



**Crowd packs library for Vi Hilbert talk • p 5**  
**Join the Rexville Grange: a new, old idea • p 8**

Your Independent Hometown Award-winning Newspaper

# LA CONNER WEEKLY NEWS

VOL. 17 • NO. 2

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024

www.laconnerweeklynews.com

\$1.25

## Planting season returns



IF IT IS NOT ONE FIELD, IT IS ANOTHER – Every spring in the Skagit there are tractors cultivating, turning the soil and planting. It is not a race, but they are in it for the long haul, one season at a time. These John Deere were planting potatoes off of Alverson Road, across from Mesman's farm in late April 2021.

– Weekly News file photo

## Residents engage, generate big ideas for Jenson property

By Bill Reynolds

Turnout was low but engagement high at a one-hour community mingle April 25 addressing possible future uses of the Jenson property.

About two dozen people gathered at the Civic Garden Club to suggest how the town could best use the half-acre field on La Conner's south end, acquired in 2022 for \$60,000, about one-third its assessed value.

Participants reviewed maps of the property, a fact sheet and an informational pamphlet provided by La Conner artist Maggie Wilder outlining features that would make the Jenson Property ideal for conversion to a food forest.

Earlier proposals for the site included development of affordable housing, tiny homes and community gardens.

The food forest concept, which promotes a bio-diverse, dense, edible ecosystem modeled on the natural cycles of woodlands, intrigued those in attendance. So much so that Wilder was asked if she could line up additional information when Mayor Marna Hanneman continues the Jenson property discussion at her next "Meet the Mayor" session May 4 at the La Conner Swinomish Library.

While La Conner has long wrestled with a housing crunch that has priced those with low incomes out of the market, there was only minimal interest in housing.

Attendees divided into small groups that reported their preferences. They cited concerns over parking, drainage, paving, financial costs and related infrastructure requirements for their hesitancy to more vigorously endorse a housing option.



ANOTHER TOWN MINGLE – Meeting the call of democracy once again, La Conner citizens came together last Thursday at the Civic Garden Club to discuss the future of the town's newest half-acre of land.

– Photo by Bill Reynolds

"There was an overall feeling at our table to keep it (the Jenson Property) as it is as much as possible, to avoid any hard surfacing there," said planning commission member Sommer Holt.

Commissioner John Leaver added levity to the discussion.

"We'd like to build an airport," he jokingly said of his group's consensus.

Assuming a serious tone, Leaver said those at his table liked the idea of a community garden but questioned who would manage it. There was positive sentiment expressed for small cottage-type housing, he said.

Planning commission chair Bruce Bradburn said his table favored the community garden option or even leaving the property alone for the time. The only housing plan it considered is Glen Johnson's proposal to put housing in a dike.

"Glen would be willing to discuss this at length with you any time," Bradburn said.

Another planning commissioner, Cynthia Elliott, monitored the table discussions, circling the room and responding to questions as they arose.

Hanneman and Town Planner Michael Davolio assured that more public dialogue will take place regarding the Jenson property.

"We're going to take this information, review it all, make a recommendation to the planning commission and then the planning commission will make a recommendation to the town council," Davolio said. "We're not rushing through this."

Hanneman said there remains a need to gather yet more information.

"I would really like the conversation to continue," she said. "I think it's really important."

## Voters solidly support EMS levy renewal

'Yes' votes exceed 70%

By Ken Stern

Skagit County voters are casting over 70% yes ballots and overwhelmingly approving proposition No. 1, Continuation of Emergency Medical Services Levy, in the April 23 election. After the third vote count Monday, April 29, 70.8% of votes, 19,912 are yes, to the 8,192 no votes.

The 91.5% yes vote in Shelter Bay was the highest among greater La Conner precincts. Swinomish precinct voters cast 87.6% yes; Sneo Oosh votes were 82.1% yes and the La Conner vote was 80.5% yes. The March Point precinct was voting the levy down, 7 no votes to 6 yes votes.

The renewal, good for six years, funds 24/7 EMS response at a rate of \$0.47 per \$1,000 of assessed property. The current levy expires this year.

The countywide EMS system provides ambulance transport to area hospitals. Skagit County EMS has stated that the additional funding will support increased call volumes and pay for equipment, supplies and staff education and training.

About 28,300 votes were cast, a turnout around 33% of the 85,647 registered Skagit County voters.

There were some 200 ballots that were left to be counted April 30. Certification of results is May 3.

## Media experts tout facts amid disinformation

By Ken Stern

Representatives of the bedrock of American democracy – libraries and newspapers – discussed "News & Media Literacy: Informed or Influenced?" at a forum organized by the League of Women Voters of Skagit County Monday evening, April 29 at the PUD building in Mount Vernon.

Skagit Valley College librarians Elena Bianco and Libby Sullivan spoke first, sharing slides and offering the same questions they present their students in class.

"How do you know where information is coming from?" Bianco asked. "Anyone can have a website."

There are few regulations since the fairness doctrine requiring broadcast stations' coverage of controversial issues be balanced and fair was abolished in 1987 by President Ronald Reagan's Federal Communications Commission, she said.

Sullivan discussed the many sources providing information and the responsibility traditional news media companies take to develop a story. She asked, rhetorically, "How many eyes are on it to vet it before it is seen (by the public)?"

Andrew Paxton, Skagit Valley Herald executive editor, emphasized that journalists "talk to all people. We provide all the information and all the perspectives and let the audience decide."

Reporters do not accept what they see at face value or decide if it is good or bad, but gather facts from all possible sources and print the story so "audiences can make sound news judgments," he said.

Several in the audience of over 50 people gave testimonials of the importance of newspapers in their daily lives.

The Skagit League chapter is offering a series on voter education this year. The next will be a debate, "The Two Party Political System," by the Mount Vernon High School debate team May 23.

## National report flunks state's preschool system, despite spending

By Laurel Demkovich  
Washington State Standard

Washington's access to quality preschool services falls below many other states, only serving 16% of 4-year-olds and 8% of 3-year-olds, a new national report found.

The National Institute for Early Education Research released its annual preschool report in April and found Washington's

preschool access ranked 33rd for 4-year-olds and 17th for 3-year-olds.

The report also found that despite its low rankings for access, Washington scores fairly well for funding for the child care sector, ranking eighth for state spending. But despite the spending, families still struggle to find care.

"Washington's preschool program is far short of what the state's leaders in Congress have

proposed for the nation. As hope for federal action has faded, a new wave of western states – California, Hawaii, Colorado and New Mexico – have developed universal preschool initiatives," said W. Steven Barnett, NIEER's senior co-director. "Will leaders in Washington State also step forward with a similar plan to guarantee access to quality preschool for every child in Washington?"

