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**Tidewater Boil at La Conner Marina • p 8**

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# LA CONNER WEEKLY NEWS

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## This summer was a dry one



DUST IN THE WIND — Top soil billows out behind a tractor as a field along Best Road is plowed on a dry day.

— Photo by Nancy Crowell

## Drought persists, requires adjustments and acceptance

By Adam Soward

“We know we’re contending with Mother Nature every year,” said Michael Hughes, a partner in Hughes Farm. That knowledge does not make farming any easier, especially when the river is low and the rains don’t fall. This year’s drought has produced mixed effects while forcing adjustments and acceptance. Skagit County has been in a state-declared drought since July 24. The county is also experiencing its sixth driest year to date, according to the National Integrated Drought Information System. Farmers with junior water rights faced their earliest curtailment from pumping out of the Skagit River. Skagit PUD transferred water for agricultural use, and for the first time, charged for it.

“This year has been a year of extremes,” said Vivian Larson, who operates Everyday Flowers and raises about three acres of flowers for wholesale markets.

Those extremes have brought a range of frustrations.

Potato plants showed early signs of stress. Based on experience, Hughes anticipates lower yields and smaller profiles, which are less desired in some markets.

When Drainage and Irrigation Improvement Districts 15 and 22 had to stop pumping water from the river in June, stress increased. “The people

I am talking to were very stressed out in late June, early July,” said Jenna Friebel, executive director of the

**“Knowing that there’s water there but we can’t use it ... adds a whole lot of stress to everyone.”**

Michael Hughes, Hughes Farm

Skagit Drainage and Irrigation District Consortium.

Many farmers saw the dry fall and groundwater situation over the winter and anticipated the drought, so the delay was particularly irritating. “Knowing that there’s water there but we can’t use it ... adds a whole lot of stress to everyone,” Hughes said.

While conditions worsened, Friebel worked with Skagit PUD to prepare for a water transfer. Transfers do not require a declared drought, but that does expedite the process. Once the state declared the emergency, the transfer happened smoothly.

It helped, but, “Once the plants start having that drought stress, you’re just trying to hold what’s left,” said

Hughes. “It’s already impacted yield.”

Friebel and the farmers are looking ahead and hoping to find longer term solutions to a basic dilemma: demands exceed supply. Droughts make this obvious. Friebel hopes to reach an agreement with Skagit PUD for transfers in the future not dependent on drought declarations. She knows that a longer-term solution is required, because the PUD is not set up to provide irrigation water.

“We’re looking for solutions that don’t impact the fisheries,” said Friebel. She hopes that studies from the Joint Legislative Task Force on Water Supply will pave the way for reliable solutions for agricultural water supplies.

The lack of rainfall has been a concern, but the season has had some benefits. “Fortunately, this year we didn’t have the extreme heat we’ve had in the past,” said Hughes. “That did help the plants because they didn’t have to contend with as hot of temperatures.” Also, dry conditions help keep diseases away.

Larson agreed, recalling the two heat dome events in 2021 that “just burned everything up.” Dryness offers some advantages. “Constantly wet blossoms do not do well,” she said.

Sam Bowhay and Linda Fenstermaker of First Cut Farm grow

(continued on page 2)

## La Conner Schools need bus drivers

By Bill Reynolds

La Conner Schools Finance Director David Cram is confident the district’s new fiscal game plan is headed in the right direction after declining student enrollment and loss of COVID-19 emergency funds forced severe budget cuts for the 2023-24 academic year.

Now Cram is hopeful the district’s transportation department can likewise get past some bumps in the road in the form of a bus driver shortage that has plagued La Conner Schools since the start of the calendar year.

“We’re definitely in need of drivers,” said Cram, whose expanded role this year – yet another indicator of the district’s shrinking budget – includes overseeing La Conner’s transportation operations.

“Right now,” Cram told the Weekly News, “we’re running buses at full capacity and we’ve had to consolidate routes.”

Because more student will spend more time on buses, Cram said the district is also exploring placement of adult monitors on daily routes.

“We’re trying to put monitors on the buses,” he (continued on page 5)

## John Roozen gets award at SPF annual auction-dinner

By Anne Basye

You may not know John Roozen – but you probably know his truck.

On any given day, a red F250 Power Stroke diesel truck from the late 1990s may pass you on Calhoun or McLean roads – or may be parked in a field on your route.

“John has about 500,000 miles on his Ford pickup,” Dave Hedlin told attendees at the Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland auction last Saturday night. “About 100,000 of them are in support of the agricultural infrastructure of Skagit County, whether that’s through the Skagitonians, the Northwest Ag Research Center, Washington State ag research or water issues.”

Roozen, co-owner and field manager of Washington Bulb Company, was recognized at the auction for his 32 years of service to the SPF board – and a lifetime in Skagit farming.

During her introduction, board member Kim Good-Rubenstein said that because the 73-year-old Roozen knows “every happening in Skagit County since before he was born,” the board often “gets history lessons from him”.

He wears his passions on his sleeve, she said. Preserving farmland in Skagit County is a big one.

“By looking to the south mostly and to the north, we don’t have to imagine what’s going to



Kim Good-Rubenstein and John Roozen

(continued on page 5)

## Sunny day for Christianson’s Pumpkin Festival

By Sarah Walls and Ken Stern

Harvey Cardwell from Oregon City, Oregon grew the winning pumpkin at the 13th Annual Skagit Valley Pumpkin Festival at Christianson’s Nursery Saturday. The pumpkin weighed 1,460 pounds. It was the first time he had ever grown and weighed a pumpkin in a contest. He has grown vegetables before but this was the first year he grew pumpkins.

Just how much water does a giant pumpkin need? Up to 600 gallons daily during the heat of summer said Cardwell when asked.

He has two more growing at home also.

He was joined by his sister Hillary Bedortha. They drove about 4 1/2 hours to get here, leaving around 5 a.m.

First prize was \$2,000, a beautiful ribbon and perhaps the best part: sharing the experience with his sister. If it was not for her, he would not have

entered.

There were over \$5,000 in cash prizes for the largest pumpkins and squash and also for the prettiest and ugliest pumpkins.

Last year’s winner was slightly bigger, at over 1,500 pounds. The festival is an official weigh-off site for the Giant Pumpkin Commonwealth. The festival was sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Giant Pumpkin Growers, the Skagit Valley Food Co-op and Tractor Supply.

Festival activities included a hay maze by Camp Korey, tractor rides and FARM animal rescue and mentoring with goats and donkeys.

The pumpkins will be available for viewing for the next week or two at Christianson’s and some winners may be displayed at the Skagit Valley Food Co-op.



THE WINNER IS – Harvey Cardwell and his sister came up from Oregon City, OR, for their first pumpkin contest. – Photo by Sarah Walls

From the editor—

## Shortening short term rentals

La Conner staff and the planning commission are updating the Town's short-term rental regulations. These rentals are only permitted in the commercial zone – in commercial buildings. What purpose will changing these regulations serve? Whom will benefit? What is broken that has to be fixed?

Google “short term rental critique” and this article is near the top: “Affordable Housing and the Impact of Short-Term Rentals.” Staff at the Municipal Research and Services Center wrote it for local officials. That is an in-state nonprofit organization with the vision of “empowering local governments to better serve their communities.” It defines itself as providing “services to all 281 cities and towns in Washington.”

The article offers in conclusion: “For those communities wrestling with a tight housing supply and a strong tourist/visitor market, however, affordable housing is another significant policy factor to weigh when a local government is considering how strictly to regulate short-term rentals. ... [M]any experts believe that STRs do have a negative impact on affordable housing at the local level, especially in high-tourism communities.”

Who has asked the planning commission and staff to expand short term rentals into town neighborhoods?

