



Dennis Strong gifts Clayton James sculpture • p 5
Skagit Valley Food Co-op is 50 years old this month • p 10

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Potatoes bloom in dry fields



LET A THOUSAND POTATO FIELDS BLOOM – If it is July in Skagit County, potato fields are blooming pink or white as here, just north and west of the La Conner roundabout. These potatoes grown by Maplewood Farm, are a few of the thousands of acres planted in the Valley this year. – Photo by Ken Bern

Fine weather for many crops, as long as farmers irrigate

By Anne Ba

Skagit County is officially in a drought emergency – but so far, some area farmers are having a pretty good year. Swanson Family Farm’s berry crop was bountiful. “We went from a 10 percent crop and lots of freeze damage last year to a 110% crop this year,” said Dean Swanson. He is already picking corn and thinks his cucumber and bean crops will be good.

Potatoes “look good,” said John Thulen of Pioneer Potatoes, “not lackluster, but not a crasher either, although some plants look stressed.” Planting conditions were “pretty close to ideal,” said Jason Vander Kooy of Harmony Dairy, with some spring showers but none of the record-setting June 2022 rains that flooded fields and delayed planting. This year, crops went in right on time or early. “We had heat in May, everything is warm, all you have to

do is add water,” said Ray deVries of Ralph’s Greenhouse. “But it’s dry. If you can’t irrigate your ground, you got a problem.” With rainfall 7 inches below normal, water guns and drip irrigation systems have been running since June. “We have also been irrigating a lot more heavily,” said Vander Kooy. The six-tenths of an inch of rain that fell Monday, July 24, was helpful. “Corn

(continued on page 7)

A lean budget to ‘rightsize’ school finances

By Bill Bern

La Conner School Board Directors bit the bullet Monday in approving a barebones, \$2.9 million annual budget whose target is to realize a positive fund balance by next summer. This budget is about \$ million leaner than that adopted a year ago and reflects painful staffing and program cutbacks tied to declining student enrollment and loss of federal COVID-19 emergency funds. The 2023-2024 budget was developed by Director of Finance and Operations David Cram, who was given the mission of restoring the school system’s fiscal health when he returned in March. It hasn’t been easy, he told board members. “I’ve been doing school finance for 27 years,” Cram said, “and this is the most challenging four-month period I’ve had.” Last year’s budget, when Cram was working at the Marysville School District, painted a more robust financial picture. But Cram’s review of it found apparent inaccuracies. “I don’t know if the ’22-23 numbers are accurate,” he said. “I don’t feel confident with those budget numbers.” Nor was unused state “mascot money” adequately accounted for. Some \$00,000 must be returned to Olympia after replacement of non-compliant Braves logos mandated by legislators and Swinomish Indian Tribal Community officials. The excess mascot funds made revenues appear larger. Cram projects that the new budget will land the district in the black – though barely – at the end of the next fiscal year. “We will have about \$00,000 left,” Cram said, “which gives us zero flexibility.” He expressed confidence in rebounding financially with prudent budgeting. The board’s policy of maintaining a fund balance equal to 10% of the budget, despite anticipated declines in student enrollment, can be met, he said.

(continued on page 7)

Aug. 3 Pioneer Picnic salutes coach, Benson-Berentson clan

By Bill Bern

What’s old is new again tomorrow: the 119th annual Skagit County Pioneer Association Picnic, a longtime La Conner summer tradition. Starting at 11 a.m. Thursday at Pioneer Park, everyone is invited to attend. State Hall of Fame La Conner High volleyball coach Suzanne Marble and members of the Benson/Berentson Family will be special honorees. Marble will receive the Pioneer Spirit Award for her tireless efforts on behalf of students and athletes here over the past 30 years. Descendants of Atlag Berntsen Dragaland and Anton Berntsen Dragaland, both of whom were born

in the early 19th century, will be saluted as the Pioneer Family of the Year. Since then, family members have made their mark in Skagit County in a variety of fields, with the late Duane Berentson serving as Co-Speaker of the Washington State House of Representatives and later as the state’s secretary of transportation. The twin-span bridge crossing Swinomish Channel on Highway 20 is named for him. Marble, who retired from coaching last fall and is taking a leave of absence from the classroom in 2023-24, guided La Conner net teams to seven state titles and amassed more

(continued on page 7)



COOPERATION POWERED PIONEER HARVESTS – Back in the day, farmers and laborers worked together to gather the season’s bounty. The evidence is pictured here: “Threshing crew near Edie n.” There was team power, horse power and people power to bring the crops in. – Photo courtesy of Skagit County Historical Museum

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From the editor —

Weekly newspaper for sale

I love that phrase. It always makes me smile. It is what brought me to La Conner in March 2017 to look at buying the Weekly News. I will always associate my newspaper publishing career with my best friend, Dick Wittenberg, who loves to see his name in print. My newspaper ownership is fundamentally due to friendship but more, to love and trust. Dick believes in me completely. He knew I would successfully run a newspaper. He was right.

Weekly newspaper for sale. This is the second month of my eighth year owning the La Conner Weekly News. You hold the 317th issue I have published. This paper exists because of you, its readers, its advertisers and its staff. News editor Bill Reynolds loves journalism and La Conner; I don't know who more. Because Bill is a true journalist, he quotes my sentence, "I own it but it is the community's newspaper."

Now you own it. Maybe, a handful or two of your readers will join in purchasing it. Newspaper corporations of whatever size aren't interested. Be glad for that. My efforts at recruiting a new reporter and gaining the attention of university centers for journalism to buy the Weekly News have fallen flat. How will this newspaper continue?

First, the La Conner Weekly News is not in crisis. It is an award-winning newspaper. It is a financially successful business, with strong net income, great cash flow and a growing balance sheet. This is not a fire sale.

Maybe it is the Weekly News readers — participants — who face a crisis. More than one I have editorialized that the main threads weaving together the fabric of this community are the town government, the school district, the library, the fire departments, the museums and the newspaper. Only one, the Weekly News is a business. The others are funded by taxes, grants and donations. My newspaper creates profits the old-fashioned way: it goes out and hustles to earn revenue.

The other threads of the La Conner fabric stay woven together without end as long as people live here. That is why citizens love to complain about paying taxes.

What keeps the activities of the town, the schools, the library, the fire departments and the museums current and noticed in the public eye? The newspaper.

Then there is this odd, really mysterious framework of our society — democracy. How do we not only function but both bond and keep ourselves honest with each other? By learning the news of the day, becoming informed, debating, deciding and finding common ground. What is one vehicle for that, carrying us together into the future? It is not Facebook.

Call the Weekly News biased and you are paying attention. As publisher and editor I advocate for engagement and participation. Getting the whole story is ideal, but the paper prints the facts it has time and the resources to gather. Has it been wrong? Yes. The paper makes mistakes, factual errors, what it misinterprets, what it prints too soon. But as editor I have never deceived or lied, have never written anything that I knew was untrue.

The Weekly News is an advocate for democracy. Living together is a process. Living together is about more than specific government decisions on budgets and taxes.

The greater La Conner community will continue to live together if its local newspaper closes. But a lot of people will agree that the fabric of the community will be weakened without this thread woven into its pattern.

Weekly newspaper for sale. No tax approval will fund it. The Weekly News does not need a bailout. It does not need love from a friend and friends.

This is not about the Weekly News future. It is about the future of the community you want greater La Conner to be.

— Ken Stern

Town Council meeting agenda

The La Conner Town Council will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 8, Upper Maple Center, 104 Commercial St.

- Chancellor**
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Public comments (Limit of 3 minutes per person)
- Presentations

- Consent Agenda**
- Consent Agenda (approved without objection 5/0)
- Approval of the Minutes: Council meetings of July 24 and 25, 2023
- Finance
- Approval of accounts payable
- Approval of payroll
- Items removed from the consent agenda

- Reports**
- Chamber report
- Revenue /expenditure report
- Department head reports
- Mayor's report
- Council committee reports

- Unfinished Business**
- Center Street project, discussion

- Jenson property, discussion
- Tillinghast Dr. trees, discussion and recommendation
- Pioneer Park hazard trees bid result, discussion and recommendation
- Fire hall roof repair bid, approval/recommendation

New Business
Ordinance – Heat Advisory - Utility Shutoffs

Mayor's Roundtable

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. This meeting will be recorded.

Zoom meeting: <https://phaudowud-online.zoom.us/j/84794458737?pwd=cnpZ-VHpKTEFHVTgvU0s3N2Z-pZUVtUT09>
Meeting ID 847 9445 8737, passcode 259940

Join by smartphone: Call 1-253-215-8782. Meeting ID 847 9445 8737, passcode: 259940

Citizen's view —

Allow farmers to hold events on their farm land

By Connie Funk

I attended the meeting of the Skagit County Planning Commission Tuesday, July 25, along with scores of others to express concern regarding proposed increased regulations for local farm families, many whom are already struggling to keep their family farm businesses viable. It is being reported that many limits and restrictions could be put in place to prevent celebration events and would even block new farm stands from opening. Many of the good people in the room have been the backbone of preserving Skagit farmland over the years, leading the charge to keep this county rural and agricultural. Due to ever increasing changes in markets, many have found creative ways to enhance their sales of crops with family friendly events that are wholesome, fun and educational. In the divisive climate of this culture, we need these celebrations of people coming together more than ever.