According to the report, Washington's Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program, which funds child care slots for 3- and 4-year-olds, added 801 children in the 2022-2023 school year. The state's Transitional Kindergarten, for 4- and 5-year-olds, added more than 2,100 children during the 2022-2023 school year, thanks in part to an increase in state funding to the program.

Still, Washington's access for both programs ranked lower than many other states.

Genevieve Stokes, director of government relations at Child Care Aware of Washington, said it is very discouraging that Washington is lagging behind in preschool access.

"This report is highlighting the great need in this state," Stokes

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From the editor —

## Honest. These Supreme Court justices are not

A bedrock principle of our society is the rule of law. The clichés are true because they are fundamental to justice: A nation of laws, not of men. And, of course, no man is above the law.

But every red-blooded American knows that everyone gets the amount of justice that they can pay for. And when you are a billionaire ex-president who has appointed three Supreme Court justices, not only are the books cooked, but the defendant has aces in his back pocket as well as up his sleeve.

Last week, the Supreme Court heard arguments over former President Donald Trump's claim he is immune from criminal liability for actions while in office. He faces a "federal indictment on charges that as part of his effort to overturn President Joe Biden's victory in the 2020 presidential election, he committed fraud against the United States, attempted to obstruct an official government proceeding and illegally pressured public officials to help him block certification of the election results," as the Voice of America website states.

Think about the question these justices took up:

It is the same one David Frost asked Richard Nixon in 1977: "the president can decide that it's in the best interest of the nation or something and do something illegal."

Nixon's response: "Well, when the president does it ... that means that it is not illegal."

In 1974, the Supreme Court rejected Nixon's assertion of executive privilege. The Court acted within 16 days that July. Why? They knew the case was not about Nixon but about the American people and democracy. The Court understood that justice delayed is justice denied. Who gets denied? Who is the loser? Everyone in the country.

But today this group of justices wants to hypothesize and then create precedent that says if the president does it it is not against the law. Why? Because he is doing it for some greater good?

These are the justices who for decades have embraced the legal theory of "original intent," that judges interpret the Constitution with the understanding of its framers. The hypocrites. It is enough to read the president's oath of office:

"I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Article 2, Section 3 reads "he shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed ..."

Why are these judges worrying about theoretical actions of a future president? Why are they not looking at the case the Justice Department brought against Trump for his inciting the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection? There is a simple term for that: sedition. The simple definition of that word: treason.

Presidents are not kings. Nor are they wizards or wise men. None is so capable to know he has to break the law to protect the country.

But these justices are not interested in the facts of Trump's actual deed. Instead, they employed a rope-a-dope delay strategy that would do the boxer Mohammed Ali proud. Cases stuck in process and procedures might as well join these justices in Trump's back pocket.

Those willing to see will identify this hypocrisy of 30-plus years of proud rigid ideology insisting on rulings based only on the words in the Constitution and their original meaning. But that has always been rhetoric, a cover.

Donald Trump has long been a fake and a fraud. Many refuse to learn that fact. Many are unable to name another truth. These Supreme Court justices are equally unjust and cons. They are knowingly acting to put not only their thumbs, but their hearts, souls and minds on the scale of justice, tilting it — and us — toward the autocratic world they are building.

A millennia ago, high priests would philosophize, wondering how many angels can dance on the head of a pin.

Today it is clear that six Supreme Court so-called justices can call any dance tune they desire with impunity.

That is, until the American people have the courage and foresight to fight to expand the size of that Court.

— Ken Stern

## Hard to miss the old Buick as EV savings compound daily

By Greg Whiting

As longtime readers know, Jenelle bought an all-electric Chevy Bolt a couple of years ago. We've driven it about 18,000 miles. It replaced a Buick SUV that had about 85,000 miles on it. The total cost of the Bolt out of pocket, after the trade-in and the electric-vehicle rebate, plus the cost of adding a 240-volt (Level 2) charger to our garage, was about \$25,000.

The Buick got about 20 mpg, so we've saved 900 gallons of gas. Gas has been around \$4 a gallon here for most of that time, so that represents a savings of \$3,600. The onboard meter has been reporting that the Bolt gets about 3.5 miles per kilowatt-hour, so we've used about 5,100 kWh of electricity at a cost of about \$650.



We also haven't had to do oil changes or the 90,000- and 100,000-mile service work the Buick would've needed, which probably represents about another \$2,000 of savings. Total two-year savings have been a little under \$5,000. Over 10 years, energy cost savings alone will be about \$15,000. Add in the maintenance savings, knowing that the Buick would likely require more expensive maintenance after it passed 120,000 miles, and the savings on fuel and maintenance.

(continued on page 6)

A citizen's view

## Next subduction quake will rock our world

By Jerry George

A little perspective: In 1869 bearded men in tall black hats whacked in a golden spike completing the Transcontinental Railway at Provo, Utah, establishing the first sit-down transportation between the East Coast and San Francisco. In January of the following year a magnitude 9 earthquake set off a flood that drowned Native coastal villages from mid California to the northern tip of Vancouver Island. In short, it was a whopper; but almost completely unrecognized for over 100 years.

In January 1700, the offshore portion of that fault fractured along 700 miles from northern Vancouver Island to Northern California. The shake from that quake has been estimated at a magnitude 9 or greater. (For perspective, the Great Earthquake that nearly destroyed San Francisco in 1906 was 30 times weaker and the 2001 Nisqually Quake that tumbled much of Pioneer Square in Seattle was 900 times weaker.)

But until the late 1980s, the now infamous subduction fault off our coast was thought by geologists to be unlikely to produce major earthquakes. Then a vacationing West Coast geologist

found evidence of an "orphan tsunami" in Japanese temple journals that corresponded and explained sand in deposits mud cores along the Washington coast and Native stories of their canoes being carried away and nest 20 feet up in cedar trees.

Later, a well researched story in the New Yorker magazine included a quote from a high federal official saying, "Everything west of I-5 will be toast."

Now there is a level of fear way beyond the level of threat. Yes, the Juan de Fuca subduction fault is one of the largest on our planet. Research has shown that this fault tends to rupture along its entire 700-mile length, generating massive shock waves. When it does fracture, the damage can be extreme ... in some particularly vulnerable places.

Shaking from a subduction fault fracture is unlike any other earthquake. The disturbance is long, complexly changing and damaging because of its relentless attack by different kinds of wave forms.

La Conner is within the massive shake zone of a subduction generated earthquake. Some places and situations in our wee hamlet are more at risk than others.

