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The snow geese have landed



ANOTHER SEASON OF SNOW GEESE IS HERE – Have you heard them? Although the first snow geese were spotted Sept. 18 this year, they just started arriving in large numbers in October. I spotted my first handful on Oct. 9 and by the 12th they were covering the fields of the Skagit Gun Club. Hunting season opened Oct. 15.

– Photo and text by Nancy Crowell

Wildfire smoke turned air unhealthy last week

By Ken Stern

People in the Anacortes-La Conner area experienced unhealthy air quality during Oct. 18-20, when air quality worsened steadily over two days, with 24-hour average readings of 42.1 ug/m³, 101.7 ug/m³ and 40.8 ug/m³. The Wednesday, Oct. 19 air quality was rated “unhealthy for everyone” by exceeding 101 ug/m³. The other two days the air quality was “unhealthy for at-risk groups,” at over 35.5 ug/m³.

The 24 hour average Oct. 16 was 34.5 ug/m³, just under the unhealthy for at-risk groups threshold.

Over 0.1 inch of rain fell in Anacortes Oct. 21, clearing the air and reducing particulate matter to 5.1 ug/m³.

The National Weather Service Seattle office issued air quality alerts throughout the week. It reported hourly readings, for example “Particulates in the air near La Conner peaked with a reading of 90 PM 2.5 at 4 p.m. Oct. 16,” That level is unhealthy for everyone. On Oct. 14 NWS issued a 68 hour alert, which it extended daily through Oct. 20.

The Northwest Clean Air Agency issued a Stage 2 air quality burn ban Oct. 19-20, ending it with the

weather change Oct. 21 and air quality improving as winds cleared out wildfire smoke.

The first two weeks of October, air quality for each 24 hour period was generally good, below 12.0 ug/m³. The 24-hour air quality dipped to moderate Oct 7 and 14 with readings at 13 ug/m³.

The concentration of an air pollutant is given in micrograms (one-millionth of a gram) per cubic meter air or ug/m³.

PM_{2.5} refers to atmospheric particulate matter (PM) that have a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometers, about 3% the diameter of a human hair.

Data are from the NWCAA station in downtown Anacortes. The agency’s region is Island, Skagit and Whatcom counties.

As for livestock, Chelsy Mesman of Mesman Farm reported, “We didn’t see too much of an effect on the cows. They were still out enjoying the pasture and going about their day regularly. The smoke still can irritate their lungs, but we were watching them closely and didn’t see any drop in milk production that would indicate stress on them.”

In Bow, Jessica Gigot of Harmony Fields Farm reported, “Our sheep were

all right in the smoke, but we tried to keep them close to the barn. The new smoke season is affecting when we dry off our sheep from milking because we don’t want to be stressing their systems in poor air quality.”

If the smoke had lasted longer? “We probably would have seen a definite drop in milk production because of the stress and it would be harmful to their respiratory system,” Mesman said. Long term smoke is not good for any living creatures.

Time to vote

You have your ballot. Enjoy using it. Help get all ballots counted quickly:

Vote and return your ballot now
Sign your ballot envelope
Use a county dropbox
Mail your ballot by Nov. 4

Election drop boxes nearby:
La Conner Regional Library,
614 E. Morris Street
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community:
Social Services Building,
17337 Reservation Road

Ballots must be in drop boxes by 8 p.m. Nov. 7.

You can register to vote on election day. Voting information and register to vote at VoteWa.gov.
Skagit County Elections:
360-416-1702

‘Contested’ Shelter Bay board members served with claim for damages

By Ken Stern

Four members of a Shelter Bay Community board of directors that has been intensely criticized for more than two years may be headed to court. During a board committee meeting Oct. 13, resident Roberta Fontenot, an attorney, had a process server present Elaine Dixon, Monte Hicks, Louise Kari and Wendy Poulton with a claim for damages against them as individual board members. These complaints had not been filed in Skagit County Superior Court as of Monday morning, Oct. 24.

General Manger Rick Tanner and legal counsel Philip Buri and two former board members were also served, states a letter Vice President Joe Hurley emailed to residents for the board Oct. 17, though the entire board did not approve it.

The claim, Hurly wrote, is “for legal malpractice, breach of fiduciary duty and injunctive relief. In a nutshell, our legal counsel, Philip Buri, for malpractice, six past and present board members for breach of fiduciary duty and (she) is requesting injunctive relief for herself.”

The three page letter continues: “In addition, she is seeking damages for all members of the Community for the passing of the budget and ratification thereof at the May 21, 2022 annual meeting of the members, stating it was done illegally.”

Fontenot would not speak on pending litigation nor share documents with the Weekly News. In August she circulated petitions to residents to recall these board members and a shortened version was printed in the Weekly News.

In her Oct. 5 A Citizen’s View, Fontenot summarized her points against these board members, writing they: “lack the skill and knowledge to fulfill their fiduciary duty to the residents. The recall is also about removing board directors who have betrayed the community members.” She lists “examples of fraud and mismanagement” and her belief that there is “malfeasance committed by the contested board members and their hired lackeys.”

Hurley’s letter states that Fontenot would file her complaint Oct. 17, but court staff said claims had not been filed.

Hurley writes the “board has opened a Directors and Officers Insurance claim and all named defendants, with the exception of legal counsel, will be covered.”

Serving a summons and complaint starts the process of compelling a person to appear in court to defend against a lawsuit. The summons requires defendants to respond in court to the complaint, which describes the legal claims against them.

Until the claim is filed, neither party can start “any action claiming damages.” There is a 60 day period from serving the claim the defendant before an action may be commenced, the Revised Code of Washington states.

Poulton did not respond to a Weekly News request for an interview. Poulton and Hicks were elected to the board in May 2021.

Dixon and Kari were appointed to replace board members who died and resigned, respectively, after this May’s regular board elections.

This is the second letter this year from a lawyer to the Shelter Bay board seeking to hold it
(continued on page 7)

Sound approach: La Conner alum’s unique therapeutic technology

By Bill Reynolds

She was the definition of a quick study while a senior at La Conner High School, simultaneously earning an associate-in-arts degree from nearby Skagit Valley College before enrolling in fall 2000 at Western Washington University as an 18-year-old junior.

But over the past two decades Louisa Firethorne has also shown great patience and perseverance by nurturing her college senior project to fruition from its start as a mere sketch on a napkin.

Firethorne, a professional webpage designer, is first and foremost an inventor. And her trademark creation, a cymatic sonosphere designed to provide both relaxation and relief from pain, has been in the works since her WWU days.

The sonosphere that Firethorne has developed from her initial prototype is an instrument that uses geometry, musical harmonics and physics principles to provide a customized sound experience to aid the therapeutic

healing process for ailments ranging from chronic pain to anxiety.

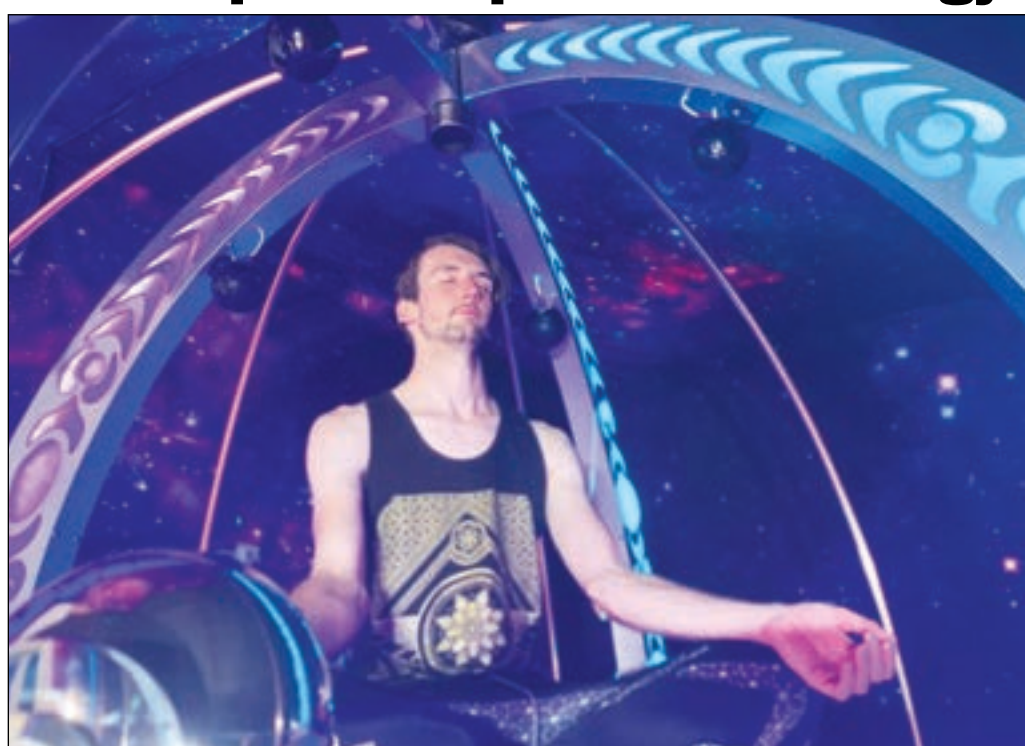
She makes sonosphere sessions available by appointment at her home office on Raleigh Lane off Indian Road west of La Conner.

Firethorne and her husband, Rowan, who is the sound engineer for the sonosphere, ultimately hope to produce more units and franchise their business.

She has received strong family support through the many steps taken on a journey she began in 2002 at the Fairhaven campus in Bellingham. Firethorne created her own degree program addressing human consciousness through art, science and music.

She cited encouragement from her mom and stepdad, Susan and Casey Schanen, founders of Nell Thorn Restaurant & Pub on the La Conner waterfront, and dad Bill McCuskey, an electrical engineer who helped pioneer the satellite dish industry.