For years there has been passionate lip service about expanding housing to working class wage earners. This language is in La Conner's comprehensive plan:

“The Town faces new challenges and opportunities as it works toward providing housing options for present and future generations. Our community has low and moderate wage workers. Since a community benefits from its workers, it has a responsibility to ensure they have a desirable place to live. There is a growing concern over rising housing costs and affordable housing.”

But in typical even handed fashion, the plan also commits La Conner to: “working to encourage the availability of affordable housing for all economic segments of the population.” The only “availability” of housing built by for profit developers in the last seven years has been for the over half-million dollar-plus economic segment of the population.

Residents need to insist to the town's elected officials and staff that they stop “encourage[ing] the availability” of housing for the already well-endowed financially among us. Given the resources the property-buying class has, why aren't town policy and staff efforts 100% – exclusively – focused on dwelling units for the “low and moderate wage workers” who have to drive to their jobs here?

It took at least five years to build five dwellings in Channel Cove south of Caledonia Street. La Conner's government played little if any role in that. The town has a comprehensive plan that calls for encouraging “affordable housing for all economic segments of the population.” At the Sept. 12 town council meeting, Councilmember Mary Wohleb voiced the interest of absent Councilmember MaryLee Chamberlain that a moratorium be considered for short term rentals.

Enacted, it would be a baby step recognizing that to advance the needs of moderate wage earners, the desires of “all economic segments of the population” cannot be met. The buyers of \$1.3 million – or even \$759,000 – homes need to fend for themselves – and quit hogging planning staff time and resources.

Chelan County's code regulating short term rentals states that it is necessary to protect “year-round residents' enjoyment of their homes and neighborhoods by minimizing the nuisance impact of short-term rentals on adjacent residences and by minimizing the detrimental impact of excessive short-term rentals on the affordable housing supply.”

Chelan County elected officials and staff are not concerned about some residents trying to gain extra income by renting out their homes while they, what – go elsewhere for leisure and vacation?

While Labor Day has passed, we can continue to ask and sing the question, “Which side are you on?”

– Ken Stern

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Caring for creation

Pope Francis will release a follow-up document on the environment on Oct. 4, providing an update to his 2015 encyclical “Laudato Si’,” “On Care for Our Common Home” – a landmark papal letter that offered a rallying cry for global action in the fight against climate change. Francis said the new document is an effort to help “put an end to the senseless war against our common home” and comes after a summer of record-breaking rising temperatures, wildfires and storms.

The pope's remarks came during his general audience at the Vatican on Aug. 30. He first made mention of such a document during an Aug. 21 meeting with European lawyers, saying only that he was writing a “second part to ‘Laudato Si’” to update it on current problems.” Few details have emerged about its content, the Vatican only stating that it will address “the most recent extreme

weather events and catastrophes affecting people across the five continents.”

The pope's 2015 encyclical was timed to be released ahead of the United Nations climate change conference in Paris, where nearly 200 nations entered into a historic agreement to reduce carbon emissions. In his remarks to the lawyers, he said “that future generations are entitled to receive from our hands a beautiful and habitable world and that this entails grave responsibilities toward the natural world that we have received from the hands of God.”

The Oct. 4 release date of the new exhortation is the feast day of the pope's namesake, St. Francis of Assisi – the 12th century saint known for his concern for the poor and the environment. It is also the date of the final day of what is known as the “Season of Creation,” a month-long ecumenical initiative aimed at inspiring greater prayer and environmental action among Christians.

## Washington Supreme Court: State does not have to pay 100% of school construction costs

By Jerry Cornfield -

The Washington Supreme Court ruled Sept. 7 the state is not required to fully cover school construction costs, dealing a blow to districts unable to raise the local tax dollars they need for new buildings and other facility upgrades.

In its unanimous decision, the court said Washington's constitutional mandate for the state to amply fund basic education does not extend to capital project expenses. Rather, it envisions the state and local school districts will “share the responsibility.”

“It is certainly true that students need buildings, labs and gyms to gain an education,” Justice Sheryl Gordon McCloud wrote for the majority. But, she noted, “it is clear that the constitution as a whole treats funding for school capital costs differently than it treats funding for other education costs.”

It creates a “workable scheme,” she wrote, in which districts can raise money from passage of levies and bonds and, if eligible, obtain funding from the state's school construction program.

The decision leaves untouched the existing process of requiring districts to provide some money upfront before they qualify for a cut from the state's School Construction Assistance Program. It also leaves the door ajar for future legislative and maybe judicial, actions to clarify the sharing of costs.

Associate Chief Justice Charles Johnson, in a concurring opinion, said the current system isn't working as intended and can be unfair.

“The existing program does not help the districts that need it the most because they cannot pass the necessary bond,” he wrote. “The State should not selectively deny funds for high-quality education environments based on the district's lack of local monetary support.”

He suggested there should be further consideration of whether the state should be responsible for a specific percentage of costs and if the constitution “creates an obligation that the common school construction fund be distributed in a manner that is accessible to the low-income, rural districts.”

### Dismissed but not defeated

From Washington's birth as a state until the middle of the last century, local school districts bore responsibility for building and maintaining their campuses.

In the 1960s, the state constitution was amended to include the creation of a common school construction fund. Today, the state provides grants to school districts for construction and modernization primarily through the School Construction Assistance Program.

It doesn't make sense for faith groups to approach climate action only from their own respective traditions. As Pope Francis said in “Laudato Si'”: “We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing and its human roots, concern and affect us all. We require a new and universal solidarity.” The vital work of care for creation must be done together.

Fr. Paul Magnano  
Parish Priest  
Skagit Valley  
Catholic Churches

To be eligible, current law requires a school district provide local funding “equal to or greater than the difference between the total approved project cost and the amount of state funding assistance.”

The state Supreme Court case arose from the plight of a tiny school district in Wahkiakum County, along the Columbia River, that's been unable to qualify for a cut of state aid because its voters are rejecting bond measures.

The Wahkiakum School District has less than 500 students, more than half are low-income and fewer than 3,500 registered voters whose per capita income is approximately \$29,000. Voters most recently turned down a bond in 2020 that was to help build a high school.

In its suit, the district cited the state constitution tenet that it is the “paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders.”

The district argued it “does not have the facilities needed to safely provide all its students a realistic and effective opportunity to obtain the knowledge and skills encompassed within the word ‘education,’” according to the ruling.

As a result, it argued it was incumbent upon the state to pay for those facilities. Had the district prevailed, it could have forced the state to pick up a multi-billion dollar tab for school projects underway and planned across the state.

“Our case was dismissed. That's very disappointing. But it doesn't mean the issue is resolved or over,” Superintendent Brent Freeman said after the ruling. “When the district doesn't have the capacity to access those [School Construction Assistance Program] funds, that's unconstitutional. We're not the only district in this situation.”

Attorney Thomas Ahearne, who represented the district, said this case is done but the district and others in the same position, will keep fighting.

“To now sit on the sidelines would only entrench the deep chasm that currently separates the education our state provides to students in wealthier ZIP codes and students in lower-income ZIP codes like Wahkiakum,” he said in a statement.

### In pursuit of justice

Arguments in this case echo those underlying the court's historic 2012 ruling in the McCleary case that rewrote the rules for how the state pays for providing a basic K-12 education.

A lawsuit filed in 2007 by parents and educators led to the Supreme Court deciding state funding for education was not adequate, equitable or ample. Justices also found the school funding system unconstitutional because it caused school districts to use local property taxes to pay for basic education.

It gave the state several years to set things right because they had to unravel a half-century of legislative decisions on which the funding of public schools was built – illegally, it turned out.

In its ruling Thursday, Gordon McCloud noted that while McCleary and a 1978 case involving the Seattle School District emphasized the state must provide ample funding for a basic education, neither explicitly included or excluded capital construction costs.

“This court has the duty to define the broad constitutional guidelines of an education and the legislature has the duty to give substantive content to the program of basic education,” she wrote.

After the ruling, Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal said he would ask the Legislature to continue to invest in grant programs that support school construction in the primarily rural communities with smaller tax bases.