Some places may suffer heavy

damage and others little or nothing. Sometimes the difference lies in how a building or house is built. Sometimes the relative damage has more to do with the soils underneath the structure. Houses on the hill, particularly those anchored to the rock beneath, will survive better than those in the flats on old river delta soils. And more often than not, suffered damage differences can't be explained.

It's still not possible to predict when or where an earthquake will strike, but it's now possible to deploy an early warning system using the same technology as the amber alerts on our cell phones. Here's how it works: earthquakes spread through the ground by different kinds of waves that travel at different speeds. The first waves, the first shaking, while noticeable, is not usually damaging and comes seconds before the stronger, more damaging waves. Seismographs arrayed all around earthquake-prone areas "see" these first waves and issue an automated warning: "Earthquake imminent. Take Cover!" There will be only seconds to respond, but those seconds could save lives and minimize injuries.

Jerry George chairs the La Conner Emergency Management Commission.

A citizen's view

## Why do Republicans reject our 'democracy?'

By Rick Shorten

At its recent convention in Spokane, the Republican Party's endorsement committee removed gubernatorial candidate Semi Bird's name from consideration due to Mr. Bird's failure to disclose a prior federal conviction for bank larceny. This action by the state committee resulted in such a chaotic uproar from the Bird supporters in attendance that the committee removed the governor's endorsement entirely from consideration. Once again, Bird's supporters vociferously objected. As a result, former U.S. Rep. Dave Reichert, the leading contender in the polls, withdrew his name from consideration and left town.

With Reichert out of contention, the convention delegates overrode the committee's decision and after allowing an endorsement for governor, granted it to Bird. If you're wondering why not just endorse Reichert, who has greater financial and voter support and

electoral experience, the answer may lie in his lackluster support for Donald Trump, who himself is facing two judgments in a civil fraud case and in a defamation and sexual abuse case as well as numerous criminal charges.

The Reichert/Bird rift might seem like the main event, but the crafting of the state GOP platform is where the action was. Despite our country passing the 17th Amendment in 1913 which calls for the direct election of U.S. senators, the Washington GOP now is calling for the election of senators by the state legislature. The platform also calls for numerous changes to the way we in Washington vote: the elimination of mail-in voting and the return to one-day voting with paper ballots and no vote-counting machines or scanners, just counting by hand. Voters would again have to take time off work or obtain child care to vote in person. What has worked so well in our state is rejected by the state GOP.

Interestingly, the convention

delegates passed a resolution to eliminate any mention of the word "democracy." Although this resolution differentiates between a democracy and a republic, it must be remembered that we are a democratic republic where, among other rights, all citizens are entitled to exercise the right to vote.

Finding that "every time the word 'democracy' is used favorably it serves to promote the principles of the Democratic Party, the principles of which we ardently oppose," the delegates resolved "that we support legislation that preserves the republican nature of our government institutions and **oppose legislation which makes our nation more 'democratic' in nature...**" (emphasis added; Resolution 1 reported at documentcloud.org/documents/24602348-2024-gop-resolutions).

What a strange country we live in now.

Pleasant Ridge resident Rick Shorten has long been a Democratic precinct committee person.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### EMS director is grateful for votes

Dear Editor,

Skagit County Emergency Medical Services and the Board of Skagit County Commissioners want to thank residents for supporting the recent ballot measure to renew the emergency medical services levy. The levy funds a county-wide coordinated EMS system through contracts with cities, towns, fire districts and other agencies that serve all county residents.

Our EMS system consists of Basic and Advanced Life Support for county residents and visitors, which is the highest lev-

el and quality of service possible when it comes to a medical emergency. The EMS levy renewal will continue to fund paramedics and emergency medical technicians, medical education and training, ambulance maintenance and replacement, and medical equipment and supplies.

EMS is the most widely used emergency service in our county and call volumes have increased 25% in four years. Your support means this life-saving service can continue at the level of service our community requires — and we are grateful.

Sincerely,  
Josh Pelonio, director  
Skagit County Emergency Medical Services

### Listen to students protesting war

If they were protesting Saudi Arabia's human rights abuses would they be branded anti-Islamic? History has shown that the students were right about the wars in Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq. Listen to the students.

Jai Boreen  
La Conner

## CORRECTION

Sybil and Tom Jenson spell their last name this way. The editor deeply regrets the spelling error in the April 24 issue.

### La Conner Weekly News

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

#### Subscriptions

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

Member of Washington Newspaper Publishers Association

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### Ken Stern, Publisher & Editor

editor@laconnernews.com

Continuing the tradition of weekly publishing in La Conner since 1878

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

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

360-466-3315 • Fax: 360-466-1195

www.laconnerweeklynews.com

#### Postmaster:

Send change of address to:

La Conner Weekly News

PO Box 1465, La Conner, WA 98257

Bill Reynolds, News Editor  
news@laconnernews.com

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



UP AND AT 'EM — La Conner Public Works Department employees install log rafters to the new pavilion they've been building at Conner Waterfront Park. — Photo by Madoc Hiller

## Pavilion work resumes at Conner Waterfront Park

By Bill Reynolds

La Conner's iconic fish slide is temporarily closed and awaiting repairs, but visible progress has been made on another key feature of Conner Waterfront Park.

The Town Public Works Department has installed column foundation posts and construction has resumed on a long-sought pavilion at the shoreline park below Rainbow Bridge.

Work on the project was suspended for a few weeks due to wet weather and other department priorities, some of which were carried out while crews were shorthanded.

Town Parks Commission members are now hopeful a projected May 31 finish date for the project can be met.

At its April 10 meeting, the advisory panel discussed having a dedication ceremony once construction is completed. Commissioner Mike Bucy has offered to play his guitar at the yet-to-be scheduled event, and Town Administrator Scott Thomas and Mayor Marna Hanneman have been

contacted about their potential participation.

Commission chair Ollie Iversen is likewise seeking representatives of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community to bless the pavilion.

Public Works Director Brian Lease has said the pavilion — along with the salmon slide, restrooms and a play area — has from the beginning been a major part of the overall concept plan for Conner Waterfront Park.

Fundraising for the pavilion began several years ago, supported by the town and private donors — most notably the La Conner Rotary Club — but construction originally slated for 2020 was delayed due to the need for shoreline restoration and rising costs associated with the Covid-19 pandemic and its aftermath.

In the meantime, the town secured necessary approval for shoreline and building permits.

"The day it's finished needs to be celebrated," Iversen said during a commission meeting earlier this year. "We've been doing this since 2019."

## Town Council cautioned on summer water restrictions

By Bill Reynolds

Town Administrator Scott Thomas is known for his occasional use of dry humor, but there wasn't anything funny about his report to Town Council members last week regarding drought conditions this year.

