
- 106 Writer Rand
- 107 Blood type, in brief
- 108 Total
- 109 Wakes up
- 112 Writer Uris
- 114 NTEN
- 119 Peel, as fruit
- 120 Excited
- 121 Cozy corner
- 122 Pierce player Alan
- 123 Cast off hair
- 124 Swan constellation
- 125 Forest sight
- 126 Saclike growth
- DOWN
- 1 Neck back
- 2 Mushroom feature
- 3 Some plays on ground balls
- 4 Fiancee
- 5 Colo. — (city S. of Denver)
- 6 Skirt line
- 7 "Just go ahead and try!"

- 8 Wine merchants
- 9 Unlock, in poems
- 10 Resting place for a napkin
- 11 Drinker's hwy. offense
- 12 Implores
- 13 Christina of "Bel Ami"
- 14 Put too high a price on
- 15 Papa
- 16 Perfect world
- 17 Be charitable
- 18 Gas guzzler
- 24 Multivolume U.K. lexicon
- 25 Chicago winter hrs.
- 30 Blarney
- 33 Mushroom feature
- 34 King, in Lyon
- 35 Hubbub
- 36 Novelist Deighton
- 37 Runs furtively with short, quick steps
- 38 Heads of fleets: Abbr.
- 39 Regatta entry
- 40 Upshot
- 44 Evan of figure skating
- 45 Univ. helpers
- 46 Web automaton

- 49 Brother of Moe and Curly
- 51 Deep black, in poems
- 52 Break in friendship
- 53 Hairy TV cousin
- 56 "Science Friday" ailer
- 58 Person tying shoes
- 59 Onetime transportation agcy.
- 60 Foods created by biotech
- 61 Flood-prevention sack
- 62 One sharing your blood
- 63 Songwriter Carmichael
- 64 Salon noise
- 67 Large-scale public show
- 68 Untrue tales
- 69 Neighbor of Mont.
- 70 Caress
- 71 How money may be lost
- 72 Sci-fi gift
- 76 Belonging naturally
- 77 "One Mic" rapper

### FORGET THE WHOLE THING

- 78 "— ToK" (#1 hit for Keshia)
- 80 On the nose
- 81 Viking letter
- 82 Rescue crew VIPs
- 86 Occupant
- 87 Represented
- 89 Peruvian singer with a wide range
- 91 Notorious emperor
- 92 OR workers
- 93 Rust may be a sign of it
- 94 DVR remote abbr.
- 95 Cain, to Eve
- 96 Hair-raising sites?
- 97 "Is that so?"
- 98 Poe's "radiant maiden"
- 99 Yuletide quaff
- 103 Destitute
- 104 Tic- — -toe
- 105 Gear tooth
- 109 Yard tool
- 110 Outer limits
- 111 Sports datum
- 113 TV neighbor of Homer
- 115 Pewter, mostly
- 116 Univ. website suffix
- 117 Vetoers' votes
- 118 Rival of Wade

### Sudoku, Crossword answers on page 6

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	14		15	16	17	18		
19					20					21								22				
23				24						25								26				
27							28							29			30		31			
			32				33			34	35	36					37					
38	39				40					41						42						
43				44						45					46							
47							48							49				50	51	52	53	
54					55	56			57	58	59	60					61					
					62				63	64							66					
		67	68							69					70	71						
72								73					74									
75						76	77					78			79				80	81	82	
83							84						85	86	87		88		89			
					90	91				92	93	94				95						
96	97	98						99							100				101			
102								103						104				105				
106						107								108				109			110	111
112					113			114			115	116	117				118					
119								120									121				122	
123								124									125				126	



# POLICE BLOTTER

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## Sunday, December 17

**11:50 a.m. Deer lost** — Car vs. deer in front of the Rexville Grocery. Deer was deceased and driver continued on. Best Rd., Greater La Conner.

**11:51 a.m. Hunting season** — Reporter called in a person with a gun walking near the road. Deputy found this to be a hunter and no problem. La Conner Whitney Rd., Greater La Conner.

**3:13 p.m. Hit and run** — Hit and run MVA where the car took out a fence and a street sign before being stuck in the mud. Driver got free and sped off before a plate was obtained. Moore St., Conway.

**5:41 p.m. Trail lost** — Report of an erratically driven Subaru on Morris Street. The caller stopped following and the vehicle was not located. No other complaints. La Conner.