Many barns of yesterday were

filled with livestock who pulled the plows and were replaced by tractors. Farmers adjusted to the changes. During many years of government regulations and restrictions, many small farms and ranches could no longer remain in business. Some of the good people in that room on Tuesday reclaimed those lands and barns and restored them to earlier beauty and functionality with hard work and personal investment to fight for Skagit County to always be a hub for family farms and people who love them. No one has fought harder to preserve farmland than the faces I saw in that room whose ability to make an honest living are under attack.

From a fiscal standpoint alone, the revenues brought into the county by these events are huge, employing scores of local businesses. These are the dollars that protect local infrastructure that benefits all of us.

Some of the people at the meeting spoke of food insecurity. This is a difficult fact for many, so what is better than locally raised fruits and vegetables made

available at farm stands? It was made very clear at the meeting that every person who spoke values agricultural land highly and wants to preserve it.

Yet there are no farms without farm families. At the risk of sounding like a radical extremist, there is a movement worldwide toward government and corporate run farming and a top-down agenda to achieve it. I firmly believe we need a bottom up, soil-under-your-fingernails movement to not only preserve farmland, but the farm families who make it possible. They are our neighbors and friends who we all can support in this challenge. Every one of them deserves a seat at what should always be a farm-table discussion.

In the end, God owns it all, and we are called to be stewards. I want to support local farm families, rather than corporations and government regulations.

Connie Funk is a long time resident of Skagit County who married into a pioneer family whose newest member is a 6th generation son.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Fire blankets are silent

Please share this with your readers!

Several weeks ago, I nearly set my home on fire. I had a three-quart sauce pan, with 2 tablespoons of cooking oil, on the gas stove, as part of a recipe in the making. I stepped away from the stove to take care of laundry. Let's just say I was distracted.

Suddenly the smoke detector went off. I rushed back to the

kitchen to a pan on fire, flames nearly 20 inches in the air! Instinct kicked in, as I reached for a Fire Blanket hanging in the pantry. If not for this blanket, I would not have been able to contain the fire. The blanket smothered the flames, and I was able to remove the pan from the house. The smoke alarm continued to blare for the next 30 minutes, with doors and windows open. Please, for your own safety,

purchase fire blankets! One for your kitchen and another for your outside grill! I purchased mine on Amazon. The brand name: "Prepared Hero." Better yet, order several and give them to your family members and friends.

I have photos of the blanket before and after the fire, as well as the pan.

Dyann Provenzano
La Conner

Rechargeable batteries keep getting cheaper

By Greg Witting

When I started working on lithium-ion batteries, in 1993, Sony and Toshiba had introduced the first such commercially available batteries a couple of years earlier. They were mostly used in "the 4 Cs" of small consumer electronics — cassette players, camcorders, cell phones and computers.

If anyone had thought about putting a bunch of lithium-ion batteries together into huge battery packs, for vehicles or utility distribution systems, they would have stopped as soon as they found out the cost: almost \$100,000 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) stored. Even if a battery was used 10,000 times, using it to supply electricity would have cost \$10/kWh, more than 1,000 times the usual wholesale price.

My job, at a chemical company, was to lead the development of new product lines related to electrical systems. Before the battery initiative started, I was working on concepts like metal-based inks for the technology now known as 3-dimensional printing, to make micro-capacitors for electronics.

Nickel/cadmium batteries had been around for decades. The possibility of making nickel-based chemicals for those batteries about 20 years earlier. Management concluded that rechargeable batteries weren't a significant growth market and hadn't invested in related technologies.

However, the nickel/metal hydride batteries that had been introduced in the late 1980s looked like they would be a huge improvement in Ni/Cd technology. They could be recharged



thousands of times. Lithium-ion batteries looked like an even bigger game-changer. They were much lighter weight than lead-based or nickel-based batteries. Like the Ni/MH batteries, they could be re-used thousands of times.

Two of our research scientists and I convinced management to take a look at battery materials as a potential product line again. Within three years, we were the second-largest global supplier of chemicals for advanced batteries, after only Sony itself.

By 1996, it was obvious that costs were going to fall significantly. We and our competitors in the supply chain were learning about lithium battery chemistry and how to reduce raw materials costs. Our customers, the battery manufacturers, were adopting lithium-ion technology as fast as they could. Every major battery company in the world and a lot of minor ones were making lithium batteries by 1997. They were all reducing costs, fast, through mass production.

Today's electric vehicle batteries cost less than \$100 per kilowatt-hour of capacity. They're designed to be discharged and recharged up to 10,000 times. Over their lifetime, rechargeable batteries can supply electricity for as little as \$0.2 per kWh (\$200 divided by 10,000).

To use batteries to supply electricity to the grid, you have

to buy, not just the batteries, but also the electricity to charge the batteries and the equipment and engineering to integrate the batteries with the grid, so total costs are higher. Sometimes, though, adding in those costs can make sense. The average wholesale electric price in Washington is around \$0.03/kWh — but, sometimes, wholesale electricity is available at very low prices and sometimes wholesale prices are much higher than the average. There's an opportunity to buy low and sell high — if you have storage.

Battery and systems integration costs are still falling. We're about to see very rapid growth in the use of batteries that have been developed for electric cars in the utility industry. They'll replace backup generators and help reduce peak wholesale pricing.

La Conner will flush hydrants through August

The Town of La Conner Public Works Department is performing its annual fire hydrant flushing and valve exercising in August from 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

If you notice any discolored water, please run your cold water supply until it clears up.

If the problem does not clear up please call Todd Park, 360-770-4536, or Chip Sherman, 360-840-3684, for assistance.

Source: Town of La Conner

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OBITUARIES



marriage ended. What a selfless, hardworking mom she was.

Gloria remained in Washington state, where she did a stellar job as the City Clerk for Othello, before settling in La Conner. She resided there for the remainder of her years. Gloria absolutely loved to get out and golf and work in her beautiful yard on the channel. She took hiking adventures with her loved girlfriends and traveled with her high school besties. She had the times of her life with those girls!

Gloria adored and was extremely proud of her seven grandchildren. They eventually blessed her with eight great-grandchildren who will dearly miss their Mooma. Gloria was preceded in death by her parents, Anna Metzger and John Lotz; her stepfather, Mel Metzger; her adored siblings, Johnny Lotz and Carlotta Aden; and her beloved daughter, Julia Laufenberg.

Gloria is survived by her daughter, Coleen (Stan) Wade; son Michael Kennelly; sister, Jessica (Bob) Jahns; brother, Eldon (Dorena) Metzger; sister-in-law, Carol Lotz; and son-in-law, Pete (Rebecca) Laufenberg; stepdaughter, Patty; her grandchildren, Eric (Kenzie) Wade, Rachael (Matt) Clark, Bailey (Brandon) Lowe, Dominic Laufenberg, Nate Kennelly, Keegan Kennelly, Emme (Ryan) Kennelly; her blessed great-grandchildren, Randi, Kennelly, Graham, Johnny, Curtis, Cole, Eli and Rowen; her loving caregiver and friend, Lana; her many cousins, nieces, and nephews whom she thought the world of; and her amazing girlfriends who brought her joy and kept her young.

Gloria's family will honor her wishes by laying her to rest with her daughter, Julia Anna. Memorials may be given to the American Brain Tumor Association at <https://give.abta.org/give/261975/#!/donation/checkout> Please feel free to share memories of Gloria online at www.kernfuneralhome.com.

Gloria Kennelly
Our beautiful Gloria passed away Monday, July 24, 2023, surrounded by love and admiration. Her courage and grace, regardless of what life threw at her, never ceased to amaze the many who loved her. Dementia may have seized her mind, but her heart and soul put up quite a fight.

Gloria was born to Anna and John Lotz on August 17, 1942, in Jordan Valley, Oregon. She often spoke about her childhood adventures, with her many beloved cousins, and about her interesting Basque culture. After the divorce of their parents, Gloria and her siblings, Carlotta and Johnny, moved with their mother Anna to Wilder, Idaho.

Anna would meet and marry Melvin Metzger, who moved the family to Othello, Washington, when Gloria was a teen. Gloria had great respect for her stepdad and was blessed with two more siblings, Jessica and Eldon. She graduated from OHS (Othello High School) in 1960, where she was active in many clubs, was voted best figure, and made friends that she would cherish for the rest of her years.

After venturing out to California in 1961, Gloria returned to Washington and met a tall, handsome Irishman by the name of Frank Kennelly. They married in Moses Lake, where they started a life and family. They would have three children whom Gloria raised single handedly after the



she was reacquainted with her high school classmate, Jim Zimmerman. They married in 1973, blending their two families together. Marge retired in 1992 as secretary/treasurer after a long, enjoyable career.

In retirement, Marge and Jim lived a full life in the house they built in Bay View doing all the things they loved, including gardening and countless road trips across the country. Marge was an excellent cook and an accomplished baker and was known for her pies and cinnamon rolls that she would give to family and friends at Christmas. Above all, her favorite activity was watching sports, especially collegiate basketball and football, and had an amazing background knowledge of the players and coaches.

