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Museum raises funds for alarm system • p 10

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Ferry leaves La Conner



FERRY BOARDING – Mavrik Marine's 130-foot ferry Delphinus, built for San Francisco, was patiently guided across a narrow bridge onto a 200 foot barge for a trip to Anacortes Monday night. The ferry will be put in the water and return to La Conner today for final testing before to its new home. Story and another photo, page 10.

—Photo by Nancy Crowell

Agen leads in La Conner school board contest

By Ken Stern

The one contested election for greater La Conner voters in 2023, between John Agen and Janie Beasley for La Conner School District Director Position 2, has Agen with 453 votes, 53.7% after the first vote tally Nov. 7 and ahead by 68 votes. Beasley received 385 votes, 45.7%.

All Town of La Conner candidates did not have opposition and won: Marna Hanneman for mayor, has 170 votes; Annie Taylor, appointed in 2021, for council position 1, has 162; and Mary Wohleb, an incumbent, 169 votes. They take their oaths in December. Hanneman replaces Ramon Hayes, mayor since 2007.

Two La Conner school board director positions were not contested: Alana Quintasket is elected for position 1 with 678 votes in this first tally.

Kim Pedroza, appointed to position 4 in February, was elected with 680 votes. Both will serve four year terms.

Fire District 13 Commissioners John Doyle, position 2, and J.J. Wilbur, position 3, were unopposed. Doyle gained 574 votes. He will serve a six-year term. Wilbur, with 558 votes the first count, will have four years of an unexpired term. They were appointed in 2021 and 2022, respectively.

The Skagit County election office will report votes by 5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 9. It is not known how many votes remain to be counted in the La Conner school district precincts.

J.J. Wilbur received 1,298 votes in his uncontested 2021 school board election.

Art's Alive! 2023 opens Friday at Maple Hall

By Anne Basye



"MADRONA SUMMER"— Watercolor by Anacortes artist Peggy Woods, one of this year's invitational artists, is one of the paintings she will have on display at Art's Alive.

Expect to see an exciting array of art when Art's Alive opens at Maple Hall this Friday at 1 pm.

"Northwest Focus," this year's theme, was inspired by poster artist, greater La Conner resident and Town of La Conner Arts Commission member Craig Barber. "Craig's work in photography brought the word focus into it and all our artists are Northwest regional artists," said Sheila Johnson. She is a board member of the La Conner Arts Foundation, the 501c3 organization that plans and produces the show under a contract with the Town of La Conner. Its curator and director is Sylvia Strong.

You will see familiar Northwest landscapes in Barber's "Farming the Skagit Valley" series documenting farmers, farmworkers and the land they till. His photos have been shown in solo and group exhibitions in Europe, South America and North America.

"It's been a while since Art's Alive hosted fiber artists and we are very thrilled to have two who work in totally different disciplines," said Johnson. Terri Shinn's three-dimensional fiber

(continued on page 7)

2024 Town budget tops \$8 M

By Ken Stern

At the public hearing Nov. 14 on the Town of La Conner's proposed 2024 budget be prepared to discuss the record \$6.98 million in revenues and the \$8 million in expenditures, a deficit budget of just over \$1 million. It is balanced by tapping the reserve fund balance of \$5.5 million.

As in recent years, the bulk of the projected revenue, \$3.7 million comes from the four wastewater funds. These programs account for over half the costs, \$4.2 million. The street fund is projected to take in \$1.2 million and spend \$1.3 million. The current expense, or general fund, is estimated to generate \$1.19 million and have expenses of 1.25 million.

In the past five years or so, the town council has annually passed conservative budgets, underestimating income and overestimating costs. Revenues have been larger and expenses less at the end of each year.

The town has 15 program funds including park and port, facilities, flood control and public art.

The Town is required by law to have a balanced budget.

La Conner centenarian celebrates birthday at Retirement Inn

By Bill Reynolds

Trudy Newton enjoyed a five-star horoscope on Thursday.

That's nothing new for the woman believed to be La Conner's oldest resident. Hers has been a particularly blessed life and Newton's many friends here insist she generously shares those blessings daily.

They, in turn, shared well wishes and congratulations of their own during a special celebration of Newton's 107th birthday at La Conner Retirement Inn Nov. 2.

"She's a beautiful soul," Executive Director, Jeff Hendrickson, told the Weekly News.

Born during the presidency of Woodrow Wilson, days prior to his successful re-election in 1916, Newton is an endearing link between the storied Progressive Era of the early 20th century and today's evolving fast-paced digital world.

"Think of all the changes she has seen in her lifetime," Hendrickson said. "She was born into the world of the Model T."

Introduced by Henry Ford, the Model T was marketed as a

simple, durable and affordable vehicle, selling for about \$500, roughly what it now costs to fill the average Class A motorhome fuel tank.

One thing, though, has remained constant, according to Newton's friends and family and the Retirement Inn staff: her caring nature, perhaps best defined by Newton's decision while in her 60s to volunteer for the Peace Corps.

"She's built a lot of relationships with people here," Hendrickson said. Newton has been a fixture there for a quarter century, both as a resident and staff member. "Everybody has a lot of respect for her."

Newton, originally from Detroit, Michigan, was in La Conner in the 1990s when the facility was built on the site of Nelson Lumber & Hardware. She initially resided in the facility's cottage housing east of the main building. Newton possessed outstanding people and office skills in equal measure, leading to her recruitment as the receptionist. Eventually she moved across

(continued on page 7)



BLOWING OUT ALL THOSE CANDLES IN A SINGLE BREATH – Trudy Newton celebrated her 107th birthday at La Conner Retirement Inn with a little assistance from son Tom McDuff.

—Photo by Bill Reynolds

From the editor—

Whose kids? Our kids

It is a week after the school children of La Conner and many of their parents, families and friends swarmed up First Street in the town's annual Halloween parade. Last weekend kids of all ages were on stage at the Lincoln Theatre, performing as Munchkins, crows, poppies, snowflakes and many more imaginative characters in wonderful performances of "The Wizard of Oz."

These are exactly the activities every child everywhere needs to be engaged in. How fortunate and privileged these Skagit Valley families are to enjoy these opportunities. And, how safe, stable and protected they are, as, indeed, are all of us.

Hopefully every one of us is contrasting the lives of our children with the death, destruction and horror ongoing in Israel and Gaza since the brutal attack by Hamas forces Oct. 14. The wanton cruelty, purposefully murdering and taking people hostage, including children, would seem unbelievable if the entire world had not witnessed it. The Israeli response, four weeks of targeted bombing of apartment buildings, hospitals and schools, multiples the mind numbing-ness of this catastrophe. The thousands of innocents dead will increase to tens of thousands, not only from the continued campaign, but from lack of medical care, disease, dehydration and hunger as the year ends.

It cannot be worse we think, but of course it is intensifying. Across the region Arab leaders are warning of the generations of hatred and revenge the devastation is nurturing. The only thing being fed in abundance is the desire to return death for death. The spiral continues.

All leaders with access to weapons and funding are to blame. For generations, down to tomorrow's news, politicians and corporate heads have invested in policies and plans whose only possible outcome is playing out now.

In 1953 President Eisenhower said, "This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children."

The world is watching hope being decimated. In the war torn lands children on all sides have lost the possibility of happy childhoods. What are their prospects for joyous, creative imaginative play?

Skagit children are following the yellow brick road and acting on stage with wizards and witches both good and evil. Caring adults are casting and coaching them as snowflakes and flying monkeys.

No Middle Eastern child will be encouraged to consider being a snowflake or imagine monkeys that fly. With devastation all around them and pain present everywhere, their world is shrunk down and consists solely of horror.

The poison has spread from leaders down to parents who will raise traumatized children in their own image to seek the death of the enemy who had inflicted this destruction on them.

That is the road children of Gaza and Israel will follow. Too many children will never know home again or ever want to go back to the rubble of what was once their homes. They are learning that war is the only answer. They will grow up planning to go to war.

To look at another art medium: In the 1964 film "Fail Safe," the U.S. President (Henry Fonda) realizes he has to drop a nuclear bomb on New York City, knowing his wife is visiting there, after a U.S. bomber drops a nuclear warhead on Moscow. That emphasizes both an eye-for-an-eye mentality and understanding that only the largest of personal sacrifices will lead to real change in relationships with hated adversaries. In the real life Israel-Palestine tragedy, generations of blind babies have grown up to in turn sacrifice their children. In 1965 Pete Seeger sang, "When will we ever learn?" We haven't, yet.

—Ken Stern

Part 3 on creating EV charging infrastructure in La Conner



By Greg Whiting

The need for electric vehicle charging infrastructure will inevitably increase. People who don't want EVs now because their initial cost is too high or their range is too low will re-evaluate that decision periodically. Some people will change their minds as EVs improve.