"We're already in a state of drought," Thomas told the council during its April 23 meeting at Maple Hall. "So, we may be looking at water restrictions down the road."

Thomas reported that Washington's snowpack, based on state Department of Ecology statistics, stands at just 68% of its average levels.

"With chances for significant additions to the snowpack diminishing, there is simply not enough water contained in mountain + snow and reservoirs to prevent serious impacts for water users in the months ahead," Thomas said.

He said the situation could force the town to impose restric-

tions on outdoor watering and washing of vehicles this summer.

Thomas referenced a recent 20-acre brush fire near Lyman.

"It's pretty early in the season," Thomas said of the upriver blaze. "So, this is a significant issue. And just because we live in town doesn't mean we're safe."

A prolonged drought could pose financial heartburn, he said.

"We can assume there will be additional (water) costs," he said. It turned out that Thomas was preaching to the choir.

"It's really early this year," Mayor Marna Hanneman said of area wildland fire danger. "We're thinking about this already."

Councilor MaryLee Chamberlain agreed. "We really need to be water wise."

Thomas' predecessor as administrator, John Doyle, now a Skagit County Fire District 13 commissioner, addressed the council during the meeting's public comments section and received the panel's blessing to prepare and submit a grant appli-

cation for funds to cover costs of repairing the iconic salmon slide at Conner Waterfront Park.

"We're probably looking at \$25,000 (in repairs)," said Doyle, who added that he and La Conner Rotarian and Town Parks Commissioner Ollie Iversen will lead fundraising efforts to meet the local match amount a grant award would require.

In the meantime, Doyle said he and Iversen are committed to resuming their volunteer work at the slide, which they have undertaken through the years to temporarily solve its weather-related surface blistering issues.

Doyle said receipt of the grant would be "a good opportunity to fix the slide once and for all. But Ollie and I will work on it so that it can be serviceable."

The grant funding would let the town contract with what Doyle termed as "concrete professionals" to permanently repair the slide, which is modeled after

(continued on page 6)

## Candidates have May 6-10 to file for office

By Ken Stern

Any registered voter interested in becoming a county commissioner, state legislator, statewide executive office holder or U.S. congressional representative or senator has to make her decision and file with the Skagit County elections or Secretary of State offices the week of May 6-10.

The western commissioner district 1 and central county commissioner district 2 positions are the only countywide offices on the ballot. The filing fee is \$1,413. The Skagit County PUD (Public Utility District) commissioner No. 2 position, also central

county, is also on the ballot.

Online candidate filing open 8 a.m. May 6 and closes 5 p.m. May 10. Mail and in-person filing closes at 4:30 p.m. May 10.

Party precinct committee officers have no filing fees.

Everyone must possess the qualifications specified by law at the time of filing. Candidates without sufficient assets or

income may submit a filing fee petition for the filing fee.

File with the Secretary of State for federal and state legislative and statewide offices.

Only races with three or more candidates appear on the primary election ballot.

Information: Skagit County Elections, 360-416-1702, scelections@co.skagit.wa.us.

## Casino reopens after cyberattack shutdown

By Bill Reynolds

Good things come to those who wait.

Patrons of the Swinomish Casino & Lodge on the Swinomish Channel are being treated to increased promotional play offers and other incentives through the end of May after it reopened April 24.

The tribal gaming center had been closed since April 6 due to a cyberattack.

"Our casino, dining and lodge facilities are operational, and we look forward to welcoming back our valued guests, dedicated team members, and members of the tribal community," casino

managers said in a statement issued a couple hours after the April 24 issue of the Weekly News went on local newsstands.

A social media announcement of the casino's reopening was

met with widespread support. Within a day more than 150 people had responded with well wishes, some of whom called the announcement "amazing news."

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LA CONNER SWINOMISH LIBRARY

**Skagit Kids Reads Brings Lucky Diaz to the La Conner Swinomish Library**

Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> 11:00

Multi-Grammy Award Winning Musician & Celebrated Latine Author will play songs and read his book for Story Time!

LA CONNER SWINOMISH LIBRARY

## Fresh off track trials, Braves prepare for league title meet

By Bill Reynolds

The La Conner High School track teams should feel at home today at Mount Vernon High School's Bulldog Stadium for the NW2B/1B Championship Meet.

That's because La Conner enjoyed strong showings on the Mount Vernon oval last week during the 116th Skagit County Track and Field Championships. With reigning state 2B hurdles champion Tommy Murdock leading the way, sweeping his signature events, the La Conner boys placed fifth on their side of the county meet which was paced by 2A Anacortes.

The Anacortes girls topped the team leaderboard while the Lady Braves ran sixth overall as eighth-grader Kiana Jenkins finished second in the 400 meters and teammate Lydia Grossglass mined bronze in 300 hurdles.

Murdock defeated entrants from the county's larger schools in both the 110- and 300-meter hurdles. The La Conner senior clocked 14.95 in the 110 and 39.58 in the 300.

In addition, Murdock was runner-up in the 200-meter dash (23.01) and finished sixth in the 100 meters at 11.46.

La Conner's Simon Bouwens joined Murdock in the 110-meter hurdles finale, placing sixth with an 18.59 finish.

Bouwens later teamed with Marlin Bralens, Maxwell Page and Lane Tenborg on the Braves' 4x100 meter relay entry, whose 46.79 time was good for fifth place. The quartet was sixth in the mile relay at 3:53.01.

In the field events, Alex Martin set the standard for La Conner with a fourth-place toss (120'-11") in the discus.

La Conner eighth-grader Yandel Rosales-Rojas finished fifth and seventh, respectively, in the long jump (19'-0") and triple jump (37'-5").

Flint Huizenga added to the Braves point total with a 130'-4" throw in the javelin, clinching sixth place, right behind Sedro-Woolley's Quentin Cobbs (130'-10").

In the girls' half of the meet, Jenkins hit the tape in the 400 meters at 1:01.25. She also placed eighth in the 200 meters with a 27.73 finish.

Grossglass medaled in the 300-meter hurdles (50.72) and was eighth in the 100 hurdles at 17.38. A junior, Grossglass joined Jenkins, Morgan Huizenga and Maeve McCormick for fifth place finishes in the 4x100 (52.95) and 4x200 (1:50.16) relays.

In the mile relay, eighth-graders Kim Williams, Aisley Zimmerman and Reese Bird teamed with junior Addison Wigal to place sixth in the mile relay at 4:31.60.

Huizenga, Wigal and Bird finished in the top six in the javelin as well. Huizenga was third (104'-7"), Wigal placed fourth (94'-8"), and Bird took sixth (89'-6").