Marge was preceded in death by her husband Jim last December, just shy of their 50th anniversary together. She is survived by daughter Laura Powers (Cameron), daughter Alison Bailey, son Tom Zimmerman (Judy), daughter Annie Hernandez (Jerry) and daughter Nancy Alvord (Dave). She is also survived by her sister Gerry Henriot, and 11 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren. A private family memorial will be at a later date.

Donations in her memory can be sent to your favorite charity or WSU Foundation, P.O. Box 641925, Pullman, WA 99164. Go Cougs. Arrangements are under the care of Kern Funeral Home, Mount Vernon.

Margery Zimmerman
Margery Zimmerman passed away on July 22, 2023, in Burlington, WA. She was born on March 7, 1933 to Gene and Teresa (Wells) Dunlap, and grew up in La Conner, first at the Dunlap house on La Conner-Whitney Road, then on Kiket Island, at a beautiful residence and grounds known as "Flagstaff".

After graduating from La Conner High in 1951, she traveled the world with her father and sister Gerry. A highlight was attending the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne, Australia. She attended the University of Hawaii, University of Washington, and Washington State University. She was a fiercely loyal Cougar at heart and never wavered from that throughout her life.

Marge married James Bailey in 1957, and they welcomed two daughters, Laura and Alison. After their divorce in 1971, she moved with her two daughters back to the Skagit Valley.

She began working at Dunlap Towing, the tugboat company her father founded. While there,

Barbara Hulbert Serber
Barbara Birkeland Hulbert died peacefully at home in La Conner on June 17, 2023.

A celebration of life service will be held at The Vinery at Christianson's Nursery on Thursday, August 10, 2023, from 2-4 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Rotary Club of La Conner Jim Hulbert Vocational Scholarship, P.O. Box 2111, La Conner, WA 98257.

Arrangements are under the care of Kern Funeral Home of Mount Vernon.

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Council retreats to Mount Vernon for focus on La Conner's future

By Bill Reynolds

Focused on the future, Town officials have taken the long view to address La Conner's most pressing needs.

Town leaders highlighted a handful of top-tier issues in a 5-year strategic plan crafted during an all-day retreat July 24 in Mount Vernon.

Priorities include a mandated upgrade of the wastewater treatment plant, robust investments in fire protection and safety, providing public access on South First Street to Caledonia, securing a permanent home for the public works department, developing long-term flood mitigation measures, replacing aging water lines on Channel Drive and elsewhere and recruiting staff to succeed those employees upon their retirement.

Admittedly, those goals won't be achieved overnight. Thus, the five-year timeline.

"This is fairly daunting," Town Administrator Scott Thomas said of the to-do list. "We'll be thinking through strategies on many of these. We won't be able to get everything done all at once, but we'll be able to get started on them. We'll obviously have to work on some of them simultaneously."

Thomas, Mayor Ramon Hayes, council members and staff all applauded the process by which retreat facilitators Brian Murphy and Julie Tesch led them to prioritize local needs.

"I wish we could have more of these," Fire Chief and Code Enforcement Officer Aaron Reinstra said. "There was great input from everyone."

Councilmember Ivan Carlson called the retreat "a cool experience."

"It makes taking on all the things we have to do a lot more organized," Carlson added.

Planning Commission member Marna Hanneman,

who becomes mayor in January and will inherit these goals, was likewise pleased with the outcome.

"This was awesome," she said at the day's close, "though the needs are daunting. But it's a start. We're not eating the apple. We're taking a bite."

Councilmember Annie Taylor concurred.

"This was great," she said. "We had open communication and we were able to figure out the major projects ahead of us."

"The free exchange of ideas," added Councilmember Mary Wohleb, "was very beneficial."

Hayes called potential opening of South First Street a "three-fer" by helping with downtown traffic flow, enhancing efforts at waterfront flood mitigation and emergency management and solving the public hazard situation caused by the dilapidated and vacant Moore-Clark building which sits several feet on the Town's right-of-way and is subject to condemnation.

Hayes addressed the public works department's dilemma, whose La Conner Marina location is too small and is a site the Port of Skagit has targeted.

"I've always thought that we could merge the Town Public Works Department with the Port and reserve space within their redevelopment plan in a way that would benefit both parties," said Hayes.

Thomas said a marina location

would serve public works best since it is outside the flood plain.

Grant funding will be sought to fund infrastructure. But Thomas cautioned that applying for grants is very competitive and can be fraught with hidden costs under the best of conditions.

"Getting grants is also getting hours," Thomas explained. "It takes time to write a proposal, get the grant, manage the grant and do the required financial reporting." He suggested hiring a grant writer.

Councilmember MaryLee Chamberlain and Hanneman each said keeping present staff and recruiting qualified replacements for those who will retire in the next five years should be prominent on the Town's radar.

"We definitely want some continuity," Thomas agreed.

Murphy advised the Town must walk something of a tightrope in the years ahead.

"You've got to be patient and impatient all at once," he said.

Much of what happened at the retreat was reshaped during a fast-paced 35-minute regular July 25 town council meeting at Maple Hall, an agenda most notable for Councilmember Rick Dole presenting Hector Soltero an official resolution honoring the United Parcel Service driver for his valued customer service during his years on the La Conner route. Soltero's wife, Christina and his UPS supervisor attended the ceremony.

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QUIETLY OBSERVE
Observe from a safe distance to see if mama is present.

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

If kittens are cold, dirty, thin, making a lot of noise or appear sick or hurt, mama might be MIA and possibly gone for good. If you have observed for 12 to 24 hrs and mama still hasn't returned, she's probably not coming back.

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

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

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A NEW TAX CREDIT FOR WASHINGTON WORKERS
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Who is eligible for a tax credit?

- Lived in Washington a minimum of 183 days.
- Are at least 25 and under 65 years of age OR have a qualifying child in 2022.
- Filed a 2022 federal tax return with a SSN or ITIN.
- Low to moderate income families who meet the income thresholds.

¿Quién es elegible para recibir un pago?

- Haber vivido en Washington durante 183 días como mínimo
- Tener entre 25 y 65 años o tener un hijo que cumpla con los requisitos en 2022
- Haber presentado una declaración de impuestos federales en 2022 usando un SSN or ITIN
- Cumplir con los límites de ingresos

You can apply online, by paper, or through a tax preparer company.

Puede solicitarlo por Internet, en papel o a través de una empresa de preparación de impuestos.

Number of Children / Número de hijos	Single / Soltero(a)	Married / Casado(a)	Maximum refund / Pago máximo
0	\$16,480	\$22,610	\$300
1	\$43,492	\$49,622	\$600
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PICKLEBALL IS POPULAR IN SHELTER BAY – Every day folks are on the courts as here, in Shelter Bay, and at facilities throughout Skagit County and around the country. Created on Bainbridge Island, pickleball was designated Washington State's state sport in 2022. *– Photo by Mel Damski*

Pickleball expanding throughout Skagit County

By Mel Damski

Pickleball started nearby on Bainbridge Island as a sport for kids in 1965. It has evolved into an extremely popular sport that bridges the generation gap, with many older participants. Last year the state legislature made it the official sport of Washington. Shelter Bay has tennis courts across from its administration building on Shoshone Drive that can be tightened up with a lower net and lines moved so there is less ground to cover. The tennis court further south on Shelter Bay Drive is being converted into four pickleball courts and will be in early August.

It appeals to older players because there is less ground to cover with sets almost always double matches. The balls are light plastic. It is also a very nice social event and very often you can see the players schmoozing on the bench before and after they play.

Charlotte Decker is a regular player at Shelter Bay and is often playing when she is not running her Amaryllis Women's Boutique and Art Gallery in La Conner. "It's super fun and very addictive to play at whatever level you want," she said.

Pickleball is exploding in Skagit County and one of its hotspots is Hillcrest Park in Mount Vernon where you can

drive by and see a cluster of players of all ages. John Erbstoesz is a retired Family Practice physician in Mount Vernon and a big supporter of pickleball. "It's a great outlet and fun to play in a social way with minimal risks. It's not that hard to learn the sport and you can select who you want to play with," he noted.

Blackburn Pickleball Pavillion at Skagit Valley College in Mount Vernon is named after Claude Blackburn for his donation of \$1.7 million to build the facility. It has 10 courts. A big tournament is scheduled there Aug. 4-6.

"The new Blackburn Pickleball Pavillion will give students, employees and the community a place to gather, foster friendships and build relationships", said Dr. Tom Keegan, SVC president.

Rusty Kuntze is a retired judge for the Swinomish Tribe who lives in Bay View. He plays regularly with his wife, Libby Mills, at Hillcrest Park. "Truly a sport for everybody," he said. "Grandparents can play with their grandchildren. Teenagers can play with their parents. I love the social aspect of competing with friends and having fun. You don't realize that you are actually getting a good workout, amongst all the laughter and fun."

If you have never played pickleball, the good news is that it's never too late to give it a try.



THE CANOES HAVE LANDED – Canoe families representing tribes from throughout the Salish Sea region stopped at Swinomish Reservation July 25, part of the Paddle to Muckleshoot annual Canoe Journey. *– Photo by Bill Reynolds*

Swinomish Tribe hosts leg of Paddle to Muckleshoot Canoe Journey

By Bill Reynolds

It was a current event on a Swinomish Channel steeped in history.