We've seen this movie before and we know how it ends. When Japanese cars arrived in the U.S., only loony west coast liberals wanted them. Detroit's Big Three laughed them off. Over the next 20 years, Japanese cars improved and reached quality parity at competitive prices. More and more Americans who had dismissed and ridiculed Japanese cars bought them.

EVs are following the same path. As I've explained, some EVs are already at total cost parity with comparable internal combustion engine vehicles over a ten-year

expected life. It won't be much longer before EVs also reach or exceed both first-cost and driving-range parity with ICE vehicles. The technology developments required have already happened. They just aren't widely available and in mass production — yet.

Furthermore, the trend in electricity prices is likely to be flat because the cost of renewable generation systems is still falling fast. The overall trend of gasoline prices is up, because the easily-extracted, light, low-sulfur oil in easily accessed locations has already been pumped. Increased oil production can only happen using expensive technologies or in expensive, inaccessible locations.

Internal combustion engine cars will be on the road for decades, but more and more EVs will appear. A town that isn't planning ahead for EV charging infrastructure is like a town in the middle of the transition from U.S. highways to interstate highways that isn't planning to have an interstate exit.

For La Conner to remain a viable tourist location, it must have more EV charging stations. It's essential to offer a mix of charging options, including Level 2 (more or less, 7 kilowatt) chargers for slower but more accessible charging and

LCCSF Fund Drive

The La Conner Community Scholarship Foundation (LCCSF) began a fund drive in June that will end on Nov. 30. A service minded La Conner High School alumnus has committed to matching all contributions up to \$50,000. To date, nearly 40 donors have contributed \$13,385.

Founded in 1989, our Foundation's purpose is to provide scholarship monies for graduating La Conner High School students pursuing post-secondary education. Scholarship funds may pay for two or four year colleges, technical/trade schools well as other forms of continuing education. Since its inception in 1989, the Foundation has awarded more than \$800,000 to La Conner graduates.

While we thank those who have donated, we remain well short of our goal. Our greater La Conner community has a population of nearly 3,000 — yet we have seen donations from fewer than 40 people.

We ask that you make a donation of any size, remembering that the match will double your gift, which is likely tax deductible under our 501(c)3 designation.

Please help continue La Conner's tradition of strong community support!

John Agen
Greater La Conner

LETTER POLICY

Please write!

Letters up to 350 words are welcome as are longer analyses and statements.

Write a 450 word guest column.

Deadline: 5 p.m. Sunday for next issue.

Include your name, address and phone number for verification.

Letters are edited for civility clarity and style.

Send To

editor@laconnernews.com

First Street parking

The Problem: Vehicles parking on First Street for extended periods of time during high tourist traffic periods.

Who are the primary offenders?

Business owners and employees. First Street residents. Hotel guests. (All of whom should be parking off First Street during business hours.)

Simplest solution: Two hour parking limit, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily and April thru September only.

Why not paid parking?

1) Parking is a minimal problem October thru March

2) Pay kiosks would be detrimental to First Street's historic character.

Level 3 (more or less, 50 kilowatt) fast chargers for quick refueling. Collaboration between local businesses, governments and utilities should be aimed at identifying locations for chargers and developing strategies to permit, fund and install them. We need to take advantage of near-term opportunities to secure state and federal funds to assist with both long-term and short-term planning and installation.

Not every parking space needs a charging station. Local EV owners won't need many more than currently here. Local charging generally happens at home. However, places where people stay overnight need to have easy access to enough Level 2 chargers to enable guests to charge their vehicles overnight.

LETTERS

Paid downtown parking

In the article "Paid downtown parking an option" last week (Nov. 1), I want to make a slight correction and offer my two cents on the subject.

Correction: The company making a presentation to a joint council-planning commission meeting on Nov. 28 will not be marketing "metered" parking. The solution that will be presenting requires no infrastructure (meters) aside from approximately 25 signs which his company would furnish as part of their start-up. Their parking solution is digital, cellphone based, which allows for expansion and providing added value down the road, i.e. digital directions to local attractions, vehicle charging stations, etc.

As a planning commission member and 12 year resident of the town, I support paid parking. However, I see the paid parking concept being implemented together with a "jitney" type shuttle service shuttling visitors between the parking lots north and south of the downtown First Street attractions. The jitney

shuttle costs could be offset by some of the parking revenues as well as local advertising for businesses. This EV-type jitney could also be used to provide residents with a localized "Dial-a-Ride" type shuttle between their home and businesses instead of driving their car or getting a neighbor to take them.

Parking enforcement is a necessary requirement to any type of parking program and is overdue. I have seen countless numbers of cars parked in places or positions that should not be allowed but go unnoticed and apparently ignored. Many business owners in town will acknowledge that many employees will take up spaces on First Street rather than go to the South Third Street parking lot despite free parking vouchers being available to them.

The digital nature of this solution allows for variables, i.e. First Street residents, free parking between certain hours,

P.S. A primary benefit of paid parking: It provides needed revenues to the town!

John Leaver
La Conner

Thank you for support, La Conner merchants

On Oct. 28, P.E.O. Chapter JG, La Conner, held a brunch and auction at Maple Hall to support women's educational opportunities. We rely on donations from members, friends, families and merchants to help us provide the financial needs to help women enhance their lives through education. Our silent auction was a success thanks to donations from chapter members and La Conner merchants.

We acknowledge and thank the following merchants for their donations to our auction: Vintage

La Conner, The Stall, Country Lady, Ladder's Clothing, Waterfront Café, Jo's Healing Hands, La Conner Weekly News, Nell Thorn Restaurant, Two Moons, Santo Coyote, Walking Mod, Go Outside, Red Door, Latitude & Longitude, Caravan Gallery, Ginger Grater, Skagit River Boutique, Studio 623, COA Mexican Eatery, Lu Lu's Espresso, Waterfront Spa, Slider Café and Calico Cupboard. Lives are changed because of your generosity.

Peggy Duehning
Silent Auction Chair

3) It would discourage local customers from visiting downtown.

4) It would encourage longer parking on First Street rather than using the pay parking lot.

La Conner is unique in that we have been able to maintain our small town historic ambiance. We are not a Leavenworth. Nor are we a Bellingham. Langley and Winthrop are more comparable to La Conner. Langley uses time limits for parking in downtown. Winthrop is all free, no limit parking. Both towns have ample off street parking, as does La Conner.

We just need to give people a nudge to use it. A two-hour parking limit just might be the needed nudge.

A two-hour parking limit does not have to be expensive to enforce. We do not need an enforcement officer walking the street chalking tires. Just a couple signs each way on First Street would be enough to discourage most offenders and encourage their use of the parking lot.

This issue was thrashed about several times back in the '80s and '90s. Both paid parking and a two-hour limit were considered. No consensus was ever achieved, so nothing was done. Nevertheless, La Conner has survived and thrived. Perhaps we should just leave things as they are?

Jim Reeves
Shelter Bay

Get free COVID-19 tests

Place an order to receive four free COVID-19 rapid test: special.usps.com/testkits or 800-232-0233. COVID-19 tests are available to uninsured individuals and underserved communities. No-cost COVID-19 testing sites: aspr.hhs.gov/TestToTreat/Pages/default.aspx.

No-cost COVID-19 vaccines for the uninsured: vaccines.gov.

Check FDA's website to see if COVID-19 tests' expiration dates have been extended before throwing tests out. Go to <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/home-otc-covid-19-diagnostic-tests#list>.

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MoNA group told collaboration key in climate change actions

By Ken Stern

Collaboration was the buzz word of the day when scientists, Skagit County politicians and a Puget Sound Energy staff person shared a panel titled “government and resiliency” at the Museum of Northwest Art Saturday, as part of the exhibition “Surge: Mapping Transition, Displacement, and Agency in Times of Climate Change.”

Skagit County Commissioner Peter Browning at the start named the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, the Upper Skagit and the Sauk-Suiattle Indian tribes, pledging listening and working collaboratively and in cooperation on a host of issues citing ensuring the local food supply, threatened more by sea level rise than by river flooding.

With NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicting one-and-a-half feet of sea level rise by 2050, he said, collaboration with the county government, tribes and dike and drainage districts on estuary projects was critical.

Heather Spore, a biologist with the Swinomish, told of changed food web dynamics in rivers and the ocean as evidence of rising river temperatures that are threatening coastal communities.

Mount Vernon City Councilmember Richard Brocksmith, also a fish biologist, ticked off the climate related environmental

effects on water quality, emphasizing the public health dangers, not only being safe from flooding, but the urban problem of combined storm water overflows washing sewage into the Skagit River. He championed density-based planning for “a future our communities can embrace and build up together.

Utility representatives Ronda Strauch, the climate change research and adaptation advisor for Seattle City Light, and Karlee Deatherage, senior community affairs representative for Puget Sound Energy work for, Strauch said, “a climate dependent agency and business. We are affected by climate change in myriad ways,” from changes in water levels behind their hydroelectric dams to increased demand for air conditioning – thus electricity – with prolonged heat waves. The two agreed that implementing individual and corporate conservation practices will make a difference.