And the chief architects of the state capital budget said they're interested in revisiting and revising, rules to ensure Wahkiakum gets a better shot at state funds. School construction funding is a major piece of the capital spending plan.

“We need to come up with a different formula that works and that is fair and has some community participation,” said Rep. Steve Tharinger, D-Port Townsend, chair of the House Capital Budget Committee.

Lawmakers nearly passed a bill this year to make changes sought by small districts. A version passed in each chamber but the differences could not be reconciled before adjournment.

“We've still got to find more ways to help build and maintain schools in districts with low property values or that have difficulty passing local bonds,” said Sen. Mark Mullet, D-Issaquah, vice chair of the Ways and Means Committee. “We couldn't come to a final agreement last year, but I'm committed to continuing that work and reaching an agreement.”

## Drought

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)  
grow organic vegetables and faced the drought with mixed reactions. Last year's cold, damp spring meant everything was late, slowing cashflow and harming potatoes. By contrast, the dryness this year is good for their beans, which mold easily. Fortunately, First Cut Farm had access to water, but Bowhay and Fenstermaker worry about the water table's future. “We need the rain to come back soon,” said Fenstermaker.

Usually, autumn rains soften the ground and cool it. Without that, according to Hughes, “the ground just stays hard, and you start damaging potatoes when you get to harvest.”

Larson tries to maintain perspective. “I think there's always going to be something like the weather that changes something that we do. It's been that way forever, whether too much rain, too much heat, too much cold. ... There's no way we can control that.” she said. “To worry about that is not something that I choose to do.”

## CORRECTION

Mikala Staples Hughes spoke for her own interests as an agricultural executive, passionate about the preservation of farm operations, at the Skagit County hearing on agritourism. She is

not with Hughes Farms as the Sept. 6 correction in the Weekly News stated. She is the wife of a fourth generation farmer.

The editor regrets the error.

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# Town Council approves purchases of key saltwater flood mitigation items

By Bill Reynolds

The sands of time have shifted from the hourglass to poly bags that will soon be strategically placed along the La Conner waterfront ahead of king tide season.

Facing an Oct. 1 deadline to install sandbags and ecology blocks in areas prone to flooding, the La Conner Town Council last week approved purchases of equipment and barriers designed to thwart the high-water damage that plagued the town last December.

The council, acting upon recommendations of the Emergency Management Commission, gave Public Works Director Brian Lease the go-ahead at its Sept. 12 hybrid session to buy ecology blocks, pre-filled poly sandbags and a generator in preparation for fall and winter high tide conditions on Swinomish Channel.

Commission chair Bill Stokes said beforehand it was imperative that the council take immediate action.

"We only have until October for Brian to get all this done in time," Stokes said.

Lease, whose staff have filled nearly 800 bags to date, said he will order another 5,600 pre-filled bags. He said the poly bags can last up to three years if properly handled and stored.

"We intend to get them staged

right away and we intend to reuse them," Lease said.

Lease said he had received overwhelming support from waterfront store owners to proactively place flood barriers on their properties. Stokes also reported positive responses from Upper Skagit Indian Tribe representatives, whom he had met with on Sept. 1, about putting ecology blocks on their spacious south waterfront site.

The Town has secured temporary use of pumps, a sandbagger machine and forklift to round out its short-term flood mitigation plan.

The emergency management commission, which convenes the hour prior to council meetings, is charged with addressing short-term and long-range flood impacts as well as preparedness strategies for other natural disasters, including earthquakes, tsunamis and wildland fires.

"Washington is the second most seismic state in the lower 48," reminded commissioner Jerry George. "A category seven earthquake would knock out La Conner's water and power. We, as a group, should continue to work on this."

Town Administrator Scott Thomas agreed.

"In the case of an earthquake," Thomas said, "we're going to rely on others beyond what we can handle ourselves."

Councilmember Rick Dole, liaison to the commission, said a good starting point is for residents to collaborate with their neighbors.

"It's important to get to know your neighbors and their needs," Dole said, "so that there's that level of awareness in case of an emergency. Communication is the key."

Stokes suggested the development of emergency preparedness brochures for distribution at community events such as high school football games.

Commissioner Jamie Thromorton provided her colleagues with a detailed handout on climate change.

"People are worried about climate change," she said, "but people don't know where to turn yet."

Thromorton favors integrating La Conner's disaster preparedness and emergency management experience with similar communities.

"I would like to communicate with other coastal towns impacted by climate change," she said. "We need more education and communication. These are going to be serious times in the next couple of decades. All of us need to start thinking about it in order to make more informed decisions. It will be a long process. It's not going to happen today or tomorrow."

# FD 13 Open House names units to honor Larry Kibbee

By Bill Reynolds

Contributions to local firefighting by retired Skagit County Fire District 13 Commissioner Larry Kibbee won't soon – if ever – be forgotten.

That is because Kibbee's name will be associated with improvements at the district's Snee-Oosh Road firehall.

The district's new firefighter and EMT residential units will be dedicated in honor of Kibbee's service and showcased during a Sept. 13 public open house 12-2 p.m. at the Snee-Oosh station.

"It will be a two-hour event," district fire chief Wood Weiss said, and will include building tours, information booths, distribution of bicycle safety helmets by Swinomish Tribal Police, smoke alarm demonstrations by American Red Cross representatives and a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The day comes amid what has been a busy year for the fire district, whose coverage area includes Swinomish Reservation and rural La Conner.

Weiss said district emergency crews are on pace to respond to about 1,500 service calls in 2023.

"We're a very busy district," Weiss told fire commissioners during their monthly hybrid meeting last Thursday.

District 13 rolled on 130 calls in August. The district logged 945 incident responses from January through August this year, up from 910 a year ago and 810 over the same eight-month period in 2021.

Weiss and Assistant Chief Jamie Jurdi themselves were busy throughout the Sept. 14 session as they administered several oaths of office, including the promotion to captain of medical officer Drew Farrell.

The commissioners' meeting was held at 8 a.m., one hour earlier than usual, so district staff could attend the funeral of Swinomish Indian Tribal Community Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Chief Joe Bailey.

The commissioners, who regularly convene on the second Thursday of each month, will meet Oct. 5 at 9 a.m.

# Fall and pirates ahoy

Did you talk like a pirate Tuesday, the 26th annual International Talk like a Pirate Day?

Arr you ready for fall? It starts Friday, Sept. 22 at 11:50 p.m.

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## La Conner School District laments Wahkiakum state Supreme Court funding decision

By Bill Reynolds

The Wahkiakum School District lost its two-year legal challenge seeking increased state funding for campus building and maintenance projects Washington state's Supreme Court unanimously ruled Sept. 7.

La Conner Schools officials feel the southwest Washington district's pain. "It was too bad that they lost," La Conner School Board President Susie Deyo said during the local panel's 45-minute study session Sept. 11.

The district had donated \$3,000 to the Wahkiakum district's legal battle.

"All together, they raised about \$100,000," Deyo said. The Wahkiakum County district challenged a statewide funding model requiring commitment by a super-majority of district taxpayers to long-term bonds to finance school capital improvements.

Wahkiakum voters have not approved a school construction bond in more than 20 years. School leaders there have argued that rural and low property wealth districts with limited tax bases are unfairly impacted by the present system.

The state Supreme Court didn't see it that way, deciding

that the state isn't required to cover 100 per cent of school capital improvements costs.

The litigation, citing outdated wiring and leaky roofs on its 400-student campus, had sought extension of the state's mandate to fully fund basic education to include campus construction and maintenance work. The court, however, opined that school construction is a shared responsibility between local and state governments.

Here, district officials had for several years set aside \$200,000 annually for capital projects. That is not an option now. Reduced revenue from declining student enrollment and loss of federal COVID-19 emergency funds forced severe 2023-2024 budget cuts. The district was able to complete major roofing and siding repairs last year thanks in large measure to contributions by the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.

