



SPRING BEGINS
TUESDAY, MARCH 19

Drop in on 'Mary Poppins Jr.' at Lincoln • p 5
Skagit daffodil harvest is underway • p 8

Your Independent Hometown Award-winning Newspaper

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It's a very breezy Pet Parade



WHO'S A GOOD DOG? — Ruby the standard poodle is. Ruby won first place in the La Conner Pet Parade costume contest for her bumble bee outfit. "Ruby definitely worked the crowd," said her owner, Cynthia Wood. — Photos by Don Coyote

Fur flies as mutts strut downtown

By Judy Booth

A cold wind ripped up the Swinomish Channel, swirled around Gilkey Square on Saturday and undid plans for the La Conner Pet Parade's red-carpet walk.

Still, around 50 registrants and a small crowd of intrepid pet lovers, their pets all dolled-up for photo ops, shivered down First Street from the La Conner Marina to Gilkey Square, up to Maple Hall and back to the square for judging.

Mayor Marna Hanneman was on hand and the La Conner Chamber of Commerce "made a showing."

Cameras were clicking, including Don Coyote's, beloved owner of Brodie who recently went to doggy heaven, and Ryan Hiller, photography teacher and yearbook producer at La Conner High School with his son, Madoc Hiller and his friend Jack Rose all snapping photos. (We're hoping for a 2025 pet parade calendar.)

The much-anticipated red-carpet walk was canceled due to wind. Instead, the judges checked pooches individually for first, second and third place in several categories.

Two of last year's judges, bright young Julia Rivas, age 11, and her



Finn hovers above the red carpet, thanks to a helping hand from his parent, Gina.

mom's friend Marilyn Olson, who took first place for Best Family last year, returned to judge this year.

First Place for Best Costume went to Ruby, a 4-year-old standard poodle dressed as a queen bee.

"Ruby loves to strut her stuff, show off, definitely worked the crowd," owner Cynthia Wood said. Ruby and her family moved to La Conner four years ago. "We love this town; are thrilled to be part of the pet parade."

Bernadette Bishop's toy poodle, Brie, happily placed first for Happiest Pet. "She just loves to hop around," Bishop said.

George, owned by Paul Paddy, placed first in the Funniest Pet category. Sadie, owned by Kim and Russ Winkers, took first in the Most Unusual category. Annie, owned by Dennie Scott, took first in the Most Helpful category.

The afternoon ended with "You Ain't Nothing But a Hound Dog" and "Who Let the Dogs Out" blaring from audio speakers as the chilled crowd dragged, or were dragged by, their pets back home.

Volunteers from Saving Pets One at a Time (SPOT) were on hand to accept donations to their non-profit animal rescue and adoption service. Donations are always appreciated.

Big thanks to Gina McCarthy Torpey, owner of Enchanted Locks, and the volunteers from SPOT for putting together another fun day in La Conner.

Citizens see Moore-Clark building dangers

By Bill Reynolds

Earth, wind and fire. It's not just a famous 1970s soul band.

The three elements also represent threats to the vacant and dilapidated Moore-Clark warehouse and areas around the former industrial hub, a landmark on the La Conner waterfront since 1898.

Residents wary of the building's vulnerabilities shared their concerns with the Town Emergency Management Commission during its March 5 meeting at Maple Hall.

"I think of Lahaina," Lori Wise, who has a background in real estate development, said of the devastating

2023 Hawaiian fire that destroyed the historic Maui town and claimed more than 100 lives.

"I think about vandalism and the lack of safety in that area (near the Moore-Clark warehouse)," she added. "We could have a Lahaina any minute."

She said sparks "know no boundaries" and could be lifted to nearby homes, businesses, woodlands, and even across Swinomish Channel.

Town Administrator Scott Thomas said a formal complaint has been filed with Hearing Examiner David Lowell regarding the building's deterioration and its impact on public safety.

"Our process requires a review

through the hearing examiner," Thomas said. "He hears all kinds of cases, and this is in his jurisdiction."

Thomas said he is limited in what he can say publicly about the issue.

"It's a legal matter," he said. "That's all I can say. I'm not prepared to discuss this in a public forum."

Other sources said the process to which Thomas referred — one that could lead to condemning the building — can be lengthy and costly.

"Otherwise," one source said last week, "there'd be a lot more condemnations."

"Our hands are tied," another person

(continued on page 6)

Enrollment slump for La Conner

School district expects 30 fewer students in 2024-25

By Bill Reynolds

La Conner Schools officials are bracing for fewer students again this fall.

School district financial chief David Cram is projecting 460 full-time K-12 enrolled students in 2024-25, 30 fewer than this year.

"That's the number we'll use as we build our budget," he said.

The net loss of 30 students translates to a loss for La Conner Schools of about \$330,000 in state funds next year. Enrollment is the main driver of support the state provides to its public school districts.

Cram told school board members at their March 11 study session that his forecast is based on an entering kindergarten class expected to be significantly smaller than the high school senior class that graduates this spring.

(continued on page 8)

Zero-emission school buses on the horizon

By Mary Murphy

Washington State Journal

School districts will be required to transition to zero emission school buses under a law recently approved by the state House and Senate.

The bill received numerous amendments after districts voiced concerns over reliability, range and the time allowed to make the switch.

Introduced by Rep. Tana Senn, D-Mercer Island, HB 1368 is an effort to not only reduce emissions, but to prioritize the health of children. Six other states have zero-emission school bus transitions already written into law.

"We as a student body are exposed to five to 15 times more air pollution than adults as a result of school bus emissions alone," said Moa Valentin, president of the Mercer High School Green Team.

Diesel fumes produced by school buses contain toxic particulates that can affect student cognitive learning and growth. The matter can have long-term effects on lungs, the brain and the immune system.

"We are going to school to learn, not to inhibit our learning abilities in our mind or body," Valentin said.

The Zero-Emission School Bus Grant Program, totaling \$14 million and managed by the state Department of Ecology, will cover the transition costs for schools. Funds from the Climate Commitment Act will also support schools. These expenses include planning, acquiring buses, fueling, charging, scrapping diesel buses, driver training and more.

Senn said the state will primarily target low-income schools and communities disproportionately affected by health issues stemming from climate change, particularly air pollution.

(continued on page 8)



SCHOOL BUSES NOW AND IN THE FUTURE — The Washington State Legislature passed a \$14 million Zero-Emission School Bus Grant Program last week. One day La Conner Schools diesel-powered buses will be an old reflection grandparents tell of their days in school. — Photo by Ken Stern

From the editor —

Rick Larsen's Israel dilemma

On Feb. 13, the United State Senate passed a \$95 billion foreign aid bill containing military aid of \$61 billion for Ukraine and \$14.1 billion in security assistance for Israel. Speaker of the House Mike Johnson is in no hurry to take it up in the House of Representatives, but sometime this spring it is likely that it will be debated and passed in that chamber.

Not many newspapers of any size around the country are editorializing to have their U.S. representatives vote against that bill, but this one is. Rep. Rick Larsen is as knowledgeable as anyone in Congress on foreign policy issues, especially regarding U.S. military aid. He stepped down from his seat on the House Armed Services Committee this term, and in all ways he is a conscientious, hardworking representative dedicated to his job. Larsen is also thoughtful, patriotic and a good historian, as someone with a master's in public policy from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota ought to be.

Larsen's decision to vote for impeachment of President Donald Trump was unique among his colleagues. He "hinge(d) it on that fundamental value of citizenship and the American dream" he wrote in a guest editorial. Larsen decided after Trump attacked four congressional representatives, all women of color. Larsen's view: "His racism is disgusting."

Now Larsen can reflect in his heart and his mind and decide to vote against military aid to Israel. Within the Democratic Party that will be a minority view. The bill will pass the House: Republicans are for aid to Israel and against aid to Ukraine. Both countries will get money for weapons and war and destruction will continue on both fronts.

However justified providing weapons to Ukraine is, there is no justification for destroying the Palestinian population in Gaza. Larsen's decision is not about assisting Israel in defending itself. No. Voting to send military and to Israel is signing new death warrants and assisting in the killings of many thousands more innocent men, women and children.

Today Gaza exists in name only. The destruction of its society affects every citizen there. Without addressing that reality, that the social and physical infrastructure are totally destroyed, that 2 million people have been without clean or adequate water and have been starving for six months, that there is no health care system and that on every front there are no equipment and supplies: no medicine, no sanitary facilities, no housing. The only thing that exists is pain and heartbreak.

The world names climate change as an existential threat to its existence. Israel is an existential threat to the existence of Palestine. The peoples of Palestine, Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Syria and the entire Middle East have been condemned to a generation of hate, destruction and ruin. As surely as the United States invasion of Cambodia in 1970 led to the killing fields of the Khmer Rouge, the obliteration of Gaza can all result in continued killing and chaos for all sides.