Browning agreed with Brocksmith that urban density living is critical, that “we have to keep people in the cities.” He pledged the commissioners were against fully contained communities in Skagit County.

Dave Peterson a professor of forest biology at the University of Washington and a local forest landowner, moderated.

The “Surge” exhibit shows through Jan. 21, 2024. Several programs, workshops and classes are scheduled.

Rain again returned in October

By Ken Stern

As in 2022, precipitation returned in October. The 2.4 inches was the most monthly rainfall since February. Over two inches fell in the Oct. 9-25 period. Another 1.2 inches came down Nov. 1-4. Still, the year’s rain deficit is nine inches. October rainfall was 1.1 inches, 31.3%, below the century average of 3.5 inches.

October is typically wet: 10 years this century have had over four inches of rain, six have had five-plus inches and 6.1 inches fell in 2014.

More than three inches of rain has fallen 14 years since 2000. Eight of those years have been since 2014. In 2019 and 2021 over 4.2 inches came down.

This is one of 10 years with less than three inches of rain. Seven years saw less than two inches and the 1.1 inch in 2002 was the least this century.

Rainfall measured at Washington State University’s Memorial Highway Mount Vernon station

is 14.6 inches through October, nine inches, 38%, below the January-October century average of 23.6 inches.

The month ended cold, with hard frosts Oct. 26-Nov.1. Oct. 28-31 lows were below 28 degrees. Record lows for their days were set Oct. 27-29. Still, the average monthly minimum temperature of 43 degrees was less than 0.3 degrees below the century average.

There were record highs for the days above 70 degrees, Oct. 7, 8, 13 and 18, but after it reached 65.1 degrees Oct. 19 highs went below 58 degrees and dipped to below 50 degrees three times.

The monthly average high temperature of 60.4 degrees was two degrees above the average for 2000-2023. The 51.3 daily average temperature was about normal for the century.

Measurements and data are at Washington State University’s Mount Vernon weather station on Memorial Highway.

Rain Report:

- Rainfall in Oct: 2.4
- Number of rain days:16
- Rain last week, Oct. 29-Nov. 4: 1.2
- Least rain, one day: 0.01: 4 days
- Most rain, one day: 0.7, Oct. 24
- Least rain: 1.07, 2002
- Most rain: 6.07, 2014
- Average rainfall, Oct.
- Rainfall last month, Sept.: 1.8
- All total in inches. Data from WSU Mount Vernon.

County financial assistance for septic systems

Skagit County Public Health is offering up to \$200 in rebates for septic system inspection, pumping or riser installation to qualifying residents (one per household). A U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant funds this rebate program for residents who pay a certified septic system provider to inspect, pump, or install riser to raise tank lids to the surface.

All residents of Skagit County whose homes or businesses are served by a septic system require annual inspections, unless the system is conventional gravity (three-year inspection requirement), per Skagit County Code 12.05.160 and Washington Administrative Code 246-272A-270.

Properly functioning septic systems protect public health and water quality by assuring that household sewage is adequately treated before returning to the environment. Regular and consistent septic system inspections can save property

owners money in the long run by identifying minor problems that may be fixed immediately.

- Eligibility requirements are:
- Own a residence in Skagit County.
 - Complete the free online Septics 101 class and quiz.
 - Have an inspection, pumping and/or riser installation done by a Skagit County certified operations and maintenance provider on or after January 1, 2023. This expands the eligible timeframe.
 - Pay for the services. Keep your receipt or paid invoice.
 - Complete an application form (fillable pdf or online) and submit with documentation to Skagit County Public Health.

Rebate applications are accepted until Dec.15, 2023 or until grant funding is depleted.

Skagit County Public Health also offers assistance for septic system inspection to qualifying low-income residents who need a septic system inspection and demonstrate financial need (such as living on a fixed income and being eligible for property tax exemption). Contact Skagit County Public Health before scheduling an inspection. This is also a U.S. EPA funded program.

Information: skagitcounty.net/Departments/HealthEnvironmental/onsitesewer.htm; eh@co.skagit.wa.us; (360) 416-1500.

Source: Skagit County gov’t

Town public budget hearings Nov. 14

It is time to speak up on Town of La Conner budget and tax issues. The town council will hold four public hearings at its Nov. 14 meeting to consider:

1. Formation of a Transportation Benefit District.
2. 20-year Transportation Improvement Plan updates.
3. 2024 preliminary budget.
4. 2024 property tax levy.

The public hearings will be held during the 6 p.m. regular city

council meeting in Maple Hall, second floor, 204 Commercial Street.

Public comments are welcome, written or oral. Submit written comments by email prior to the meeting, by 12 p.m. Nov. 13, to financedirector@townoflaconner.org.

Meeting materials will be available by Nov. 10 at townoflaconner.org/Calendar.

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La Conner net team in state tourney after dramatic comeback win

By Bill Reynolds

Coupeville was on the verge of winning the bi-district volleyball title here last Wednesday. Until it wasn't.

The Lady Wolves fell prey to a scintillating La Conner comeback that saw the hosts erase a daunting 2-0 deficit to forge an emotional 22-25, 17-25, 25-23, 26-24, 15-12 two-hour, five-set victory for the 2023 Northwest 2B Bi-District championship and berth to the state tourney today (Nov. 8) in Yakima.

*Tourney starts today
Story page 7*

La Conner offset Coupeville's relentless power game by playing stellar defense. The Lady Braves were in perpetual motion with their court coverage, managing to dig repeated blasts from a talented and veteran Coupeville front line and seemed to get stronger as the marathon match progressed.

"I'm beyond proud of the way my girls left everything on the court tonight," first year La Conner head coach Pam Keller told the Weekly News after the Nov. 1 match. "This team has truly been a joy to watch grow as athletes and young women."

Fans attending the pressure-packed match at Landy James Gym concurred. They erupted with joy once the final point was tallied, saluting the Lady Braves as they gathered near mid-court for a post-match celebration.

Given the rigor of the action and the dramatic outcome, there

was plenty to celebrate.

Coupeville several times had come within two points of winning the clash between the long-time archrivals. The Lady Wolves, with a two-set lead, were tied at 23-23 late in what could have been the decisive third frame.

But La Conner's Morgan Huizenga had other ideas. The senior outside hitter delivered two straight clutch kills to force a fourth set, which also went down to the wire.

Coupeville led 23-22 following a scoring spike from the Lady Wolves' Mia Farris. La Conner went ahead 24-23 on successive touch kills from senior Abi Udlock and eighth grader Nora McCormick.

With the score tied again, this time at 24-24, the home team closed out the set via an unforced Coupeville miscue and another Huizenga set clinching kill.

Coupeville, following a familiar pattern, broke out to a quick 3-0 lead in the fifth set. La Conner responded with two kills by Huizenga and a McCormick block. The score see-sawed until back-to-back kills by Udlock and Maeve McCormick broke a 7-7 deadlock, giving the Lady Braves a 9-7 lead they wouldn't relinquish.

Still, the waning moments weren't without suspense.

Coupeville inched within 12-11 before Reese Bird, another of La Conner's eighth graders, drilled a spike into the visitors' deep left corner. Coupeville's Lyla Stuurmans answered with a kill to briefly trim the margin to 13-12.



STEP ONE OF THE TOURNEY JOURNEY – The La Conner High School 2023 volleyball league champions, from left: Abigail Udlock, Nora McCormick, Maeve McCormick, Morgan Huizenga, Reese Bird, Addison Wigal, Addison Keller, Abigail Poulton and Julia Nelson.

— Photo by Sarah Walls

Maeve McCormick then forced match point with a well-placed hit to the back row. Trailing 14-12, Coupeville misfired on a last-ditch spike attempt.

The contest between two evenly matched teams – they split four meetings this season – was highlighted by numerous extended rallies. Those long points tended to benefit La Conner with its ability to cover the entire court

and pass effectively while on the move.

Coupeville did its damage, particularly in the first two sets, with quick scores off kills by Stuurmans, Farris and middle blocker Grey Peabody.

Ironically, La Conner led much of the first set, which it lost. A trend that did hold firm was La Conner's superb defense. Libero Addison Keller recorded a pair

of early digs that led to two Huizenga kills and an 11-7 Lady Braves' advantage.

Coupeville followed with an 8-3 run that put the Lady Wolves in charge of the opening set.

Down 22-20, La Conner threatened on a deft tip at the net by eighth grader Abi Poulton before Coupeville finished with a 3-1

(continued on page 7)

Kiwanis names October students of the month

The Kiwanis Club of La Conner High School Student of the Month for October is Katie Cayou-Lockrem. Katie's parents are Josh and Val Lockrem. She is in the tenth grade. Katie is in Associated Student Body leadership. She enjoys the Breads & Pastries class she is taking. Outside of school she enjoys hunting and fishing with her family. After graduating she would like to attend college and study to be a project manager.