Deyo said that despite the Wahkiakum setback at the state Supreme Court, state schools chief Chris Reykdal remains onboard with efforts to obtain construction and maintenance cost relief for rural districts.

"He has said he will continue to lobby before the legislature for more capital funds and also to reduce the levy approval rate to

Girls win, now 2-2

## High school soccer teams making progress

By Bill Reynolds

The Lady Braves soccer team gained a win in town last Thursday. Lydia Grossglass and Maicy Bowles scored goals and Josi Straathof and Annika Keith recorded key saves for a home non-conference victory over Forest Ridge Sacred Heart High of Bellevue. The La Conner girls' soccer team (2-2) was slated to open league play at home Tuesday opposite Friday Harbor.

**Boys soccer**

The Braves soccer team, meanwhile, played NW2B power and defending state champion Friday Harbor on nearly equal terms at home Friday afternoon.

The Wolverines, with the wind

at their back, bolted to a 2-0 halftime lead before holding on for a 2-1 victory.

Rueben Hall scored for La Conner after the break and Hadden Zimmerman almost deadlocked matters with a long shot that sailed slightly wide right in the waning moments.

La Conner was looking to square its ledger after opening with a 1-0 shutout loss at Lopez Island.

Braves' head coach Galen McKnight lauded his entire roster afterward for having competed hard against Friday Harbor. He singled out goalkeeper Tyler Cicotte – who made several clutch saves in just his second-ever start in the net – and

Kale Navarrette Higgins for outstanding play.

"It was a hard-fought match," said McKnight. "I thought Tyler was awesome. He had lots of saves. And Kale played great, too."

Cicotte said he wasn't nervous facing the defending state champs.

"I got the nerves out of the way in that first game at Lopez," he said.

Next up for the Braves, who were at Mount Vernon Christian on Monday, is Friday's (Sept. 22) visit to Concordia Christian Academy in Tacoma.

## Football Braves fall to Friday Harbor's Wolverines

By Bill Reynolds

Friday Harbor converted three straight second quarter La Conner turnovers into touchdowns, securing a convincing 41-0 NW2B grid triumph at Whittaker Field on Thursday.

Quarterback Whiley McCutcheon threw a pair of scoring tosses to Triston Bremer and ran for another TD – all in the final 5:14 of the opening half – to break open what had been a closely fought defensive battle

in the league opener for both teams.

With the win, Friday Harbor improved to 2-1 overall. La Conner, fell to 0-2 after a 28-12 setback to 2A Evergreen of Seattle.

The team was minus four starters, including playmaker Tommy Murdock.

Murdock, a state hurdles champion, was out sick. Other key players missed to attend funeral services for revered Swinomish Fish & Wildlife Enforcement Chief Joe Bailey.

The Braves were down just one score early in the second frame when a low snap in punt formation turned the ball over to Friday Harbor at the La Conner 25.

McCutcheon then marshalled a short five-play scoring march capped by a 14-yard TD strike to Bremer. McCutcheon followed with a two-point conversion run that extended the lead

to 14-0.

On La Conner's ensuing series, the Braves' fumble on their 22-yard line. McCutcheon threw another touchdown pass on the next play. The extra point made it 21-0.

A promising drive, set up by a Logan Burks kickoff return to the Braves' 40, was thwarted by yet another turnover. After quarterback Ivory Damien scrambled for 21 yards and C.J. Edwards gained another six, the Braves fumbled again. Six plays later McCutcheon blasted in from two yards out, making it 27-0 at the break.

The Wolverines added a pair of second half scores. The caper was a McCutcheon 64-yard sweep around left end with 1:01 to play in the third quarter.

La Conner did have some highlights to build on ahead of the Braves' league test at Coupeville this Friday.

Damien connected in the second half on pass completions of 12 and 25 yards to Edwards and an 18-yarder to freshman Jimbo Bobb. Kenai Zimmerman reeled off a 13-yard first down run off left tackle in the final stanza. Damien placed a punt at the Friday Harbor one-yard-line after the team's final series stalled at the Wolverines' 29.

La Conner and Friday Harbor will meet again Oct. 13 on San Juan Island.

The Braves are aiming to make plays like that on a more consistent basis starting with their Sept. 22 date with the Wolves.

La Conner head coach Charlie Edwards' charges will face a Coupeville team making its NW2B debut. The Wolves opened the season with two non-league losses.

## Volleyball team crushes Concrete on road

By Bill Reynolds

The new-look La Conner High School volleyball team, beset with heavy graduation losses, produced quite familiar results at NW2B foe Concrete Thursday night.

The defending state 2B title winners forged a straight-sets triumph in

their league debut, after successive setbacks to tough 1A net programs Lynden Christian and Meridian and a 3-1 loss to a talented 1B Neah Bay club Wednesday at Landy James Gym. Neah Bay swept NW2B Coupeville, a team La Conner is expected to vie for conference top honors, during its long two-

match road swing from Cape Flattery last week.

The Lady Braves (1-0 in NW2B play, 1-3 overall) return to their non-conference schedule tonight (Wednesday) against 4A Glacier Peak.



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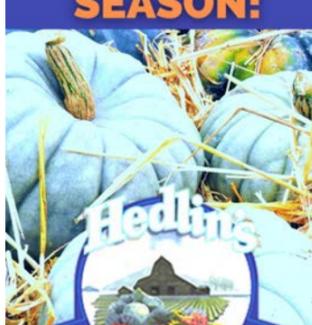
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18841 Kelleher Road, Burlington, WA 98233



# Ask a Master Gardener

## Tallamy's 'home-grown' national park

by Joan Stamm

For 30 years, I've been enamored with native plants from Asia – peony, azalea, camellia, hydrangea, wisteria, kerria, bamboo and chrysanthemum to name a few. But recently, after reading Douglas Tallamy's "Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard," I've turned to northwestern natives.

Tallamy, a professor of entomology and wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware, urges us to ditch our lawns and ornamentals and grow native plants instead. "Turfgrass has replaced diverse native plant communities in more than 40 million acres and we are adding 500 square miles of lawn to the United States each year," he writes.

Then there's the question of our water resources as we see drought spreading across the western U.S. and parts of the world. "In the U.S., lawn irrigation consumes on average more than eight billion gallons of water daily," and, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "40-60 percent of fertilizers applied to lawns end up in surface and groundwater." In addition, we have pesticides that further contaminate our water and routinely kill pollinators. "Forty percent of these chemicals are banned in other countries because they are carcinogens."

Tallamy's mission is to begin a grass-roots movement of individual homeowners and gardeners growing native plants to create corridors of natural landscape.

He suggests three action steps:

- Reduce our lawns to curb water, fertilizer and pesticide use.
- Plant more natives (to bring in beneficial habitat, food for native pollinators and reduce water use.
- Remove invasives because they crowd out and replace vital natives.

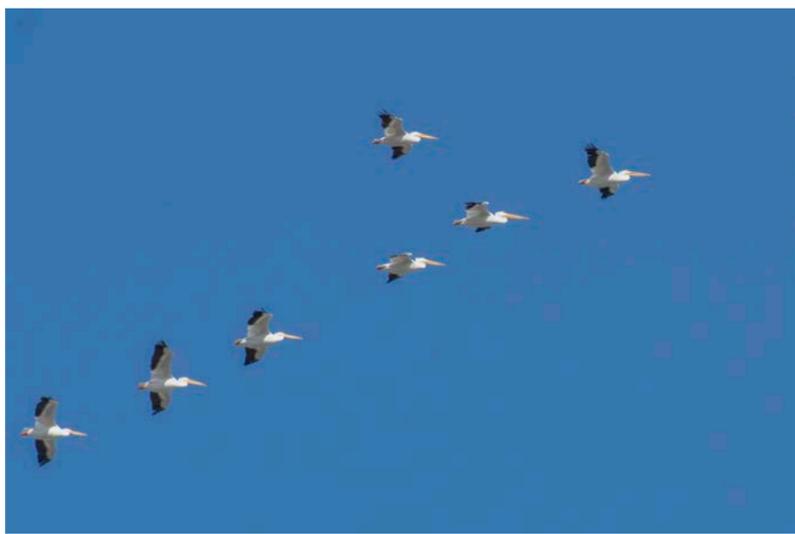
After reading Tallamy's book

I woke up to how "me" centered my gardening had been: growing plants that pleased only me, without the slightest thought to our many birds, butterflies, bees and other creatures struggling to survive. For example, I found no reference that listed my beloved peonies as pollinator-friendly plants in the Pacific Northwest. Hydrangea? No. Kerria and wisteria? Not really. Camellia? Maybe. Cisco Morris suggests that Anna's hummingbirds enjoy "Yuletide," since it is red, single-petaled and blooms in winter, but I have no personal observation to report. More importantly, "80% of a hummingbird's diet is insects and spiders."