Her inventiveness was likewise
(continued on page 7)



SOUND THERAPY – People seeking stress reduction and pain relief are turning to technology developed over the past 20 years by La Conner alum Louisa Firethorne. Her life’s work is the sonosphere, an acoustic/cymatic sound massage platform with 360-degree spherical surround sound.
– Photo courtesy of Louisa Firethorne

From the editor —

Growing economically, cooperatively

This is the last week of National Co-op Month, the annual opportunity to consider the importance and potential of cooperative businesses. The theme this year, “Co-ops Build Economic Power,” is, sadly, more hope than reality for co-ops, their member owners and our communities.

It is definitely true that specific co-ops here in the Skagit Valley are economic powerhouses. The Puget Sound Food Hub, Skagit Valley Food Co-op, Skagit Farm Supply and credit unions such as BECU and North Coast are thriving, growing opportunities for their member owners. But the number of co-ops locally and nationally are few and far between.

It is a good thing that here are more than 30,000 co-ops in the United States providing nearly two million jobs and 350 million memberships. But, consider that in Washington state over 630,000 businesses exist. If all the co-ops in the U.S. were in our state, they would make up less than five percent of businesses. How many thousands of businesses exist in Skagit County? Few are cooperatives. Hard to build economic power when the base is so small.

Small but mighty, though. Co-ops can be among the strongest and most resilient businesses in any locality. Because they are either worker-, producer- or user-owned and operate for the benefit of their owners, they are first meeting the needs of their staffs, their customers and their communities. They put their people — the business owners — ahead of profits, but as businesses they must be profitable to grow.

Ownership is equal for every member. Governance is democratic. Values, framed by seven internationally agreed upon principles, are at the core of every co-op. Operating for their members, they are future oriented. Operating for their members, they are committed to place, to where their members live and to the communities where they do business.

And those owners live in the community. Co-ops do not move overseas. They do not merge with conglomerates that close them down. A successful co-op is rooted in its owners' hometown.

Those owners are your neighbors. Their business might be your business.

The only way we are going to make progress is cooperatively. Best that we take a lesson, take to heart and make these co-op principles real: Yes to education, training and information; cooperation among co-ops and concern for community.

Those last two principles are hard to bring to life, to enact.

Whatever our business model, concern among workers and owners alike is typically within the four walls of their building or within the confines of their field or boat. Our economic power remains limited as long as the “ours” is singular. Yet that is the hardest stretch for any group to make, to reach out to others.

In communities and society-wide people have not succeeded in large ways to get beyond the bonding of school colors or sports colors or skin color. The hope of working together cooperatively is a hope championed by too few too seldom. That is why National Co-op Month is needed, for its yearly theme, this year of building economic power.

We are reminded every October that co-ops are a critical and successful social and economic component in communities across the United States. People are making that true in Skagit County. We can build on that.

— Ken Stern

Back in the day —

Our Halloween tradition origins

By Jessica Brady

Every year, we have a public Halloween festival — where kids parade through town in their outfits and go from shopfront to shopfront to get their candy loot. Sure, some families keep sweets at home in case anyone shows up in the evening, but trick-or-treating isn't really a custom here. Newcomers are baffled by this. A lot of old-time residents just accept it as one of La Conner's many quirks. Why do we have a public party instead of trick-or-treating? Only a few know the true origin story. Here it is: My grandfather and his friends got it banned, and they swore a sacred oath to never bring it back.

In the late 1930s, the “trick” element of trick-or-treating was more pronounced. Teenagers at the time — now beloved great-grandparents who insist that they were all very well-behaved — used to pull elaborate pranks on the townsfolk every year. Names like Austin Swanson and Red Reynolds float around when talking about The Great Ban, but we know for a fact that brothers Louie and Clarence Nelson were among those calling the shots. This mysterious group of young men pulled the prank that ended all pranks.

In the dark of the night, they descended upon La Conner and stole every outhouse in town (as indoor plumbing was still a rarity). When families woke up in the morning, they left their homes and realized they had nowhere to empty their full bladders. Some of the outhouses were found far beyond the city limits. Others were found — inexplicably — on the rooftops of downtown businesses. A few were in the middle of farm fields. Other teens had spent the night soaping windows and banging on walls, resulting in an old woman pulling a shotgun on two teenage girls. The resulting mess of trying put everything back in order forced La Conner's leaders to enter formal negotiations with the local youths.

The town offered to host some form of public Halloween festival, and in exchange, the teenagers would have to give up trick-or-treating forever. They all agreed and took a solemn oath, which my grandparents upheld to their dying days. The truth was eventually lost to time, and a public Halloween party became an innocent La Conner tradition.

Jessica Brady is the granddaughter of Roberta and Louie Nelson, both lifelong residents of the community, and is now the caretaker of their family's many stories.

First published Oct. 25, 2017

LETTERS

Why Vote Blue?

Voting rights, civil rights, freedom of choice.

Indigenous rights, gender rights, equal rights.

Free and fair elections, political accountability, rule of law.

Jobs, infrastructure, middle-class economic strength.

Climate action, natural disaster funds, science.

Affordable health care, caps on insulin, tackle Big Pharma.

Sensible gun laws, broad law enforcement training, justice.

Separation of church and state, bolster public education, fight censorship.

NATO, balanced immigration, geopolitical awareness.

Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid.

Democracy.

Civility.

Truth.

Ashley E. Sweeney

D. Michael Barclay

Shelter Bay

Pumping my septic tank

Out here in the farm community, every landowner knows if you expect to raise a good crop of anything, you have to use fertilizer. In this area, the most abundant supply comes from cows and is spread liberally with care taken not to get any on the neighbors' house or yard, but with little concern as to what he detects through his nostrils.

All animal waste, as far as I know, has been used as fertilizer. It's been said that in the early days of farming in Cedardale, (south of Mount Vernon), that pig waste grew the biggest carrots. (They used different terminology). After years of record keeping, the results were convincing.

This topic came to mind after a letter from the county ordering a mandatory inspection of my gravity septic system. The inspector found it to be working fine, but the septic tank needs to be pumped at a cost to me of nearly \$500.

While mulling this over, knowing my land needs fertilizer, knowing I live in a rural farm area and that I have a pump, I re-read the letter to make sure there was no mention of where to pump my septic tank. The neighbors I like all live up-wind of me, and the others are still wearing COVID-19 masks and probably wouldn't know the difference anyway.

The question is: Is it legal to fertilize your own property in a rural area with your own fertilizer? If not, why not? All the farmers do it.

I've thumbed through the list of attorneys in the yellow pages trying to find one that might enlighten me on this, but so far to no avail. The category isn't even listed. If such a councilor happens to read this letter, a heads up would be welcomed.

In the meantime, I'll be getting the pump and sprinkler in working condition and expect a greener lawn next spring.

Dennis Sather

Mount Vernon

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



Talk about mixed emotions: My close friend, Father William Treacy, died last week at the amazing age of 103, and I will miss him so much, but I will also join in the joyous celebrations of his incredible life.

Several years ago, I was looking for a place to teach my film and acting classes and heard about a 200-acre property in Skagit County that had buildings that were vacant much of the year. When I got there, I found out that it was now the Treacy-Levine Center, a place where Palestinian kids joined Israeli kids for wonderful summer programs.

When I found out there were no Jews then on the board, I raised my hand and volunteered. I became very close with Father Treacy and Sister Emma, his caretaker.

Father was very progressive. As a young Irish priest at the end of World War II, he was assigned to Seattle and later met Rabbi Raphael Levine. In 1960 they developed a television series for public television in Seattle with Rev. Dr. Martin Goslin of Plymouth Congregational Church entitled “Challenge” to explore common ground between different religions.

With Levine, he started Camp Brotherhood for diverse children to join together for a free summer getaway in Skagit County.

After Father Treacy found out I wrote for the La Conner Weekly News, he often gave me columns of his own that my editor, Ken Stern, was happy to publish. Even at the age of 103, Father's mind was very active and he continually gave me columns, the last one of which was published a week before his passing, “Reflecting on annual International Day of Peace.”

He had a parade of his passionate followers stopping by the small house he shared with Sister Emma the last few years until Father was just too vulnerable to have in-person guests this summer.

There will be a vigil on 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 28, at St. James Cathedral in Seattle and a funeral mass the next morning, Oct. 29, at 10 a.m. at the same place.

Father Treacy is not going away. He will continue to be in my heart and mind and the hearts and minds of so many others.

Get paid to use less electricity

By Greg Whiting

Your electric and gas utilities will pay you to reduce your energy use. They will pay you to pay them less.

Electric and gas utilities will often pay part of the cost of buying and installing new appliances, lighting and temperature control equipment in residential, commercial, government and industrial buildings. These programs are usually structured to encourage faster adoption of new technologies, but sometimes they provide incentives to replace particularly old technologies.

Puget Sound Energy does this. Systems for which they offers incentives for upgrades include lighting, insulation, heating/ventilation/air conditioning, water heating, and several others. See their website or call their energy advisor, 1-800-562-1482, for more details.

From 2007-2010, I managed a similar energy conservation program at Seattle City Light. Before that, I managed conservation programs at Florida Power & Light and Texas utilities. At City Light, we usually paid about 30% of the cost of energy systems upgrades. There were a few instances in which we paid the full cost. Over ten years, we reduced energy use in our service territory by over a billion kilowatt-hours, equivalent to removing around 10,000 single-family homes from the grid.

Here's why. Utilities must provide reliable energy for the few hours a year during which they need to operate near their capacity. Peak demand for an energy utility can be six times minimum demand, or three times average demand. Peaks are usually weather driven. In the northwest, peaks usually occur on cold winter mornings. In the southeast, peaks usually happen on hot summer afternoons.

Peaks may last only 20-200 hours a year, but they have disproportionate effects on infrastructure requirements and fuel use. Large power plants must



be built, even though they will often operate under their capacity. Small power plants must be built and maintained, even though they will only be used for a few hours a year. Electric and gas transmission and distribution grids must be sized for peaks, rather than average use.