## Monday, December 18

**5:54 p.m. High tide wanted** — Report of missing subjects who had not returned from a day of duck hunting. Subject had left the Conway boat launch but did not return after dark. Deputies searched the area and located the subjects approximately one mile from the launch. The tide had gone out and they were stranded on dry land until the next high tide when they could float the boat again. Conway

## Wed., December 20

**11:16 a.m. Unyielding** — Two vehicles collided in the La Conner roundabout with minor damage. The drivers exchanged info and later called to get a case number. Morris St., La Conner.

## Saturday, December 23

**3:32 p.m. Possible break-in** — Caller reported that someone may have entered her house and stolen jewelry while she was in the hospital. A deputy was able to clear the house but did not locate anyone inside or confirm that an actual theft had occurred. A report was taken with possible follow-up needed. Maple Ave., La Conner.

**11:29 p.m. Flat tire** — Subject called in for a courtesy ride after getting a flat tire and deputy arrived and was able to change her tire for her and get her back on her way. La Conner Whitney Rd., La Conner.

## Sunday, December 24

**12:27 a.m. Quiet please** — Caller complained of a group of teenagers hanging out near the marina who were being loud and speeding. A deputy arrived but did not locate them or any other problems. La Conner.

## Concrete gym

■ ■ ■ (from page 4)

had the opportunity to compete here whether they be basketball, volleyball, wrestling, intramural sports or town teams and all of the fans who have traveled here to support their teams and the community of Concrete.”

Bianchini and other organizers opted in favor of this celebration rather than waiting three years for the gym’s 75th diamond milestone.

“So,” said Bianchini, “we’re calling it the 70-plus anniversary.”

Bianchini said plans are to hang banners featuring images of players from the 1952 La Conner and Concrete teams. Each banner, he said, will bear one of four words – “Tradition,” “Rivalry,” “Memories” or “Community.”

“The idea,” Bianchini told the Weekly News, “is to reinforce the connection between the two schools and their communities.”

Bianchini has exhaustively researched the archives of the Concrete Herald, mining historical nuggets penned by that paper’s legendary publisher-editor, the late Charles Dwelley, who retired to Shelter Bay and closed out his award-winning career writing a weekly column for the Channel Town Press,

which was published here from 1976-2006.

Bianchini’s sleuthing discovered that fundraising began in the 1940s for construction of a new gymnasium.

“They were awarded grants for it in 1944,” said Bianchini, “but because of World War II the fundraising was postponed for a time.”

Immediately following the war, Concrete and La Conner faced off in several high-stakes games. In 1947, when Concrete defeated Mount Vernon High School, Bianchini said the Concrete Herald reported that the Lions’ “hardest, roughest fought game” was with La Conner.

During that era, La Conner’s Landy James, later a two-sport standout at Washington State University, scored 24 of the Braves’ 44 total points in a game against Concrete, whose roster included future Lions coach Jack Bradley.

In the 1970s, James and Bradley would coach against one another at their respective high school alma maters.

Alvord and James both played for one-armed Braves coach Jack Whittaker, for whom La Conner High’s outdoor athletics facility is named. In 1951, Whittaker inserted Alvord, then a freshman, into the starting lineup to bolster

the team’s rebounding and interior defense.

Alvord recalls the Lions-Braves game that season being played in Concrete’s old gym on Main Street. In 1952, Concrete was able to welcome La Conner and other teams to its new building.

Bianchini said he is grateful for help received on the Concrete gym anniversary project from Rene Pedroza, Scott Novak, Kristin Huizenga and Christine Tripp of La Conner.

Tripp, a La Conner alum and now the middle and high schools principal, came her from serving as an administrator in the Concrete School District.

“I got to know her,” Bianchini said, “when she was up here and she filled me in on a lot of the La Conner tradition.”

By having combed the Concrete Herald files, along with reflections on his youth, Bianchini is likewise up to speed with Concrete’s sports heritage.

“I’ve always loved Concrete history,” he said. “I grew up playing in the gym. The coach at the time, Fred Todd, let us come in on Saturdays to play.”

On Jan. 5, the doors will be open for all Concrete and La Conner hoopsters – past and present alike.

## Tires

■ ■ ■ (from page 2)

influence the targets Washington may set if the Legislature grants his agency regulatory authority over tires.

“There would be a significant public engagement,”

Hershkovitz said.