Tribal canoe families from throughout the region arrived here just before noon a week ago Tuesday as part of the Paddle to Muckleshoot, the continuation of a cultural tradition dating to when the Salish Sea was a Native American superhighway.

The 2023 Canoe Journey was the first such celebration in four years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Swinomish and Samish nations were on its route.

The display of handsomely painted canoes on the channel, modeled after those that in previous eras regularly connected Coast Salish tribes, was a welcome sight, especially those crewed by young pullers serving as stewards bridging the past and future.

"Let them know we're here," an announcer encouraged the waiting crowd over a loudspeaker as the first of the canoes came into sight. "Give them a hand."

Indeed, each arrival was greeted by cheers from those gathered near the cedar hats at Swadabs Park. Spectators included best-selling home-grown author Matika Wilbur, whose critically acclaimed pictorial "Project 562" chronicles the nation's federally recognized Native American tribes.

Because the July 25 midday high tide was fairly low, the canoes made a soft-landing south of the park nearer Rainbow

Bridge.

"There was still a sandbar where they usually come ashore," explained an onlooker.

At one point the channel in front of the Three Hats Pavilions was filled with vessels – a flotilla of canoes, support boats and pleasure craft of various sizes. The mood was festive.

Swinomish served as an overnight rest stop for canoe pullers and their support teams arriving from Lummi and Samish nations. Tents dotted Swinomish Village, from just south of Swadabs up to John K. Bob Ball Park.

Guests were treated to singing, drumming and a feast of salmon, halibut, scalloped potatoes and frybread.

The Swinomish kitchen crew led by Cathi Bassford and aided for a time by her brother, tribal senate chairman Steve Edwards, prepared dinner for 2,500 people.

By early the next morning the canoe families had set off for Tulalip, their next stop. After that they would land at Suquamish, on the Kitsap Peninsula, enroute to Alki Point in West Seattle. Their destination this past weekend was Muckleshoot, northeast of Tacoma.

Tony Cladoosby skippered a Swinomish canoe, taking on a demanding role requiring one who can read the wind and understand currents.

Over 120 canoes and 8,000 people descended upon Muckleshoot, which last hosted a Canoe Journey in 2006.

Canoe Journeys were initiated in 1989, coinciding with Washington State's centennial celebration, at the behest of renowned Quinalt educator Emmett Oliver. His Paddle to Seattle was undertaken amid much fanfare. Also that year, Kevin Paul and family members carved the replica Swinomish story pole standing at the intersection of Snee-Oosh and Reservation roads.

In the years since, participants have hailed the Canoe Journey as a source of physical, mental, emotional and spiritual growth.

All were much in evidence at Swinomish.

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SWEET SUMMER SAVINGS

Dennis Strong leaves his mark on La Conner

By Ken Strong

Dennis Strong and his family began spending summers in La Conner in the mid-1950s, as did Clayton and Barbara James. They met through Ruth Pennington's Fidalgo Allied Arts summer art school, where James found his calling in ceramics and Vera Strong was teaching weaving. Their relationship and those made with others were nurtured over many summers spent in La Conner.

As Peter Strong, Dennis' son, recalls, "I remember walking down the middle of First Street in that quiet town, taking art classes from Clayton James, Joe

Petta and Guy Anderson. It was an idyllic place for a boy like me and my siblings."

During those first years, Strong was a teaching fellow and graduate student at the University of Washington. Upon receiving his PhD, the family moved to his first teaching position at Princeton University. Within two years, Strong was offered a position at University of California, Riverside, which he accepted, and then at Claremont Graduate School. Being back on the West Coast, the family returned to La Conner during the summers.

In 1966, Strong took a position at the University of Washington. He wasted no time coming

back to La Conner to purchase a lot downtown. Today it is 109 Commercial Street. In 1967 he purchased the brick building next door, now 721 South First Street and 105 Commercial Street. This building became his home from which he commuted to the UW campus.

In an article published in the Puget Sound Mail in 1966 Strong said, "I enjoy more real living in a week in La Conner than in a month in the big city."

Strong had one more real estate adventure in La Conner with Tore Dypfest, who bought the Lighthouse Inn in 1971. On the Lighthouse Inn property stood the old Fred Eyre Grocery

building, which Dypfest wanted gone. He offered it to Strong for free for hauling it away. Strong had it moved to the lot he owned, where it stands today.

Strong served on the Town of La Conner's Planning Commission from 1971-1974.

His last home, bought in 1981, is a 20-acre property on Pleasant Ridge. He died peacefully there on May 21, 2023.

Strong and James left their marks in La Conner and it is befitting that both of them will be remembered in the beautiful new La Conner Swinomish Library. James' untitled sculpture has found its home there, thanks to a gift from Dennis Strong.



Sculpture by Clayton James



ART AT THE PORT – The Port of Anacortes Transit Shed hosts the Unified Fine Arts Show during the Anacortes Arts Festival, Aug. 4-6. Maggie Wilder is one of the 82 artists featured. She writes "Her work is intentionally transparent. Every mark she makes is intentional and otherwise, is visible through all the layers of paint." It is "Samarra 505." Oil on canvas 24" x 36". Look closely at it, and all the art exhibited. – Photo by Ken Strong



THE LADY IS EIGHTY – Marilyn Olson (at the head of the table) was celebrated for her 80th birthday last Wednesday by fellow club members – they proudly celebrated the 80th Stitt & Bitt Club – with lunch, a party and a balloon on The Slider Café patio. "We started out sitting and talking," the guests of honor quipped, "but now we eat and laugh." Dining in the fun were, clockwise: Marilyn Olson, Gwen Beltrith, Dan Saboro, Bobbie Arthur, Dan Paul, Cathy Brosnan, Barb Hammer (back to camera), Patty Snider, Ruth Braun, and an Eagleson, Vickie Napier and Dawn Nord. – Photo by Bill Reynolds

So much to see, so much to do with August events

Even in the dog days of summer, there is no shortage of events to satisfy diverse entertainment cravings over the next couple of weeks.

The Anacortes Arts Festival runs Aug. 4-6. The annual show attracts up to 90,000 guests. It fills several blocks of Commercial Avenue in downtown Anacortes with some 200 arts and crafts vendor booths, plus jazz and main performance stages, art demonstrations, a kids' discovery area, beer and wine gardens, food vendors and more. Info: anacortesartsfestival.com.

The Chamber of Commerce hosts the 23rd annual **La Conner Classic Boat & Car Show**

from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5, at the La Conner Marina. See beautiful boats built before 1979 and an array of classic cars on display. Info: LoveLaConner.com.

The Skagit County Fair starts Wednesday, Aug. 9, and runs through Saturday, Aug. 12, at the fairgrounds in Mount Vernon. See farm animals and pets, visit the carnival, check out entertainment on several stages. Info: skagitcounty.net/fair.

The Lincoln Theatre presents its 21st annual **BrewFest** at the Skagit from 2-7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 12, at Edgewater Park in Mount Vernon. Come for the dozens of craft beers and

food, stay for the dancing. Info: lincolnthatre.org.

The Swinomish Tribal Community hosts its annual **SwinomishD** festival with events planned for the weekend of Aug. 12 and 13.

The Skagit River Poetry Foundation presents **Yumke Me Wana Hbler**, a festival of poetry and music, from 2-7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 13, at Pioneer Park. Musicians include Delta Promenade and the Erik Christensen Band, plus open mic stages for poetry readings. Hamburgers, hot dogs and ice cream will be available for purchase. Bring a camp chair. Free admission. Source: *La Conner Weekly News*

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Team public works renews kiosks

By Ollie Iversen

You may not have noticed, but our information kiosks are back up and working to keep you and visitors informed about what happens here in our town. Over the winter, the Swinomish Park kiosk blew down during a windstorm, due to the base being rusted and, with that, we decided the remaining kiosks were looking sad and due for repairs and repainting.

Public Works took them into their shop disassembled them and sent them out to be painted and labeled. Then they put them back together and installed them at their old sites: in Gilkey Square; in Swinomish Park, across from the Benton Street stairs; and the last one at the public parking lot below Town Hall. They are painted beautifully



— Photo courtesy of Ollie Iversen

and now always have up to date information about the goings on in La Conner, including a map of the town, showing parks stores, museums and more.

So, thank you Public Works for doing this and everything you guys do, keeping La Conner looking so good.

Iversen is a town parks commissioner.

'It's really a crisis': Small towns fight to save local papers

By Jeanie Lindsay

With a stack of fresh newspapers in hand, Ken Stern is making one of his first stops of the day at La Conner's local office supply and business center.

He greets the owners, Christina and Robyn Burdick-Good-Rubenstein – and their dog Clover. Stern knows exactly what they want, as the chanting begins: "Crossword day! Crossword day!"

Stern is publisher and editor of the La Conner Weekly News. He doesn't always deliver papers himself, but today he's playing tour guide while he restocks local shops and newspaper boxes scattered across the two main streets of town. The small fishing community turned tourist destination is home to less than a thousand people – there isn't a traffic light anywhere in La Conner.