Peak energy is expensive. It can cost a well-managed utility over 100 times its retail rate to buy and supply electricity during system peaks. There are many reasons for this. As an example: For two-hour peaks during ten hot summer afternoons in August, a southern utility might have to build a power plant that would be capable of operating 8,760 hours a year, and then operate it for only 20 hours a year. The utility would, however, have to pay the full cost of the plant, and would have to pass that cost on to consumers through retail rates.

If electric customers used exactly the same amount of energy they do now, but used it consistently throughout each 24-hour day, 365-days a year, utilities would need fewer power plants, smaller transformers, and smaller transmission wires. Power plants would operate closer to their design capacity more often, and could stop operating entirely during some hours. Utilities offer energy efficiency rebates to capture cost savings from flatter total loads, even when doing so reduces energy use during non-peak hours too.

Incentive programs must be approved by regulators. Before approving new programs, regulators check to be sure that rebates, which are paid on behalf of individual customers, are structured to reduce costs to all customers by more than the costs of the programs.

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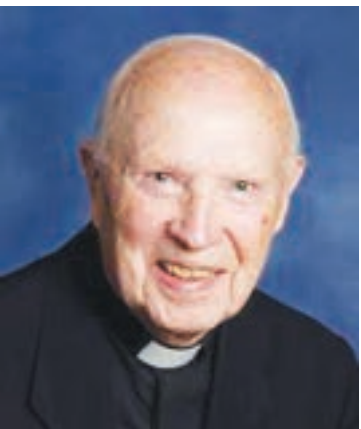
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OBITUARY



Rev. William Treacy

Father William Treacy died Sunday, Oct. 16 at the age of 103. He spent his final days at his home on the grounds of Camp Korey in Mount Vernon. A leader of ecumenical and interfaith relations in the Pacific Northwest, Father Treacy touched the hearts and minds of people of diverse faith traditions throughout the world. He came to Seattle in his early 20s and ended up creating a television series with Rabbi Raphael Levine of Temple De Hirsch Sinai in 1960 called "Challenge." The program aired for fourteen years on KOMO Television, exploring interfaith issues, particularly between Christianity and Judaism. Their friendship ultimately led to the purchase of a farm in Skagit County. Together they created a facility called Camp Brotherhood which promoted understanding between people of different faiths, cultural backgrounds and ethnicities.

Born in County Laois, Ireland on May 31, 1919, he was the first child of John and Mary Delaney Treacy. He was educated in elementary and high schools in Kilkenny and in 1937 entered St. Patrick's Seminary in Maynooth. There he was ordained a Catholic priest on June 18, 1944.

After six months of ministry in his home diocese of Ossory, Fr. Treacy answered the call of Bishop Shaughnessy to volunteer for service in the Archdiocese of Seattle. It was to be a temporary assignment of five years, but extended to span the remainder of his life. He traveled on the Ile de France troop ship to New York, made his way to Seattle in 1945 and was initially assigned to St. Alphonsus Parish in Ballard.

He served for sixteen years as a member of the Chancery staff for the Archdiocese of Seattle, while also serving as the chaplain of Holy Names Academy from 1952 to 1964. His first assignment as a pastor was at St. Patrick's Parish in Seattle, followed by assignments to St. Michael Parish in Olympia, Our Lady of

the Lake Parish in Seattle and as the first resident pastor of St. Cecilia Parish in Stanwood.

On his retirement as pastor in 1989, Father Treacy remained active, assisting at numerous churches including Sacred Heart Parishes in Bellevue and La Conner, Immaculate Conception Parishes in Arlington and Mount Vernon, St. Paul Parish on the Swinomish Reservation and at St. Thomas More Parish in Lynnwood.

Father Treacy's ministry extended far beyond his parochial responsibilities. He served as the Archdiocesan Chaplain of the Legion of Mary from 1948 to 1978. While serving as the Chaplain to Council 676 of the Knights of Columbus, he directed the nationwide program for advertising Catholic teachings in city newspapers.

One of Fr. Treacy's great legacies was serving as a panelist on the KOMO TV program "Challenge" from 1960 to 1974. Fr. Treacy and Rabbi Raphael Levine of Temple De Hirsch Sinai teamed with rotating protestant ministers to offer this Sunday night interfaith program. Each week they would discuss important current events from an interfaith point of view. In 1960, their program, "Who Crucified Christ," received a national award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Fr. Treacy and Rabbi Levine's television collaboration led to a close personal friendship, one which resulted in the purchase of a 300-acre Skagit Valley farm in 1966. The two men created an interfaith center they would call Camp Brotherhood. It ultimately hosted more than a quarter of a million people from different faith and wisdom traditions, including groups from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Israel, Palestine, India and other nations who sought to learn how to bring harmony to themselves, each other and the human family.

When physical ownership of the property was assumed by Camp Korey in 2016, that interfaith work continued in the programs of the group Paths to Understanding. Father Treacy continued to serve as an advisor to this nonprofit until his passing, a group that seeks to bridge bias and build unity through multi-faith peacemaking.

Fr. Treacy's mother and father, Mary and John, his sister Mary and brothers Sean and Joe preceded him in death. He is survived by his grandniece Lorena and nephew John and countless other relatives and friends.

Fr. Treacy challenges us with his personal motto: "What's the loving thing to do!"

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord and let Your perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace. Cards of remembrance can be sent to:

Father Jim Dalton
22757 Hull Road
Mount Vernon, WA. 98274
Vigil: Friday, Oct 28 7 p.m.,
St. James Cathedral, Seattle.
Presider and homilist, Fr. Jim Dalton.

Funeral Mass: Saturday, Oct. 29, 10 a.m. St. James Cathedral, Seattle, Archbishop Paul D. Etienne to preside, Fr. Michael G. Ryan is the homilist.

Committal: Date and time TBA, Holyrood Cemetery, Shoreline.



MAKING ROOM FOR BUILDING ON CENTER STREET – This double wide mobile home was removed from its Center Street site east of North Third Street Oct. 11 as the property owners prepare for building a 21-unit condominium building at Center and Fourth streets.
– Photo by Marissa Conklin

Planning commission sets special meeting for citizens to propose changes to code

By Bill Reynolds

Town planning commissioners are getting plenty of chances to hone their listening skills.

They have scheduled a Nov. 1 special session ahead of its regular monthly third week meeting to hear priorities from residents for potential changes to the La Conner Municipal Code.

This will be the commission's second special meeting in as many months.

Longtime La Conner resident Linda Talman prevailed upon her

former colleagues to meet, Commissioner John Leaver confirmed to the Weekly News on Friday.

The commission used to meet twice monthly, Talman noted. Resident Jim Matthews supported the call for a return to that format at least through January.

A second meeting attended by Town Planner Michael Davolio costs \$125 more based on the planner's own figures, Matthews calculated, saying it is money well spent.

Talman and Gary Nelson – a

local builder who likewise is a former planning commission member – are part of a residents' group that has been studying the uniform development codes of other municipalities, said local artist Maggie Wilder.

"They have some good ideas to present to the group," Wilder said.

In addition to setting the special meeting date, commissioners last week also heard from Davolio regarding

(continued on page 7)

Skagit County median sold home prices still going up

By Ken Stern

Sold home prices in Skagit County remained strong in September, with 180 homes and condominiums closing, the same as in August, and the median sold price rising to \$552,250, Northwest Multiple Listing Service data show. Anacortes again led the county's markets, with 32 sales at a median price of \$737,500, a 4% increase. The La Conner market slipped to third, at \$555,000 median price for the nine homes sold last month. Burlington rose to second. Their 24 homes sold had a median price of \$602,500, a 32% rise from August.

September sales data made available by a local realtor listed 11 homes sold in the La Conner market, all on Fidalgo Island and most in Shelter Bay. Sale prices ranged from \$377,000 to \$960,000.

Countywide, the median price was \$552,500, 7% above August. Prices are 10.5% above September 2021 sold home prices.

The five larger market regions, including Mount Vernon and Sedro-Woolley, were at least \$25,000 for median sold home prices. The upriver region's lower August sold home prices pulled the county's median price down.

Home and condominium inventory continues to increase in the county, to above two months. La Conner's index of 3.11 is one of two markets above three, with the Lyman/Hamilton having a four month supply of homes. The inventory estimate is the time estimated to sell all homes if no new structures came on the market.

The 211 homes and condos listed in September is down 15% from July. In La Conner, 15 homes were listed, almost matching last month's 16. The county-wide drop is from fewer homes on the market in Anacortes, Burlington and Sedro-Woolley.

Skagit County does not mirror either the Seattle metro area or most of the state. The 26 Washington counties region reports active listings are nearly doubled from a year ago, with

pending sales declining more than 31%, but prices in most counties are still rising. Prices continue to rise in Skagit County.

The La Conner area is roughly the La Conner School District's boundaries.

The median sales price is the point where half of the home sales are above it and half are below it.

New in La Conner!

Massage Arts Studio

Grand Opening Special!
Bring this ad and receive \$20 off any service
offer good through 12-31-2022

Appointments:
360.982.6442

massageartsstudio.com
210 Morris Street La Conner

KERN

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MOUNT VERNON CEMETERY
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MOUNT VERNON

360-336-2153
"Since 1913"

Spotlight on Missy

Missy is approximately eight years young and full of love for that special someone. She is an indoor cat; spayed and litter-box trained.

This pretty lady was surrendered to the shelter after the death of her person. She's a wonderful, loving companion hitty that needs someone to help her feel secure and provide her with a loving, quiet, and calm home.

Missy loves tummy rubs, lap time, window perches, cat trees & toys, and hideouts.

Missy is shy and fearful of other animals and commotion. She would do best in a home as the only cat (no dogs) with a mature owner who is home a lot to spend time with her.

If interested, or for more information, contact HSSV at 360-757-0445 or via email at shelter@skagitthumane.org.

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Volleyball spiker earns award from national coaches' group



PLENTY TO SMILE ABOUT – Volleyball standout Ellie Marble has been all smiles this season as she and her teammates pursue yet another state net title. Marble was named the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Player of the Week for Washington state.

– Photo by Madoc Hiller

By Bill Reynolds

Ellie Marble is well known in regional volleyball circles and at Central Washington University, where the La Conner High School standout is a prized recruit for veteran head coach Mario Andaya's program.