Today's league trials in Mount Vernon get under way at 4 p.m. Contestants will vie for slots at the NW2B/1B District Meet May 11 at Coupeville's Mickey Clark Stadium.

## Braves handily tame Lions

By Bill Reynolds

It was cold, damp and gusty in La Conner last Saturday, a perfect day for the La Conner Braves softball and baseball teams.

The Lady Braves were especially thankful their home doubleheader with Concrete wasn't rained out as head coach Lorán James' charges broke into the win column with convincing 22-13 and 21-13 triumphs.

It was a case of déjà vu.

A year ago, La Conner had also swept a pair of softball slug-fests with their Skagit County rivals, winning those battles by 35-27 and 32-27 margins, numbers usually posted on football scoreboards.

It looked early last weekend like the Lady Braves (2-9 overall; 2-4 in league) wouldn't be able to snap their nine-game losing skid. Concrete erupted for 11 first inning runs in the opener of the NW2B/1B twinbill, leading one Lady Lions fan to ask whether a 10-run mercy rule would be imposed.

La Conner answered with nine runs in bottom of the first, a rally keyed by Taylor Rae Cayou's two-run double to deep left field.

The Lady Braves followed with an eight-run rally in the second and never looked back.

La Conner hurler Della Souryavong tamed the Lions, allowing just two tallies over the final four innings.

The nightcap of the doubleheader followed a similar script. La Conner again plated nine first inning runs, an outburst ignited by a one-out, two-run, line drive double to left by Katarina Edwards.

Leadoff hitter Josi Straathof sparked the victors all day, repeatedly drawing walks and creating havoc on the basepaths. She and Souryavong embraced the muddy infield conditions



**BIG BLAST** — La Conner's Taylor Rae Cayou rips a two-run double over teammate Josi Straathof during La Conner's 22-13 win over Concrete in the first game of a home league doubleheader on April 27. La Conner won the second game 21-13. — Photo by Bill Reynolds

with textbook head-first slides. Souryavong scored that way in the first game after escaping a run-down between third base and the plate.

The La Conner baseball team improved to 7-6 overall and 4-5 in conference action by drubbing Concrete 19-1 and 15-1 on Saturday.

Braves coaches emptied their dugout in both games.

"The great thing is that everybody was able to play and do something positive," Jeremiah LeSourd told the Weekly News afterward.

Senior lefthander Logan Burks tossed a one-hitter and fanned 10 Concrete hitters in the first game.

Burks was backed by a balanced attack.

Versatile C.J. Edwards, who played catcher and three infield positions on the day, lined a double for the winners, matching teammates Charley Jackson and Brogan Masonholder.

Kenai Zimmerman contributed a pair of singles and his brother,

Hadden Zimmerman, got aboard the hard way — hit by a pitch.

In Game Two, Edwards ripped a three-run inside-the-park homer to left-centerfield. Jackson added a pair of singles and Ivory Damien and Masonholder each laced safeties. Hadden Zimmerman was again hit by a pitch for the umpteenth time this season.

Damien, Masonholder and Kaleb Otis shared pitching duties in the second game, checking the Lions on a lone base hit and combining for 10 strikeouts.

The La Conner teams have a full NW2B/1B schedule this week. They hosted Friday Harbor April 30. The Braves travel to Orcas Island May 1. Coupeville comes to La Conner May 2.

## Emma Worgum finishes strong for WWU golf

By Bill Reynolds

Wherever Emma Worgum goes, birdies and eagles are sure to follow.

Worgum, who won the 2022 Washington State 2B/1B Girls' Golf Tournament as a La Conner senior, has taken her game to a new level this spring, having fired a Western Washington University women's school-record round of 68 last month at the Sonoma State Spring Invitational in California.

Worgum, now a WWU sophomore, followed up with a splendid showing at the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) Women's Golf Championship last week in Cour d'Alene, Idaho. She led the Lady Vikings to a second-place finish at the two-day, 36-hole event.

Worgum was the individual runner-up at the conference tourney, carding a 69 — including six birdies — during first-round play, after which she sat atop the leaderboard.

Her 3-under-par effort tied the single-round GNAC Championship scoring record. It marked Worgum's third career round in the 60s.

She finished with an even-par 144, adding four more birdies on the second round. Her 10 birdies topped the tourney field.

"I'm proud of how she handled the pressure," WWU Director of Golf Luke Bennett said of Worgum afterward.

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## Hear author talk about his prize-winning economist dad

Hear about a really smart man whose son has written a book about him: “Leonid Hurwicz: Inspired a Nobel Economist.” Michael Hurwicz will read at the Skagit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Sunday, May 12 at 2 p.m.

The elder Hurwicz journeyed as a Polish Jew from 1930s Warsaw to America in 1940 at age 23.

As an economist and statistician, he realized “there are two kinds of games in economics. One is the game where people use only legal moves. Then there is the true game, the one like real life, where the strategies and moves people make, some of them contain illegal gains. So you take into account when you write the rules of the game that

the players will try to cheat.”

That’s the basis of “mechanism design,” for which the 90-year old won the 2007 Memorial Prize in economics.

Hurwicz will also tell stories about his father and sing songs.

At the 10:30 a.m. service at the Fellowship, Sharon Abreu, Hurwicz’s wife, will present a service about John Kennedy’s Peace Speech, from 1963 and its relevance for today. They will provide music also.

Abreu is a member of the JFK Peace Speech Committee online group.

The couple live on Orcas Island.

Skagit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is at 500 West Section Street, Mount Vernon, behind the post office.

Information: skagituuf.com, 360-419-9014.

## ‘Genuine Skagit Cooking’ book launch

Celebrate the farm-raised flavor of the Skagit Valley from 5-7 p.m. Tuesday, May 7, with the release party of “Genuine Skagit Cooking.”

Break bread in tribute to the farmers, food producers, and residents who have opened their recipe boxes saluting Skagit’s agricultural way of life. While enjoying bites of small plates featured in the cookbook, guests will also be first in line to take the cookbook home.

“Genuine Skagit Cooking,”

from the organization Genuine Skagit Valley, features over 45 recipes from food producers, small business owners and residents from around Skagit Valley.

Included are recipes for every meal of the day, all utilizing some of the distinctive produce grown in the valley, as well as profiles about Skagit Valley farmers and producers.

RSVP by typing “Genuine Skagit Cooking” at eventbrite.com.

## Library celebrates Vi Hilbert, legendary Lushootseed linguist

By Bill Reynolds

An overflow crowd was on the same page with author Janet Yoder at La Conner Swinomish Library last Friday.

Nearly 50 people attended Yoder’s one-hour presentation honoring the legacy of revered late tribal linguist Vi Hilbert, who made preservation of the Lushootseed language and culture her life’s mission.