At 68 years old, Stern is ready to retire. But first, he has to sell the newspaper to a new publisher. Stern compares it to trying to sell a buggy whip factory.

"It's very hard in 2023 to sell a buggy whip factory, no matter how high quality my buggy whips are, there's not much demand," he said.

The La Conner Weekly News is one of a handful of small-town newspapers across the Pacific Northwest on the cusp of a new chapter. In Eastern Oregon, the Malheur Enterprise is looking for new ownership, as its publisher also looks to retire after decades working in journalism. In Southwest Washington, the publisher of one rural county's only newspaper – the Wahkiakum County Eagle – recently died, leaving the paper's long term future unclear.

All three publications share similar goals: keep local news local, and keep the papers going.

It's a daunting page to turn in an ever-evolving industry. The numbers paint a bleak picture. Washington lost 20% of its local newspapers since 2004, according to one report from the League of Women Voters of Washington. Just this summer, a legacy newspaper in Central Washington, the Grant County Journal, closed up shop after more than 100 years in business.

"It's really a crisis for a lot of small towns and it's an essential part of Democracy to have a newspaper in a town," said Fred Obee, executive director of the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association.

Obee says less coverage of local government – think school boards, town councils and commissioners – means less community involvement. Some research says a lack of local news can make political polarization worse.

Managing the business of a small paper is no easy feat. Money from advertising isn't what it used to be, Obee says. National chain stores don't need to run local ads as much, and social media has siphoned away even more advertising dollars.

"Of course the crushing blow really was COVID," Obee said.

Back in Northwest Washington, Stern says the La Conner Weekly has bucked that trend a bit, with ad sales increasing in recent years. That's important, because individual paper sales and subscriptions only make up about 18% of revenue.

"I can sell one paper a month out of some of the boxes, but it's better to have 'em out there than to take 'em away," Stern said.

But the La Conner Weekly's survival will likely take more community buy-in – literally.

Stern wants someone to buy and run the paper and has been posting for-sale ads in different publications, hoping to catch the eye of a mid-career journalist or two willing to move here. Stern himself moved to La Conner from Ohio in 2017, after he realized his job managing a nonprofit wasn't going to take him into retirement. "I basically bought myself my last job by buying the La Conner Weekly News," he said.

Stern is also talking to people who aren't journalists. He's exploring the possibility of whether a group of locals could purchase the paper together. Essentially, Stern says, they could act as a board of directors to shape the paper's future and hire a new managing editor.

Joan Cross is interested in the idea. Cross has lived in La Conner for 45 years and started a physical therapy business in town.

She says those conversations are still in the early stages, but that she's interested in ensuring the weekly's viability into the future however she can.

"We don't go to the La Conner Weekly News to find out what's going on in the world," Cross said. "But what's going on in our little corner of the world – it's important. Nobody covers that except the local newspaper."

Some papers are already finding success with a more investor-led model. Papers in South Carolina have received thousands of dollars in local donations, while a national nonprofit has agreed to buy a group of daily papers in Maine.

Some people in Wahkiakum County have raised questions about grants or philanthropic investments as they consider ways to rally support for the Eagle. But business manager Ian Brandon has doubts about whether those can realistically provide financial stability in the long term.

"That might get us partway down the road," Brandon said, noting the Eagle is likely going to have to make changes to its revenue structure. For example, the paper is still free online, he says, but that could change as the Eagle tries to craft a sustainable long-term business plan.

And while there is technically a price tag on these publications – Stern hopes to sell the La Conner Weekly for around \$265,000 – many people in small towns agree the value of their weekly paper goes far beyond any dollar amount.

Burdick-Good-Rubenstein, the co-owner of the local post office supply store in La Conner, certainly loves the paper for its crossword. But when it comes down to it, she says, the paper provides information she just can't get anywhere else.

"You can have your ear to the ground and still miss something. But to have it in print is... it's vital," she said.

So after Ken Stern finishes this week's deliveries – he's getting right back to figuring out what comes next for the La Conner Weekly.

First published July 20, 2023. Copyright 2023 Northwest News Network. Reprinted with permission.

School budget

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

In the fall, 490 full-time K-12 students will enroll, down from 600 prior to the pandemic, he estimates. He projects a student population of 448 in 2026-2027. “We’re going to gradually get ourselves back in a strong position,” Cram insisted. “We’re on the right track. We’re getting ourselves back on a strong foothold.”

Board President Susie Deyo said the budget, while painful at the outset, is a first step toward “right-sizing our district.”

Deyo has worked tirelessly to market the district to families with students attending nearby parochial and non-aligned campuses. She lamented that rising housing costs contribute to a declining student population. And student enrollment, she and Cram pointed out, is the main driver of state funding support. “We used to have a busload of kids out of Shelter Bay,” Deyo said. “We don’t now. We encourage Shelter Bay and Swinomish to come to an agreement (on a new master lease). It’s impacting our enrollment. People can’t get a 30-year note in Shelter Bay. And housing in the Town of La Conner is very expensive. We’d hoped that the new housing would bring in more families. But buying an \$800,000 home is hard for young families.”

Deyo said she has repeatedly received positive input from people regarding academic and extracurricular programs.

“But,” she said, “they say they can’t afford to live in the district.”

“It’s difficult,” board member John Agen said, “for 30-year-olds with kids to afford housing here. It requires a significant income. The whole La Conner area has exploded in terms of housing costs. That has impacted our enrollment and COVID impacted everyone’s enrollment.”

One potential cost-saving measure this fall – a kindergarten/first grade split classroom – will be reconsidered.

Elementary teacher Judy Zimmerman told board members that while split classrooms aren’t unusual, a kindergarten/first grade split wouldn’t be ideal.

“A split classroom shouldn’t be the first experience for our students,” Zimmerman said. “Kindergarteners need time coming in to learn the lay of the land. They’re not first graders. Creating a second grade/third grade split would be better.”

“I understand that hard decisions have to be made,” said Zimmerman. “I know we’re trying to dig ourselves out of a financial hole.”

She fears that families with kindergarten students might enroll their children in other districts if La Conner runs a split kindergarten/first grade class.

“We have to be selective where a split goes,” La Conner Schools Superintendent Will Nelson acknowledged, noting that there is already a fourth grade/fifth grade classroom at the elementary school.

“I hear what Judy is saying,” Nelson said. “She’s absolutely right. I hear what she’s saying. We’ll look with (elementary principal) Heather (Fakkema-Hovde) to see if we have any other options.”

Cram offered a positive closing note reporting a \$.5 million grant to upgrade the high school heating, ventilation and air conditioning system.

Drought

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

can capture rain and funnel it right to the roots. That’s what keeps corn alive in dry areas.”

Where there is water, corn is tall, pasture grass is green and potato plants are big enough to achieve row closure by casting enough shade to preserve soil moisture. Where there is little water, corn is short and pastures look stressed. Spreading manure on pasture grass can keep it green and alive until the rains return. Vander Kooy is only manuring his newer pastures. “A couple older grass fields I have to walk away from.”

Growers use big water guns to irrigate corn, pasture grass and potatoes. Farmers of specialty vegetables like Swanson and deVries use drip irrigation.

“I’m not spraying water into the sky,” said Swanson. “It’s going where it needs to go. I want beans that are straight, I don’t want cucumbers that are stressed and crooked.”

Swanson is on “city water” from the Skagit Public Utility District. It is reliable, but expensive. To economize, flower grower Beth Hailey of Dona Flora, also on city water, has been prioritizing her transplants. “It’s a struggle to figure out what to water next – basically babies and things that look like they will fall down,” she said. Many varieties are shorter than usual, so she is making lots of miniature bouquets.

Before installing equipment that let him switch to the PUD’s agricultural rate, city water was costing Chris Dariotis of La Conner Gardens \$1,000 a month. Fortunately, garlic, his major crop, doesn’t need to be irrigated during summer. The one July rain “loosened up the soil so we could bring in the last of the garlic,” he said. “Even

the crops we irrigate seemed to enjoy getting some rain.”

Thulen, Vander Kooy and other bigger farmers use Skagit River water for irrigation – but not when the Skagit River’s in-stream flow drops below 10,000 cubic feet per second, the Washington State Department of Ecology’s baseline for keeping fisheries healthy.

When the river dropped in early July, irrigation pumps that fill ditches were shut off. Fortunately, on July 25, the PUD agreed to transfer some of its unused water rights to Skagit County Drainage and Irrigation Improvement District 15, which supplies the flats east of Best Road, and District 22, which supplies water closer to La Conner. The pumps turned on again.

“This is a wonderful agreement, and I appreciate that Skagit PUD was part of the solution,” said Thulen, a District 22 commissioner. “Now we need to get something permanent in place so we can start using water earlier, before there is an emergency. Not a lot of irrigating happens in August, but July is an important month.”

During the two weeks the water was off, seed spinach in at least one field bolted and was plowed under to cut losses. “In my dad’s youth, you never irrigated spinach. Now everybody is irrigating their seed crops. It’s not going to be a good year for spinach,” said Thulen.

Farming is different every year – but as the climate changes and drought and water shortages become more common, the varieties of crops grown in the valley may change.