The 6'-0" senior outside hitter and reigning Washington State 2B Player of the Year is also getting plenty of national recognition.

Marble was named the American Volleyball Coaches Association Player of the Week for Oct. 3-9 after having led the Lady Braves to key conference net triumphs and victories over teams from larger schools at the Capitol City Invitational Tournament in Olympia.

Marble and her La Conner teammates downed Orcas, Mount Vernon Christian and Concrete locally before besting Capital

(Olympia), Sequim and Central Kitsap at the south Puget Sound tourney.

For the week, Marble delivered 190 kills, 134 digs, 11 service aces, seven assists and two blocks.

The AVCA and national high school website MaxPreps recognizes student-athletes for their outstanding play on the court throughout each week's competition.

Marble was the choice for Washington state nominees across all enrollment classifications. She was similarly cited by AVCA and MaxPreps in September of 2021.

Headquartered in Lexington, Ky., AVCA is committed to the development, growth, advancement and publicity of volleyball around the world. It was founded in 1981 and now boasts more than 6,000 members nationwide.

Historical museum fall party Nov. 5

The Skagit County Historical Museum hosts their fall party, "Seeds For The Future" on Saturday, Nov. 5 at 6 p.m. in Maple Hall. There will be live music by the C.C. Adams Band, catering by Santo Coyote, stories about the seeds of our past and

a raffle. Event tickets are \$20 and raffle tickets are \$10. Call the museum at 360-466-3365 or go online at skagitcounty.net/museum.

Source: Skagit County Historical Museum



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Braves soccer win 2-1 on Senior Night

By Bill Reynolds

La Conner High School senior Thomas Kitchen and his Braves teammates unleashed heat that Providence Classical Christian defenders couldn't handle during conference boys' home soccer action Friday night.

Kitchen delivered a laser shot into the net at the 6:33 mark of the first half to break a scoreless tie and give La Conner a lead it wouldn't surrender enroute to a 2-1 Senior Night triumph in cold and wet conditions at Whittaker Field.

"We've been playing a lot better," Kitchen said afterward. "Our passes have been a lot crisper."

That was shown about 15 minutes into the second half when Flint Huizenga scored what proved to be the match winning goal off a nice feed from the wing by fellow freshman Lane Tenborg.

Head coach Galen McKnight praised his club's ability to make crisp passes and repeatedly put pressure on the Providence defense. Offensively, they were especially effective in the first

half getting the ball to sweeper Sammy Williams.

"We did a real good job of finding Sammy in the middle," McKnight said.

Kitchen found the net eight minutes later after Isa Gonzales-Rojas and Lane Tenborg deftly advanced the ball up the east sideline. Among those cheering Kitchen's goal was his grandmother, Julie Smith, who traveled from Rexford, Montana for Senior Night festivities and arrived just in time to see the scoring play.

Gonzales-Rojas, a defensive midfielder and among the half dozen seniors honored at halftime, teamed with freshman Hadden Zimmerman to ward off several Providence attacks, most notably in the second half.

Senior goalkeeper Isaiah Price, another basketball player McKnight has recruited, sealed the verdict with a crucial save on a Providence corner kick in the final seconds.

Both teams battled through tough weather after a warm and dry October. McKnight set up a protective tent on the Braves sideline to protect players from

the rain.

"Last year," McKnight noted, "we had to set that tent up every home match."

La Conner, 4-9-1 overall (2-4 in league) resumed its NW2B/1B schedule at Coupeville late Tuesday.

Sports teams summary

The volleyball team remained undefeated and atop the NW2B/1B ladder with a straight sets home win over Friday Harbor Oct. 20. The state champions were scheduled at Coupeville last night and are visiting Manson today, Oct. 26 and Chelan tomorrow in non-league makeup matches that had been postponed last month. They return home Friday to face 2A Squalicum of Bellingham at 6:30 p.m.

The football team fell to 1-5 Friday night with a 78-0 defeat at league champion Coupeville. It looks to regroup this Thursday with a Senior Night home date opposite non-conference foe Ilwaco. Kickoff is set for 5 p.m.

Due to poor regional air quality Oct. 20, middle school and high school girls' soccer matches games were canceled.

Sammy Davidson October student Soroptimist



Sammy Davidson

Congratulations to Soroptimist Honored Student for October, Samantha (Sammy) Davidson. Sammy is a senior at La Conner High School. She plans to study biology in college and go on to medical school, specializing in OB/GYN. She has earned college credits through running start at Skagit Valley College and is currently taking calculus online.

Sammy has had a long history of involvement in scouting. She received her first scout handbook as a birthday present when she was 11 years old and went on to be the first female in Skagit, Whatcom and Island counties to achieve the Eagle Scout level from the Boy Scouts of America. Her Eagle Scout project involved leading a crew of 15 to 20 people building benches in Little Mountain Park in Mount Vernon. She has also volunteered as a scout camp counselor and worked on numerous trail clearing projects in Whidbey State Park and Tursi State Park.

Scouting has been a perfect complement for her love of the outdoors. Sammy enjoys hiking and backpacking with her mom and friends. This summer she and her mom backpacked through the Cascades to Stehekin, even seeing a black bear on the way.

Sammy ran the 800 meters and long jump on the track team. She played a dead body in the school play, "Clue." She has also been working on the school composting project with the Green Club.

Sammy worked at Snow Goose this past summer. She is the daughter of Angela Peterson and Rick Davidson. Her older brother, Alex, is a student at Central Washington University.

Sammy will receive a gift certificate to Vintage Thrift, the thrift and consignment shop run by volunteers to support women and girls in the community and enabled by the generous donations from the community.

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'Rocky' at Lincoln sexy, not scary

By Ken Stern

There is over the top and then there is an incredible, all in, completely and enthusiastically well executed over the top production of "Rocky Horror Show" playing at the Lincoln Theatre in Mount Vernon the next two weeks. All liberated adults, go if you can get a ticket.

A completely over-the-top performance of "The Rocky Horror Show" was exactly what the near sold-out Lincoln Theatre audience was ready for Sunday afternoon. From squirt guns mimicking rain to shout-outs throughout the performance, to their own costumes, attendees embraced a show devotees knew as well as the cast.

It seemed to be perfect in every way. The audience was

ready. The cast was ready, from Brad (Robert Neeleman) Janet (Abigail Hanson), Rocky (Benjamin Usher) and Frank 'N Furter (Mason Beaver) to the 15 or so Phantoms, the ensemble singing and dancing in the background.

As great as Beaver and others were, Myles Doorn, as Riff Raff, had a special presence on stage, fully embodying and creating his "maybe that's a humpback" servant with every twitch and jerk of a shoulder or elbow.

Likewise, a shoutout to Erin Melanie, tap dancing as Columbia,

No need to recap the plot, since the story is bizarre and only virgins have not experienced it. The opening number, "Science Fiction Double Feature," sung by the Usherettes, leads into the

story: "Science fiction (ooh-ooh-ooh) double feature / Doctor X (ooh-ooh-ooh) will build a creature / See androids fighting (ooh-ooh-ooh) Brad and Janet // At the late night, double feature, picture show." This is science fiction like no other show.

Suffice it to say there is a dark night, a fierce storm, the car breaks down, there is a castle and odd servants usher Brad and Janet inside.

The near opening scene of Brad and Janet in a car comprised of cast members, complete with headlights and windshield wipers, is simple, elegant and entirely wonderfully whimsical.

It is not quite a rock opera, but almost, with nine first act songs and dance numbers and eight in act two. Beaver, as Frank, is

(continued on page 7)



BACK HOME AFTER WRITING ON THE RANGE – Ashley Sweeney was signing copies of her new novel, "Hardland" last Thursday at Seaport Books in La Conner. Her turn-of-the 20th-century novel is set in southern Arizona. – Photo by Ken Stern

Friday Harbor Film Festival now on-demand

By Ken Stern

You are reading about last weekend's 10th annual Friday Harbor Film Festival in part to get nudged to click on and watch on demand over 30 films through Oct. 30. They are worth your time. For \$75 you can gorge on them all or start with one for \$12.

In Friday Harbor the Film Festival lit up four theaters Oct. 21-23, gloriously in person after two years of films online only, imposed by the coronavirus pandemic.

Starting Friday morning at 10 a.m., 27 feature and 13 shorts were shown over three days, ending with the showing of the people's choice award, the film getting the most votes from viewer rankings.

I chased eight films Friday and Saturday, choosing from both personal and a sense-of-community interests. I found patterns, common themes, repeating traits and values of heroism, determination, grit, vision and love.

The La Conner connection was "Alaskan Nets," following the Metlakatla High School basketball team through their 2018 season. Director Jeff Harasimowicz moved to an island in Southeast Alaska to live

with and follow the Tsimshian people. This small community – 72 high school students – fishes and plays basketball. No restaurants. Can the team win the state championship? It is a singular obsession, even – especially – as the sea claims an alumnus.

Documentaries draw out interest as stories with heroic figures, people who have reached to explore and change the world and themselves in the process. This is true for the basketball team.

It is true for world renowned individuals, like Robert Davidson, a Haida sculptor ("Haida Modern: The Art and Activism, Robert Davidson"), writer Joyce Carol Oates. Surfer and swimmer Duke Paoa Kahanamoku, a native Hawaiian and five-time Olympic medalist ("Waterman") and the French couple Kaita and Maurice Kraftt, known in France and among volcanologists ("Fire of Love").

Each film followed the reach toward great accomplishment. But trauma and tragedy were in the lives of most individuals highlighted.

It is impossible to review eight films in one newspaper story. The finest, most artistic film I saw was Swedish director Stig

Björkman's "Joyce Carol Oates: A Body in the Service of Mind." The film was almost 20 years in the creation, from concept to completion. It follows Joyce's career, highlighting a handful of the over 100 novels she has written, weaving archival footage personal to her life and tracking over 75 years of American history portrayed in her novels and memoirs. From a young Marilyn Monroe, through two Kennedy brothers – John F. and Teddy – to the 1967 Detroit race riots and the 1980s environmental tragedy of Love Canal in Niagara Falls, New York, Oates' writing life and life purpose is portrayed.