Middle School Student of the Month for October is Angus Poprycz. Angus' parents are Tessa McLeod and Paul Poprycz. He is in eighth grade

at the middle school. He enjoys PE and soccer at school. Outside of school Angus likes hunting and fishing with his family. In the future he would like to own and operate a sport fishing charter.

The Elementary Student of the Month for October is Faith Kowalcyk. Her parent is Laura Parker. Faith is in fifth grade. Math is her favorite school subject. She enjoys paddleboarding outside of school. In the future Faith would like to become a veterinarian, study fashion design or become a teacher.

Submitted by La Conner Kiwanis



Faith Kowalcyk



Angus Poprycz



Katie Cayou-Lockrem

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Review: Live at the Lincoln Theatre

Go off to see 'The Wizard of Oz'

By Judy Booth

BRAVO! BRAVO! BRAVO! The opening night performance of "The Wizard of Oz" filled the Lincoln Theatre to capacity and the evening ended with a standing ovation.

Since 1939 audiences have loved L. Frank Baum's story of young Dorothy, a Kansas farm girl and her beloved dog, Toto (Sadie Housholder).

At first entrance Toto nearly dove off the stage but was quickly rescued by Dorothy. With stage fright now conquered, Toto behaved as expected of any Hollywood talent. He trotted and cuddled through cackling witches, theatrical fog, a whimpering-cowardly lion, the booming voice of Oz, Munchkins, flying monkeys, crows, Ozians, Winkies and a mesmerized and enthusiastic audience.

In Kansas we were introduced to several colorful characters – Dorothy's Aunt Em (Kelly Visten) and Uncle Henry (Mike Jenkins), Professor Marvel – a charlatan fortune teller – three farmhands and Ms. Gulch – her nasty neighbor – who hates Toto and wants him euthanized.

All have an uncanny resemblance to characters in the land of Oz thanks to the marvelous costume designs by Dianne Crane.

Dorothy, played by Sierra Jones, wakes in the land of Oz after a sudden prairie twister to see her storm-blown house has fallen on and killed the Wicked Witch of the East – ruler over the Munchkins.

A full stage of Munchkins, grade schoolers of various ages, dressed in brilliant pinks, yellows, blues and striped tights, sing and dance to "Ding Dong the Witch is Dead," their liberated voices ringing, the orchestra loud and booming. Wow, Nancy Doorn, choreographer, that was impressive.

The angelic Glinda, Good Witch of the North (Emily Abbott-Brown), gives Dorothy the magical red ruby slippers taken from the dead witch. If she wants to go back to Kansas, she must travel the yellow-brick road to the Emerald City to seek the Wizard.

Dorothy meets the Scarecrow (Rob Neeleman) who has no brain, the Tin Woodman (Brett Madden) with no heart and the Cowardly Lion (Shawn Steiner) with no courage, but who can belt out "If Only I Had the

Nerve."

They hope the Wizard can conjure up a brain, a heart and courage – and get Dorothy back to Kansas.

Dorothy, Toto in her arms, the Tin Woodman, the Scarecrow and the ever-trembling Cowardly Lion sing and dance to "We're Off to See the Wizard" accompanied by a fourteen-piece orchestra with such gusto we wanted to sing along. The scarecrow leapt and fell so often, he's probably bruised and there's two more weeks to go – such energy!

Dancing down the yellow brick road, the four-some are caught by flying monkeys, menaced by the Wicked Witch of the West (Karen Pollack) and put to sleep while running through a field of poppies.

And what a witch! Pollack's cackling, screeching voice rang throughout the theatre. She'll be hoarse for days.

In the Emerald City the Wizard (Ron Wohl) asks the seekers to bring him the broom of the wicked witch to earn his help, stalling for time as he too is lost in the land of Oz and is no wizard.

During their quest for the broom, they are captured by flying monkeys and the witch tries to set the scarecrow on fire. Dorothy throws a bucket of water on the scarecrow, but inadvertently throws it on the witch and to her horror watches as she dies and sinks down into the floorboards, an impressive feat of theatrical stage-art.

"I'm melting, melting" the witch screams.

Tugging on a curtain Toto reveals the Wizard is an ordinary man manipulating curtains and lights to project a ghostly image of himself. The Wizard admits he's a charlatan. But he convinces them they already have a heart, a brain and courage.

Giving the scarecrow a diploma, the only thing missing from having a brain, Scarecrow rattles off "The sum of the square roots of any two sides of an isosceles triangle is equal to the square root of the remaining side!"

The Lion learns he's been the bravest after all.

The Wizard offers to take Dorothy back home on his hot air balloon, but Toto, up to mischief again, runs after him, trips the balloon and Dorothy is left in the land of Oz.

Glinda appears and Dorothy repeats, "There's no place like home, there's no place like home" clicks her heels and returns to the family she loves.

The Tin Woodman declares he truly has a heart now "cause it's breaking."

"The Wizard of Oz is a story about friendship and hope and with a little wisdom, courage, love and magic ... our version leaves you with ... a sense of wonder, the belief in magic and the reminder that there truly is "No Place Like Home." Abigail Hanson, co-director, wrote in her program notes.

This show is dedicated to Phyllis Hammatt, past costume designer.

Co-directors Myles Doorn and Hanson reached for the stars on this one. It was thrilling. Accolades to producers Matt Bianconi, Angelyn Harris, Leisha Skinner, Tori Steiner and Stacy Youngquist.

Presented by Skagit County's Theater Arts Guild. It plays through Nov. 19. Times and tickets: lincolntheatre.org/live-theatre-wizard-oz.

Have you seen our new website?

laconnerweeklynews.com

'The Father' Alzheimer's benefit at Lincoln Nov. 15

Skagit Adult Day Program, a local nonprofit which cares for dementia clients, is showing the Academy Award winning movie "The Father" 7 p.m. Wednesday Nov. 15 at the Lincoln Theatre in Mount Vernon. This is a community awareness opportunity, in honor of Alzheimer's Awareness Month and Caregiver Month and a fundraiser. The public is invited.

Admission is by donation. The movie is 97 minutes long and will be followed by a short video "A Day in the Life of Bradford House," highlighting the work of Skagit Adult Day Program.

Contact leighann@skagitadultdayprogram.org for information about the availability for care or financial support opportunities.

Jingle Belles shopping is Friday, Nov. 17

Ladies, Nov. 17 is your night of shopping at the La Conner Chamber of Commerce's organized Jingle Belles, a Ladies Night of Shopping, with downtown stores staying open to 8 p.m. Start at the Chamber office, 210 Morris Street, picking up your SWAG bag after 4 p.m.

Information: lovelaconner.com.

Calling craft vendors

Calling all artists and crafters. La Conner Kiwanis will be hosting their annual Holiday Craft Show in conjunction with the Rotary Santa Breakfast Saturday, Dec. 2 in Maple Hall. The craft show will run from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. It is a fundraiser to support the Kiwanis Club of La Conner. For a booth application contact Joy at joyzreal@yahoo.com.

Submitted by: La Conner Kiwanis

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Young Life fundraiser draws community support

By Bill Reynolds

Unity is a key part of the word community. That theme was stressed throughout the annual La Conner Young Life Dessert Fundraiser held Sunday night in the elementary school commons area.

A wide cross-section of folks from in and around La Conner, representing the town, agricultural, Swinomish, Shelter Bay, Snee-Oosh and Fir Island communities attended the two-hour event, supporting the faith-based program that provides summer camp and monthly social and personal growth opportunities for local youth. Young Life is led by local adult volunteers and has been active for a quarter century.

“We’re all one large community here in La Conner,” J.J. Wilbur, one of the speakers emphasized, “from the town side and the tribal side. We’ve been together a long time. We have great respect for each other regardless of what side of the bridge we live on.”

Wilbur simultaneously serves leadership roles on each side of Swinomish Channel as a tribal senator, La Conner school board member and Skagit County Fire District 13 commissioner.

“We always celebrate Young Life,” Wilbur said. “It does a great job of laying the foundation for a relationship with God – something greater than ourselves.”

The “dessert gala,” as master of ceremonies Peter Voorhees, a teacher and coach described it, was part of a \$35,000 fundraising campaign to pay for youth to attend camp, where in a natural environment with no access to cell phones team building and trust are promoted in a Christian setting.

Whidbey Island pastor Matthew Erickson, spoke, saying that half the fundraising goal has been pledged by the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community. Erickson said camp attendance costs about \$900 per student.

One of those students, Emmalin Goodman, offered a heartfelt testimonial, praising at length the camp experience, including



THE PRICE IS RIGHT – Wylie Thulen (left) and Peter Voorhees lead attendees of the annual Young Life dessert fundraiser in a session of “Let’s Make a Deal” at the elementary school commons area Sunday night.

—Photo by Bill Reynolds

its inclusiveness and focus on building positive self-esteem.