“Broccoli used to be big in the valley, but it used a lot of water, so you only see small patches now,” said Thulen. “We are trying out types of potatoes that we can grow with less water. Across the U.S., farmers are asking, how can we adapt?”

Pioneer Picnic

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

than 550 wins during her storied career. She also instilled in her charges a commitment to community service and a lifetime appreciation for health and fitness. Always an innovator, she structured a physical education course to include student participation with a group of local retired senior cyclists.

Marble has the distinction of being in two separate halls of fame in Washington state. A 2015 inductee into the coaches’ hall of fame, she joined the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association Hall of Fame on May 3.

The Benson/Berentson family has made a name – make that, names – for itself during more than a century in Skagit County.

“We’re really one family,” Laura Matthews told the Weekly News. “Like many who came to this country, names were changed or modified for convenience.”

“In Norway,” she explained, “the naming conventions were to name sons after fathers and

daughters after mothers, with the addition of the place name.”

She said Anton Berntsen Dragaland emigrated to the United States in 1858, three years before the Civil War.

“He established himself in farming in Minnesota, where he welcomed future immigrants as they came here,” said Matthews.

Matthews said Atlag Berntsen Dragaland raised his family in Norway. His children included Berent Anton (Big Ben) Benson, the first of his immediate family to emigrate to America.

Berent Andrew (Little Ben) Benson, the son of Anton Berntsen Dragaland, was born in Minnesota and moved to the Edison area in 1888.

The Pioneer Picnic features a barbecued salmon meal served at 11:15 a.m. by members of the La Conner Civic Garden Club.

The meal is \$20, with the bulk of proceeds going to support the Skagit County Historical Museum in La Conner. A commemorative ribbon that allows free museum admission through the weekend is included.

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62nd
Anacortes
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AUGUST 4-6

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Port Transit Shed in Anacortes

AnacortesArtsFestival.com

Skagit Valley Farmers Market

Sundays 10-2
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U-Pick Blueberries
at
Christianson's Nursery
15806 Best Road, Mount Vernon, WA
ChristiansonsNursery.com



LEGAL NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON COUNTY OF KING Estate of: NANCY ELLEN FOX, Deceased. No. 23-4-04699-1 SEA. PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.40.030 The Personal Representative named below Personal Representative has been appointed and has qualified as the 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: (1) serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim; and (2) filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after the Personal Representative'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(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.

Date of publication in Skagit County: July 19, 2023 Personal Representative: Nicholas Hart Allison Attorney for the Personal Representative: Denelle G. Reilly Address for Mailing or Service: Denelle G. Reilly, Somers Tamblyn Isenhour Bleck, P.L.L.C., 701 Pike Street, Suite 1510, Seattle, WA 98101 DATED: July 11, 2023. SOMERS TAMBLYN ISENHOUR BLECK, P.L.L.C. Denelle G. Reilly, WSBA No 38372, Attorney for Personal Representative Somers Tamblyn Isenhour Bleck, P.L.L.C., 701 Pike Street, Suite 1510, Seattle,

Washington 98101. Telephone: (206) 340-2200. Fax: (206) 232-4049 Published in the La Conner Weekly News July 19, 26, Aug. 2, 2023. IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SNOHOMISH In re the Estate of: CLARA B. THISIUS, Deceased. NO. 23-4-01295-31 NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.40.030 The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having claims against 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(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets.

Date of first publication: July 19, 2023 KAREN E. WINCHELL, Personal Representative c/o Maren Benedetti, Attorney for Estate 3128 Colby Avenue Everett, WA 98201 425-339-8556 Published in the La Conner Weekly News July 19, 26, Aug. 2, 2023. SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY ESTATE OF LYDIA IRENE PRICE, Deceased. No. 23-4-00309-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS Bonnie Price 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: (A) 30 days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020 (1)(c); (B) or 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 RCW 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets. Date of First Publication: July 19, 2023. DATED: July 17, 2023 Bonnie Price Personal Representative Attorney for Personal

Representative Andrew C. Schuh, WSBA #47724 Law Offices of Andrew C. Schuh PLLC 1204 Cleveland Avenue Mount Vernon, WA 98273 360-503-1043 Published in the La Conner Weekly News July 19, 26, Aug. 2, 2023. IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR SKAGIT COUNTY In re the Estate of: MARTHA E. POLSON, Deceased. NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.40.030 The personal representative named below has been appointed as personal representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the personal representative or the personal representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets. Date of First Publication: July 19, 2023 Personal Representative: Marsha A. Belmont and Alfred G. Polson Attorney for the Personal Representative: Jayne Gilbert Address for Mailing or Service: Jayne Gilbert, 314 Pine St., Mount Vernon, WA 98273 Published in the La Conner Weekly News July 19, 26, Aug. 2, 2023.

Date of first publication: July 26, 2023 Rune O. Pedersen Personal Representative SKAGIT LAW GROUP, PLLC KATE SZUREK, WSBA #26723 Attorneys for Personal Representative P.O. Box 336/227 Freeway Drive, Suite B, Mount Vernon, WA 98273 Published in the La Conner Weekly News July 26, Aug. 2, 9, 2023. IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SKAGIT In Re: the Estate of Buddy Fritz PARTRIDGE, Deceased, Amber SORIA, Petitioner. NO. 23-4-00344-29 NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO: ALL CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT YOU AND EACH OF YOU TAKE NOTE that 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 as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets. Date of First Publication: July 26, 2023 Personal Representative: Amber Soria Address for Mailing or Service: JOSEPH D. BOWEN, ATTORNEY AT LAW, 401 South Second Street, Mount Vernon, WA 98273 Published in the La Conner Weekly News July 26, Aug. 2, 9, 2023.

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: July 26, 2023 Personal Representative: Michael E. Souza Attorney for Personal Representative: Aaron M. Rasmusen, WSBA #29496 Address for Mailing or Service: North Sound Law Group, PLLC, 300 N. Commercial St., Bellingham, WA 98225; Phone: 360-671-7700 Published in the La Conner Weekly News July 26, Aug. 2, 9, 2023. NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY LISTED BELOW The Plaintiffs Kevin Paul and Patricia Paul are initiating a Quiet Title action on the building located at the following address: 17544 Pioneer Parkway, La Conner, WA 98257. Quiet Title actions are used to determine the ownership interests in homes and other buildings. The Quiet Title action has been filed in the Swinomish Tribal Court. The matter has been set for hearing on September 12, 2023, at 3:00 p.m., at the location below. Any person wishing to assert a right, title, or interest in any of the buildings at the address listed above, should contact the Swinomish Tribal Court to obtain the necessary paperwork to file a claim. QUIET TITLE HEARING LOCATION Swinomish Tribal Court Social Services Building, 17337 Reservation Road La Conner, WA, 98257 CONTACT FOR QUIET TITLE HEARING SCHEDULE Blair Page, Swinomish Tribal Court Clerk Phone: (360) 466.7217 Email: bpage@swinomish.nsn.us Date of first publication of this notice: July 26, 2023. Published in the La Conner Weekly News July 26, and Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2023.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY CHRISTINA EGERER, as Successor Trustee of the Wilson Family Trust dated June 19th, 1997 Plaintiff vs. THE HEIRS & DEVISEES OF JOHN JOHNSON & WILHEMINA JOHNSON, h/w; AND, ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN CLAIMING ANY INTEREST IN OR TO THE SUBJECT REAL PROPERTY Defendants No. 23-2-00565-29 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF WASHINGTON TO: ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN CLAIMING ANY INTEREST IN OR TO THE SUBJECT REAL PROPERTY, Defendants: 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 26th

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

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY No. 23-4-00387-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030) In the Matter of the Estate of Joseph P. Souza, Deceased. Cause No. 23-4-00392-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030) The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the personal representative or the personal representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY In the Matter of the Estate of Joseph P. Souza, Deceased. Cause No. 23-4-00392-29 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. 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

day of July, 2023, and defend the above entitled action in the above entitled court, and answer the complaint of the plaintiffs, and serve a copy of your answer upon the undersigned attorney for plaintiffs at his 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 object of this action is to quiet title to certain real property, located in Skagit County, Washington, and described as follows: That portion of the Northeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 14, Township 35 North, Range 3 East, W.M., lying East of the Pacific Highway; EXCEPT one acre, also showing as the North 208.7 feet of the East 208.7 feet thereof. DATED: July 26, 2023. CRAIG SJOSTROM #21149 Attorney for Plaintiff 1204 Cleveland Ave. Mount Vernon, WA 98273 (360) 848-0339 Published in the La Conner Weekly News July 26, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023. SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY No. 23-4-00399-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030) In the Matter of the Estate of Linda E. Pickett, Deceased The personal representative named below has been appointed as personal representative of this estate. Any person having claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the personal representative or the personal representative's attorney at the address stated below, a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets. Date of first publication: August 2, 2023 Bradford L. Pickett Personal Representative SKAGIT LAW GROUP, PLLC MEGAN OTIS MASON-HOLDER, WSBA #29495 Attorneys for Personal Representative P.O. Box 336/227 Freeway Drive, Suite B Mount Vernon, WA 98273 Published in the La Conner Weekly News, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 2023.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY CHRISTINA EGERER, as Successor Trustee of the Wilson Family Trust dated June 19th, 1997 Plaintiff vs. THE HEIRS & DEVISEES OF JOHN JOHNSON & WILHEMINA JOHNSON, h/w; AND, ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN CLAIMING ANY INTEREST IN OR TO THE SUBJECT REAL PROPERTY Defendants No. 23-2-00565-29 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF WASHINGTON TO: ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN CLAIMING ANY INTEREST IN OR TO THE SUBJECT REAL PROPERTY, Defendants: 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 26th