The American people will once again have blood on their hands, the result of their tax dollars at work.

If citizens in the 2nd Congressional District communicate their strong opposition to military aid and Larsen votes no, the bill will still pass. Ukraine will get aid. But at least the voters in our corner of the world will know that their representative voted against the crazy horror Israel has unleashed.

Citizen opposition has the potential to keep Rep. Larsen's hands clean. Whether it is this spring, this year, and once he retires from Congress or when he looks back at a long and solid career serving his district, Rep. Larsen will find his no vote – once he decides to cast it – to be a highlight and a sterling point of his service.

Contact Rep. Larsen's office and insist he vote no. See below, at the bottom of the Musings column.

– Ken Stern

A citizen's view—

Even before Trump goes on trial

By Shunji Asari

When the Supreme Court took up the issue of presidential immunity, it became even more doubtful that the former president's criminal trials could be completed before election day. So what is a voter to do without a trial? I say, look to information that can be relied upon with confidence. We all experienced the horror of Jan. 6, 2021. Many of the 91 counts charged against the president in various indictments relate to the events of that day.

But what do we know without a trial? We know a lot. We know from uncontroverted reports that a United States president who had just lost his reelection bid did the following:

1) Prior to Jan. 6, he summoned his supporters to the White House saying, "It's gonna be wild."

2) On Jan. 6, he exhorted the assembled crowd to march on the Capitol.

3) He further exhorted them to demand Congress not accept Electoral College results submit-

ted by the states.

4) He then watched on television, along with the rest of the nation, while a crowd broke through the police barricades around the Capitol and then broke into the Capitol itself, injuring many police guards in the process.

5) We know that for hours, the former president did nothing to protect the Capitol, nothing to assist the police defending the Capitol, and nothing to protect the lives of the entire Congress trying to do its official business.

6) We know that when the former president finally asked the rioters to go home, they obeyed – almost immediately.

7) We know that some criminal defendants, in their Jan. 6 trials, stated they believed they were working on behalf of the president. This may explain why the crowd left promptly on command.

As voters we wonder: Could all the physical injury to police officers, all the damage to the Capitol itself, and all the endangerment of the lives of Congress

members, their staffs and Capitol employees – could all of it have been avoided by an early directive to the crowd to stand down? And why did the former president not so much as try?

Finally, as voters we ask, why did the former president never order reinforcements to the Capitol even though he saw what was happening with his own eyes? Was it not his most basic duty as president to do so?

Did this dereliction of duty at such a critical time violate a specific criminal statute? Maybe yes, maybe no. Regardless, as voters, do we once more entrust the vital job of president of the United States to this person? Or do we apply the old adage, "Fool me once"?

As voters, we do not need a criminal conviction to answer these questions.

Shunji Asari was an appellate prosecutor with the California Attorney General's office for 20 years before becoming a florist in Anacortes for 20 years. After retirement, he moved to Shelter Bay in 2015.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ordinance limiting parking first

Dear Neighbors:

First of all, it is not too late for you or for me to keep the ideas about parking flowing in. That is what they say at their meetings every week but it doesn't always get out to the public. So opine on.

I want the town to start with incremental changes rather than going whole hog into all the possible changes at once. I personally would want to start with the writing of an ordinance to limit parking to three or four hours at a time between 8 a.m.

and 5 p.m. Write it, do it. Watch and see the effect. Let the people who have a hardship (lack of money, a job on First Street, a home on First Street) park free at the town's south lot. Give all these aforementioned people parking stickers for parking free at the south lot.

Parking overnight would be allowed on the street. And parking the first three or four hours in the morning would be allowed. After that – they would have to move.

This social experiment will give you the data you need to learn if we have a parking problem or an ordinance parking. I think we have enough parking spots if you include the south lot.

Once you know how many vehicles remain, you could move on to the emergency vehicles problem.

*Cheery,
Linda Talman
La Conner*

Pet Parade was doggone good fun

Hooray for volunteers who made the La Conner Pet Parade a rousing success. What fun to see parade dogs meeting spectator dogs after the parade at Gilkey Square.

*B.J. Carol
La Conner*

Musings — On the editor's mind

I can't believe anyone assessing the results of Washington's presidential primary today and throughout this week will be surprised. Actually, there is one vote tally that is not certain: the total for uncommitted delegates in the Democratic primary. There was no organized campaign that I was aware of, as in Michigan two weeks ago, but the same opportunity for people of conscience insisting on an end to the destruction of the Palestinian people in Gaza had existed for registered Democrats and any resident willing to use her ballot to send this message: No. No, we do not want our hands bloodied by the weapons American tax dollars buy. We will not be responsible for the killing by the Israeli military and vigilantes. The war must stop now.

In Minnesota 18.9% of Democratic voters supported 11 uncommitted delegates while President Biden only received 70.7% of the vote in their March 5 primary. Organizers there had less than a week after Michigan to make their case. The result was a significant anti-war vote.

That is why I voted in the Democratic primary last week, so I could check uncommitted delegates. I am not a member of the Democratic Party and was not going to vote. I had not thought to use my ballot to send Biden a message until Maggie Wilder stopped by the office and our conversation turned to our election and the horror and tragedy of the Israeli onslaught.

I have never voted for Democratic candidate for president. Nor have I voted for a Republican one. I also try to refrain from election discussions till September. But my vote in the primary was an important decision, one I did not come to lightly.

What effective action can I take next against the Israeli invasion? I did not write U.S. Senators Maria Cantwell or Patty Murphy. Too late. Both voted for the \$14.1 billion for weapons for Israel when the foreign aid bill passed 70-29 Feb. 13. Only two Democrats, Oregon's Jeff Merkley and Vermont's Peter Welch voted no, as did Sen. Bernie Sanders, an Independent. Twenty-six Republican senators voted no, as urged by former President Donald Trump, to deny aid to Ukraine.

Writing and calling U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen to urge a no vote is worthy work. Legislation has not come before the U.S. House of Representatives. Leaning on Larsen is a noble but likely futile effort. In 2022-2023 he received \$10,000 from AIPAC, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, while he was on the Armed Services Committee. That was the largest contribution to any Washington representative.

Contact his Washington office: 202-225-2605; email via: larsen.house.gov/contact/.

Comparing costs to heat hot water

By Greg Whiting

Adding up electricity, gas and propane, most (probably half to two-thirds) of the energy you use in your house is for heating, ventilation and air conditioning. One of the most significant other uses is water heating.

In most homes, the same hot-water source is used for bathing, dishwashing and laundry. To compare water heaters, I looked up the specifications for similar, popular water heaters at one of the big-box stores. The propane water heater requires about 0.267 gallons of propane per hour. The natural gas water heater requires about 0.209 therms of gas per hour. The electric water heater requires about 5.06 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per hour.

To make comparing these numbers easier, I converted them into equivalent electric energy. The gas water heater would require an amount of gas containing energy equivalent to 6.12 kWh per hour. The propane water heater would need an amount of propane containing energy equivalent to 7.16 kWh per hour.

The amount of time per day that a water heater is on depends on how many people are in a household and how the house-



hold uses water. For discussion, an average water heater in the U.S. is probably on for about 2.5 hours a day, or a little over 900 hours/year. Thus, an electric water heater would need about 4,600 kWh/year, or about \$600/year of electricity.

A conventional tank-style water heater stores some heat that ultimately dissipates through the tank's insulation without being used. A tankless water heater reduces the total energy required for water heating, because energy is only put into the system while hot water is being used. Energy use for water heating can be reduced by about a third by using a tankless heater. A tankless heater would use even less energy, probably about 3,200 kWh/year.

It will probably surprise readers to note that this is almost as much energy as is required for an electric car traveling 12,000 miles/year (about 3,400 kWh/year). It's different for petroleum fuels. A natural gas water heater would require about 190 therms of gas per year, equiv-

alent to about 165 gallons of gasoline. An average gasoline car needs about 472 gallons of gas a year. So, if you're using petroleum fuels for both, you need more gasoline for your car than you do natural gas for your water heater.

But, as shown above, if you use electric energy instead, you might need more energy for your water heating. The reason for this isn't that electric water heating is inefficient. It's that the gasoline car is inefficient. A gasoline car doesn't actually use most of the energy in its fuel to move the car. It loses two-thirds of the fuel's energy through waste heat that exits the radiator and exhaust, and another 5% or so in mechanical drivetrain inefficiencies.