“We’re so thrilled with this turnout,” library director Jean Markert told the Weekly News afterward. “It’s pretty incredible.”

Incredible is also a word often used to describe Hilbert, whom Yoder met in 1978 while enrolled in Hilbert’s Lushootseed class at the University of Washington.

“She became a living treasure for Washington state and the United States,” Yoder said of Hilbert, who passed away in 2008 at age 90 in La Conner.

During her long life, Hilbert worked variously at Todd Shipyards as a welder, for The Boeing Co. and as a restaurateur.

At the Seattle shipyard, Yoder said the petite Hilbert was valued for her nimble fingers and fine motor skills. Those traits made her much in demand as a welder, a real-life example of the “Rosie the Riveter” generation of women who shouldered industrial jobs during World War II.

“Vi always worked,” Yoder, author of “Where the Language Lives,” said admiringly.

Yoder drew from 30 years of friendship and interviews with Hilbert to develop the book, a tribute to her mentor’s quest to preserve Lushootseed – previously referred to as Puget Sound Salish – the traditional language of tribal groups from the Skagit River south to Squaxin, near present-day Olympia.

Yoder said that as Hilbert entered middle age, she received her calling to preserve and teach

the Lushootseed tradition in which she was raised by her Upper Skagit parents.

According to Yoder, Hilbert got encouragement from noted scholar Thom Hess, who earned his doctorate at the University of Washington with a dissertation on the grammatical structure of the Snohomish dialect of Lushootseed.

After attending a Lushootseed class at the UW, Hilbert was later asked to teach it. That’s when Yoder arrived for required non-English language credits for her degree program.

“My academic advisor had suggested I take Arabic or Japanese,” Yoder recalled.

Shortly after meeting Hilbert, Yoder knew she had made the right choice. Yoder was immediately inspired by Hilbert’s commitment to preserve Lushootseed.

“I became a volunteer for Vi,” Yoder said. “She wanted us to understand her drive to preserve Lushootseed.”

An only child, Hilbert grew up listening to her parents speaking Lushootseed, for which each sound has a symbol.

“She said that ‘maybe if I had siblings I wouldn’t have listened as much,’” Yoder said.

Hilbert’s parents also wanted her to learn English, said Yoder. So, she was enrolled at the Tulalip Boarding School,

Chemawa (Oregon) Indian School, and Franklin High School in Portland, Ore..

It was in the late 1960s, Yoder said, that Hilbert had what she called her “Lushootseed wake-up call.”

“Lushootseed nearly disappeared and was saved in a large part by Vi Hilbert’s work,” Yoder said.

That work hasn’t gone unnoticed. Seattle University named a student residence hall and ethnobotanical garden for Hilbert. The school also awarded her an honorary doctorate.

“She earned that Ph.D.,” Yoder said.

Hilbert’s storytelling skills are featured in a documentary film.

“In her prime,” Yoder said, “Vi had 40 stories that she could bring out just like that.”

Hilbert’s lasting local impact is visible through the instruction of Lushootseed at La Conner High School, first by Janie Beasley and currently by Kyle Bailey, both Swinomish Indian Tribal Community members.

Lushootseed stories engage themes from daily life, Bailey said. The characters in those tales don’t necessarily live happily ever after, said Bailey, but instead their plights serve as teachable moments.

“They’re not fairy tales,” he said. “They’re not anything you’d get from Disney.”

### A&E BRIEFS

Mark your calendars for some fun activities this coming week.

- Swinomish Yacht Club Opening Day Boat Parade, 3-4 p.m. Saturday, May 4. Grab a viewing spot along the La Conner boardwalk at the Swinomish Channel for the “Under the Sea” theme parade of members’ decorated yachts.

- Salish Sea Early Music Festival, 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 7, Fir-Conway Lutheran Church, 18101 Fir Island Road. “Renaissance Psalms, Irish Baroque and Folk: Three Centuries of Folk Song” features guitarist Oleg Timofeyev and flutist Jeffrey Cohan in a performance of European and Celtic music from the Renaissance, Baroque and Romantic periods. Suggested donation \$20-\$30.

- Gather the kids for a visit from Lucky Diaz, Grammy-winning musician and Latine author, at 11 a.m. Friday, May 10, at the La Conner Swinomish Library. Thanks to Skagit Kids Reads, he’ll play songs and read from his books for storytime.

- Shelter Bay Chorus presents “Remember When: Songs We Love from Yesterday,” featuring “In the Mood,” “At the Hop,” “Both Sides Now” and a slew of Beatles tunes. 7 p.m. Friday, May 10, and 2 p.m. Saturday, May 11, at Shelter Bay Clubhouse, 1000 Shoshone Drive. Suggested donation \$10.

- Come to the Celtic Arts Foundation for Scottish country dancing classes. Free and open to the public. 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 11. Littlefield Celtic Center, 1124 Cleveland Ave., Mount Vernon.

## SALISH SEA

### EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL

✦ Renaissance Psalms, Baroque Irish & Folksong ✦

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May 7 at 7 pm in Conway ✦ Fir-Conway Lutheran Church

[www.salishseafestival.org/skagit](http://www.salishseafestival.org/skagit)



# CELEBRATING in SONG 2024

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Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM

Dr. Yvette Adam Burdick, Conductor with Vince Fejeran’s Big Band, and David Schroeder, emcee.

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**Logan’s Run • May 21**  
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## CELTIC ARTS FOUNDATION

### Upcoming Events in Mount Vernon

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Scottish Music Session<br>May 5, 3pm                   | Rachel Hair & Ron Jappy<br>Concert May 12, 3pm |
| Scottish County Dance Class<br>May 11, 10am            | Tony McMmanus Concert<br>May 15, 7pm           |
| Scotch Tasting Fundraiser<br>members only! May 11, 4pm | Skagit Valley Highland<br>Games July 13-14     |

[celticarts.org](http://celticarts.org)

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

## Aqimuk's Kitchen

By Patricia Aqimuk Paul, Esq., Food Editor

### Asparagus casserole

Use thin asparagus. After baking, the thick, cheesy roux stayed atop the asparagus. I mixed it up a bit for the photo. The baked cheesy roux was delicious on top of potatoes, also served with our meal.