"And what about cultivars?" many ask Tallamy. What about those many stunning and alluring flower and leaf varieties produced through selective breeding that we find at most of our nurseries? According to research done by Tallamy and other scientists, whether a cultivar retains any benefit to pollinators depends on what was modified. He advises avoiding plants where the leaf color has been changed from green to brown, purple or red (because insects like chlorophyll) and it is best to avoid flowers that went from single-petaled to multi-petaled (bees can't get inside), or plants that have been made sterile. On the other hand, a woody plant made shorter is relatively okay. In sum, no one size fits all.

A quick tutorial can be found on the Grow Native website: [grownative.org/learn/natives-cultivars-and-nativars/](http://grownative.org/learn/natives-cultivars-and-nativars/) or in the Q&A in Tallamy's book.

For more specific ideas, photos and discussion about creating native gardens and their beneficial impacts on the ecosystem read the Skagit County WSU Extension Master Gardener blog post at [skagitmg.org/natures\\_hope/](http://skagitmg.org/natures_hope/)



NOT SNOW GEESE - A squadron of white pelicans that flew over La Conner Sept. 18 around 4 p.m. might have temporarily fooled people looking for snow geese, but their considerable size made it clear they were a different type of water fowl.

—Photo by Nancy Crowell

## Buses . . . (from page 1)

confirmed on Thursday. There is a need for drivers to cover academic field trips and transportation to and from athletic events through the school year. "The sports trips are a good deal for people who like to watch the games," said Cram, a three-sport athlete when he attended La Conner. The district has had a driver shortage since coming out of the pandemic. Add to that several retirements and loss of staff – including longtime transportation director (and current school board

member) Kim Pedroza to other districts. Former department mechanic Randy Swift, now retired, alerted the board last January to the budding bus driver shortage. "Right now," he said then, "it's past critical. If I didn't care, I wouldn't be here." La Conner is not alone in being short bus drivers. Districts across the region, state and nation are likewise feeling the crunch. Media outlets have reported on the topic, noting that some districts have staggered bus schedules and even paid parents to drive to fill

driver shortages. A USA Today analysis reported that every state in the country has faced difficulties from the lack of qualified school bus drivers. Cram, who invites those interested in joining the district's transportation team to contact him, said among the benefits the local district offers is staff camaraderie. "We have a lot of great people, quite a few of them alums," said Cram, pointing to longtime driver Barb Howlett as a prime example, "who care about the district and are all about doing what's best for kids."

## Roozen (from page 1)

happen if we don't fight hard right now," Roozen said in a video produced for the event. "I want to pass this unbelievable thing on as best I can and that's why the Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland is so important to me." Besides Hedlin and Rubenstein, many greater La Conner residents and farmers were among the 300 people at the St. Joseph Center in Mount Vernon.

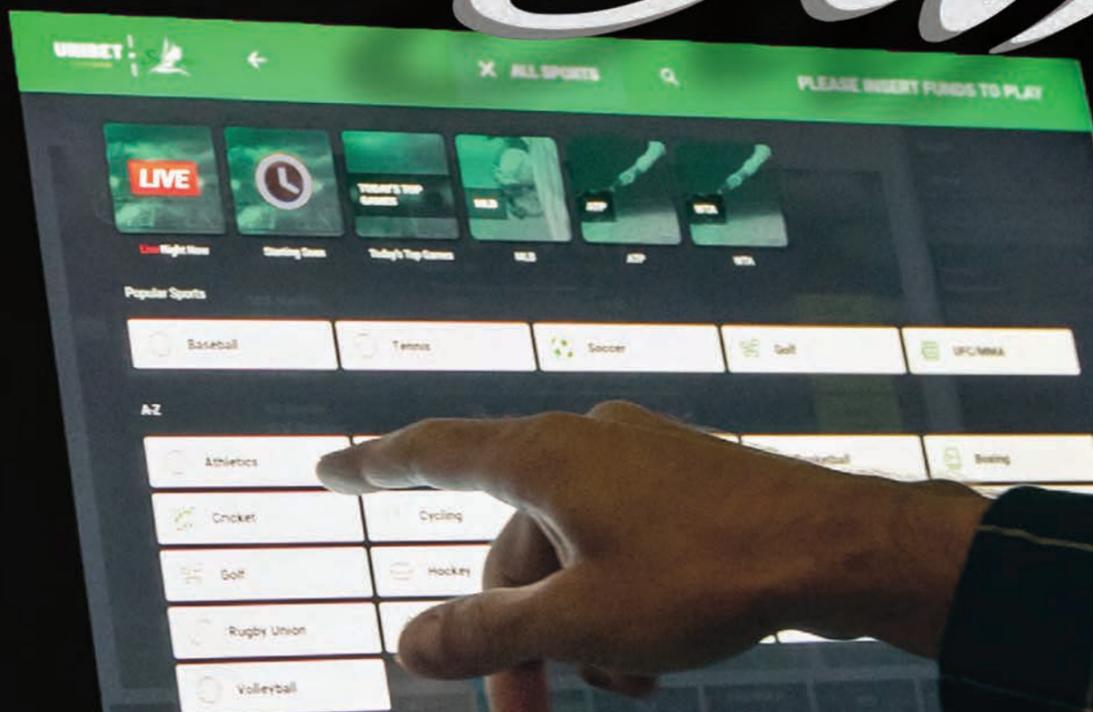
La Conner Seafood and Prime Rib showcased the bounty of the Magic Skagit, with 90 percent of the menu produced locally by, among others, Hedlin Family Farm, Water Tank Bakery and Hart's Farm and Homestead. Georgia Johnson, Patsy Good, Schuh Farms and The Fork contributed desserts. Kevin Paul's sculpture of a sleeping WSU cougar was auctioned off for \$4200. A weekend "Escape to La Conner" donated by Good-Rubenstein and Thomas Palmer

of the Oyster and Thistle earned \$800. Roozen and Good-Rubenstein's annual "Amber Waves of Grain Dinner" for eight, served in a Roozen wheat or barley field, netted \$4,000. The \$237,000 raised Saturday night will go to support SPF's work. Next time John Roozen drives by in his truck, wave. Who knows? You may already know him, for when Good-Rubenstein asked everyone present who knew John Roozen to raise their hand – half the audience did.

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**AGENDA**

**TOWN OF LA CONNER TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA**  
 Sept. 26, 2023  
 Skagit County Washington  
 Incorporated 1890  
 www.townoflaconner.org  
 I. Call to Order  
 II. Pledge of Allegiance  
 III. Public Comments (Limit: 3 minutes per person)  
 IV. Presentations: Anacortes Water Rates – Dan O’Donnell  
 V. CONSENT AGENDA  
 A. Consent Agenda (Approved without objection 5/0)  
 1. Approval of the Minutes: Council Meeting September 12, 2023  
 Finance:  
 Approval of Accounts Payable  
 Approval of Payroll  
**VI. REPORTS**  
 1. Administrator’s Report  
 2. Mayor’s Report  
 3. Council Committee Reports  
**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**  
 1. Center Street Project – Discussion  
 2. Jensen Property – Discussion  
 3. Parking Solutions for First Street - Discussion  
 4. Ordinance – News Rack Regulations  
 5. Strategic Plan  
**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**  
 1. 2024 Hotel Motel Distributions  
**IX. MAYOR ROUNDTABLE**

**X. EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
 There may be an executive session immediately preceding or following the meeting as allowed by RCW 42.30.110 and as announced by the presiding officer.