In La Conner, solar photovoltaic panels will produce, on average, about 1,100 kWh/year per installed kilowatt. To produce enough energy to power a conventional water heater, a homeowner would need to install about 4.2 kilowatts of solar panels. At a cost of \$1.65/kilowatt (projected low end of Solarize Skagit 2024 cost, minus 30% federal tax credit), this would cost about \$6,900. A new solar installation, just used for water heating, would pay for itself in a little over 11 years.

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Ken Stern, Publisher & Editor

editor@laconnernews.com

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Postmaster:

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La Conner Weekly News

PO Box 1465, La Conner, WA 98257

Bill Reynolds, News Editor
news@laconnernews.com

Kurt Batdorf, Copy Editor and Production Manager
production@laconnernews.com

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

Eileen Engelstad, Proofreader
Rick Shorten, Special Projects

Contributors:

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

LETTER POLICY

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

Town leaders mourn death of key advisor

By Bill Reynolds

New La Conner Emergency Management Commission chair Jerry George had sad news to share when the panel met March 5 at Maple Hall.

George had the unenviable task of announcing the death of commission charter member Duane Carpenter, 64, whose expertise in meteorology was frequently tapped during the board's inaugural year as it considered flood mitigation strategies.

George said that Carpenter, with an extensive background in cartography and weather analysis, died unexpectedly March 1 from complications following a surgical procedure.

"Duane was particularly valuable to this commission," George said. "He was also quite pleasant. And we will miss him."

Carpenter was one of five original voting members on the emergency management commission, launched in response to devastating saltwater flooding here in late December 2022. Extreme weather conditions, coupled with high tides, were major factors contributing to flooding that caused nearly \$2 million in property damage along the La Conner waterfront and in its low-lying residential areas.

The commission appreciated Carpenter's weather-oriented skills set.

His passing renders the commission further short-handed. Its initial chairperson, former planning commissioner and town councilor Bill Stokes, who had led the drive to install flood barriers prior to king tide season, stepped down recently.

The town council has issued a resolution thanking Stokes for his efforts, which included coordination of a summer waterfront walking tour led by Public Works Director Brian Lease that surveyed flood trouble spots and invited proposed remedies.

Carpenter was on that tour. "The entire town is saddened to hear about the passing of Duane Carpenter," Mayor Marna Hanneman told the Weekly News. "His contributions to the Emergency Management Commission were invaluable. In the short time I knew him, he always had a smile on his face and had great positive energy. His expertise in helping guide the commission in its beginning stages and beyond will leave a big void."

The commission is now comprised of Chairman George, Jim White, Doug Asbe, and Jamie Throgmorton, who served last year as a non-voting member.

Hanneman briefly outlined the format for adding a fifth emergency management member.

She said the town will publish a notice inviting interested La Conner residents to apply for appointment to the commission.

"Once the application process has expired," said Hanneman, "I will review all the applications we have received and make my recommendation to the council for its consideration and concurrence. Duane will be a hard act to follow."

A celebration of Carpenter's life will be held at 5 p.m. Thursday, March 14, at Hellams Vineyard in La Conner.

Town still focusing on First St. parking

By Bill Reynolds

Town officials say they heard plenty of valued input during the recent community mingle addressing First Street parking and traffic issues, but there's still plenty of time to get the last word in.

"We haven't taken anything off the table," Town Assistant Planner Ajah Eills told planning commissioners during their March 5 meeting at Maple Hall. "We're still in the information gathering mode."

Among those whose insights are being sought is Public Works Director Brian Lease. Commissioners want to hear from Lease before a target date is set for announcing a First Street plan. Several options have been proffered to address concerns – primarily traffic safety and parking efficiency – for the popular downtown business district.

Commissioner John Leaver, a

former town councilor, pushed for paid parking on First Street.

"I still feel there should be a revenue source for parking on First Street," Leaver said. "I feel strongly this is an opportunity to bring in some revenue."

Last year, Leaver had a representative of the PayByPhone mobile payment app firm make a formal presentation before the town council. Bellingham and other Western Washington cities use PayByPhone.

Mayor Marna Hanneman, a former planning commission member who watched the panel's session, said that she had recently met with municipal officials in White Rock, B.C., La Conner's sister city. White Rock has signed on with PayByPhone, she said.

"They are PayByPhone and it seems to be working pretty well," said Hanneman.

Commissioners coalesced around potentially endorsing paid parking on First Street and

free parking in the lot below Town Hall, the reverse of current practice. Commissioner Sommer Holt advocated for free parking permits for First Street residents.

"I don't think residents should have to pay for parking," Holt said. "We've heard from people in favor of paid parking on First Street and free parking in the south lot."

Town Planner Michael Davolio spoke to a couple other topical items – prospective south end development and the proposed three-story, 20-unit residential complex at 306 Center St.

Davolio said that KSA Investments, the applicant for the Center Street project, intends to submit revised plans by the end of the month for its elevator system. The revisions are necessary to conform with the Town's height restrictions for new construction.

Concerning the south end, which includes the former Moore-Clark property, Davolio said

public input will be encouraged, especially from the area's private property owners.

"The town administrator (Scott Thomas) has started the process to have a consultant work with the town," Davolio said. "There are grant funds that are available. We want to look at options. We want to hear from the public. There's been a lot of talk about that property, but nothing has come of it because of disagreements."

The meeting also included a brief overview of Eills' ongoing La Conner Land Use Capacity Analysis. Eills reported that there are 18 vacant residential parcels in town, 15 of which are privately owned, that if developed under present code requirements would support 54 single-family dwellings.

The three town-owned parcels are the former Jenson property, the public space retained from the former Hedlin's Ballfield, and the steep slope next to the south end parking lot.

La Conner will mull options for Jenson property development

By Bill Reynolds

Town officials over the next few months will begin examining potential options for the Jenson property located south of Channel Cove near the Maple Avenue approach to Pioneer Park.

The Jenson family sold the land to the town at a reduced price – about one-third its assessed value – on condition it be utilized in the best interest of the community. Suggested uses for the property have ranged from affordable housing to a public garden.

"We have saved the letters and emails that we have received about options for the use of the property when it was acquired by the town and we will develop other avenues through which additional community comments will be received, including another 'mingle,'" Town Administrator Scott Thomas wrote in a report to the council for its March 12 meeting.

The town has held conver-

sational mingles at the Civic Garden Club Building addressing short-term rentals and downtown parking. Each received positive reviews for fostering open dialogue.

"These materials will be compiled and provided to the council at a later date," Thomas said.

Town staff will share data related to land-use requirements, zoning regulations and potential costs with council members.

In his report, Thomas also noted that La Conner will experience another round of high tides through March 14.

"(The) Public Works (Department) will then begin to remove and store the temporary sandbags, which will take two weeks to accomplish," said Thomas.

The sandbags were deployed prior to king tide season last fall as part of flood mitigation remedies developed and recommended by the Emergency Management Commission.

"La Conner was very fortunate

this year," Thomas said. "(Public Works) Director Brian Lease states that this is the first year that normal tidal flooding did not occur – yet."

In his report, Thomas followed up on a list of major public works projects planned over the next decade. One of those is the aging Channel Drive water line.

"Due to the continued failure of the Channel Drive water line," said Thomas, "we have begun to take steps to replace that line. Currently, we have asked the engineers to complete the construction drawings for the project."

The project is expected to cost several million dollars.

"We are identifying grant opportunities and assessing other means to pay for this project," Thomas said.

Thomas also submitted to the council a report spelling out funding sources for the town's recently established Transportation Benefit District, formed to maintain and

upgrade streets, sidewalks and transit service. The two primary funding sources are vehicle license fees and sales and use taxes. Town staff favor a 0.1% sales tax that would generate about \$45,000 per year.

"Because a good portion of the sales taxes collected by La Conner are paid by visitors, we think that a sales tax is an appropriate way to distribute the costs of maintaining and improving our transportation system," Thomas said. "We also recommend that one half of the revenue collected be banked and ultimately applied to the First Street extension project."

Thomas reported that once he receives direction from the council, he will draft an ordinance reflecting the panel's decisions on funding sources, plus a transit benefit district budget.

"A sales tax increase would become effective July 1 at the earliest," he said.

King tide season ends this week

The last king tides of this winter season are this week on the Swinomish Channel. The USHarbors.com tide table predicted 11-foot-plus tides Monday-Wednesday mornings and a 10.9 foot tide March 16 at 8:27 a.m. The last 10.9 foot tide is scheduled for 4:36 p.m. Friday, March 27. Town of La Conner public works staff plan to remove and store the channel area sand bags by the end of the month.

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Kiwanis Club February Students of the Month



Maicy Bowles

Jaydin Clark

Ashley Shipley

The La Conner Kiwanis Club high school Student of the Month for February is Jaydin Clark, a junior. Jaydin's parents are Fred and Lori Cayou. Jaydin's favorite classes are lifetime fitness and science. He enjoys playing football and basketball with his friends. After graduation he is hoping to attend the University of Alabama with a major in business management.