#### Ingredients

- Asparagus, 1 pound
- Butter, 3 table-spoons
- Flour, 2 heaping tablespoons
- Half-and-half, 1 cup
- Parmesan cheese, 1/2 to 2/3 cup grated



#### Preparation

Rinse asparagus and remove woody end of the stem. Snap each spear in half. Smear butter on bottom and side of a casserole dish. Place the asparagus in the buttered casserole dish. In a small saucepan, melt the butter over medium-high heat. As it melts, sprinkle the flour in and whisk briskly as it will thicken

quickly. Add the half-and-half in and briskly whisk. This will take a few minutes to create a creamy consistency. When thick, add in the Parmesan. Continue to whisk. Turn off the heat. It will be a thick smooth paste. Scoop over the asparagus. Cover the casserole. Bake 20 minutes in a preheated 400-degree oven. Remove lid and bake another 5 minutes.

### SUBMIT AN EVENT

Want to get more eyes on your event before the next Weekly News hits the street? Go to [laconnerweeklynews.com/page/community-events-calendar/105](http://laconnerweeklynews.com/page/community-events-calendar/105) and submit your event!

### NOT TO BE MISSED

Swinomish Yacht Club Opening Day Boat Parade, 3-4 p.m. Saturday, May 4. Grab a viewing spot along the La Conner boardwalk at the Swinomish Channel for the "Under The Sea" theme parade of club members' decorated yachts.

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Shelter Bay Chorus presents Remember When, Songs We Love from Yesterday, featuring "In the Mood," "At the Hop," "Both Sides Now" and a slew of Beatles tunes. 7 p.m. Friday, May 10, and 2 p.m. Saturday, May 11, at Shelter Bay Clubhouse, 1000 Shoshone Drive. Suggested

donation \$10.

Come to the Celtic Arts Foundation for Scottish country dancing classes! Free and open to the public. 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 11. Littlefield Celtic Center, 1124 Cleveland Ave., Mount Vernon.

### LIBRARIES

La Conner Swinomish Library. 520 Morris St., La Conner. 360-466-3352. [www.lcib.lib.wa.us](http://www.lcib.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. 3-5 p.m. every Monday.  
 • Dungeons & Dragons Club. 3-5 p.m. every Tuesday. No experience necessary.  
 Mount Vernon Public Library. 315 Snoqualmie St., Mount Vernon. 360-336-6209, [mountvernonwa.gov](http://mountvernonwa.gov).  
 • Seedling Storytime: 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. For young ones who may be shy.  
 • Board Games: 1-5:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Classic board games for a variety of ages.

Anacortes Public Library. 1220 10th St., Anacortes. 360-299-8067, [CityofAnacortes.org](http://CityofAnacortes.org).  
 • Family Storytime: 10-11:30 a.m. Fridays. For ages birth to 5, siblings welcome.

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](http://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.

### MUSEUMS

Pacific Northwest Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum. 703 S. Second St., La Conner. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. [qfamuseum.org](http://qfamuseum.org). 360-466-4288. Current and upcoming exhibits:  
 • Stone Portraits and Sacred Stonecarvings: Artwork by Denise Labadie, through May 5.  
 • A Quilted Earth, Marie O'Kelley, through June 2.  
 • New Meditation: Silks & Weavings from Melissa Scherrer Paré and Audrey Ducas, through July 7.  
 • Word Quilts, Janine Holzman. May 8 through July 28.

Skagit County Historical Museum. 360-466-3365 or [skagitcounty.net/museum](http://skagitcounty.net/museum). Hours 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday-Sunday. Current exhibits:  
 • Signs, Signs, Everywhere Signs: The Art of Bob Mortenson features the life and work of local sign maker, graphic artist and painter Bob Mortenson of Mortenson Signs of Mount Vernon. His signs are all over the county. Through Sept. 29.

Museum of Northwest Art. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through

Saturday, noon-5 p.m. Sunday and Monday. [monamuseum.org](http://monamuseum.org). 360-466-4446. Current exhibits through May 12:

- Silva Cascadia: Under the Spell of the Forest features 2- and 3-dimensional works by Northwest women artists.
- 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

Skagit Men's Garden Club. Not just for men, everyone welcome. Meets 6-8 p.m. first Thursdays monthly at Christianson's Nursery, 15806 Best Road, Mount Vernon. SMGC promotes interest in recreational gardening through lectures and social gatherings.

Skagit Conservation District. Special board meeting at 7:15 a.m. Wednesday, May 8, at 2021 E. College Way, Suite 205, Mount Vernon. Regular board meeting at 7:30 a.m. every fourth Wednesday. 360-428-4313.

Skagit Cemetery District 1. Regular meetings at 5:30 p.m. every second Monday, at Lori Buher's home, 17604 Valentine Road, Mount Vernon.

Town of La Conner Council Meeting, 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, at Upper Maple Center. For current agenda, go to [www.townoflaconner.org](http://www.townoflaconner.org). Click "Notify Me" to get current town information.

## Super Crossword

### STEEP STAIRWAY

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                 | <b>DOWN</b>                                       |
| 1 Offer hush money to         | 1 African tree with a very thick trunk            |
| 6 Strip of gear, as a ship    | 2 Italian municipality west of Turin              |
| 11 Weight unit for a druggist | 3 Perfect choices to fill positions               |
| 15 "I am at your — and call"  | 4 Stereotypical setting for a brawl               |
| 19 "Elementary" actor Quinn   | 5 Having a right (to)                             |
| 20 Sonata, often              | 6 In prison, informally                           |
| 22 Many a cruise stopover     | 7 Vardalos of "Connie and Carla"                  |
| 23 Unconcealed                | 8 Toddler bed attachment                          |
| 24 Customized for             | 9 Like a truck ascending a steep hill, gear-wise  |
| 25 Lee of Marvel Comics       | 10 Silly, like a honking bird                     |
| 26 Like a swine               | 11 The two dots in "naïve" or "Brontë"            |
| 28 Also-rans                  | 12 Fly-catching warblers                          |
| 29 Like a diluted drink       | 13 Shakespeare work part                          |
| 31 Parceled out               | 14 Imitated a cat                                 |
| 33 "Haven't — before?"        | 15 Small restaurants                              |
| 34 Shout of discovery         | 16 Lauder of fragrances                           |
| 35 Having two hues            | 17 Lois' partner                                  |
| 37 "It could go either way"   | 18 Its capital is Nairobi                         |
| 39 Rival of Delta or United   | 21 Aspiring doc's major                           |
| 41 Urgent                     | 27 Person stashing stuff                          |
| 42 Fire residue               | 30 In the buff                                    |
| 46 Taxpayer's ID              | 32 Cracked, as a cryptogram                       |
| 48 Dedicates                  | 36 Info group to be input                         |
| 50 Fender guitar, for short   | 38 "Dagnabbit!"                                   |
|                               | 40 Bee-luring fluids                              |
|                               | 43 Chief female officiators in sacred rites       |
|                               | 44 Gets bigger                                    |
|                               | 45 First division of a 13-Down                    |
|                               | 46 Sparse start of some rounds of applause        |
|                               | 47 Utter with a hissing sound                     |
|                               | 49 Arena relative                                 |
|                               | 51 Crafts' counterparts                           |
|                               | 54 Apple's Jobs                                   |
|                               | 56 Pop in a blended family                        |
|                               | 58 Egypt's Nasser                                 |
|                               | 60 Detects like a dog                             |
|                               | 62 Intertwined                                    |
|                               | 65 Crystal ball gazer, e.g.                       |
|                               | 67 Neutralized, as a bomb                         |
|                               | 70 "The Cloister and the Hearth" novelist Charles |
|                               | 72 Planes' first fliers, often                    |
|                               | 75 Operations                                     |
|                               | 77 Infer (from)                                   |
|                               | 81 Like a district bishop's jurisdiction          |
|                               | 83 Faith  |
|                               | 86 Difficulty                                     |
|                               | 88 Finisher just under the winner                 |
|                               | 90 Beach footwear                                 |
|                               | 92 Overalls for hitting the slopes                |
|                               | 93 Sci-fi automatons                              |
|                               | 95 Grand home                                     |
|                               | 96 Purloined                                      |
|                               | 97 Soundboard control knob                        |
|                               | 98 Mojave plant                                   |
|                               | 99 Northern French city                           |
|                               | 101 Inflicted upon                                |
|                               | 105 Actor Bert                                    |
|                               | 109 "Well well!"                                  |
|                               | 110 Fedora, e.g.                                  |