Join Zoom Meeting – This Meeting will be Recorded  
<https://phaudowud-online.zoom.us/j/85410251937?pwd=Z1dJmV2Y31sQnd-QZURtXdoaVd2UT09>  
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<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdZUmIT00>



- 1. **The Equalizer 3**  
 R) Denzel Washington, Dakota Fanning
- 2. **Barbie**  
 PG-13) Margot Robbie, Ryan Reynolds
- 3. **Blue Beetle**  
 PG-13) Xolo Maridueña, Bruna Marquezine
- 4. **Gran Turismo**  
 PG-13) David Harbour, Orlando Bloom
- 5. **Oppenheimer**  
 R) Cillian Murphy, Emily Blunt
- 6. **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem**  
 PG) Micah Abbey, Shamon Brown Jr.
- 7. **Bottoms**  
 R) Rachel Sennott, Ayo Edebiri
- 8. **Meg 2: The Trench**  
 PG-13) Jason Statham, Jing Wu
- 9. **Strays**  
 R) Will Ferrell, Jamie Foxx
- 10. **Talk to Me**  
 R) Ari McCarthy, Hamish Phillips

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**Weekly SUDOKU**  
 Answer

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

**Super Crossword**

**Answers**

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B	E	T	T	E	R	G	R	A	T	E	S	O	N	S	L	A	T	S	

**TOWN OF LA CONNER NOTICE OF APPLICATION/NOTICE OF HEARING PRELIMINARY MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE (PMDNS)**  
 Date: September 12, 2023  
 Application File #: LU23-30CU-IV, LU23-31SEPA  
 Applicant: La Conner Maritime Services  
 Owner: Port of Skagit  
 Town Contact Person: Michael Davolio AICP, Planning Director; P.O. Box 400, La Conner, WA 98257; 360-466-3125  
 Project Description: New 8,000 sq ft pre-engineered metal building for maintenance and repair of boats.  
 The project is in an area identified as 100 year flood plain. The parcel is within the 200’ shoreline setback, but the building site is not.  
 Project Location: 920 Pearl Jensen Way  
 Assessor Tax Parcel: P135729  
 Lead Agency: Town of La Conner  
**PROPOSED DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE (PDNS):** As the Lead Agency, the Town of La Conner has determined that significant environmental impacts are unlikely to result from the proposed project and expects to issue a Mitigated Determination of Non-significance on this proposal. The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable adverse impact on the environment, subject to the following mitigation measures:  
 • Available for review at Town Hall  
 An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2) (c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to public on request.  
 This PMDNS is issued using the optional DNS process in WAC 197-11-355. Comment periods for this proposed action and the proposed MDNS are integrated into a single comment period. This may be the only opportunity to comment on the environmental impacts of this proposal. There will be no comment period following the issuance of the Threshold Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance (MDNS). A 10-day appeal period will follow the issuance of the DNS.  
 Date of Permit Application: August 30, 2023  
 Date of Determination of Completeness: August 30, 2023  
 Land Use Designation: Port Industrial Zone  
 Environmental Documents That Evaluate the Proposed Project: SEPA Checklist dated July 31, 2023.  
 Development Regulations Used For Project Mitigation: The project is subject to the Town’s SEPA Code, Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Code, Engineering Standards, and other applicable local, state and federal regulations as appropriate.  
 Public Hearing: Hearing Examiner  
 Date/Time/Location: October 24th at 2:00 pm, location TBD. Location available at Town Hall two weeks before hearing.  
**CONDITIONS BEING CONSIDERED TO MITIGATE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:**

1. The Petitioners have filed with the Clerk of the above Court a Petition requesting relinquishment of the above-named child to them and praying that the parent/child relationship between the father (alleged father) of the above-named child and the above-named child be terminated.  
 2. A copy of the Petition is filed herein and is named as follows: PETITION FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS AND ADOPTION  
 3. You may respond to this Summons and Petition by filing a written response with the Clerk of the Court and serving a copy of your response on the person signing this Summons. If you do not serve your written response within twenty (20) days, or thirty (30) days if served outside of this state, after the date this Summons was served on you, exclusive

of the day of service, the Court may enter an Order of Default against you permanently terminating all of your rights to the above-named child. The Court may, without further notice to you, enter an Order relinquishing the child to the Petitioners, terminating your parent/child relationship, and approving or providing for the adoption of the above-named child.  
 4. The child was born on November 8, 2010. In the city of Brawley, CA.  
 5. The child’s mother is Ana Gonzales nka De Los Rios  
 6. The court hearing on this matter shall be held on the following date and time:  
 DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2023  
 TIME: 9:00 AM  
 PLACE: SKAGIT COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT, ROOM: TBD  
 7. Your failure to appear at this hearing may result in a Default Order permanently terminating all of your rights to the above-named child.  
 8. You are further notified that any non-consenting parent or alleged genetic parent has the right to be represented by an attorney, and an attorney will be appointed for an indigent person who requests an attorney. You are further notified that you have a right to file under Chapter 26.26 RCW a claim of paternity.  
 9. You are further notified that an alleged genetic parent’s failure to file a claim of paternity under chapter 26.26 RCW or to respond to the petition, within twenty (20) days, or thirty (30) days if served outside of this state, of the date of service of the petition is grounds to terminate his parent-child relationship with respect to the child.  
 10. You are further notified that if an alleged genetic parent of an Indian child acknowledges paternity of the child or if their paternity of the child is established prior to the termination of the parent-child relationship, that their parental rights may not be terminated unless he: (i) Gives valid consent to termination, or (ii) their parent-child relationship is terminated involuntarily pursuant to chapter 26.33 or 13.34 RCW.  
 11. If you wish to seek the advice of an attorney in this matter, you should do so promptly so that your written response, if any, may be served on time. Copies of these papers have not been served upon your attorney.  
 12. One method of filing your response is serving a copy on the petitioner by sending the response by Certified Mail with Return Receipt Requested.  
 DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.  
 Rachele Marie Eason, WSBA # 29922  
 Attorney for Petitioners  
**FILE ORIGINAL OF YOUR ANSWER AND OTHER DOCUMENTS WITH THE CLERK OF THE COURT AT:**  
 Skagit County Superior Court  
 205 W Kincaid, Room 103  
 Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
**SERVE A COPY OF YOUR ANSWER AND OTHER DOCUMENTS ON:**  
 Rachele Marie Eason  
 c/o the Eason Law Firm, PS  
 725 South 1st Street, Ste B  
 PO Box 1725  
 Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
 360.336.2221  
 Published in the La Conner Weekly News, Sept. 6, 13, 20, 2023.

**SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR KING COUNTY ESTATE OF LYNNE BEATTY RAVATT Deceased.**  
 NO. 23-4-05650-4SEA  
**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 provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the personal representative or the personal representative’s attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent’s probate assets and nonprobate assets.  
 Date of first publication: September 6, 2023  
 Personal Representative: Gail Ann Beatty  
 Attorney for Personal Representative: KRISTIN LILLQUIST REEDER, WSBA #29491  
 Address for Mailing Service: 2370 130th Avenue NE, Suite #103, Bellevue, WA 98005 (425) 861-1109  
 Court of probate proceedings and cause number: 23-4-05650-4SEA  
 King County Superior Court  
 Published in the La Conner Weekly News, Sept. 6, 13, 20, 2023.