La Conner Middle School Student of the Month for February is Maicy Bowles. Her parents are Matt and Beth Bowles. Maicy is in eighth grade. Her favorite school topic is social studies. She is Associated Student Body secretary for her class. She has been playing soccer and is on

the high school basketball team. Outside of school she hangs out with friends and plays with her dog. Maicy would like to attend the University of Washington after she graduates. She would like to get a job in the medical field – nurse, radiologist or anesthesiologist.

La Conner Elementary School Student of the Month for February is Ashley Shipley. Her parents are Daniel and Sarah Shipley. Ashley is in fifth grade. She doesn't have a favorite class as she enjoys all of them, especially art. She likes to participate in sports like volleyball, basketball and soccer. After graduation Ashley would like to study to become an art teacher.

Ex-Brave Worgum leads WWU golfers at California tourney

By Bill Reynolds

La Conner High School alumnus Emma Worgum, who won a state title her senior year with the Braves, led the Western Washington University women's golf team during its recent season debut at the Tim Tierney Pioneer Shootout in Alameda, California.

Worgum, a WWU sophomore, placed 15th out of a 96-player field by shooting 6-over-par at

the 36-hole event.

The Lady Vikings finished 10th overall.

Worgum carded four of her five birdies during the tournament's first round.

"Emma continued her solid play and finished the tournament with two consistent rounds in every aspect of her game," WWU head coach Luke Bennett said.

Worgum fired consecutive 3-over-par rounds of 75 at the tourney's Corica Park venue.

Worgum and her Western teammates returned to California Monday for the two-day Fujikura Invitational Tournament at Shadowridge Golf Course near San Diego.

Braves basketball players receive All-League honors

By Bill Reynolds

The season is over but La Conner High School basketball standouts are still scoring points with their conference peers.

Seven players – four boys, three girls – have garnered All-League recognition in recent polling of NW2B/1B hoops programs.

La Conner's Ivory Damien and Brayden Pedroza were first team All-League picks on the boys' side while Maeve McCormick was a girls' All-NW2B/1B first-unit selection.

Damien and Pedroza were reliable scorers all season for the Braves. Damien netted a game-high 38 points – all but three of those in the second half – during a regular season home contest with league rival

Coupeville. Pedroza exploded for 43 points in La Conner's bi-district tourney win at home over Northwest Christian of Lacey.

McCormick scored 45 points to pace the Lady Braves in a pair of bi-district triumphs.

Damien is a senior, Pedroza is a junior and McCormick is a sophomore.

Juniors C.J. Edwards and Corran Eisen joined the boys' All-League team as honorable mention choices.

Edwards, who was the Braves' sparkplug as assists leader and a lockdown defender, delivered 13 points in the Braves' season finale, a regional loss to Adna in overtime.

Eisen led La Conner with 19 points against Adna. In the regular season, he forced overtime with a buzzer-beating

trey against 1B power Lummi, a game La Conner then won.

Sophomore Shaniquah Casey, the Lady Braves' lone two-year starter, was tabbed for second squad All-League accolades. Casey orchestrated the offense and was the team's leading scorer in its Round of 16 state playoff clash with Toutle Lake.

Eighth grader Nora McCormick was the youngest All-League honoree, meriting an honorable mention selection alongside Darrington senior Allie Cochran and Mount Vernon Christian junior Kayla VanHofwegen.

Coupeville senior Logan Downes was named the boys' NW2B/1B Most Valuable Player. MVC senior Allie Heino was voted the girls' Most Valuable Player.

Elementary students stage popular play twice

By Bill Reynolds

While the La Conner area withstood gusty winds all weekend, it was a children's play that really took the town by storm.

A large cast of La Conner Elementary School students performed "That's My Crown" Friday night and Saturday afternoon at the Bruce Performing Arts Center.

The performances were presented by the La Conner Parent-Teacher-Student Association (PTSA) under guidance of Class ACT of Anacortes and assistance from high school drama instructors Taylor Pedroza and Jess Clement.

Making stage appearances were student actors Cassius Landworth, Russell Gould, Greyson Delage, Paisley Dubuque, Calin Wilson, Grace Brandsma, Annabelle Howell, Anja Landworth, Winter Paulson, Declan O'Hagan, Oriana James-Sherman, Robbie Ames, Hailey Ruzicka and Lily Rose Stewart.

Sydney Trajano, Vivienne

Gitomer, Landon Warenski, Madison Shutt, Grace Baer, Rowley Osias, Elicia Acocella, Natalie Johnson, Emmett Voorhees, Colton Vorhees, Johnny Joe, Jessiah Paul, Lucetta Williams, Madison Page and Lily Ritchie also landed roles.

Key parts were assigned to Martina Plaut, Jayde Torres, Faith Kowalczyk, Georgia Brown, Charlotte Paul, Eleanor Warenski, Harper Voorhees, Lailoni Edwards, Ryan Larsen, Indica Torres, Raelyn Wilson, Gracelynn Dills, Georgia Paulson, Remy Hartman and Halley Oh.

Ronnie Edwards, Kashawna Joe, Tatum Wilbur, Minka Myles, D'andre Gwin, Jordynn Washington, Cody Mitchell, Elsie Goodman, Clara Otteson, Caleb Taipale, Savannah Kuhlman, Nellie Mueller, Rayna Taipale, Madison Langendorfer, Katie Seward-Perry and Aunie Castillo likewise were featured performers.

The play was directed by Mike Jenkins, Kim Housholder, and Sunshine Stevens and coordinat-

ed by Rebecca Pursley of Class ACT and Mia Paulson, Amanda Voorhees and Corey Catubo of the PTSA.

Rehearsal, costumes, makeup and performance volunteer tasks were undertaken by Amanda Langendorfer, Erin Radcliffe, Stephanie Brown, Laura Parker, Crista Landworth, Sarina Kuhlman, Tasha Carlson, Sarah Dubuque, Tamsen O'Hagen, Sky Stewart, Katelyn Warenski, Taysha James Sherman, Corey Catubo, Kim Goodman, Annie McCoy, Kevin Hartman and La Conner High School teacher-coach Peter Voorhees and his students.

The cast and crew expressed thanks to Elementary School Principal Heather Fakkema-Hovde, campus custodians, secretaries, faculty members and parents for their support.

McLaughlin, the play's author, is a Western Washington University graduate with a bachelor's degree in English/Theatre Education and a master's degree in theatre.

A comedy with no shortage of clever lines, "That's My Crown" received repeated applause and laughter during both shows.



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Theater review — TAG delivers in 'Poppins Jr.'

By Judy Booth

TAG did it again! Skagit County's own Theater Arts Guild musical production of "Mary Poppins Jr." is full of happy and talented kids on stage and in the audience. It was uplifting, rambunctious and joyful last Saturday night. All 40 performers and crew were 18 years old or under. What a tribute to TAG for creating great opportunities for young talent.

We are first invited into the dysfunctional Banks family home in 1910 London by Bert, a jack-of-all-trades, played by 15-year-old Helaina Madden.

Helaina's first local performance at age 8 was also "Mary Poppins." Then it was on to "The Sound of Music" with Skagit Valley College and "The Wizard of Oz" and "Frozen Jr." with TAG.

Lily Biancone performed and sang the role of Mary Poppins in a clear, sweet voice. She isn't new to TAG either, having performed in "The Wizard of Oz," as well as other Skagit Valley College productions.

Michael and Jane, the Banks' children, were delightfully performed by Violet Rowley and Chloe Shepard.

Violet loved performing in "The Wizard of Oz," where she "had so much fun, she decided to continue on to "Mary Poppins Jr."

This was 10-year-old Chloe's first lead role as young Jane, after performing in "Suessical."

With a workaholic father and a pre-occupied mother, young Jane and Michael suffer one nanny after another who sees these children as spoiled brats. In flies the whimsical Mary Poppins, bringing common sense, discipline and magic to two needy children. As she sings, she is "Practically Perfect." She is somewhat magical too as the children learn through the many adventures they go on from dancing statues to chimney sweeps singing on rooftops above London's din.

Many of the songs you can sing along to – can you spell "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious?"

By the end, Mary transforms the children, including getting them to take their medicine with a "Spoon Full of Sugar," and eventually their parents, until they all develop into a more wholesome family.

When Dad George Banks (Cynthia Allen) realizes his family is more important than work, he takes them kite flying. So begins a rousing "Let's Go Fly a Kite" sung by the full cast.