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- 1. Barbie (PG-13) Margot Robbie, Ryan Gosling
2. Oppenheimer (R) Cillian Murphy, Emily Blunt
3. Sound of Freedom (PG-13) Jim Caviezel, Mira Sorvino
4. Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One (PG-13) Tom Cruise, Hayley Atwell
5. Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny (PG-13) Harrison Ford, Phoebe Waller-Bridge
6. Insidious: The Red Door (PG-13) Ty Simpkins, Patrick Wilson
7. Elemental (PG) Leah Lewis, Mamoudou Athie
8. Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse (PG) Shameik Moore, Hailee Steinfeld
9. Transformers: Rise of the Beasts (PG-13) Anthony Ramos, Dominique Fishback
10. No Hard Feelings (R) Jennifer Lawrence, Andrew Barth Feldman

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer grid with numbers 1-9 in a 9x9 format.

Super Crossword

Answers to Aug. 2 puzzles
STAY EDBACK I KEA STEWS
PAGETURNER TEXT ARNIE
FRESH PAIRO FEYES TIDED
NEE ACE MEDICINE
COLORS IN DESPAIROVER
RIO DORN LET PETERS
ALISTAIRCO KE UPS
MERGER MEAN PRECIAO
PRETEST THEBLAIRWITCH
OAT VOIRD ERATO
SCIENCEF A I R PROJECS
ALARM REFS EMU
SOLITAI RERING GRAMMAR
HEMSUTA OEU F OTTOLE
LSD SINCLAIRLEWIS
ASASE TIRV KLMN ETA
BADHAI RDAY S EATS CROW
SHRAPNEL AMT RHO
CAINT WILD PRAIRIEROSE
ARENA ONOR SPACES AVER
MANA T NGOS CENTRALAIR

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By Patricia Aqimuk Paul, Esq., Food Editor.

Herbal Condiment



Fresh from your garden. Italian parsley is easy to grow in a sunny, well drained location. We have an abundance of flat Italian parsley this year. Italian parsley reseeds itself so we have a nice bed of it. One plant yielded one cup chopped fine. I used a chef's knife to chop the leaves small. I removed stems as I chopped. I used a garlic press and a box grater for the lemon zest, on the smallest side to grate. You can adjust amounts of fresh garlic and lemon to taste. For the most benefit to your health, use organic ingredients

- Ingredients**
- Flat Italian parsley, one cup finely chopped
 - Garlic cloves, 2
 - Lemon zest, from half a lemon
 - Olive oil, 1 teaspoon
 - Salt, two shakes

Preparation
Chop the Italian parsley into tiny pieces. The garlic gives this recipe a bite. Press the garlic. Grate the lemon peel. Mix all together with a fork, to fluff and blend. Add the olive oil and salt. Mix till blended. You can mix with cooked pasta or with your cooked vegetables. Use right away.

Aqimuk'sKitchen@outlook.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Complete Events Calendar on laconnerweeklynews.com

NOT TO BE MISSED

Anacortes Arts Festival, Aug. 4-6. Some 200 arts and crafts vendor booths fill several blocks of Commercial Avenue. Check out jazz and main performance stages, art demonstrations, a kids' discovery area, beer and wine gardens, food vendors and more. Info: anacortesartsfestival.com.

The La Conner Chamber of Commerce hosts the 23rd annual La Conner Classic Boat and Car Show, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5, at the La Conner Marina. See beautiful boats built before 1979 and an array of classic cars on display. Info: LoveLaConner.com.

The Skagit County Fair runs Aug. 9-12, at the fairgrounds in Mount Vernon. See farm animals and pets, visit the carnival, check out entertainment on several stages. Info: skagitcounty.net/fair.

The Lincoln Theatre presents BrewFest on the Skagit, 2-7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 12, at Edgewater Park in Mount Vernon. Come for the dozens of craft beers and food, stay for the dancing. Info: lincolnthatre.org.

The Skagit River Poetry Foundation presents You Make Me Wanna Holler, a festival of poetry and music, 2-7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 13, at Pioneer Park. Musicians include Delta Promenade and the Erik Christensen Band,

plus open mic stages for poetry readings. Free admission.

LIBRARIES

La Conner Swinomish Library. 520 Morris St., La Conner. 360-466-3352. lclib.wa.us. Open 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday.
• Storytime. Every Friday at 11 a.m.
• Tech Help. Every Monday, 4-6 p.m. One-on-one technical support.
• Dungeons & Dragons Club. Every Tuesday, 3-5 p.m. No previous gaming experience necessary.

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, CityofAnacortes.org.

Burlington Public Library. 820 E. Washington Ave., Burlington. 360-755-0760, burlingtonwa.gov/library.
• Knitting Club. All ages, Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

MUSIC

Ukelele Fun & Song Circle. Meets 1-2 p.m. every Wednesday, Burlington Senior Center. For more 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.

La Conner Live Concert Series. Live music 1-4 p.m. every 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.

Port of Anacortes. Free Summer Concert Series. Live music from 6-8 p.m. every Wednesday and Friday at Seafarers' Memorial Park, 601 Seafarers Way, Anacortes

MUSEUMS

Pacific Northwest Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum. 703 S. Second St., La Conner. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. qfamuseum.org, 360-466-4288. An artists' reception with light refreshments from 3-4:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5, is free and open to all. See two new exhibits and meet the artists

• Bojagi Journey 2023; curated by Patti King. July 26 - Oct. 8
• David Owen Hastings: Paper + Stitch. Aug. 2 - Oct. 29

Skagit County Historical Museum. 360-466-3365 or 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. Closed through Aug. 4. Museum store open during regular hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, noon-5 p.m. Sunday and Monday. monamuseum.org, 360-466-4446.

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.

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.

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

MEETINGS

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

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

ONLINE GO TO:
www.laconnerweeklynews.com

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

COOLING TREND

ACROSS

- 1 Didn't move any closer
- 11 Swedish retail giant
- 15 Frets
- 20 Book you can't stop reading
- 21 Pupil's book
- 22 Palmer of golf, to fans
- 23 Additional person called on to peruse something
- 25 Ebbed and flowed, as water
- 26 Premarital named
- 27 Rarity in golf
- 28 Curative stuff
- 30 Fills with a crayon, say
- 35 Feel hopeless about
- 38 — Grande
- 39 Bring to ruin
- 42 Authorize to
- 43 Tony winner Bernadette
- 44 Longtime "Masterpiece Theatre" host
- 49 Increases
- 50 Corporation combination

- 51 Malicious
- 52 Start for historic
- 53 "I'm outie!"
- 57 Practice exam, maybe
- 59 Legendary title figure of a 1999 horror film
- 63 Granola bit
- 65 Invalidate
- 66 Bards' Muse
- 67 Some schoolkids' judged constructions
- 75 Startle
- 76 D.C. VIPs
- 77 Outback bird
- 78 Bit of jewelry with a single diamond
- 83 English class concern
- 89 Skirt borders
- 90 Hagen of the stage
- 91 Egg, in Paris
- 93 "Lawrence of Arabia" star
- 94 '60s hallucinogen
- 95 "Main Street" novelist
- 98 How silverware is often sold
- 102 Hip-hop producer Gotti

- 103 String after J
- 104 O'Hare abbr.
- 105 Times of trouble with tresses
- 108 Has a helping of humble pie
- 112 Explosion fragments
- 113 Qty.
- 116 Pi-sigma link
- 117 "I — Say No" (song from "Oklahoma!")
- 118 State flower of Iowa
- 126 Sporting site
- 127 — about (circa)
- 128 Foldaway bed or table, e.g.
- 129 — -arms (old soldier)
- 130 Gps. such as Oxfam and CARE
- 131 Ducted cooling system (and what nine answers in this puzzle have)

- 4 Like some simple questions
- 5 Old anesthetic
- 6 Swindles
- 7 Lingerie top
- 8 Darth Vader, as a boy
- 9 "Juno" actor Michael
- 10 McDonald's honcho Ray
- 11 Suffix with Gotham
- 12 Essential
- 13 Off the hook
- 14 Really baffled
- 15 Lampons
- 16 Ribbed cloth for dresses
- 17 Option for bitter greens
- 18 Frankfurter
- 19 Jewish feasts
- 24 Nourished
- 29 Ladle
- 30 Runner's pain
- 31 OPEC vessel
- 32 Tours' river
- 33 Dictator Amin
- 34 Average
- 36 Wapiti
- 37 Witness
- 40 "Rhyme Pays" rapper
- 41 Ark "captain"
- 45 Mil. bigwig
- 46 Masters peg