Kenneth Cayou, of Swinomish, a high school alumnus and a Young Life camper prior who served eight years in the U.S. Navy, spoke from the perspective of a camp leader, a role for which he volunteered after returning home from the service.

“The experience I had with the kids was really great,” Cayou reflected. “We had a very good connection. I had a great week with them.”

“None of them,” he chuckled, “gave me any issues.”

Recalling his own experience as a student camper, he shared the sense of trust and value of teamwork instilled in zipline and rope activities.

“That activity,” Cayou said of the zipline, “taught me that no matter how hard life can get, there’s always a reward at the end.”

Gordy Burks, another team leader, noted he was positively influenced as a youth by the ministry of the late La Conner pastor Jon Skiffington. Burks said that sustained him later in life, helping him rebound from some missteps as a young adult.

“The Gospel according to Gordy didn’t work,” he quipped.

“The seeds that were planted when I was young were very important, though.”

He was grateful for the grace shown him at various stages of his life.

“Grace,” he said, “is being granted unconditional love when you don’t deserve it. It’s a very important thing.”

Retired La Conner teacher and coach Mike Carrigan introduced Swinomish master carver Kevin Paul, who was joined by Wilbur in presenting a native-inspired departure song.

“I want to give thanks to everyone for finding a way to help a child,” said Paul, “to help them learn about life and have Jesus in their hearts.”

While most messages were serious in tone, much of the evening was centered around fun and fellowship. Pastor Johnny Dean played guitar and sang. Voorhees and Wylie Thulen led rounds of “The Price is Right” and “Let’s Make a Deal,” with winners in many cases claiming sacks of potatoes and stalks of Brussels sprouts.

“I heard we’d be paid in pounds and I thought that would be okay,” Erickson joked. “I thought

(continued on page 7)

School assemblies honor veterans, state-bound volleyball team

By Bill Reynolds

On a morning during which local veterans were honored, La Conner Schools staff employed military precision to blend two indoor student assemblies within 45-minutes.

A Veteran’s Day program keynoted by retired U.S. Navy Lt. Cmdr. Scott Poulton, a Shelter Bay resident, meshed seamlessly into a sendoff ceremony for the state tournament bound high school volleyball team.

Students in grades K-12 entered Landy James Gym single file to designated seating areas Tuesday morning for the Veterans Day segment of the twin assemblies. About a half-hour later, they lined the gymnasium floor and lower bleacher rows to greet the volleyball team’s players and coaches.

“It took a lot of coordination,” acknowledged science teacher Todd Hinderman.

Three-quarters of the gym’s seating area was filled when high school student body president Zaira Najera opened the proceedings.

“Veterans,” Najera said, asking a round of applause for those who have served, “should be celebrated every year.”

Najera had veterans in attendance stand and be recognized. She also asked those with veterans in their families or who know persons who have served in the military to stand. Very few in the large crowd remained seated.

“That’s a good percentage of us,” Najera noted.

Moments later, Najera called several students from the bleachers to read aloud the names of veterans from what she called “the La Conner family.”

Poulton, a member of that family, offered a strong endorsement for military service. He said it provided him the opportunity to develop valuable career and leadership skills, further his education, travel

the world and make a positive impact for his country.

“A lot of people mentored me as I grew up,” related Poulton, “and then I had the chance to give something back.”

Poulton gave a brief history of Veterans Day and pointed out the difference between it and Memorial Day. Veterans Day, with origins in the armistice that ended World War I, recognizes all who served in the military. Memorial Day, he said by contrast, honors the memories of deceased veterans.

Modestly, Poulton, who retired just over a decade ago, said he gained more than what he gave from his lengthy service.

“I got more out of it than the Navy did,” he insisted.

Still, he served four tours in the Middle East, initially flying from NAS Whidbey to Kuwait to fly missions during the Iraq War. He also lost out on family time while deployed around the globe. One stretch lasting almost two years.

Poulton said he and his wife, Wendy, now have a 30-year-old son who serves as a U.S. Navy pilot.

“He’s probably headed to the China Sea right now,” Poulton said.

Coincidentally, the Poultons’ daughter, Abigail, is a member of the volleyball team that received a rousing sendoff.

The team and its coaches were introduced by Middle & High School Principal Christine Tripp. They later circled the gym to be greeted by students while the school pep band played local favorite “Louie, Louie” in the background.

The morning had begun with music as well – a group sing-along of the national anthem in anticipation of Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

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Art's Alive

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

art is inspired by roots, rocks and trees – especially their bark. According to the Art's Alive Facebook page, award-winning fiber artist and weaver Liz Moncrief hand dyes fibers for colorations that cannot be replicated.

New this year to the Invitational Show are artists Teresa Smith of Friday Harbor, Kristen Ingman of Bellingham, Deborah Henderson of Olympia, Joan Enslin of Camano Island and Anacortes resident Peggy Woods, whose coastal watercolors include extraordinary detail, rich color and contrast.

Skokomish Elder Dennis Allen is participating thanks to a new collaboration with the Stonington Gallery of Seattle, a premier gallery for masters of Salish art. At age 88, he explores the imagery of his ancestors, inspired by legends that have been passed down to him. "He creates from his heart and enjoys every piece that he creates," says the Stonington Gallery. The collaboration "is

proving to be a wonderful way to include native artists," Johnson noted.

Barber, Janie Olsen of Monroe and Christine Troyer of Mount Vernon have all been invitational artists at previous Art's Alive shows.

Many invitational artists will be present at the opening gala this Friday from 5 pm to 8 pm. Upstairs, you can view works by the 50 artists in the Open Show. As always, you can nominate your favorite piece of art for the People's Choice award, which goes to the artwork that gets the most votes.

This is the third Art's Alive mounted under the auspices of the Foundation and the 38th since the inaugural show in 1985. The show is entirely produced by 36 volunteers who set up and tear down the gallery, hang the art and run the reception. Be sure to express your appreciation when they top off your beverage or refresh the hors d'oeuvres.

"We're very excited about this year's show and are looking forward to seeing it all come together," said Johnson.

Trudy

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

the street into assisted living, while being of assistance herself with constant good cheer and entertaining stories of past travels and adventures.

"She's had a very interesting life. She doesn't sit still," said Newton's daughter-in-law, Sharon Macduff, who resides in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Macduff and her husband, Tom, one of Newton's three children, arrived on Halloween to help plan and coordinate last week's birthday bash.

"It's been a really busy couple of days," Sharon Macduff said.

The Macduffs visit several times a year, traveling to La Conner at least once every three months.

"You are her family, too," Tom Macduff told Retirement Inn residents as the party got under way. "You've been her family for a lot of years."

Macduff extolled his mother's exquisite handwriting, ability to play the organ and a mental acuity that saw her solve the daily New York Times crossword puzzle past her 100th birthday.

It turns out that Newton's centennial celebration at the retirement inn, in 2016, was truly one for the ages.

"Her family came out for her 100th birthday party," related Allie Kester, the life enrichment director. "Trudy told them then

that she liked it so much here that she wanted to stay another five years."

Kester marveled at Newton's wit and sense of humor.

"There was the time," Kester recalled, "when Trudy came in for a manicure. She was told that for 'someone your age, you have beautiful nails.' I'll tell you something, Trudy answered, I have beautiful everything."

Befitting someone who has left age 100 in the rear-view mirror, Newton's sense of timing likewise is a thing of beauty.

"Thank you all for coming. Congratulations to me!" she chuckled as the one-hour party ended.

"We love you, honey!" someone in the roomful of partygoers exclaimed.

So much fun was had, in fact – with cake, coffee, lemonade and even champagne on the menu – that plans began taking shape for Newton's 108th birthday party in 2024.

"I'll see you next year," vowed John Breckenridge, as he ventured outside for an afternoon walk along the waterfront.

In the meantime, Newton's 107th won't soon be forgotten. "She's such a comfort to everyone," Kester said of Newton. "Everybody came to show their support. When we let everyone know and set this up, they all came."

Volleyball

■ ■ ■ (from page 4)

mini-run.

In the second set, with the score knotted at 9-9 courtesy of service aces by Keller and Bird and kills from Huizenga and Udlock, Coupeville went on a 16-8 closing tear, the only real separation between the teams all night.

Coupeville defeated Northwest Christian of Lacey later that night in the bi-district consolation game, securing a second seed slot in the state tourney bracket.

La Conner (13-7) likewise enters state play on a roll having downed Auburn Adventist of the SeaTac 2B loop and 3A programs Marysville-Getchell and Mount Vernon High.

Young life

■ ■ ■ (from page 6)

that meant British pounds. I didn't realize it would be in potatoes."

The prevailing currency of the night, however, was the community's continued investment in its children, said Erickson.

"What it comes down to," he insisted, "is having adults in the community who care for kids."

That commitment was well in evidence, said Young Life team leader Kevin Carlton, noting the large turnout.

"You are the heroes of our story here tonight," he said.

Museum

■ ■ ■ (from page 7)

Road on Fir Island already has such a system and Fir Conway first responders can retrieve a master key from a lock box to inspect the premises.