Other films are important because of the topic and the story they tell. "The Pollinators" had incredible close up slow motion footage of honeybees as the directors followed commercial beekeepers trucking semi-loads of pallets of hives cross country

across the year. They watched their bees die, poisoned by neighboring farmers' pesticides. Farmers out standing in their fields were interviewed, the few dissenters pursuing regenerative agriculture and creating living soil.

"The Boys Who Said No!" was based on interviews with Vietnam War draft resisters – not draft dodgers – but men who as teens understood and made the decision to burn or rip up their draft cards and counseled others to do so, knowing they would spend years in jail for their actions. They did.

"The Hunt for Planet B" was a hybrid, portraying the important story of pursuing the hypothesis of exoplanets that are in the Goldilocks zone around stars.

allowing the conditions for life as we know it to arise. The protagonists were primarily women scientists finding opportunity in more esoteric areas of scientific research. The James Webb telescope, launched last December, was a character, too, and made for good filmmaking, its cables, foil layer and gold surfaces on display.

Heroic determination, joy and love in service to a larger cause was common to each film.

Don't take my word for it. See for yourself through Sunday. Plan to go next October. It is fhff.org

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Elect Danny HAGEN ASSESSOR

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Standing room only crowd at Sunday Shelter Bay forum

By Bill Reynolds

TV ratings in Shelter Bay were down a lot Sunday night. A significant number of residents turned off their remotes during prime time, opting instead to attend a one-hour town hall meeting called by the Shelter Bay Community's board of directors to address issues affecting the residential community.

A standing room only crowd of perhaps 75 gathered in their clubhouse for a briskly paced question-and-answer session on topics ranging from aging infrastructure and increased homeowners' association fees to the status of ongoing master lease negotiations with the Swinomish Tribe and restoration progress at Rainbow Park, where an unauthorized tree-clearcut occurred two years ago.

Moderator Gary Ladd and Shelter Bay board President Wendy Poulton said upfront that potential litigation limited discussing some subjects in detail. "We can't answer questions on board members who have been threatened with lawsuits," said Poulton. "Some have been served with summons. The association itself has not been served. Those who have been threatened (with litigation) have retained counsel.

"There are items we can't touch upon," he said. "We'll have to save some of these questions for a later time. We don't want to get into any legal interpretations."

Ladd, the board's newest member and an officer with Fire District 13, said the evening was designed to foster open discussion rather than delve deeply into any specific topic.

The board is engaged in several issues, including new master lease negotiations with Swinomish.

The 75-year master lease expires in 2044. Shelter Bay was developed in 1969 on tribal land.

"Negotiations with the tribe have been ongoing for the past five to seven years," Ladd said. "There have been times when

each side has put forward a proposal that hasn't been agreed upon by both sides. But we're getting a lot closer now. There has been movement on both sides."

Poulton said board members have maintained a steady dialogue with Swinomish senators.

"We have to get the entire board to reach a consensus on what to share with the senate," she said. "It takes time. It's definitely not quick. It's a long process. But we have a good relationship with the people we are negotiating with.

"It's slow," Poulton conceded, "and that's unfortunate. But we need this, and the tribe needs this. We are a great business for the tribe, and they believe this is the best use for the land."

A master lease provision calls for adjusting supplemental rental fees every 10 years to align with area market land values.

"It's in the master lease," Poulton said, "and housing prices have gone up all over the region."

She noted monthly \$200 increases in homeowners' association fees are internally assessed for capital improvement projects.

Adequate funds had not been set aside for the community's swimming pools, children's playground, golf course and related capital projects. That is why those areas have not seen tangible results, Poulton and Ladd said.

"Our fees have increased but we haven't seen any improvements," said Ladd. "So, the question becomes what does that \$200 represent. As the new kid on the block, I looked at that myself. The answer is our infrastructure is getting older and we haven't built the reserve fund we need and it's costly."

Dan McCaughan, elected to the board in May, lamented the state of infrastructure.

"We have water leaks all over the community and storm drainage problems that they've been going around putting band-aids on," he said.

Ladd said there is hope requirements can be grandfathered

in and permits secured to open the lower swimming pool next summer. It has been open only briefly since August 2019.

"There are some things that we can get fixed to get the lower pool open next summer," said Ladd. "We're looking at more long-term issues with the upper pool."

Shelter Bay is also considering remaining a water customer of the Town of La Conner or switching to Swinomish as its provider, another topic Ladd said could not be discussed publicly.

On a positive note, Ladd and board member Nancy Shimeall – elected in May, as was Judy Kontos – said a Dec. 15 ceremony is planned to celebrate re-planting work at Rainbow Park.

"It is all being done with native plants," said Shimeall. Swinomish staff are managing it.

The tribe's planning department imposed a \$92,000 fine, the bulk of it against resident Steve Swigert when he clearcut trees without authorization in 2020.

Several residents supported engaging with Swinomish, including volunteering with the Boys & Girls Club launched Oct. 1 at the tribal youth center.

The crowd likewise endorsed the idea of town halls with a Zoom option. Ladd and fellow board members agreed

"We appreciate all the good feedback from everyone," Ladd said to a round of applause.

Tip-Offs to Rip-Offs program gave fraud prevention tips

By Bill Reynolds

Slamming scamming was a popular pastime in Skagit County on Wednesday, Oct. 19.

The American Association of Retired Persons teamed up with the Washington State Attorney General's Office, TechConnect, Boeing Employees' Credit Union and Nomorobo on a free 90-minute Tip-Offs to Rip-Offs online event designed to help Skagit County area consumers stay a step ahead of scammers.

That heavyweight lineup landed quite a haymaker against con artists.

"We had a solid showing for the event, with 114 signing in from the Skagit County area," Jason Erskine, communications director for AARP Washington told the Weekly News.

The special webinar included an interactive question-and-answer segment and remarks from Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson on how consumers can best protect themselves and their communities.

Another popular feature was a look inside an actual fraudulent boiler room to show how scammers can manipulate emotions to gain access to consumers' pocketbooks, Erskine noted.

In addition, said Erskine, through a unique partnership with the call-blocking service Nomorobo, webinar participants learned how to gain real time access to specific robocall scams flooding Skagit County area homes.

Erskine called that an early warning tool that gives consumers an inside track to recognizing new scams before con artists have a chance to make their pitch.

"The aim here," said Erskine, "is to encourage people to listen to those calls because if you've heard it before it lands on your cell phone, you're better prepared."

An estimated 50 billion robocalls come into the U.S. annually.

Erskine said that by visiting aarp.org/tipoffs, consumers have a chance to hear audio recordings of the leading scams flooding local phone lines.

"We will be updating this site as new scams emerge," he added, "so we encourage the public to check back often."

Meanwhile, Ferguson and his staff have established a new website highlighting consumer information and tips on combating robocalls.

(continued on page 8)

Shelter Bay. . .

(from page 1)

accountable for actions against the community. In January, a Mount Vernon lawyer working for a Shelter Bay couple wrote the board in a six-page letter that “Directors are accountable for your actions with respect

to fellow board member Steve Swigert’s (“Swigert”) misconduct in denuding Rainbow Park.” The letter ends: “I cannot predict how the Community will react, but in my legal opinion they would be justified in removing you from your positions as Directors and pursuing an action for damages against each of you, individually.”

Sound. . . (from page 1)

recognized while in high school. “My science teacher at La Conner, Mr. Dalseg, inspired me,” she recalled during an interview with the Weekly News. “He would always call me Dr. McCuskey.”

At Western, her senior project evolved from that rough drawing into a prototype too large to transport to Bellingham. “I had it covered with a tarp in the back yard,” she said. “The professor had to come down here to grade it since I couldn’t take it up there.”

Her first sonosphere received a stamp of approval both from WWU faculty and the public. Among those sharing positive reviews when it went on display, said Firethorne, was La Conner author Tom Robbins.

“He wrote a really nice note in my guest book,” she said. Ultimately, the sonosphere went on Firethorne’s backburner while she went about making a living. Then, literally out of the blue, came a phone call from a wealthy British entrepreneur offering to buy a sonosphere from Firethorne.

“I told him I only had one, so I didn’t have one to sell,” she said. “He said he needed one and would give me \$80,000 to build one. At first, I thought it was a scam. But to my great surprise, he put \$30,000 in my account as a down payment. I was blown away.”

Firethorne set out to upgrade her sonosphere, hiring Seattle fabricator Rusty Oliver to fashion a new model for shipment to England a year later. Then Firethorne was summoned by her client to his English country

estate where he wanted to start a sound-based healing business.

“He paid to fly me to England,” she said, “and when I got there, he tossed me the keys to his candy apple red Audi 5000.”

Though a satisfied customer, he dropped off Firethorne’s radar, not to be heard from again.

Years later, as she built her webpage design career, Firethorne didn’t lose sight of her sonosphere dream. She returned to school to study physics and material science.

“I did more research into the sonosphere from the physics perspective,” she explained.

The result was development of a more powerful sonosphere, one in which the sound can penetrate more deeply.

“I’ve been collecting user feedback and making my prototypes of the sonosphere for the last 20 years,” Firethorne noted in a recent social media post. “I pursued higher education in physics in order to design this cymatic version and bring it to the public. Cymatics is the study of sound and vibration made visible.

Firethorne said she has put every extra – and not extra – dollar into the project.

Now she is confident of having a one-of-a-kind product – a patent pending therapeutic device and acoustic cymatic sound massage platform featuring 360-degree spherical surround sound.

“Nothing like this exists anywhere else on earth,” she said. “This is the world’s first full sphere of sound with cymatic full body massage.”

Roger Small’s sculpture honors town’s visionaries

By Bill Reynolds

A Small project is a big addition to downtown La Conner. Skagit Valley artist Roger Small, whose work is on display at Earthenworks Gallery, is making an impact on the town’s outdoor landscape.