This musical, being a musical, is all about singing a story, but there are a couple dance numbers and one who stood out – featured dancer Mariza Montana. New to the valley, her most recent role was as a featured dancer on a German Apple TV series. Mariza has a background in ballet and gymnastics.

Applause to the directors Leisha Skinner and Kim Turner and producers Keri McCrea, Tori Steiner and Stacey Youngquist.

Several roles are shared by more than one actor. Their performance dates are listed on the Lincoln Theatre website.

Cast members can change without notice.

"Mary Poppins Jr." is a musical based on P.L. Travers' stories and the Walt Disney film.



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Murder Mystery taps rumrunning story

By Bill Reynolds

No one in town knows a better yarn than Chris Jennings.

The owner of Jennings Yarn & Needlecrafts, a fixture on First Street for more than a half-century, is spinning a yarn in the literary sense these days, coordinating the plot for La Conner's Second Annual Murder Mystery event set for March 23.

Chamber of Commerce Director Mark Hulst credits Jennings with weaving the thread that ties together "The Case of the Bumped-Off Bootlegger," a throwback to the 1920s Prohibition era of rumrunners and speakeasies, among the more colorful chapters of La Conner area history.

Tickets are available online and at the La Conner Visitor Center.

"The story is fictional," said

Jennings, "but it's based on local history."

The scenario for this year's murder mystery centers on the discovery downtown of a murdered rumrunner, one of several bootleggers known to sail from here to Vancouver Island by night and return with illegal liquor.

Those taking part in the 1920s-based whodunit will begin their investigations at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 23. All will be provided detective kits complete with tools to solve the mystery.

Participants will interview suspects, gather clues, sift through evidence and identify the guilty party.

Nine actors portraying suspects in the mystery will walk around town in period costumes, interacting with the sleuths, Jennings said.

The cast includes Jennings' daughter, former Weekly News

reporter Nicole Jennings. She portrays Bonnie McClyde, the murdered rumrunner's female squeeze.

"She can often be found drinking cocktails and dancing the Charleston at the town speakeasy, which her boyfriend supplies with liquor," according to a release posted last week on the Chamber's Love La Conner webpage.

In her own post, Jennings says she's excited to play McClyde. Sleuths might want to investigate the depth of her loyalties to the deceased.

In addition to the storyline and costumed actors, other plans are afoot to turn The Way Back Machine to the Roaring '20s for this murder mystery.

Chris Jennings said she hopes other merchants will dress in Prohibition period attire.

"I'm also going to try to get a hold of Rick Dole and see if we can get some of vintage vehicles downtown that day," she said.

This year's murder mystery will build on the success enjoyed by the inaugural event in 2023, which Hulst recently told town council members drew dozens of "cosplayers" (costume players) eager to put their crime-solving skills to the test.

The 2024 murder mystery here is part of a series of special events this spring designed to promote La Conner in a fun and positive way.

And all, he said, are invited to get in on the act.

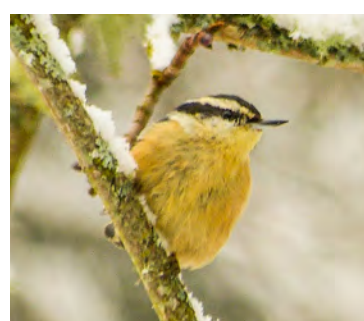
Meet the red-breasted nuthatch

The red-breasted nuthatch is one of our smaller songbirds at 4-1/4 inches, with a stubby tail and a slightly upturned beak. It's blue-grey above and features a black cap with a white line and a rusty chest.

It's the only bird in this area that can climb down a tree head-first, checking out the tree bark for insects. The nuthatch will also come to bird feeders to feed on sunflower seeds and suet.

During springtime, it typically excavates a nest cavity in rotten wood, but will also use nesting boxes.

As per the "Birds of Puget Sound Guide," nuthatches smear conifer sap around their nest holes in order to deter predators.



— Photo by Rosi Jansen

The Audubon Society Field Guide mentions that these birds hoard excess food in different trees.

They are fun to watch, and once you've heard their unusual "yank, yank" chirp, you'll always remember.



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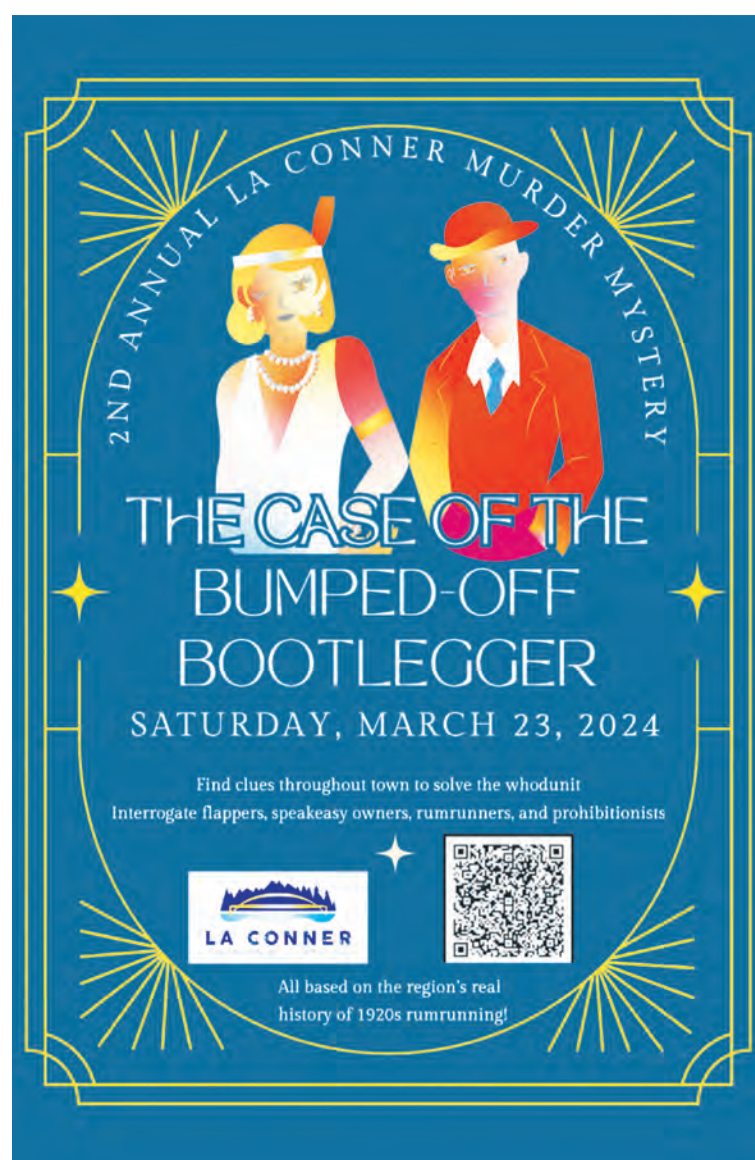


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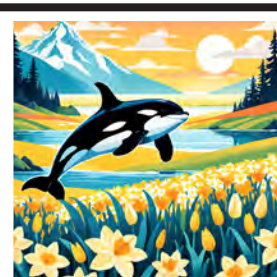
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STILL DETERIORATING — The Moore-Clark warehouse is surrounded by temporary fencing in this 2022 file photo, but La Conner and Shelter Bay residents are concerned by the possible threats the building poses. — Photo by Ken Stern

Moore-Clark

(from page 1)

with knowledge of the matter told the Weekly News. “The lawyers are dealing with it.”

As an immediate safety measure, town officials cordoned off the building in January 2022 with fencing to deny pedestrian traffic on its west side.

The town’s long-range goal is to extend First Street south to Caledonia Street, but current and former town officials have said the building sits several feet inside the public right-of-way.

But it’s the here-and-now that was the focus of discussion during the March 5 meeting.

Wise and others have previously voiced to the town council concerns about potential fire hazards at the 15,000-square-foot wood-framed structure. Recent windstorms have added to their anxiety, as they told commissioners that panels have blown off the northeast side of the building.

“We’re concerned about this in terms of public safety,” said MaryLee Killinger.

Wise said she has spoken to a retired Seattle attorney who has cautioned that the town’s present liability “is enormous.”

If something dire were to occur, Wise said the attorney told her that “insurance companies will go after the city for failure to provide safety.”

“We’re not against you,” Wise said, “(but) we look out the window and see reality.”

Commissioners thanked Wise and Killinger for their comments.

“I share your concerns,” said commissioner Doug Asbe, who vowed to forward that input to the council.

“We’ll pass this on to the council with our report,” commission chair Jerry George said.

Wise said she would continue conducting research and attend future town council meetings.

“We’re staying with it,” she said. “We aren’t quitting.”