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF STEVENS**  
 In the Matter of the Estate of: **ETHEL R. ADAMS Deceased.**  
 NO. 23-4-00136-33  
**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.

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

**APARTMENT FOR RENT:** On First St., channel view, center of town. Ideal for retirement, 1 bedroom over the Red Door. \$2,500 a month. 206-669-2447 or 360-708-6495

**JO’S HEALING HANDS.** Time for a massage. Call Jo’s Healing Hands for an appointment. 360-708-2022.

**RENTAL WANTED:** Mature La Conner business owner seeking 1 or 2 bedroom (one occupant) house, apartment, or condo in La Conner vicinity. Need before October 30. 360-299-2353.

**STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS ADVERTISE STATEWIDE** with a \$325 classified listing or

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:** September 20, 2023  
 Deborah “Debi” A. Adams, Personal Representative, c/o McGrane & Schuerman Alison K. McGrane, WSBA #37417, Attorney at Law 298 South Main #30, Colville, Washington 99114. 509 684-8484  
 Published in the La Conner Weekly News on Sept. 20, 27, Oct. 4, 2023.  
 In the superior court of the State of Washington for the county of Skagit.  
 Sentry Select Insurance Company, a/s/o Consumer Rental LLC., Plaintiff, vs. No. 22-2-00670-29 Logan Shull, Defendant.  
 The State of Washington to the said Logan Shull:  
 You are hereby summoned to appear within sixty days after the date of the first publication of this summons, to wit, within sixty days after the 20th day of September, 2023, and defend the above entitled action in the above entitled court, and answer the complaint of the plaintiff Sentry Select Insurance Company, and serve a copy of your answer upon the undersigned attorneys for plaintiff, Lovik & Juhl, PLLC, at their office below stated; and in case of your failure so to do, judgment will be rendered against you according to the demand of the complaint, which has been filed with the clerk of said court. The suit alleges Breach of Contract and Unjust Enrichment.  
 Nicholas W. Juhl  
 Lovik & Juhl, PLLC  
 Plaintiff’s Attorneys.  
 936 N 34th St, Ste 300  
 Seattle, WA 98103  
 Published in La Conner Weekly News Sept. 20, 27, Oct. 4, 11, 18 and 25 2023.

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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



## Aqimuk's Kitchen

By Patricia Aqimuk Paul, Esq., Food Editor.

### Roasted Garlic

The uses of roasted garlic are numerous. The garlic softens and caramelizes. Easy to spread on bread or blend into mashed potatoes or pasta. I roasted in a small baking dish with high sides..



- Ingredients**
- Garlic bulb, 1 or more
  - Olive oil, 2 teaspoons for each garlic bulb

**Preparation**

Use half the olive oil and spread around the inside of the baking dish. Cut the tips of the bulb, exposing the tops of each clove. Place cut side up into the baking dish. Drizzle remainder of olive oil over the garlic. Bake in preheated oven for one hour at 350 degrees F. Will store for a week in the refrigerator.

*AqimuksKitchen@outlook.com*

### NOT TO BE MISSED

**Skagit Symphony begins its 2023-24 season with "Second Chances" on Oct. 21.** The concert features Sandra Shen on piano playing "Stars" by Mary Howe, Rachmaninoff's second piano concerto and concludes with Mussorgsky's legendary "Pictures at an Exhibition." Info: [www.skagitsymphony.com/second-chances](http://www.skagitsymphony.com/second-chances).

### LIBRARIES

**La Conner Swinomish Library.** 520 Morris St., La Conner. 360-466-3352. [www.lclib.lib.wa.us](http://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](mailto: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](http://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, [CityofAnacortes.org](http://CityofAnacortes.org).

**Burlington Public Library.** 820 E. Washington Ave., Burlington. 360-755-0760, [burlingtonwa.gov/library](http://burlingtonwa.gov/library).

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

### MUSEUMS

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

- Bojagi Journey 2023; curated by Patti King, through Oct. 8.
- David Owen Hastings: Paper + Stitch, through Oct. 29.

**Skagit County Historical Museum.** 360-466-3365 or [skagitcounty.net/museum](http://skagitcounty.net/museum). Hours 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday-Sunday.

- Exhibit: "I Do, the History of Weddings," through Sept. 24.

**Museum of Northwest Art.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, noon-5 p.m. Sunday and Monday. [monamuseum.org](http://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 more info, email [yogaheartspace0@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**La Conner Live Concert Series.** Live music 1-4 p.m. Sunday in Gilkey Square.

**Burlington Summer Nights.** Live music from 6-8 p.m. every Friday at the Burlington Visitor Center Amphitheater, 520 E. Fairhaven Ave., Burlington.

### SERVICE & VOLUNTEER

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

**Swinomish Helping Hands Food Bank.**

Food distribution from 2-5 p.m. every Thursday. Non-essentials every first Thursday. 17444 Snee Oosh Road, La Conner. 360-856-2211. [helpinghandsfoodbank.org](http://helpinghandsfoodbank.org).

**Skagit Valley Humane Society.** 18841 Kelleher Road, Burlington. 360-757-0445. Find volunteer and donation opportunities online at [skagithumane.org](http://skagithumane.org).

### MEETINGS

**La Conner Swinomish Regional Library.** Library board of trustees meets at 5 p.m. the second 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](http://skagitcd.org). Board meetings 7:30-9 a.m. every fourth Wednesday. Next meeting is Sept. 27.

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

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦

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

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

Sudoku, Crossword answers on page 6

## Super Crossword

### SCARE TACTICS

- ACROSS**
- 1 Mess up on
  - 6 Dismiss, as an ill student
  - 14 Pause-causing marks
  - 20 Skunks' defenses
  - 21 Quick size-up
  - 22 1998 Masters winner Mark
  - 23 Giving an officer a leg up?
  - 25 Defaced
  - 26 Neighbors of Czechs
  - 27 Composes
  - 28 "Li" fellow
  - 29 Previous to
  - 30 Food favored by logicians?
  - 35 Belgrade citizens
  - 38 Impish kids
  - 39 Extra NFL periods
  - 40 Spill a secret
  - 41 Lake fed by the Huron
  - 42 Port-au-Prince's place
  - 43 2017-19 labor secretary Alexander
  - 46 Poor grade
  - 47 Monkey setting off big experimental blasts?
  - 50 — 'n' cheese
  - 51 Airing of ads on the tube
  - 52 Eyeliner flaw
  - 53 Least plentiful
  - 55 Archaic verb suffix
  - 56 Warty hopper
  - 59 Son of Cain
  - 62 Busy insects
  - 63 Two things a baby might be wearing in cold weather?
  - 68 — -Cola
  - 71 St. Teresa's birthplace
  - 72 Chili bit
  - 73 Neighbor of Wash.
  - 76 Leaves weaponless
  - 79 Finger or toe
  - 82 MRI alternative
  - 84 Winnipeg's province: Abbr.
  - 85 "I pray our reservation doesn't get canceled!"?
  - 90 News agcy. founded in 1958
  - 91 Fastener for paper sheets
  - 92 Totally fills
  - 93 Fabled snow humanoid
  - 94 Actress Turner
  - 96 Mined stuff
  - 97 Female hip-hopper
  - 98 Self-indulgent outing
  - 99 Comment upon finally getting a chance to sit down?
  - 103 "The Raven" writer
  - 104 Typical
  - 105 In perfect condition
  - 106 Not mixing well with others
  - 110 Thirty tripled
  - 112 Ruling house enjoying great prosperity?
  - 115 Comparable with
  - 116 Get robots to do
  - 117 Kate's mate on 1980s TV
  - 118 Part of BBB
  - 119 Rubs the wrong way
  - 120 Bed boards
  - 4 Torque transmitter in a motor
  - 5 "Star Wars" won seven of them
  - 6 Weeps noisily
  - 7 Musician Brian
  - 8 S.Sgt. or M.Sgt.
  - 9 Tyranny
  - 10 Pay-to-stay places
  - 11 Sheep-related
  - 12 High-IQ club
  - 13 Minuscule bit of work
  - 14 Jet engine part that includes the igniter
  - 15 Muscat-eer?
  - 16 Most trifling
  - 17 Guys wearing wedding rings
  - 18 "My lips — sealed"
  - 19 In a blue state
  - 24 Barely get, with "out"
  - 28 "Don't — surprised!"
  - 30 Londoner, e.g.
  - 31 Author Joyce Carol —
  - 32 Unskilled PC gamer, say
  - 33 Marlins' and Mets' div.
  - 34 Decides (to)
  - 35 Pick up on
  - 36 Blow up
  - 37 Big name in photocopiers
  - 38 Happy hour locale
  - 42 Great devastation
  - 43 — of angels coming after me" ("Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" line)
  - 44 Chocolate substitute
  - 45 Santa —, California
  - 48 Comics' Kett
  - 49 Like Mutant Ninja Turtles
  - 54 Actress Issa
  - 57 Alias letters
  - 58 Actor Patel
  - 60 Corn holder
  - 61 Garden tool
  - 63 Jelly holder
  - 64 Like some waves
  - 65 Full of energy
  - 66 Tijuana treats
  - 67 Wild about
  - 68 Fluffy clouds
  - 69 Comparable (with)
  - 70 Team of dogs on the force
  - 73 Less genial
  - 74 "Inferno" poet
  - 75 Dickinson of "Rio Bravo"
  - 77 Sporty English autos
  - 78 Supreme Court's Sonia
  - 80 "Let's move!"
  - 81 Natives of Bangkok
  - 83 Many a video chat
  - 86 Hannah of "Roxanne"
  - 87 Design detail
  - 88 Raison d'—
  - 89 — Paese (cheese type)
  - 95 Thumbs-up
  - 97 Witticism
  - 98 Part of ASAP
  - 100 Mozart's "Così fan —"
  - 101 Love, to Gigi
  - 102 Regional flora and fauna
  - 103 — -Ops (CIA tactics)
  - 106 Yemeni city
  - 107 Dot in the sea, to Juanita
  - 108 Toiling away
  - 109 Strong alkalis
  - 110 Collar
  - 111 Singer Turner
  - 112 Grocery holder
  - 113 "Illmatic" rapper
  - 114 '60s Pontiac