Small, a retired union ironworker who grew up in Burlington, is creator of a stunning sculpture donated by resident Marilyn Thostenson and installed recently by the Town public works staff at the foot of the Benton Street stairway. It was relocated from the Skagit County Historical Museum.

Entitled “The Visionary,” it poses an optimistic outlook for the future.

“The image came to me when I least expected it, in a dream, during a quiet time of the day,” Small told the Weekly News.

“I think ‘The Visionary’ rep-



“The Visionary”

resents La Conner quite well,” he added, “because what makes La Conner special is the many visionaries who live and work in La Conner.”

The figure’s elongated head represents foresight and focus on the future and the four fingers on each hand represent self-expression and self-fulfillment, he explained.

“The hands reaching to the heavens speak of all good things coming from above,” said Small.

Sculpture and working with steel come naturally to Small given his career, which he

launched after his 1973 graduation from Skagit Valley College.

“I hand cut with a cutting torch,” he said, “and weld all my sculptures myself.”

In 2013, five years after retiring from ironworking, Small was commissioned by an anonymous donor to fashion a multi-image sculpture depicting the performing arts for McIntyre Hall.

“With a height of over nine feet and weighing 1,000 pounds, built with Corden steel, it was an enjoyable challenge for me,” he recalled.

Another of his well-known works was a more somber assignment. It is the 2016 sculpture “Into His Wings,” created as a memorial to homicide victims of the Cascade Mall mass shooting resulting in five deaths that happened that same year.

Small is as comfortable with a brush as he is with a torch. He is in demand as a painter for his authentic depictions of Skagit Valley, where as a young man he worked in its farm fields.

“A pivotal moment,” he recalled, “was driving to work one early morning admiring the mountains out my window.

(continued on page 10)

Code. . . (from page 3)

his proposed impact fee draft ordinance. He said his most recent research indicated that the Town could impose 100 per cent of regular development fees on developers of affordable housing.

Wilder said that was a non-starter.

She contended that La Conner instead has an opportunity to assess modified impact fees that would meet the spirit of the Town Comprehensive Plan and encourage affordable housing development.

Following discussion at its October meeting, and with some gentle prodding from La Conner property owner Georgia Johnson, Wilder said the commission – chaired by Carol Hedlin in the absence of Chair Marna Hanneman – opted to recommend setting affordable housing impact fees at 50 per cent the regular amount.

The Nov. 1 hybrid special meeting is set for 6 p.m. in Lower Maple Center.

The Oct. 18 meeting was in-person only. Staff were unable to access the room where electronics are stored so there was no internet component.

Rocky. . . (from page 5)

pretty muscular, in many a song. Neelman and Hanson are fine in their performances, the three playing off of each other.

Behind them in most numbers are the Phantoms, singing and dancing, well directed by director and choreographer Mike Jenkins, guest choreographer Angela Marinella, dance captain Katie Ramstead and supported by musical director TJ Anderson and assistant music director Will Sanders, part of a six member band.

There is not enough space to name and congratulate the cast and production team on all their fine work.

No expense seemed to be spared in costuming the cast. Can you say 20-plus corsets of all sizes, pairs of fishnet stockings and

boas? That’s the cast dressed in the ending scene. Renee Sherrer is the superb costumer.

Producers Brooke Hofstetter, Ria Peth and Leisha Skinner are the parties managing the production. Peth is the pre-show host with husband Jenkins and sings the opening number with Martha Porteous. Gina Touche manages each virgin sacrifice.

Richard O’Brien created his rock musical, “The Rocky Horror Show” in 1973 and it premiered in London. It went to Los Angeles in 1974 and onto Broadway in 1975, the same year the film was made.

Performances are Thursday-Saturday through Nov. 4 and Halloween Monday.

This is for adults. They can decide on bringing their teenagers.

For performance times and tickets: lincoltheatre.org. Bring \$5 for a prop bag.

Stop by our community for ghoulish goodies and tasty treats!



LA CONNER RETIREMENT INN

HALLOWEEN

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OCT
31

3 PM -5 PM

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Tips...

(from page 6)

The investment is both wise and necessary, they insist, referring to Federal Trade Commission statistics confirming that Washington state consumers lost more than \$135 million to fraud in 2021, nearly double from the year before.

Tip-Offs to Rip-Offs was in direct response to con artists becoming ever more sophisticated in their tactics, with new scams emerging at a rapid pace. Even the best informed of consumers can struggle trying to keep up, according to experts in the field.

The reason is that cons follow headlines and current events in order to make their pitches sound more legitimate.

In addition, longtime sweepstakes and lottery scams continue to be a favorite of cons, who often target older people.

Access "Tip-offs to Rip-offs" at aarp.org/Skagit-tipoffs and register as if logging into the program live.

limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the Court. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the Personal Representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(3); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.

Date of First Publication: October 26, 2022.

Personal Representative: Bonnie J. COLE

Address for Mailing or Service: JOSEPH D. BOWEN ATTORNEY AT LAW 401 South Second Street Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Published in the La Conner Weekly News October 26, Nov. 2, 9, 2022.

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: October 26, 2022.

Personal Representative: Jennifer CRAIG

Address for Mailing or Service: JOSEPH D. BOWEN ATTORNEY AT LAW 401 South Second Street Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Published in the La Conner Weekly News October 26, Nov. 2, 9, 2022.

LEGAL NOTICES

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: October 19, 2022.

HEIDI K. BURKE Personal Representative SKAGIT LAW GROUP, PLLC

Published in the La Conner Weekly News October 19, 26, November 2, 2022.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Estate of LYNN ALICE SINGER SUPERIOR COURT OF THE State of Washington for Skagit County.

Estate of Lynn Alice Singer, Deceased. No. 22-4 00375-29. 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 in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.

Date of First Publication: Personal Representative: Justin Honsinger

Address for Mailing or Service: 3365 Pine View Dr., Simi Valley, CA 93065 (805) 857-2705

Published in the La Conner Weekly News October 26, Nov. 2, 9, 2022.

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY

In the Matter of the Estate of Margaret "Margie" Mantell, Deceased. Cause No. 22-4-00525-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(3); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the 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: October 12, 2022

Personal Representative: Adam M. Mantell Attorney for Personal Representative: Aaron M. Rasmussen, WSBA #29496

Address for Mailing or Service: Barron Smith Daugert PLLC, 300 N. Commercial St., Bellingham, WA 98225; Phone: 360-733-0212

Published in the La Conner Weekly News October 12, 19, 26, 2022.

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Published in the La Conner Weekly News October 12, 19, 26, 2022.

Published in the La Conner Weekly News October 12, 19, 26, 2022.

DIANNE MARZYCK, Deceased. NO. 22-4-04944-5 SEA PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the Decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court. 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: October 12, 2022

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Claire Lenning 15447 Summers Dr., Mt. Vernon, WA 98273

ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Suzanne Lieberman CMS Law Firm LLC. 811 Kirkland Avenue, Suite 201 Kirkland, WA 98033 206.659.1512

COURT OF PROBATE PROCEEDINGS: King County Superior Court CASE NUMBER: 22-4-04944-5 SEA

Published in the La Conner Weekly News October 12, 19, 26, 2022.

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Published in the La Conner Weekly News October 12, 19, 26, 2022.

Plaintiff, Moe Brothers, LLC, a Washington limited liability company, and serve a copy of your answer upon the undersigned attorney for Plaintiff, Craig E. Cammock of Skagit Law Group, PLLC, at his office below stated; and in case of your failure so to do, judgment will be rendered against you according to the demand of the Complaint, which has been filed with the clerk of said court. The object of the action is to quiet title on real property in Skagit County, Washington against the claim of Defendants, "ALL OTHER PERSONS OR PARTIES UNKNOWN CLAIMING ANY RIGHT, TITLE, ESTATE, LIEN OR INTEREST IN THE REAL ESTATE DESCRIBED IN THE COMPLAINT," which real estate is situated in Skagit County, Washington, and is legally described as follows:

That portion of Government Lot 6, Section 25, Township 34 North, Range 3 East, W.M., described as follows: BEGINNING at the Northwest corner of said Section 25, Township 34 North, Range 3 East, W.M.; thence South 89°48'21" East along the North line of the Northwest ¼ of said Section 25 for a distance of 1,330.62 feet to the Northwest corner of said Government Lot 6; thence South 0°48'58" East along the West line of said government Lot 6 for a distance of 1,056.06 feet, more or less, to the South line of the North 1,056.00 feet (as measured perpendicular to the North line) of said Government Lot 6 and being the TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING; thence South 89°58'21" East along said South line for a distance of 1,216.10 feet, more or less, to a point on a non-tangent curve on the Westerly right-of-way margin of Penn Road; thence along arc of said curve to the left, concave to the East, from which the center bears South 87°35'45" East, a radius of 1,289.70 feet, through a central angle of 0°22'12", an arc distance of 8.33 feet, more or less, to the North line of the South 264.00 feet (16 rods) as measured perpendicular to the South line of said Government Lot 6; thence North 89°56'56" West along said North line for a distance of 180.01 feet, more or less, to the Northwest corner of the lot created for Skagit County Short Plat No. 25-81 (Revised April 15, 1981) and recorded under Skagit County Auditor's File No. 8104220036; thence continue North 89°56'56" West along said north line for a distance of 1,035.91 feet, more or less, to the West line of said Government Lot 6 at a point bearing South 0°48'58" West from the TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING; SUBJECT TO and TOGETHER WITH easements, reservations, restrictions, covenants, liens, leases, court causes, and other instruments of record.

Situate in the County of Skagit, State of Washington.

DATED this 26 day of October, 2022.

SKAGIT LAW GROUP, PLLC By CRAIG E. CAMMOCK, WSBA #24185 Attorney for Plaintiff

Published in the La Conner Weekly News October 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 2022.

LEGAL NOTICE

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

In Re: the Estate of Roger Howard DEWALD, Deceased, Bonnie J. COLE, Petitioner.