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WHATCOM IN RE THE ESTATE OF CHARLOTTE G. HUNTLEY, DECEASED. NO. 24 4 00166 37 NONPROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.42.030 JUDGE: DAVID E. FREEMAN

The notice agent named below has elected to give notice to creditors of the above-named decedent. As of the date of the filing of a copy of this notice with the court, the notice agent has no knowledge of any other person acting as notice agent or of the appointment of a personal representative of the decedent's estate in the state of Washington. According to the records of the court as are available on the date of the filing of this notice with the court, a cause number regarding the decedent has not been issued to any other notice agent, and a personal representative of the decedent's estate has not been appointed.

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 11.42.070 by serving on or mailing to the notice agent or the notice agent'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 notice agent's declaration and oath were filed. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the notice agent served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.42.020(2)(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 11.42.050 and 11.42.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets.

Date of First Publication: February 28, 2024

The notice agent declares under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington on February 14, 2024, at Bellingham, Washington, that the foregoing is true and correct.

ROBERT HUNTLEY
Notice Agent: ROBERT HUNTLEY
2219 Lake Park Drive
Anacortes, WA 98221
Attorney for notice agent: KATTI ESP
301 Prospect Street
Bellingham, WA 98225
Address for Mailing or Service: KATTI ESP
301 Prospect Street
Bellingham, WA 98225
Court of notice agent's Declaration and Oath: Superior Court of Whatcom County
Cause Number: 24 4 00166 37

Published in the La Conner Weekly News, February 28, March 6, and March 13, 2024.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SKAGIT
Estate of **WILLIAM JOSIAH MERCER, Deceased. Cause No. 24-4-00044-29**
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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

and filing the original of the claim with the court 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: February 28, 2024

Personal Representative: Shawnee Nelson
Attorney for the Personal Representative: Marcella Albert

Address for Mailing or Service: Freeman & Freeman-Albert
406 South 2nd Street, Mount Vernon, WA 98273
(425) 317-9000

Court of probate proceedings & cause number: Skagit County Superior Court: 24-4-00044-29

Published in the La Conner Weekly News, February 28, March 6, and March 13, 2024.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY
Nonprobate Estate of **STEVEN CRAIG WILLIS, Deceased.**
NO. 24-4-00100-29
NONPROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.42.030)
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

As Notice Agent, I have elected to give notice to Decedent's creditors.

On the date of filing of this Nonprobate Notice to Creditors with the Court:

- I had no knowledge of;
- Any other person acting as Notice Agent, or
- The appointment of a Personal Representative for Decedent's probate estate in the state of Washington.
- According to the records of the Court that were then available:
- No cause number regarding Decedent had been issued to any other Notice Agent, and
- No Personal Representative of Decedent's probate estate had been appointed.

Any person having a claim against Decedent must present the claim:

- Before the time when the claim would be barred by any applicable statute of limitations, and
 - In the manner provided in RCW 11.42.070:
 - By filing with the Court the original of the signed Creditor's Claim, and
 - By serving upon or mailing by first class mail to me at the address provided below a copy of the signed Creditor's Claim.
- The Creditor's Claim must be presented by the later to occur of:

- Thirty (30) days after I served or mailed this Notice to you as provided in RCW 11.42.020(2)(c); or
- Four (4) months after the date of first publication of this Notice.

If the Creditor's Claim is not presented within the foregoing time period, the claim will be forever barred except as provided in RCW 11.42.050 and 11.42.060. This bar is effective for claims against both the Decedent's probate and non-probate assets.

In accordance with RCW 9A.72.085, I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

SIGNED this 20th day of February, 2024 at Mount Vernon, Washington.
Signature: /s/

Nan Willis, Notice Agent
Address for Mailing or Service: 4048 Autumn Way
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
Date of First Publication of

this Notice: February 28, 2024
Published in the La Conner Weekly News, February 28, March 6 and March 13, 2024.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY
In Re The Estate of: **MICHAEL EUGENE LONG, Deceased.**
No. 24-4-00076-29
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030) (NTRD)

PATRICK LONG 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.

Date of First Publication: March 6, 2024.

Personal Representative
Print Name: PATRICK LONG
Attorneys for Personal Representative
Print Name and Bar #: Heather Ledgerwood #56238
Address for Mailing or Service: Heather Ledgerwood
Wade Law Offices
6100 219th St SW, Suite 480
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043
800-835-2634

Court of probate proceedings and cause number: Skagit County Superior Court
Case No. 24-4-00076-29
Published in the La Conner Weekly News, March 6, 13, and 20, 2024.

Published in the La Conner Weekly News, February 28, March 6, and March 13, 2024.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY
No. 24-4-00108-29
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)
In the Matter of the Estate of Robert H. Ruby, Deceased

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.

Date of First Publication: March 13, 2024.

Personal Representative
Print Name: Cheryl Gifford
Attorneys for Personal Representative
Susan E. Skelton, WSBA 47154
18152 Hewitt Ave #210
Everett, WA 98201
(360) 822-7224/susan@skeltonlawfirms.com

Published in the La Conner Weekly News, March 6, March 13, March 20 2024.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY
FOR SNOHOMISH COUNTY
In Re The Estate of: **CYNTHIA L. GREYDANUS, Deceased.**
No. 24-4-00500-31
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030) (NTRD)

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 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: March 13, 2024.

Personal Representative
Print Name: Cheryl Gifford
Attorneys for Personal Representative
Susan E. Skelton, WSBA 47154
18152 Hewitt Ave #210
Everett, WA 98201
(360) 822-7224/susan@skeltonlawfirms.com

Published in the La Conner Weekly News, March 13, 20, and 27, 2024.

Henry W. Ruby
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, March 6, 13, and 20, 2024.

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY
In the Matter of the Estate of RICKY J SKILLMAN, Deceased.
Cause No. 24-4-00090 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 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 non-probate assets.

Date of First Publication: 3/6/2024

Personal Representative: **CARLY WICKER**
Address for Mailing or Service: 36939 HOYLE LANE, SEDRO-WOOLLEY, WA 98284

Published in the La Conner Weekly News, March 6, March 13, March 20 2024.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SNOHOMISH COUNTY
In Re The Estate of: **CYNTHIA L. GREYDANUS, Deceased.**
No. 24-4-00500-31
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030) (NTRD)

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 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: March 13, 2024.

Personal Representative
Print Name: Cheryl Gifford
Attorneys for Personal Representative
Susan E. Skelton, WSBA 47154
18152 Hewitt Ave #210
Everett, WA 98201
(360) 822-7224/susan@skeltonlawfirms.com

Published in the La Conner Weekly News, March 13, 20, and 27, 2024.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY
FOR SNOHOMISH COUNTY
In Re The Estate of: **CYNTHIA L. GREYDANUS, Deceased.**
No. 24-4-00500-31
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030) (NTRD)

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 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.

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Aqimuk's Kitchen

By Patricia Aqimuk Paul, Esq., Food Editor

Pan Fried Halibut

This is the perfect quick meal. The aroma when it cooks is amazing. A bit of the wild. This recipe marks 12 years of Aqimuk's Kitchen. Over 600 recipes published. Three newspaper awards. I appreciate all of you. Love hearing how you enjoy the recipes; simple to make. Thank you!



Ingredients

- Halibut steaks, 1 inch thick
- Butter, 4 table-spoons
- Olive oil, 1/4 cup

Preparation

Rinse and pat dry the halibut. Add butter and olive oil into a sauté pan. Heat until hot but not smoking. Put halibut in, skin side down. Lower heat

to medium low. Set a timer for 10 minutes. Keep watch the whole time. After 6 minutes, use a metal spatula to turn over. Cook another 4 minutes then turn off the heat. Check for doneness. Use two forks to pull apart layers. If solid and not jelly-like, it's done. You can allow the filets to rest in the pan for 2 more minutes.

NOT TO BE MISSED

5-6 p.m. Wednesday, March 20, Armchair Travel to Ireland: Come to the La Conner Swinomish Library to learn what it is like to grow up in Ireland from La Conner's own Gina Torpey. This is the last in our series of Armchair Travels with Teri.

3-4 p.m. Friday, March 22, Rope Beehive Adult Craft Event: Adult craft hour at the La Conner Swinomish Library. Come make a jute rope beehive to add some spring fun to your home decor.

3-4 p.m. Friday, March 26, Humanities Washington speaker Mike VanQuickenborne presents Keeping it Real: How Conversation Creates Truth at the La Conner Swinomish Library. VanQuickenborne, an Everett Community College philosophy teacher, uses everyday language and examples to question our assumptions about what is real. Learn how our perception of reality is shaped by language and discover how conversation can help us come to terms with our varied experiences. You'll also learn how the concept of "reality" can be motivating, but also weaponized by things like artificial intelligence, fake news and "deep fakes."