Meanwhile, staff are identifying what and where important items are and how to get to them in an emergency. They've also been purging flammable or volatile items and identifying potential hazards like old negatives in the research library, which can off-gas when wet or on fire.

The Museum has many remarkable stories to tell, and Wolfe believes that a solid emergency plan will help it continue to tell them.

"Sometimes looking back gives you a better view of what is ahead," said Maynard Axelson, a member of the Skagit County Pioneer Association and friend of the Museum who donated his skills as event auctioneer.

Which underscored the theme of the fall party: "Preserving what we've planted."

La Conner plays Toutle Lake today

By Bill Reynolds

The Yakima SunDome has for a long time been the La Conner High School volleyball team's home away from home in November.

This year is no exception.

But what's different is the Lady Braves, who have revamped their 2023 roster after heavy graduation losses from successive title runs, open state 2B Tournament play today, Nov. 8, as a No. 11 seed opposite sixth-ranked Toutle Lake.

La Conner head coach Pam Keller began doing her homework on Toutle Lake as soon as the state tourney draw was announced last weekend.

"They're a solid team of mainly juniors and seniors," she told the Weekly News.

La Conner, 13-7 overall, with three eighth graders seeing significant playing time, square off with the Fightin' Ducks in a 9:45 a.m. match.

The winner will face either Walla Walla Academy or Colfax at 5:15 p.m. in a second round contest. The loser drops into the consolation bracket for a 3:30 p.m. elimination clash.

Toutle Lake, went 12-5 in their season and posted an 8-1 mark in Central 2B League matches and is coming off a tough four-set defeat to undefeated Adna in the Southwest District 2B Tournament finale.

La Conner has worn the state 2B crown since 2018. This year

it is led by seniors Morgan Huizenga and Abigail Udlock.

Huizenga leads the team with 298 kills, an average of 4.4 per set. She also has 512 digs (7.5 per set) and 14 service aces.

Udlock has compiled a team-best 464 assists (6.8 per set) to go along with 51 kills, 40 aces and 31 blocks to go along with a 5.1 digs per set average.

Addison Keller, averaging 8.6 digs per set, has bolstered the defense while also contributing 30 aces and 29 assists to the attack.

Maeve McCormick has totaled 433 digs (6.4 per set), 69 kills and 23 aces. Her sister, eighth grader Nora McCormick, has rung up 46 kills, five aces and 2.2 digs per set.

Eighth graders Reese Bird and Abigail Poulton have registered 57 and 46 kills, respectively. Bird has also tallied 352 digs, an average of 5.3 per set and 13 aces. Poulton, who averages just under two digs per frame, has forced opponents to whiff on 12 of her serves.

Addie Wigal has produced almost four digs per set, 18 aces and seven kills for La Conner.

Team-wise, La Conner has compiled 577 kills, 156 assists, 155 aces and averages 40 digs per set.

The Lady Braves went 7-1 in NW2B/1B matches, losing only at Coupeville. The team was 7-4 in home matches and 5-3 on the road while playing a schedule featuring larger schools.

Rexville Grange Art Show starts

Make your way to the 2023 Rexville Grange Holiday Show starting with its opening party Thursday, Nov. 9, 5-8 p.m. It is time to find fine arts and crafts for gifts. The show is open this

weekend and next, Nov. 10-12 and Nov. 18-19 at the Rexville Grange, 19299 Rexville Grange Road.

Information: rexvillegrangeartshow.com

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- Caffeine-free Earl Grey, London Fog lattes, and several other teas
- Drinking chocolate in four delicious flavors

Still offering delightful caffeinated coffee & tea

Reclamation Candles has new winter candle scents! Also in: Mandles soaps! Buy some teakwood & cardamom soap before settling in for a long winter in the cabin.

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

Moments in time

On Nov. 20, 1998, the first module of the International Space Station, Zarya ("Dawn"), was launched.

On Nov. 21, 1931, the horror film "Frankenstein" was released, starring Boris Karloff as the monster created from corpses.

On Nov. 22, 1718, the infamous pirate Blackbeard was killed off the coast of North Carolina by British naval lieutenant Robert Maynard.

On Nov. 23, 1976, 49-year-old Frenchman Jacques Mayol, sometimes known as "Dolphin Man," became the first person to dive 100 meters into the sea without the use of breathing equipment.

On Nov. 24, 2012, a fire in the Tazreen Fashion clothing factory in Dhaka, Bangladesh, killed over 110 people and injured another 200.

On Nov. 25, 1834, Delmonico's, one of New York's finest restaurants, offered its customers a meal of soup, steak, coffee and half a pie for 12 cents.

On Nov. 26, 1865, "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" by Lewis Carroll (born Charles Lutwidge Dodgson), a mathematics don at Oxford University, was published in the U.S.

On Nov. 25, 1834, Delmonico's, one of New York's finest restaurants, offered its customers a meal of soup, steak, coffee and half a pie for 12 cents.

- 1. Five Nights at Freddy's (PG-13) Josh Hutcherson, Piper Rubio
2. Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour (PG-13) Taylor Swift, Amanda Balen
3. Killers of the Flower Moon (R) Leonardo DiCaprio, Lily Gladstone
4. After Death (PG-13) Dale Black, Dean Braxton
5. The Exorcist: Believer (R) Linda Blair, Ellen Burstyn
6. PAW Patrol: The Mighty Movie (PG) McKenna Grace, Taraji P. Henson
7. The Nightmare Before Christmas (PG) Danny Elfman, Chris Sarandon
8. Freelance (R) Alison Brie, Alice Eve
9. Saw X (R) Tobin Bell, Shawnee Smith
10. The Creator (PG-13) John David Washington, Madeleine Yuna Voyles

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SUDOKO Answer

Grid of numbers for the Sudoku puzzle solution.

Super Crossword

Answers

Grid of letters for the Super Crossword puzzle answers.

TOWN OF LA CONNER PRELIMINARY MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE (PMDNS) Date: November 2, 2023 Application File #: LU23-30CU-IV, LU23-31SEPA Applicant: La Conner Maritime Services Owner: Port of Skagit Responsible Official: Michael Davolio AICP, Planning Director; P.O. Box 400, La Conner, WA 98257; 360-466-3125 Project Description: New 8,000 sq ft pre-engineered metal building for maintenance and repair of boats.

The project is in an area identified as 100 year flood plain. The parcel is within the 200' shoreline setback, but the building site is not.

Project Location: 920 Pearl Jensen Way Assessor Tax Parcel: P135729 Lead Agency: Town of La Conner

FINAL MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE (MDNS): The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment with mitigation measures.

Contact Town Hall for the mitigation measures proposed for the project.

This MDNS is issued after using WAC 197-11-350 and the optional DNS process in WAC 197-11-355. The lead agency has determined that the requirements for environmental analysis, protection, and mitigation measures have been adequately addressed in the development regulations and comprehensive plan adopted under chapter 36.70A RCW, and in other applicable local, state, or federal laws or rules, as provided by RCW 43.21C.240 and WAC 197-11-158.

You may appeal this determination in writing to the La Conner Hearing Examiner. The written appeal and appropriate fees must be filed with the Town Clerk no later than 10 days (LCMC 15.135.220) following the MDNS notice.

LEGAL NOTICE IN THE SWINOMISH TRIBAL COURT SWINOMISH INDIAN RESERVATION In the Name Change of: Charles Baker-Starr DOB: 05-14-2022 Case No.: CVNC-2023-0030 NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE

TO: Any concerned parties. YOU AND EACH OF YOU will please take notice that a Hearing on a Petition for Name Change filed with this Court will take place, Monday November 27th, 2023 at 10:30 am, in the Swinomish

Tribal Court located at 17337 Reservation Road. This notice is published pursuant to STC 7-09.080.

The purpose of this hearing is for the Court to decide whether to grant or deny the Petition for Name Change for the above named person.

If you have any questions regarding the nature of this hearing or the location of the Swinomish Tribal Court, please contact the Court Clerk at (360)466-2097.

DATED this the 24th day of October 2023. Laima Scott Court Clerk Published in LaConner Weekly News, Published in La Conner Weekly News Nov. 8, 2023.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY Estate of BETTY JEAN VAN DUSEN, Deceased. NO. 23-4-00543-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030) PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

The above Court has appointed me as Personal Representative of the Decedent's estate. Any person having a claim against the Decedent must present the claim: (a) Before the time when the claim would be barred by any applicable statute of limitations, and (b) In the manner provided in RCW 11.40.070: (i) By filing the original of the claim with the foregoing Court, and (ii) By serving on or mailing to me at the address below a copy of the claim.