NO. 22-4-00530-29

NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO: ALL CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT

YOU AND EACH OF YOU TAKE NOTE that the Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this Estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of

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

In Re: the Estate of Kyle Richard CRAIG, Deceased, Jennifer CRAIG, Petitioner.

NO. 22-4-00520-29

NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO: ALL CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT

YOU AND EACH OF YOU TAKE NOTE that the Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this Estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the Court. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the Personal Representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(3); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

2	7	6	9	8	1	4	3	5
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Super Crossword

Answers

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E	D	G	E	D	P	O	N	Y	E	L	S	A	I	S	L	E	T		

Answers to October 26 puzzles

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Complete Events Calendar on laconnerweeklynews.com

NOT TO BE MISSED

Nordic Fair 2022.
Oct. 29, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Stillaguamish Grange Hall, 6521 Pioneer Highway, Stanwood. Vendors, lunch, bake sale and free admission. **Scarvin' Up Some Fun.**
5k Glow Run/Walk. Oct. 29, 5 p.m. at Northern State Rec Area. Check-in at 4 p.m. Price is \$15, price increase on 10/25 to \$20 and 10/29 to \$30.
Love La Conner.
Halloween costume parade. Oct. 31, 3 p.m. Parade will run south down 1st St. Staging on State St. Adults, kids and pets welcome.

ART & THEATRE

Lincoln Theatre.
712 S 1st St, Mount Vernon. 360-336-8955. lincolnthatre.org.
The Rocky Horror Show. Oct. 21-Nov. 4. Purchase tickets online.
Anacortes Community Theatre.
918 M Ave, Anacortes. 360-293-6829. acttheatre.com.
Little Women The Musical. Oct. 28-Nov. 20. Tickets are \$25 each and can be purchased online.

LIBRARIES

La Conner Swinomish Library.
520 Morris St, La Conner. 360-466-3352. lclib.wa.us. Open 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday.
Anacortes Public Library.
360-299-8067, CityofAnacortes.org. 1220 10th St, Anacortes.
Tech Help. Every weekday at library front desk. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Drop-in for hands-on help.
Mount Vernon Public Library.
360-336-6209, mountvernonwa.gov. 315 Snoqualmie St, Mount Vernon.
Virtual Reality. Every Saturday 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Must be 18 or older.
Baby Storytime. Every Friday 10:30-11 a.m.
Burlington Public Library.
360-755-0760, burlingtonwa.gov. 820 E Washington Ave, Burlington.
Book Sale. Oct. 28-29. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday. Low priced books, DVDs, CDs and magazines for all ages.
Costume Swap. Oct. 10-31. Bring your old costume and leave with a new one. All ages. Donations accepted.

MUSEUM EXHIBITS

Museum of Northwest Art. Open daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m. monamuseum.org. 360-466-4446.
Art Class: Drawing in the Galleries with Jean Behnke. Nov. 5, 1-4 p.m. Ages 18+ Tickets are \$30. Register online.
Exhibit: Consonance by Richard Nash. Through Feb 5, 2023.
Exhibit: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Honoring our Stolen Sisters. Through Feb 5, 2023.
MoNA Collection: New Acquisitions. Through Feb 5, 2023.
Pacific Northwest Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum. Hours: Wed-Sun 11 a.m.-5 p.m. qfamuseum.org. 360-466-4288. 703 S Second St, La Conner.
Exhibit: Tangled Fibers. Through October 30.
Exhibit: Honoring 25 years. Through October 30. Group exhibit from former and current members of the museum's board of directors.
Skagit County Historical Museum. 360-466-3365 or skagitcounty.net/museum. Hours: Thurs-Sun 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Exhibit: Hunt and Peck. Through October 31.
Exhibit: Lost Cities, Rediscovering Places of our Past. Featured exhibit opened Oct. 21.
Seeds for the Future party. Nov. 5, 6 p.m. at Maple Hall. Live music, catering, great stories and a raffle. Purchase tickets online.

MUSIC

La Conner Sips.
608 1st St, La Conner. 360-610-9773. laconnersips.com.
Live music. 5-7 p.m. No cover charge. Steve Padilla, Oct. 29.
Skagit Symphony.
360-848-9336. skagitsymphony.com.
Concert: Homeward Bound. Oct. 29, 7:30-9:30 p.m. at McIntyre Hall. Purchase tickets online.
Ukelele Fun & Song Circle.
Meet every Wednesday. 1-2 p.m., Burlington Senior Center. Beginners and all ages are welcome. Loaner ukules available. For more info, email yogaheartspace0@gmail.com.

MEETINGS

Town of La Conner
204 Douglas St, La Conner. 360-466-3125. Zoom info @Townoflaconner.org/calendar.
Special Planning Commission. Nov. 1, 6 p.m. at Maple Hall.
Town Council. Nov. 8, 6 p.m. at Maple Hall.
La Conner School District
305 N 6th St, La Conner. 360-466-4113. lcsd.wednet.edu.
Board Meeting. Oct. 24, 5 p.m. at district office board room.
Skagit Conservation District 2021
E. College Way #203, Mt. Vernon. 360-428-4313. Zoom info @skagitcd.org.
Board meetings. Every fourth Wednesday 7:30-9 a.m. Next meeting Oct. 26.
Rotary Club of La Conner.
laconnerrotary.org. Meetings Monday, 6-7 p.m. at the Farmhouse restaurant - optional dinner at 5:30 p.m.
Skagit Cemetery District One.
Regular meetings. Every second Thursday, 5 p.m. at Lori Buhar's home, 17604 Valentine Rd., Mount Vernon.
Little Mountain Gamblers.
Gamblers Anonymous. Every Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. at Senior Center in Mount Vernon. 1401 Cleveland Ave. Any questions, call Washington State Gamblers Anonymous hotline at 855-222-5542.

SERVICE & VOLUNTEER

La Conner Sunrise Food Bank. Food distribution every Monday from 2:30-5 p.m. 602 S. 3rd St., La Conner. 360-488-3878. laconnerfoodbank.com.
Skagit Valley Humane Society. 18841 Kelleher Rd, Burlington. 360-757-0445. skagithumane.org. Operating by appt. only at this time. Find volunteer/donation opportunities online.
Anacortes Choir Fundraiser.
Mattress Sale. Nov. 5, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Anacortes High School. Proceeds from benefit all Anacortes choir students. Plus, for every 10 mattresses sold, one will be donated to the Anacortes Family Center.



Aqiimuk's Kitchen

By Patricia Aqiimuk Paul, Esq., Food Editor.

Toasted Oats

Toasting oats is a great way to warm your house on a chilly fall day. It fills your home with a nutty fragrance. It has just a bit of a crunch. It's a perfect topper for your yogurt snack. Toasted oats are also good in many home prepared goods: Your no-bake cookies, granola bars and granola are just a few suggestions.



Ingredients

- Old fashioned oats, 1 1/2 cups
- Parchment paper (optional)

Preparation

Cut and or fold parchment paper to cover the bottom of a rimmed baking sheet. Pour in the oats. Spread evenly. Bake in preheated 350 F oven for 4 minutes. Carefully remove from the oven, stir around, turn over and spread out again. Bake another 4 minutes. You want a lightly toasted effect. Cool before storing in an air tight jar.

AqiimuksKitchen@outlook.com

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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FOUND. Oct. 7, large black and teal colored bag with immense number of faux diamonds and studs. Call 360-202-1032 with location loss to recover.
FOR RENT. In town small 1 bedroom apartment. \$1,500 per month off-street parking and utilities included. Call Mari at 360-708-6495 or Jack at 206-669-2447.
BIG SALE. Starting Thurs. Oct. 27 till ? Everything at La Fountain's Plants & Flowers is half off priced marked - behind post office. Open 24/7 honor system cash or check only. With questions call 360-708-2022.
FIND YOUR CHURCH CONNECTION at Skagit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Our welcoming and loving congregation promotes spiritual growth, justice and cares for the planet. Sunday services at 10:30 a.m. in person and on-line. Please request a link to the service: skagituu@gmail.com. Address: 500 W Section St, Mount Vernon.

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS
ADVERTISE STATEWIDE with a \$325 classified listing or \$1600 for a display ad. Call this newspaper or 360-344-2938 for details.
DONATE YOUR CAR TO CHARITY. Receive maximum value of write off for your taxes. Running or not! All conditions accepted. Free pickup. Call for details, 855-635-4229.
ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING FOREVER! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-888-360-1582.
PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES today with a GENERAC home standby generator. \$0 money down + low monthly payment options. Request a FREE Quote. Call now before the next power outage: 1-888-674-7053.