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.
• Tech Help. Noon to 2 p.m. every Tuesday. 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, mount-vernonwa.gov.
• Seedling Storytime: 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. For young ones who may be shy or who like more caregiver support.
• LEGO Building: 1-5:30 p.m. Wednesdays and 1-3:30 p.m. Saturdays. Family fun for all ages. LEGO bricks supplied.
• Board Games: 1-5:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Choose from classic board games for a variety of ages.

Anacortes Public Library. 1220 10th St., Anacortes. 360-299-8067, CityofAnacortes.org.
• Family Storytime: 10-11:30 a.m. Fridays. If the first session is full, visit the children's desk for a ticket to the next one. For ages birth to 5, siblings welcome.
• Maker Time: 4-5:15 p.m.

Thursdays. Ages 8-12. Maker Time is all about STEAM. Challenges include robotics, circuitry, chemistry experiments, engineering marvels, art and design.
• LEGO at the Library: 3:30-5:30 p.m. Mondays. LEGO bricks provided.

Burlington Public Library. 820 E. Washington Ave., Burlington. 360-755-0760, burlingtonwa.gov/library.
• Bilingual Storytime: 10:30-11:30 a.m. Saturdays. For ages 6 and under and their caregivers. Enjoy stories and songs in English and Spanish. Craft or STEM-based play follows.
• Knitting Club: 6 p.m. Wednesdays, all ages.

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. Current exhibits:
• Birds of a Fiber: Through March 24. A celebration of all things ornithological and in collaboration with the La Conner Birding Festival.
• Stone Portraits and Sacred Stonescapes: Artwork by Denise Labadie, through May 5.

Skagit County Historical Museum. 360-466-3365 or skagitcounty.net/museum. Hours 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday-Sunday. The museum is seeking donations of vintage, holiday wares, craft supplies, collectibles and unique items for their annual Sale at the School in April. Contact jwolfe@co.skagit.wa.us.

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. Current exhibits through May 12:
• Silva Cascadia: Under the Spell of the Forest features

two- and three-dimensional works by Northwest women artists inspired by forests and trees.
• At the Seam: The exhibition asks to look not only at the individual works but also at the "seams," where works representing different artistic trends and cultural identities come in touch with each other.
• My Roots: Honoring the Cultural Identity of Skagit Valley's Under-Resourced Children: Outside In Gallery

MEETINGS

Town of La Conner Council Meeting, 6 p.m. second and fourth Tuesdays. For current agenda, go to www.townoflaconner.org. Sign up for "Notify Me" to get current town information.

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

SERVICE & VOLUNTEER

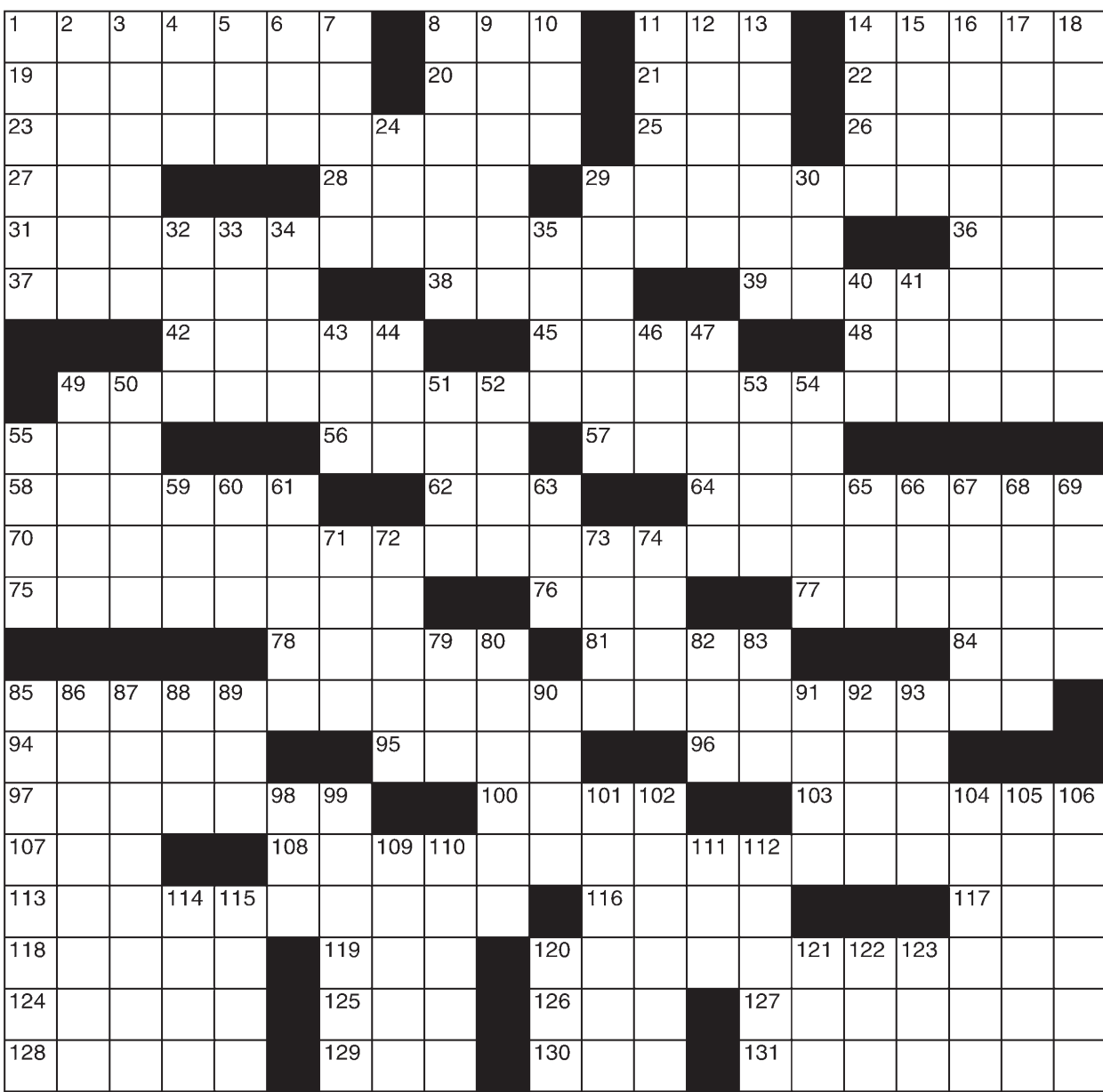
Pacific Northwest Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum is looking for museum host and gift shop volunteers to donate 6 hours of time per month. Complete a volunteer application at www.qfamuseum.org or visit the museum, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday, 703 Second St., or call Jacque Chase at 360-466-4288 ext. 101.