Date of First Publication of this Notice: October 25, 2023 /s/ John Edwin Ruthford, Jr. Personal Representative c/o Jayne Marsh Gilbert, WSBA #24656 Attorney for Personal Representative 314 Pine Street, Suite 211 Mount Vernon, WA 98273 Published in La Conner Weekly News Oct. 25, Nov. 1, Nov. 8 2023

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY In Re The Estate of: SALVATORE J PALUMBO, Deceased. No. 23-4-00509-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030) (NTRCD)

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

Date of First Publication: Oct. 25, 2023 Personal Representative Print Name: Jeffrey M McKee Address for Mailing or Service: Jeffrey M McKee 31624 N 122nd Ln, Peoria, AZ, 85383 425-533-1356 Court of probate proceedings and cause number: Skagit County Superior Court Case No. 23-4-00509-29 Published in La Conner Weekly News Oct. 25, Nov. 1 and 8, 2023.

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KING

In the Matter of the Estate of JOHN R. GOSS, Deceased. NO.23-4-06988-6 SEA PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS

MALLORY A. DAY, the Administrator (PR), has been appointed as PR of this estate. Any person having a claim against the Decedent that arose before the Decedent's death 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 PR or the PR's attorney(s) 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) 30 days after the PR 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 or 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 of Notice to Creditors: October 25, 2023 Name of Administrator: Mallory A. Day Attorneys for Administrator: Douglas L. Phillips, WSBA No. 17278 Aaron D. Phillips, WSBA No. 46691 PHILLIPS ESTATE LAW Address for Mailing or Service: Douglas L. Phillips, Esq. PHILLIPS ESTATE LAW 170 120th Ave NE, Suite E204 Bellevue, Washington 98005 Court of probate proceedings and cause number: King County Superior Court Cause No. 23-4-06988-6 SEA Published in La Conner Weekly News Oct. 25, Nov. 1 and 8, 2023.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SKAGIT IN PROBATE No. 23-4-00559-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.40.030

In the Matter of the Estates of SAMUEL W. HANNA III and JANICE BETTY HANNA, Deceased. The personal representative named below has been appointed as personal representative of these estates. Any person having a claim against the decedents 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 decedents' probate and nonprobate assets.

Date of filing copy of NOTICE TO CREDITORS with Clerk of Court: 10/19/2023. Date of first publication: October 25, 2023. Michelle L. Miller Personal Representative LAW OFFICE OF COLE & GILDAY, P.C. By Gregory L. Gilday WSBA #36608 Attorney for Personal Representative 10101 270th St NW Stanwood, WA 98292 Office: 360-629-2900 or FAX 360-629-0220 NOTICE TO CREDITORS PUBLISHED IN THE LA CONNER WEEKLY NEWS: October 25, November 1 and 8.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KING

In the Estate of VANCE WAYNE STROBEL Deceased. Case No.: 23-4-06919-3 SEA PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

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

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

Date of First Publication: Personal Representative: Kelly Bradford Attorney for the Personal Representative: Michael Biesheuvel Address for Mailing or Service: 114 Second Ave. S., Suite 101, Edmonds, WA 98020 Court of probate proceedings and case number: King County, WA Law Offices of Kyle G. Ray, P.S. 114 Second Ave. S., Suite 101 Edmonds, WA 98020 (425) 712-0279 Published in La Conner Weekly News Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, 2023.

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KING ESTATE OF M. JAMES HANSON, DECEASED NO. 23-4-06785-9SEA PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

THE CO-PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES NAMED BELOW have been appointed as co-personal representatives of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the co-personal representatives or the co-personal representatives' attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced.

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

Date of First Publication: October 25, 2023. /s/ Brit L. Kramer Brit L. Kramer, Personal Representative /s/ Laura J. Morgan Laura J. Morgan, Personal Representative /s/ Sarah E. Smith SARAH E. SMITH WSBA #39605 MULLAVEY, PROUT, GRENLEY & FOE, LLP Attorneys for Personal Representative Address for Mailing or Service: P. O. Box 70567, Seattle, Washington 98127 Published in La Conner Weekly News Oct. 25, Nov. 1 and Nov. 8, 2023.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WHATCOM

IN RE THE ESTATE OF MARTIN SPEEDY, DECEASED. NO. 23-4-00986-37 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

JUDGE: LEE GROCHMAL 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: November 1, 2023 Personal Representative: Sandra Speedy 2004 N 35th Street Mount Vernon, WA 98273 Attorney for the Personal Representative: KATTI ESP Representative: 301 Prospect Street Bellingham, WA 98225 Address for Mailing or Service: KATTI ESP 301 Prospect Street Bellingham, WA 98225 Court of Probate Proceedings Superior Court of Whatcom County and Cause Number: Cause No. 23-4-00986-37 Published in La Conner Weekly News Nov. 1, 8, 15, 2023.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SNOHOMISH COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: BRIAN DANIEL BISSELL, Deceased. NO. 23-4-02020-31 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.40.030

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

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

DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION: November 1, 2023. Dayton Bissell Personal Representative Attorney for Personal Representative: Steven J. Peiffe, WSBA #14704 Address for Mailing or Service: P.O. Box 188 103 North Street Arlington, WA 98223 Court of probate proceedings and cause number: Snohomish County Superior Court, Cause No. 23-4-02020-31. Published in La Conner Weekly News Nov. 1, 8, 15, 2023.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Complete Events Calendar on laconnerweeklynews.com



By Patricia Aqiumuk Paul, Esq., Food Editor.

Halibut with fennel

This recipe was inspired by Eddie Gordon. Kevin and I were shopping at Gordon's Pumpkin Farm recently. The fennel was remarkably fresh. Mr. Gordon recommended that I slice it thin and bake on top of a white fish. It was a quite mellow addition to the halibut I used. This serves two.

Ingredients

- Halibut, 1 filet
- Fennel, 4 to 5 thin slices
- Olive oil, 2 tsp
- Dried parsley, a few sprinkles
- Tin foil, to cover the bottom and sides



Preparation

Prepare the baking dish by adding enough foil to cover the bottom and go up the sides. Rinse and pat dry the halibut. Place the halibut skin side down in the foil lined baking dish. Lay the sliced fennel atop the fish. Drizzle with olive oil. Sprinkle with dried parsley. Pinch the four corners of the foil together. This will partially cover the fish. My baking dish has a lid, so I used it. Bake at 400 degrees F for 40 minutes.

AqiumuksKitchen@outlook.com

NOT TO BE MISSED

Town of La Conner Council Meeting
Tuesday, November 14, 2024, at 6Pm
For current Agenda go to www.townoflaconner.org
Sign up for "Notify Me" to get current Town Information

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

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

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

MUSIC

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

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

SERVICE & VOLUNTEER

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

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

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

MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

LIBRARIES

La Conner Swinomish Library. 520 Morris St., La Conner. 360-466-3352. www.lclib.lib.wa.us. Open 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday.
• Storytime for Children. 11 a.m. every Friday.
• Book Club. Meets at 2 p.m. every fourth Wednesday. Info: Richard Wisniewski at wisniew10@gmail.com
• Tech Help. 4-6 p.m. every Monday. One-on-one technical support in 30-minute blocks.
• Dungeons & Dragons Club. 3-5 p.m. every Tuesday. No previous gaming experience necessary.

Mount Vernon Public Library. 315 Snoqualmie St., Mount Vernon. 360-336-6209, mountvernonwa.gov.
• Virtual Reality. Every Saturday, 1-3 p.m. Must be 12 or older.

MUSEUMS

Pacific Northwest Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum. 703 S. Second St., La Conner. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. qfamuseum.org, 360-466-4288. See two new exhibits:
• David Owen Hastings: Paper + Stitch, through Oct. 29.
Skagit County Historical Museum. 360-466-3365 or skagitcounty.net/museum. Hours 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday-Sunday.
• Exhibit: "More than just a little off the top: barber-shop historians."