- 47 Fiery felony
- 48 A unified goal for the future
- 49 Mentalist Geller
- 52 GI's chaplain
- 53 Mag. sales stat
- 54 "Leave — that"
- 55 Doesn't delay
- 56 "Well now!"
- 58 Tic-toe link
- 60 Div. of NYC
- 61 Cup's edge
- 62 Minuscule
- 64 — cotta
- 67 Gin flavorer
- 68 Not flustered
- 69 Camera part
- 70 CPR teacher, maybe
- 71 Service cost
- 72 Rainy mo.
- 73 "U can't b serious!"
- 74 Hearer of court evidence
- 75 Fire residue
- 79 Texas capital
- 80 "— be a pleasure"
- 81 Guitar part
- 82 Aquatic bird
- 84 Ocean off Fla.
- 85 A Stooge
- 86 It cuts grass
- 87 Samuel of justice

- 88 Cut again, as lumber
- 92 Star status
- 94 Pounced on
- 95 Lady of Sp.
- 96 Climbing vine
- 97 — funk (sad)
- 98 1978-80 FBI sting
- 99 African desert
- 100 Best Actor winner Brody
- 101 "Pacific Blue" actress Moakler
- 102 Like engines in neutral
- 106 Took back, as one's title
- 107 Sticky stuff
- 109 Hearer of court evidence
- 110 Tom Jones' "— Lady"
- 111 Reef material
- 114 Richie's mom, to Fonzie
- 115 Sticky stuff
- 119 John, across the pond
- 120 OR workers
- 121 John, across the pond
- 122 Sales check: Abbr.
- 123 Female cells
- 124 Six, in Italy
- 125 Go astray

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POLICE BLOTTER

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sunday, July 23

4:17 a.m. Prowler, maybe not – Reporting person called in for the homeowner after learning of a subject who may be prowling in the area. Subject described as riding a bike and wearing a baseball cap. Subject also said to have neck tattoos. Multiple calls on a message but no crimes found and subject not located or identified. N. 1st St., La Conner.

Monday, July 24

7:27 a.m. Kids got away – Report of kids racing ATVs on the road and in farm fields. Area was blocked but no ATVs located and no damage seen at any fields. Bradshaw Rd. / Summers Dr., Greater La Conner.

7:40 a.m. Deer put down – Report of an injured deer that had been hit by a car. A deputy arrived and found the deer was alive but appeared to have broken back legs. The deputy was able to put the deer down and notify public works for removal. Dodge Valley / Bessemer Rds., Greater La Conner.

Tuesday, July 25

4:54 p.m. Dove off bridge – A dove jumped from the Rainbow Bridge while a friend recorded the jump from below. The dove swam to the shore and both fled before law arrived. Diving from the bridge is extremely dangerous and should never be done. Shallow tides and debris in the water can lead to serious injury or death. Rainbow Bridge, La Conner.

Wednesday, July 26

1:58 p.m. Wallet waiting – Wallet found on boat property that was called in for pickup. N. 6th St., La Conner.

Thursday, July 27

2:10 p.m. Don't reach while driving – Two vehicles traveling north on La Conner-Whitney Road were in an accident when one rear ended the other at McLean road. The accident driver stated the kids had dropped an item on the floor and reached back to pick it up and did not see traffic slow in front of them. La Conner Whitney / McLean Rds., Greater La Conner.

Friday, July 28

7:33 a.m. Car versus building – Building at this address was struck by a vehicle sometime overnight. The vehicle had fled the scene and has not been located. Skid marks visible prior to the crash and car parts at the scene appear to be from a Nissan. Deputies are looking for a Nissan with rear front end damage. Maple Ave., La Conner.

2:10 p.m. Don't mess with lock – Sliders Café reported that the lock on the building may have been tampered with. The subject opening for the day stated the key was difficult to use but it did work. No entry was gained but the key being difficult indicated that someone may have messed with the lock. Morris St., La Conner.

Saturday, July 29

1:05 p.m. Roadside dog – A dog was located on the side of the road and the reporting party could not find the owner. Reporting person was advised they could take the dog to the humane society if unable to care for it. La Conner Whitney Rd., Greater La Conner.



SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE – Last Sunday member-owners and others were shopping at the Skagit Valley Food Co-op in Mount Vernon. At least one member has her dear old Volkswagen bus. The Co-op celebrates its 50th anniversary this month with a celebration 4-8 p.m. Aug. 9 at the Skagit Riverwalk Plaza in downtown Mount Vernon. – Photo by Ken Sern

Happy 50th anniversary, Skagit Valley Food Co-op

Background

First to last, for 50 years the Skagit Valley Food Co-op has been about its member-owners. That, and the international principles embraced when the cooperative was founded as a buying club in a Presbyterian church basement in Mount Vernon in August 1973. “We would not exist without our members,” said Nicole Vander Meulen, the Co-op’s marketing and outreach director, Friday. “Let’s start at the beginning ... YOU,” the 2022 annual report proclaims next to the winding path of milestones depicting the organization’s history from its humble origins to 2023. Today it anchors downtown Mount Vernon, occupying the block at Division and First streets. With more than 175 employees and almost \$3 million in sales, it is one of downtown and Skagit County’s largest employers.

Vander Meulen oversaw that annual report. She is thorough and consistent. “The cooperative model works,” she says. “This radical reciprocal capitalism is a good way to do things. You cannot really succeed without the support of your community. It speaks to the model and to the community. Each one of the principles contains this righteousness.”

She understands the essence of a successful co-op is being a part of something bigger than yourself. Vander Meulen cites the Co-op’s greatest accomplishment of the last five years – after growing through the COVID-19 pandemic – as the board of directors’ decision to grant \$00,000 to Viva Farm and perpetuate young farmers. That is the seventh cooperative principle, concern for community, in action.

It is also the second principle,

democratic member control, in action. An elected board sets policies and makes decisions for the over 23,000 member-owner households.

Last January, the Co-op celebrated the grant to Viva Farms at the Lincoln Theatre. Members filled the auditorium to acclaim their commitment to local farmers, securing its local food supply and the environmental and economic vitality and future of the Skagit Valley. The board established a Growing Good Fund and awarded it to Viva to help perpetuate organic and small scale farming in Skagit County.

Vander Meulen stresses that “part of the decision to support Viva was to finance food accessibility further up the chain. We donate frequently to hunger relief organizations, but the act of growing food right here is one way to help ensure that all people in Skagit County are well fed, forever (hence the name of the January event: Feeding Skagit Forever).”

While this long-term commitment is impressive, so is the size of this one-time gift. “I don’t know of any other co-op that has given that much money,” Vander Meulen said.

The Co-op’s commitment to

buying local means working with dozens of small accounts. Vander Meulen praised produce manager Ben Goe: “He knows all the farmers. The department is calling individual farmers on an everyday basis. We are going directly through the farms. It is easier for the farmers to work directly with (our staff). It is the right thing to do.”

She cited buying Gary Moulton’s entire crop of Taylor’s Gold comice pears for years, as one example of “us buying entire crops or working with generation farmers and sourcing our produce directly.”

Last year, 37% of produce sold came from local farms, nearly \$4 million.

The annual report states that the Co-op buys from 585 local companies. That is \$4 million of customer purchases, 40% of \$3 million last year.

Not bad for an operation started by volunteers and run out of a church basement in 1973.

Asked to project into the next 50 years, Vander Meulen emphasized again: “We would not be here without the greater community. The support from people in the Valley and beyond is what makes us us. To sum it up: cooperation works is the main thing.”

MARINA MOORINGS

Port of Skagit

We are getting the parking lots ready for the Car and Boat Show Saturday, Aug 5. This is a bigger endeavor than you might imagine. Boaters in our marina are sometimes gone for months at a time, and we have to make sure their cars are parked somewhere safe. It can be difficult to manage, but we are blessed with a community of boaters who enjoy supporting town events and most people are happy to help. Remember to come out for this event if you can, it should be good again this year.

Safety and Maintenance: One of the benefits of working in a marina is the experts you brush up against on a daily basis. I recently spoke with a tenant who is a certified electrician and who is also an expert on RV electrical systems. We were discussing the electrical standards of the American Boat and Yacht Council, which are the standard for yacht construction. They are significantly stricter than any of the other regulations out there, and they mark a solid standard for safety and reliability.

I was asking him about a situation I observed at an RV show. The electrical system was exposed, and there were seven wires running off the positive post of the lithium ion battery to all points of the RV. There were no fuses to be seen. This expert confirmed that ABYC standards for boats would have required overcurrent protection (a fuse or breaker of some type) within 7 inches of the source of power (the positive post on the battery, in this case). This is to prevent wires from heating up and causing a fire in the event of a short circuit, since moving electricity generates heat.

ABYC offers one significant caveat: starter cables carry lots of energy but only for a short time. They do not require a fuse, but make sure you have some type of fuse or circuit breaker on every other wire leading off of your positive battery terminal. Consult a marine electrician if you have any questions, and look for the ABYC certification when you call.

Remember to mark your calendar for the Skagit Farm to Pint Festival on Sept. 30, in conjunction with Genuine Skagit Valley. This should be a lot of fun, and you can find more info at SkagitFarm-toPint.com.

See you on the Channel!

— Chris Omdal, harbormaster



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