## CLASSIFIEDS

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### FIND PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 6

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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

## Sunday, April 21

3:02 p.m.: Old hearts still hope – Elderly female had met someone online and started a “romantic” relationship. She has sent the subject \$800 over the past few months and wants to believe it's a real relationship. She only called because friends were concerned that he could show up and may be dangerous. This is a common Facebook scam and there is little concern of the subject showing up. La Conner-Whitney Road, greater La Conner.

3:23 a.m.: Early morning bounty – A deputy made a stop on a vehicle for speeding and found the driver did not have a license, was required to have ignition interlock and had warrants for his arrest. The driver was taken into custody and transported to the jail on multiple offenses. La Conner-Whitney and McLean Roads, greater La Conner.

11:19 a.m.: Hearing not in tune – Caller reported hearing animals in distress. A deputy checked the area and found some dogs but they appeared fine. No other issues located. Best Road, greater La Conner.

## Thursday, April 25

1:25 p.m.: Way late call – Caller reported loose dogs running in the road but also said the information was a day old. No response from law. Best Road, greater La Conner.

## Friday, April 26

10:29 p.m. Hit and ran – Caller is an employee of the tavern and advised that someone had run into her car while she was working. They are working on reviewing the video to see if a suspect can be located. Allen West Road, greater La Conner.

## Monday, April 22

2:55 p.m.: Caller in distress – Caller reported two dogs locked in a car that seemed to be in distress. The owners arrived before law and left the area with the dogs and the car. Bradshaw Road, greater La Conner.

## Wednesday, April 24

12:25 a.m.: Was justice served? – A deputy made a traffic stop on a vehicle and found the driver to have multiple warrants for his arrest. The driver was taken into custody and transported to the jail. La Conner-Whitney Road, greater La Conner.



EMERGENCY PARKING — When the Skagit River has threatened to top its banks and flood farm fields as in recent years, the Rexville Grange is ready to help farmers keep their expensive machinery safe. The Rexville Grange fed and housed 300 people displaced in 1990 by Fir Island flooding. — Weekly News file photo

## Rexville Grange needs members to hasten much-needed repairs

By Anne Basye

After almost a century of hosting potlucks, weddings and receptions, rummage sales, art shows, dances, memorial services, service projects, polling sites and parties, the Rexville Grange #815 on Summers Drive is showing its age.

Water seeps into the below-grade kitchen whenever it rains on Strawberry Hill. “That has caused a lot of rot in the lower cabinets, and damaged the water heater,” says Cathy Savage, Grange president. With a kitchen unsuitable for cooking or catering, hosting indoor community events is next to impossible.

Installing a French drain on the north side would stem the seepage, but the Grange doesn't have the funds to excavate and buy the gravel needed to put the pipes in place — much less replace cabinets and countertops and fix the

water heater.

All these tasks would be possible if the Grange enrolls more members “and makes the list,” Savage says.

The list, that is, of Washington Granges that receive funds from the “Local Projects” section of the state's annual Supplemental Capital Budget.

In 2024, 12 Granges from legislative districts all over the state received a total of \$973,000 to pay for electrical, plumbing, drainage, heating and HVAC, and roof repair, remediation or replacement and to address water issues.

To qualify, the Rexville Grange must convince the Washington State Grange that it merits funding. From the many Granges seeking support, the state organization creates a targeted list, invites local state representatives to visit those Granges, and lobbies Olympia for the funds.

Two key features are in the Rexville Grange's favor. First, it is one of the state's largest Grange buildings, because in 1946 its membership “raised the roof” by lifting the main hall up onto a new ground floor. It continues to foster community by partnering with local artists and craftspeople on the annual Rexville Grange Art Show and with Shakespeare Northwest to host outdoor summer performances in the adjoining quarry.

Second, it is an official Red Cross shelter. During the 1990 Fir Island flood, when the kitchen was in better shape, the Grange fed and housed 300 displaced people. Farmers can park farm machinery on the grounds anytime a flood threatens. Investing in the Grange, believes Savage, is a key way to prepare for a Skagit River flood event.

On the downside, Rexville has fewer than 50 members — but this negative can easily be remedied. Membership is just \$44 a year, and “gives you the warm heart you get knowing you're supporting farmers,” says Savage.

One of five Granges left in Skagit County, the Rexville Grange is part of the country's oldest agricultural advocacy group. Advocating on behalf of farmers, the national Grange helped pass “Granger Laws” to regulate rates charged by railroads, supported rural free mail delivery, and opposed monopolies that fixed grain and livestock prices at a disadvantage to farmers.

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## CAMANO ISLAND STUDIO TOUR



Mother's Day Weekend  
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10am - 5pm

Encore Weekend  
MAY 18-19

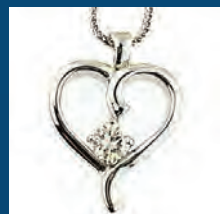
10am - 5pm



By Betty Dorotik

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Join us for the Art Walk on Friday, May 3 from 5:30 to 7 PM. Refreshments and nibbles will be served for this event. Hope to see you.

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Debut of Michael Painter, photographer Images of Little Cranberry Lake



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