Museum of Northwest Art. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, noon-5 p.m. Sunday and Monday. monamuseum.org, 360-466-4446.
• Teen Art Club. A free program for youth in grades 6-12, where you can bring your friends and your creativity to make art

CLASSIFIEDS

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Submit your ad by Sunday noon for next issue publishing • laconnerweeklynews.com/classifiedads or 360-466-3315

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

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Sudoku, Crossword answers on page 8

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

3	4			5		2													
	6			2															1
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Super Crossword

ACROSS										DOWN																																																																																																																																	
1 Requested	6 Mass helpers	15 Foil maker	20 Empathetic declaration	21 Steak lover, e.g.	22 Lounges idly	23 Italian developer of an educational method	25 Third month	26 "Two Years Before the Mast" star	27 Film director Craven	28 Family-style Chinese dish	29 Body design, in brief	30 The new girl on "New Girl"	32 French painter of "The Horse Fair"	36 Commotion	38 The "N" of USNA: Abbr.	40 "— never believe me!"	41 Rap's "Dr."	42 She played Abby Parker on HBO's "The Deuce"	48 Cut with a light beam	49 Continuously	50 Cruel emperor	51 Troop's group	52 Partners	53 Scenes	54 Tittle sorority in a 1985 film	56 Turkish cap	57 French friends	58 Smithereens	59 Onetime rival of Steffi Graf	65 Swimmer Thorpe	66 Farm female	67 Disfigure	68 Calculus, e.g.	69 Made in the manner of	70 American Red Cross founder	73 Therefore	74 Fix, as a pet	75 Frigid	76 House pests	78 Spirited	79 Flub up	82 Sense by touch	84 Zeus' wife	85 Singer Della	86 Fencing sword	87 She played Miss Ellie Ewing on "Dallas"	90 Gore- (rainwear fabric)	91 Herb in pesto	92 Farm female	93 FedEx competitor	94 1996-2002 "Saturday Night Live" cast member	97 Agra apparel	100 Band's job	103 Guarantee	104 The, to Henri	106 "Velvet Fog" vocalist	109 Actor Falk	110 Comedian with the 1990 HBO special "Cats, Cops and Stuff"	114 Bel (Italian cheese)	115 Resistance to alternating current	116 Hunter constellation	117 RBIs, e.g.	118 Engulfed by fire	119 It can precede eight first names in this puzzle to form the names of California cities	1 Get a lock on	2 Milan's La —	3 Gold purity unit	4 St. Pat's land	5 Bargain buy	6 Home	7 Advances, as money	8 Vietnamese New Year	9 Several	10 Lay away	11 Deep-voiced singer	12 Siouan tribesperson	13 "— out!"	14 — Lankan	15 Kind of nut	16 Averse	17 Criticized petulantly	18 "No question"	19 Some hardwoods	24 Part of MLB	28 Boxer Oscar de la —	31 Curs' sounds	33 Add while mixing	34 Throat-clearing noise	35 Flock of quail	36 Dancer de Mille	37 Puppies	39 Boatloads	42 Piece of tile art	43 Zoo dweller	44 Eyeball part	45 India's Gandhi	46 Be wobbly	47 Fog or steam	48 Lounge around	52 Fishnet stuff	55 Oven brand	56 "Good" or "bad" dietary intake	58 Bundle of joy	60 Cry upon arriving	61 Leading to something	62 Drank like a dog or cat	63 Go by	64 Gives assent	66 Speed-of-sound ratio	67 Green stuff	71 Paddy crop	72 Like a tinny recording	73 City of ancient Egypt	74 Plants-to-be	77 Tobacco plug	78 Get set for surgery	79 Test versions of smartphone programs, e.g.	80 Vacant political position	81 Oil, in slang	82 High-speed	83 A Great Lake	87 Military post	88 Scans again	89 Artisans' club	91 Rails in ballet	95 Invited one	96 Actress Page	98 "Duck —" (Warner Bros. short)	99 Zellweger of the screen	100 Body part often pulled by an athlete	101 "— buying it"	102 "Hero" actress Davis	105 Emailed junk	107 General — chicken	108 Other, in Oviedo	110 More, in a music score	111 Band blaster	112 News svc.	113 Vocalist Yoko

POLICE BLOTTER

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sunday, October 29

7:29 p.m. Unleashed—Caller was out with her small dog when a pit bull style dog came from a different address and attacked her dog. The owner of the pit bull was able to pull it off and there were no obvious puncture wounds to the small dog. The dog may have an internal injury as it was limping badly and had difficulty breathing. Case sent to animal control for follow up. La Conner.

Monday, October 30

5:55 p.m. Ain't nothing but a hound dog—Caller located a loose hound dog and advised they would keep it until an owner was located. Kamb Road

Tuesday, October 31

10:59 a.m. Wheel chaser—Caller advised they had been riding a bike when a German shepard type dog came running at them aggressively and barking. The dog did not bite and stopped before reaching them. No laws were broken but the caller wanted us aware in case there are dog bites in the future. Conway

Wednesday, November 1

09:37 a.m. Busted—Driver was stopped in the La Conner school zone and was found to have a warrant for her arrest. The driver was taken into custody and booked into the jail on an extraditable warrant out of King County. La Conner

Thursday, November 2

4:08 p.m. Dizzy—Driver lost control of her car and spun off the roadway. There was no damage and driver was just shaken up from the experience. Conway

Friday, November 3

04:01 a.m. Unsigned—Knocked over speed limit sign on La Conner Whitney road near La Conner. Public works was advised to replace as time allows. La Conner.

Saturday, November 4

3:02 p.m. Lost and not found—Caller had previously lost his wallet at the Shell station on La Conner Whitney and canceled all his cards. He was later advised by his bank that the cards had been attempted several times but he did not know where. Caller lost his wallet, all its contents,

Mavrik Marine floats second ferry for San Francisco system



ALMOST THERE —The ferry Delphinus rolls slowly onto the barge that will transport it to Anacortes. It returned to La Conner today to undergo its final testing before delivery.

—Photo by Nancy Crowell

By Anne Basye

After a weeklong wait for the right tide and weather conditions, the aluminum ferry M.V. Delphinus left Monday night in a tricky operation conducted under rented klieg lights.

No crane in La Conner is big enough to lower the 130-foot long, 36-foot wide, 30-foot tall aluminum catamaran into the water. Dunlap Towing barged it to Dakota Industries in Anacortes, where a Syncrolift will place it in the water.

After transferring sister ferry M.V. Dorado to a barge in February 2022, Mavrik Marine staff changed some equipment and procedures. This week's transfer went smoothly. At 6:57 p.m., with staff standing by, Mavrik owner

Zach Battle began "driving" the custom-fabricated, 18-wheel, remote-controlled hydraulic dolly under and between the catamaran's two hulls. The dolly was connected to a wrecker from Dick's Towing. Should anything go wrong, the tow truck driver would keep the ferry from rolling off into the channel.

By 7:28 p.m., the front wheels had crossed the temporary steel bridge linking bank and barge, and were on board. At 7:34 p.m., about half the ferry had boarded. At 7:46 p.m., the inch-by-inch operation was complete. An hour later, at 8:45 p.m. the cargo was heading north up the channel.

The size of the M.Vs. Dorado and Delphinus made their manufacture "a killer project," said a retired marine carpenter watching

the transfer, who had worked on both vessels. "This company is wonderful."

The ferries were built for the San Francisco Bay ferry fleet. When the M.V. Delphinus left Mavrik's 60-foot tall, 17,226 square-foot building on Pearle Jensen Way, the hull of a third ferry took its place. The new ferry will be the 91st boat the company has built by the count of shipbuildinghistory.com.

Mavrik will build four ferries for the Water Emergency Transportation Authority, which operates the Bay Area ferry system.

Asked whether Mavrik staff were earning double time, a young man cheerfully responded, "No, they say they are going to buy us food. I'm down with that. I hope it's Taco Bell."

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Museum sounds the alarm for new fire detection

By Anne Basye

An alarm of sorts went off at last Friday's fall party for the Skagit County Historical Museum — on purpose.

An enthusiastic crowd was enjoying itself at Maple Hall. Radio show host Mike in the Morning was master of ceremonies. Santo Coyote staff served the appetizers. The 120 or so folks showed their support for the Museum by buying tickets for five raffle items and bidding on 2024 naming rights to the East Wing. Madeline Roozen's top bid was made in memory of her parents William and Helen Roozen, whose names will appear on the East Wing wall.

Lots of positive chatter about Museum audiences and activities was in the air. Then Director Jo

Wolfe shared the story of the Aberdeen Museum, which lost 75 percent of its contents in a 2018 fire.

"The museum shared a building with the senior center," Wolfe said. "A fire that started in the senior center kitchen burned for a long time before anyone noticed. It burned all of their exhibits and the archives in the basement were water damaged."

Everything in an exhibit on the life of grunge rock star Kurt Cobain was destroyed, including objects and instruments donated by family members.

Aberdeen has yet to rebuild its museum. The Washington Museum Association is urging members to develop "a more organized, documented emergency response plan," Wolfe told the Weekly News.

Earlier this year La Conner Fire Chief Aaron Reinstra toured the museum facilities.

The walk-through was meant to acquaint first responders with the building's nooks, crannies and basement storage before they have to respond to a fire. While the building meets code for fire protection and staff meet monthly to review safety procedures, including protocols for evacuating guests in an emergency, Reinstra reported that their fire detection system should be replaced.

"We have 55,000 items in the museum alone, many one of a kind, many irreplaceable and our collection is much, much larger," Wolfe told guests. "The upgraded smoke and fire detection system recommended by the fire department will cost between \$32,000 and \$57,000." Not to mention the nine-month wait for installation, since so many public institutions are tackling this issue.

Fortunately, a \$1,400 donation earmarked for fire detection came in before the auction. "Alarmed" by the news, party guests kicked in \$11,725 more during the "Raise the Paddle" segment.

Wolfe later told the Weekly News that the Museum's security system alerts staff when a motion detector is triggered or a door is opened after hours. The goal is to install something similar to alert staff and the fire department. The Skagit City School on Moore

(continued on page 7)

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