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# POLICE BLOTTER

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## Monday, September 11

**9:34 a.m. Phone scam** – Caller received a collection notice saying that she owed \$200 on a past due Verizon bill. The victim had never had an account with Verizon and found that someone had used her information to open one. This was an out of area account with no suspect information. N 1st St., La Conner.

**10:29 p.m. Timeless teens** – Marina security called regarding a group of juveniles hanging out on the property at night. A deputy was able to contact them and learned they were not doing anything wrong and they agreed to move on. N. 2nd St., La Conner.

## Tuesday, September 12

**12:33 a.m. Spider alarm tingled** – Conway Tavern called in a burglary complaint and said they could see movement inside the building from a camera they were viewing off site. Deputies arrived and were allowed access to search the property. They did not find any subjects inside but did view the video footage and found it was spider crawling across the lens triggering the movement alarm. Main St., Conway.

## Wednesday, September 13

**3:24 p.m. Left town fast** – Report of a subject passing illegally on Chilberg Road. No deputy available but the traffic unit was notified for future enforcement. Chilberg / La Conner Whitney Rds., La Conner.

## Thursday, September 14

**12:58 p.m. Wire theft** – PSE substation on La Conner Whitney was broken in to and wire was taken. Unknown suspects. La Conner Whitney Rd., Greater La Conner.

## Friday, September 15

**2:25 p.m. Local problem** – Barking dog complaint that was transferred to the Town of La Conner for animal control issues. Park St., La Conner.

**3:27 p.m. Dog saviors** – Small dog left in a car while subjects were shopping. Owners returned and left prior to a deputy arriving. Fir Island Rd., Conway.

**4:18 p.m. Put it back** – Caller picked up a loose dog on Pioneer Parkway and wanted a deputy to come and get it. Caller was advised that there was no leash law and we would not be picking it up. Caller was advised to return the dog where she found it. Pioneer Pkwy / Conner Way., La Conner.

**8:26 p.m. Not his problem** – Person called in possible trespassing on property that he no longer owns. The caller was advised that a deputy could not take action without the actual property owner calling in a complaint or asking for subjects to be removed. Channel Ln., Greater La Conner.

A Genuine Skagit Valley event —

## Tidewater Boil and Skagit Farm to Pint Fest at La Conner Marina

By Ken Stern

Mark your calendars for a gourmet, connoisseur and fun weekend celebrating Skagit Valley grown, caught, brewed and prepared food and drinks Sept. 29 and 30. Genuine Skagit Valley is offering its first ever Tidewater Boil Friday evening at the La Conner Marina. Return on Saturday for the Skagit Farm to Pint Fest. You will meet Blake Vanfield, director of Genuine Skagit Valley and the event's sort-of executive chef. She is all but bubbling over with excitement for the complex coming together of people, their skills, talents and the foods and drinks they produce from the bounty of the region. Plus, locating it at the Port of Skagit's La Conner Marina puts the icing on the cake.

The location is a key factor, she says. "I am appreciative to be at the Marina and the opportunity

to highlight some of its important features to the community in regards to outdoor space and the quality of this public space."

But first the food. The idea for the Tidewater Boil came from a recipe that will be found in "Genuine Skagit Cooking," a cookbook and another GSV project, coming out in 2024.

"I love it. It (the recipe) marries fishing and farming communities into one meal. It combines our heritage, what it means to have grown up and been raised in Skagit Valley." Vanfield sees the Friday dinner "as an opportunity to sit at a table with friends and families and break bread. This is a nice community meal."

The promotion sums it up: "Dungeness crab, spot prawns, Skagit-grown corn and potatoes and andouille sausage marry in a savory pot of broth. Strained and loaded down the middle of long tables with baskets of buttery

cornbread, guests are invited to crack crab, peel as many shrimp as they can and bite into the farm and sea-based flavors of the Skagit Valley. All ages are welcome and ticket price includes all-you-can eat."

The evening's entertainment is provided by the Artful Dodgers, with Dean Luce, Peter Bridgman and Tom Forster. Their music includes rockabilly, honky tonk and surf. Luce farms sheep in Bow.

"Genuine Skagit Cooking" can be ordered at a discounted 10% off price at the Boil. It is a community-based cookbook for the recipes, their cooks and the ingredients that make them possible.

The 14 breweries are bringing a variety of beers and ciders, many of them specially crafted to pair with foods for the weekend. The ingredients for both beverages and foods are coming from Skagit Valley farms or the region's waters.

"There are wonderful farm to pint pairings. It is just beautiful. Chefs are taking advantage of our farm products; it is harvest time; right?" Vanfield observed, ending with an obviously rhetorical question.

Genuine Skagit Valley has created the Pacific Northwest's only local brew festival. Vanfield notes, "With our farm and food community featured we are differentiating the beer festival as our opportunity to get a taste of Skagit. That is something that is only going to grow. We will do this every year and we will continue to do this at the La Conner Marina. It is a perfect place for this."

The Tidewater Boil and Skagit Farm to Pint Fest are fundraisers for Genuine Skagit Valley.

The Tidewater Boil runs 5:30-8:30 p.m. and costs \$55. Farm to Pint is 2-6 p.m. at \$60. Both have VIP opportunities.

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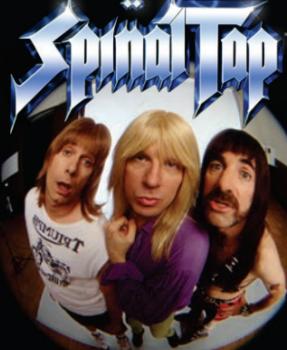


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