The proposed tire efficiency legislation is separate from a state Department of Ecology push to phase out a tire preservative that can kill salmon when tiny, toxic tire particles wash off roads into waterways. Last month, the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency announced it would pick up the baton and possibly regulate the tire chemical nationally.

First published Dec. 20, 2023. Copyright 2023 Washington State Standard. Reprinted with permission. More at: [washingtonstatestandard.com](http://washingtonstatestandard.com).

**SKAGIT VALLEY FOOD CO-OP**  
SINCE 1973  
50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**TONS OF TOYS!**

Memorable meals & amazing gifts.

Skagit’s Best Grocery Store! • [skagitfoodcoop.com](http://skagitfoodcoop.com) • 360.336.9777

**NORTHWEST**  
*fine furnishings*

Options for every home and budget

**New shipment! 43 Area Rugs**  
Sizes 3 x 5 to 7 x 10

- Desks • Lamps
- Garden Art • Wooden Toys
- Stylish Sofas and Loveseats
- Collectible Wooden Bowls
- PNW-Themed Gifts
- End Tables • More!

**360.424.8455**  
[www.nwff.com](http://www.nwff.com)  
[nwffinefurnishings@gmail.com](mailto:nwffinefurnishings@gmail.com)

**Stop by our showroom today!**  
919 Riverside Dr., Mount Vernon, WA  
Mon thru Sat, 9:30a-5:30p

## Sales

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

levels in the market.”

November’s Skagit County’s total active home listings are down 56, 20.3% from 2022. In the La Conner market, there are almost 50% fewer homes, only 14, from the 27 for sale last year.

Countywide inventory stands at 75 days, the highest this year. La Conner’s inventory is 52 days. Anacortes has a 116 day supply. This is the number of days estimated for all houses to sell if none were added.

Data are from the Kirkland-based Northwest Multiple Listing Service and Don Elliott, managing broker, Coldwell Banker Bain Real Estate. The NWMLS is a member-owned real estate broker organization.

The La Conner area is roughly the La Conner School District’s boundaries.

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

**Happy New Year!**

Burton Custom Natural Emerald ring set in 18K Yellow Gold  
2.09ct yellow diamond set in 18k yellow gold  
4ct Garnet pendant in 14k yellow gold

**We Have a Wonderful Selection of Excellent Jewelry in Store for You!**

**Cheers to you and yours, and all the best in the new year. Thank you for your wonderful patronage throughout all the years! We pledge our continued support to you and the community going forward.**

—The Burton Crew

**Hours 10:30am - 5:00pm, Tuesday - Saturday**

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

**BURTON JEWELERS SINCE 1930**

7th & Commercial in Anacortes Washington  
[burtonjewelers.com](http://burtonjewelers.com) • 888-293-6469 • [info@burtonjewelers.com](mailto:info@burtonjewelers.com)

REGISTERED JEWELER • AMERICAN GEM SOCIETY

**La Conner Pub**  
VOTED SKAGIT’S BEST FISH & CHIPS 2023  
EST. 1972 Family Operated

**& EATERY, Inc.**

**Kitchen OPEN**  
 > Sun. thru Thurs., until 9 PM  
 > Fri. & Sat. until 10 PM

**360-466-9932**  
702 S. First St. • Waterfront Dining

**LINCOLN THEATRE** 712 S. 1st St. • Mount Vernon, WA

**NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH**  
WITH **EDEN** FEATURING **SAVANNA WOODS** AND **TAYLOR**  
DECEMBER 31 7:30 PM

**ACOUSTIC AFTER-PARTY AT DISTRICT**

360.336.8955  
[lincolntheatre.org](http://lincolntheatre.org)

**VINTAGE LaCONNER THRIFT SHOP**

**BLING IN THE NEW YEAR!**

**Celebrate with Dressy Duds for you and Great Glassware for your Guests' Libations**

All proceeds benefit our local community.

No Donations Monday  
Jan. 1st Happy New Year!

Open  
Fri - Sat - Sun  
11am - 5pm  
3<sup>rd</sup> & Morris  
Get a thrill from a thrift!

**The La Conner Weekly News: Your community newspaper**

**Read it wherever you are**

Stay informed with the Weekly News

Keep connected: Part of your role as a citizen in our democracy

Subscribe or give a gift. Call or go online. Get the paper that delivers.

119 N. Third St., La Conner, WA 98257  
360-466-3315 • Fax 360-466-1195 • [www.laconnerweeklynews.com](http://www.laconnerweeklynews.com)