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

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

Super Crossword WELL-DEFINED

- ACROSS**
- 1 Ran after
 - 8 — oil (trendy marijuana extract, for short)
 - 11 Old TV ET
 - 14 Feudal peons
 - 19 More ill-bred
 - 20 Loaf in a deli
 - 21 Palme — (Cannes award)
 - 22 "La Traviata," e.g.
 - 23 120-Across #1
 - 25 "Over here!"
 - 26 Sieved, as potatoes
 - 27 Folk rocker DiFranco
 - 28 Drink holders
 - 29 120-Across #2
 - 31 120-Across #3
 - 36 Suffix of enzymes
 - 37 Don effortlessly, as shoes
 - 38 Toxin-fighting fluids
 - 39 Functional unit of a kidney
 - 42 Wield a saber or foil
 - 45 Sky twinkler
 - 48 Stray calf
 - 49 120-Across #4
 - 55 Plead
 - 56 Cabinet chief: Abbr.
 - 57 Muse of poetry
 - 58 Mimosa tree, e.g.
 - 62 "Put — Happy Face"
 - 64 DiCaprio of "Titanic"
 - 70 120-Across #5
 - 75 More furtive
 - 76 Possess
 - 77 Gets the impression
 - 78 Core belief
 - 81 Light tan
 - 84 Groom's vow
 - 85 120-Across #6
 - 94 "Take —" ("Jot this note")
 - 95 Water spigots
 - 96 Extort money from
 - 97 Fit to reside in
 - 100 Architect Saarinen
 - 103 Island near Bora Bora
 - 107 Rage
 - 108 120-Across #7
 - 113 120-Across #8
 - 116 Male sweetie
 - 117 Day, to Juanita
 - 118 Totally lost
 - 119 Bruins' Bobby
 - 120 What this puzzle literally provides eight times
 - 124 Wee
 - 125 Hitler's stat
 - 126 Single-named R&B singer
 - 127 Erase
 - 128 Some Canadian gas stations
 - 129 Tot's "piggy"
 - 130 Bible translation, e.g.: Abbr.
 - 131 Lobby sofas
- DOWN**
- 1 The Sims or Minecraft, say
 - 2 Muse of astronomy
 - 3 Fast part of a river ride
 - 4 Govt. stipend
 - 5 Adm.'s org.
 - 6 Brain wave test: Abbr.
 - 7 Harry Potter bully Malfoy
 - 8 Burial vaults
 - 9 Poet Percy — Shelley
 - 10 — Moines, Iowa
 - 11 One-off, as a committee
 - 12 Lerner's songwriting partner
 - 13 Skillet
 - 14 Ilk
 - 15 Grand-scale
 - 16 Give new energy to
 - 17 Region prohibiting slavery prior to the Civil War
 - 18 Made unhappy
 - 24 — Puf (facial sponge)
 - 29 Really hate
 - 30 Suffix with serpent
 - 32 Resist boldly
 - 33 Singer Lisa
 - 34 City in Sicily
 - 35 Once, once
 - 40 Word file alternative
 - 41 — polloi
 - 43 Syringe amts.
 - 44 Stretch (out)
 - 46 — Lingus (Irish carrier)
 - 47 Writer Dahl
 - 49 The Beatles' "— Work It Out"
 - 50 Tequila plant
 - 51 Sacred image
 - 52 Big Apple address abbr.
 - 53 Sch. near the Rio Grande
 - 54 Axes, e.g.
 - 55 Scrooge's outbursts
 - 59 U.S. spy org.
 - 60 Fluid in a pen
 - 61 Anxiousness
 - 63 In times past
 - 65 Scot's denial
 - 66 Novelist Rand
 - 67 Varnish stuff (Stallone film)
 - 69 — buco
 - 71 Artist Jan van der —
 - 72 "Nola" composer Felix
 - 73 Actor Wilson
 - 74 How much '90s music was recorded
 - 79 LAX info
 - 80 High-quality
 - 82 CSA soldier
 - 83 Web address
 - 85 Certify
 - 86 The "E" of UAE
 - 87 Overturns
 - 88 Singer Sumac
 - 89 Word before goblin
 - 90 Employed
 - 91 — bad example
 - 92 Split
 - 93 Ritalin treats it, for short
 - 98 Science writer Willy or ESPN anchor Bob
 - 99 Urge strongly
 - 101 Kind of steak
 - 102 Like some headsets
 - 104 Chemist's "I"
 - 105 Brief pang
 - 106 For a really long time
 - 109 Muscle car booster
 - 110 Macabre
 - 111 Interval
 - 112 Is really angry
 - 114 Lotto variant
 - 115 Deposits, as eggs
 - 120 License-issuing agcy.
 - 121 Palindromic file suffix
 - 122 Fitting
 - 123 Cashew, e.g.



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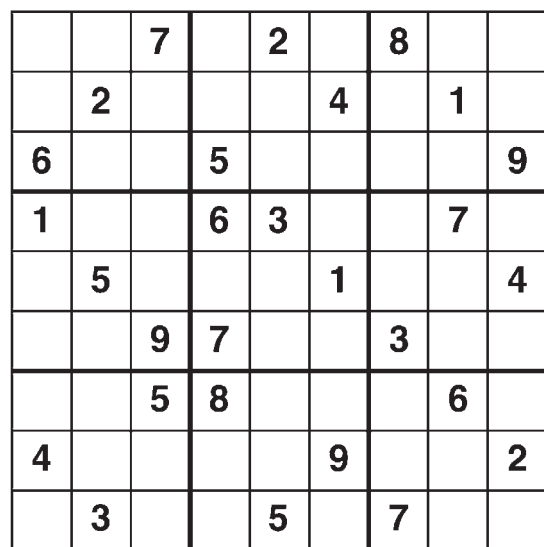
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FIND CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS ON PAGE 6

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle



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!

POLICE BLOTTER

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Tuesday, March 5

9:33 p.m.: They followed Wile E. – Caller reported her two dogs ran off after coyotes. She wanted the sheriff's office to know and advised it was OK to give out her information if someone found her runaway dogs. Ring Lane, La Conner.

Friday, March 8

6:52 p.m.: Where the pavement ends – A vehicle driving on Young Road lost control and ended up in a field. There were no injuries, and the vehicle was removed prior to a deputy's arrival. Young Rd., La Conner area.

Thursday, March 7

10:45 p.m.: Unwelcome surprise – Caller left work and came outside to find her car had been covered with red spray paint. It was randomly sprayed all over the whole exterior. Deputies are investigating possible leads on who was involved. Morris St., La Conner.



GETTING DAFFODILS TO THE STORE – Local fields are yellow with flowers now, but farworkers have been working in the fields since February. Monday they were doing the hard work of getting flowers ready for tables in the Skagit Valley and around the country. – Photo by Don Coyote

Buses

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

Many school officials say they worry about some of the plan's details.

"We have had technology be over-promised before, and we're hoping this is not another case of that," Mike Hoover of Washington State School Directors Association said. "We are very much in support of the concept of zero emission, but we have to make it work in every area of our state, and that 2027 timeline

is coming up very fast."

Senn explained timeline for compliance has been eliminated.

Schools are now only required to start the transition to a zero-emission fleet "once the total cost of ownership of zero emission buses is less than or equal to that of diesel buses," according to Senn.

If school districts get to this point of the cost evening out and still feel this transition is not feasible, they can "request an extension" of up to five years before transitioning.

"I understand the anxiety

about this big change, but we just can't wait any longer," Senn said. "Our children's future depends on it."

School officials also expressed concern about zero-emission vehicle range and reliability.

"I have attended many informational sessions on electric or zero-emission vehicles, and each and every one of these sessions the consistent message is that the technology is not there, but they hope that it will be," said Paul Marquardt, executive director of operations for the Bethel School District.

Marquardt suggested explicitly adding into the bill propane and hybrid options to combat some of their worries.

"The current range of an electric school bus is 75 miles, with a 30% reduction on cold days," Marquardt said. "In Bethel, an average bus run is 80 miles. We would not be able to complete one bus run with an electric bus."

Senn assured this technology exists, and that 24 different models and manufacturers have been identified for schools to choose from.

Leah Missik, of Climate Solutions, stressed the urgency of this legislation.

"When people talk about climate, oftentimes they talk about their grandkids," Missik said. "But I want to emphasize that climate is not just about our grandkids, but our kids right now."

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Enrollment

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

Declining enrollment has been a troubling trend in La Conner for years. During the early 2000s, La Conner Schools enrolled around 700 students and its sports teams competed at the 1A level.

After hovering near 600 students before the COVID-19 pandemic, La Conner's enrollment has since fallen below 500. La Conner is now the smallest 2B school in the state and the board recently authorized downsizing the Braves football program to an eight-man team.

La Conner isn't alone among its local peers.

"Everybody in Skagit County is looking at declines or a flat enrollment," Cram said. "The other districts are facing low kindergarten enrollment, too."

Cram said another enrollment factor involves La Conner High School students who transition to specialized off-campus educational programs, such as Running Start and the Skills Center. The school district receives enrollment credit only for the classes those students attend at La Conner.

"We don't get FTE (full-time equivalent) for our students at the Skills Center or Running Start,"

Cram said. "We only get credit for how many classes they're enrolled in here."

Soaring housing costs have been linked to the gradual downward spiral in student enrollment, since families with school-age children struggle with the cost to live in the La Conner area.

In response, La Conner Schools has begun marketing itself to families residing outside the school district – Conway, in particular – by promoting its academic, arts and athletics programs.

The board's three-hour study session included opportunities for members to hear from secondary students on a wide range of topics – from school curricula and activities to food service and suggested new programs.

"We do this a couple times a year," La Conner Schools Executive Assistant Cherri Kahns said.

She and Superintendent Dr. Wil Nelson said such meetings are beneficial both to the board and students.

"These were great conversations," said Nelson.

Board member Kim Pedroza said she appreciated what students told her.

"The kids said they love their teachers and appreciate the energy they bring to the classroom," Pedroza said.

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COFFEE ROASTED WITH LOVE AND SERVED FRESH IN THE USUAL AND ACCUSTOMED AREA OF THE SWINOMISH TRIBAL COMMUNITY

VINTAGE LaCONNER THRIFT SHOP

Sale 50% Off!
Women's Clothing

Tops, Jeans, Pants, Skirts, Coats, Fitness, Dresses
(Excludes Designer Wear)

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Donations accepted Monday 1pm - 3pm

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11am - 5pm
3rd & Morris, La Conner
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