Super Crossword

SQUARE PHASE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Work unit
 - 6 Duo plus one
 - 10 Orangutans, e.g.
 - 14 Plot out, as an equation
 - 19 Desert refuge
 - 20 In an obliging manner
 - 22 Evoking an earlier style
 - 23 Start of a riddle
 - 25 Rob of "Melrose Place"
 - 26 Enticement
 - 27 "— longa, vita brevis"
 - 28 March Madness org.
 - 29 — mama (rum cocktail)
 - 30 Tarnish
 - 32 Rd. with a number
 - 33 Hormone released during childbirth
 - 35 Riddle, part 2
 - 41 Signified
 - 42 Valentine's Day feeling
 - 43 Angle measure
 - 44 History unit
 - 45 Pretend
 - 46 Particular printing
 - 48 Lock go-with
 - 49 Marina del —
 - 51 Riddle, part 3
 - 56 Considers to be
 - 60 Like unripe bananas
 - 61 Always, in poetry
 - 62 Hugs, in letters
 - 64 Airline of Israel
 - 65 Pod fillers
 - 66 Riddle, part 4
 - 71 Delliiah player Lamarr
 - 72 Hotel furniture
 - 73 History unit
 - 74 Suffix with strict
 - 75 Inedible type of orange
 - 77 Coiled length of yarn
 - 79 Riddle, part 5
 - 85 Fleeced male
 - 87 "The Walking Dead" aier singer
 - 88 "Royals" singer
 - 89 Anti votes
 - 90 —Kosh B'gosh (kids' clothing brand)
 - 93 1998-2008 Toyota model
 - 96 Former Nintendo rival
 - 97 Orlando theme park
 - 99 End of the riddle
 - 103 Lack of vigor
 - 104 Suffix with beat
 - 105 "— was saying ..."
 - 106 "See ya!," British-style
 - 107 Ernie's pal
 - 109 Pierre's pal
 - 111 Lariat part
 - 115 Covered with vines
 - 116 Riddle's answer
 - 120 Nairobi's land
 - 121 Prep schools
 - 122 "The Magic Flute," e.g.
 - 123 Provided with a border
 - 124 Small equine
 - 125 Film lioness
 - 126 Dot in the sea
 - 9 Like most sandals
 - 10 Sainly glow
 - 11 Court declaration
 - 12 Yale Daily News staffer
 - 13 Similarly defined wd.
 - 14 Enlarged
 - 15 Broadcast again
 - 16 Briefcase variety
 - 17 First-ever
 - 18 Christian cry of praise
 - 21 Stood up to
 - 24 Wyatt at the O.K. Corral
 - 29 To a large degree
 - 31 Apparel
 - 32 Totally absorbed
 - 33 Outdated
 - 34 VI doubled
 - 35 PC support whiz, perhaps
 - 36 "Drink" for a constantly critical sort
 - 37 Alternatively
 - 38 Fat-and-flour mixture
 - 39 Utah city
 - 40 Oscar winner Dunaway
 - 41 See 82-Down
 - 47 Have a hunch
 - 48 "On the Road" novelist Jack
 - 50 Cowboy cry
 - 52 "Absolutely, sarge!"
 - 53 Big retailer of outdoor gear
 - 54 Hawaii's Mauna —
 - 55 Hither's partner
 - 57 Posh quality
 - 58 Scooched over, perhaps
 - 59 Devious
 - 63 "Get Shorty" star Chris
 - 65 "Masterpiece" network
 - 67 Set- (brawls)
 - 68 Game akin to crazy eights
 - 69 Dot-com address
 - 70 "Magnum, P.I." star Tom
 - 76 Trapshooting targets, informally
 - 78 Stereotypical working-class family man
 - 80 Ace or deuce
 - 81 "If — be so bold ..."
 - 82 With 41-Down, lotus sitters' cushion
 - 83 Asia's — Sea
 - 84 "Spring ahead" hrs.
 - 86 Ties down, as a boat
 - 90 Resembling a hooting bird
 - 91 Bundled, as wheat
 - 92 High- (snubbing)
 - 94 Pull along
 - 95 Khan who married Rita Hayworth
 - 96 "I'm OK with it"
 - 98 Comedian Emo
 - 100 It might be given by a flirter
 - 101 Way to serve ham or pastrami
 - 102 Café au —
 - 107 Wheat husk
 - 108 Water whirl
 - 109 City in Iowa
 - 110 Plateau's kin
 - 112 Law school newbie
 - 113 Folklore giant
 - 114 Exam for H.S. juniors
 - 116 Brief snooze
 - 117 — friendly
 - 118 Fossil fuel
 - 119 — polloi

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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	3		4		1			

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Puzzle Answers Page 8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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POLICE BLOTTER

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sunday, October 16
12:29 p.m.: Found phone – A black Samsung phone was left on a bench. The phone has not yet been returned to the owner. Morris St., La Conner.

Monday, October 17
8:52 a.m.: Lost dog returned – A lost dog was returned within minutes after it was reported missing. Maple Ave., La Conner.

Friday, October 21
6:46 p.m.: Guardrail collision – One vehicle rollover collision near an intersection. A red SUV pulling a utility trailer collided with a guardrail and went down an embankment. The driver was unfamiliar with the

road and conditions were wet. When the driver approached the 90-degree bend in the road he wasn't able to make the turn. Neither the driver nor passenger was injured. Best/Fir Island Rds., Greater La Conner.

8:13 p.m.: Suspicious parked car – Report of a suspicious vehicle in the parking lot. The area was checked by law enforcement and the vehicle was not located. La Conner Whitney Rd., Greater La Conner.

Saturday, October 22
6:29 p.m.: Suspicious dog walker – A suspicious parked vehicle turned out to be someone walking their dogs in the area. Bay View Edison Rd., Greater La Conner.

New exhibits open at MoNA

Come to the Museum of Northwest Art for three new exhibits. "Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls: Honoring Our Stolen Sisters" examines the human rights crisis and national tragedy of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. "Richard Nash: Consonance" offers the first museum survey of works by Pacific Northwest painter and sculptor Richard Nash. "MoNA Collection: New Acquisitions" offers a selection of purchases made the past two years. These acquisitions reflect the effort of the institution to bring into the collection a more broadly representative and diverse group of Northwest artists.

Roger. . . (from page 7)

Suddenly a visual explosion of colors and intense landscape scenes were spiraling in my head.

"Shortly after," he said, "I spent two full years in my studio painting the images I had seen and experimenting with new painting techniques."

Small has developed two distinct approaches in his studio – a mosaic palette knife style with oil, and a mixed media style with industrial oil and artist oil for water features and acrylic for all surrounding areas.

As a youth he had an innate eye for art. "As a teenager," he said, "I enjoyed drawing and painting pictures of my favorite music albums."

Growing up in Burlington gave Small "a special attachment" to the beauty of Skagit Valley.

"Over the years," he said, "I have witnessed many changes to the valley. I try and paint my landscapes as I knew them from my younger years with a vastness to the fields and concentration on crops, mountains, rivers and identical colors represented in the valley."

With "The Visionary" now in place, Small is already looking to make a dent in his to-do list.

"I have several very large canvases ready to paint," he said. "It will probably be a two-year project for me to accomplish. I've been saving them for the right moment."

Mayor Ramon Hayes spoke for townspeople upon installation of the new sculpture.

"Roger's work," Hayes said, "has a real sensitivity to it that integrates into the environment seamlessly. The community is blessed to have such a wonderful addition to its public art collection."

Upgraded Weekly News website ready Friday

We listened, heard and acted. The La Conner Weekly News unveils its new, user-friendly, feature rich website Friday, Oct. 28.

What is changing? **Content and subscriptions** All stories will now appear online, making the website a true digital archive. Without an online subscription, site visitors will only be able to access three articles per week.

Click the **Free Trial** link located in the black banner at the top right of the site to gain immediate online access. If you are a current print subscriber, your online and print subscriptions will be synced. If you are a new subscriber, you will be invoiced but have an immediate 2-week trial access.

If you already have online access, your current username and password are valid on the new site.

We are pleased to announce that we are holding subscription prices in 2023.

Coming soon, subscribers will be able to pay, renew, change addresses and place vacation holds through the website.



Ads and Notices

Submit and pay for classifieds by clicking the **Place an Ad** button on the classifieds page.

Submit legal notices by clicking the **Submit Legal Notices** button under the legals menu. All published legal notices are now available online by clicking the Public Notices and Legals link. Submit Obituaries by clicking

the **Submit an Obituary** link under the Obituary menu. Obituaries will always be free to view.

Events Submit events through our improved online events calendar. Local events will also appear in relevant print issues.

Questions, comments, concerns? Call 360-466-3315.

Skagit Bay Search and Rescue seeks more volunteers



– Photo courtesy of Sue White

By Bill Reynolds

Skagit Bay Search and Rescue volunteers are trained to locate people in distress.

respond quickly due to our water temperatures, so we try to be underway within 15 minutes of the call out."

A general rule of thumb is that a person has only a 50% chance of surviving 50 minutes in 50-degree water.

White said SBSAR uses a 32-foot custom aluminum boat with a 130-horsepower outboard engine moored at La Conner Marina to respond to missions assigned by the sheriff's office. The organization's coverage area typically covers Skagit Bay to Deception Pass, up the Skagit River to the North Fork Bridge and on Swinomish Channel.

"We try to do training nine to 10 times a year," White said. "This year we did a polar plunge wherein our crew outfitted in exposure suits jumped overboard, practicing maneuvering in the water before swimming back to the boat and climbing aboard. We have also done two training exercises with advanced kayakers to improve our skill level in their water rescue needs, including one fast water rescue training at Deception Pass."

SBSAR team members train in boat operations, navigation, search and rescue procedures and medical support and transportation. They are required to pass Skagit County Sheriff's Office background checks and receive Skagit County emergency worker cards.

Thousands of people venture out on local waters each year in a wide range of vessels. Boaters, fishermen and kayakers can underestimate the power and speed of area tidal currents, sudden winds and waves in Deception Pass and the Skagit River and the numbing and deadly effects of cold water. That makes SBSAR operations vital.

"We're hoping to rally new volunteers to the cause," White said.

Those interested in volunteering should be at least 16-years-old, reside in the La Conner/Shelter Bay area, be in good health and able to swim, be a team player and dedicated to the work.

Email: SkagitBaySAR@gmail.com.

These days they are also in search of others to join their ranks.

"We're actively looking for new members in the La Conner area who can respond to calls in a short amount of time," SBSAR President Sue White confirmed to the Weekly News. "

Established in 2002, SBSAR is a non-profit organization that provides marine-based support to the Skagit County Sheriff's Office and is a familiar presence at such iconic local maritime events as the Puget Sound Rowers Race, Dash to the Pass and Deception Pass Race.

The group now finds itself needing to boost membership due to longtime volunteers having moved or retired.

The SBSAR, which trains almost monthly, has averaged a handful of calls annually since 2016.

Over the years, volunteers have responded to a variety of incidents – more than a few of which have been quite dicey – from aiding hunters stranded on an island when their boat was swept away by tidal action to helping boaters unfamiliar with local waters who ran aground to rescuing youths stuck in Padilla Bay.

"All of us get that feeling," White said, "of what would've happened if we hadn't arrived. We talk about it all the time. Our focus is to avoid terrible outcomes. We have a pretty good sense that this is an important thing to do.

"When these calls come in," White stressed, "we need to



Skagit County
Serving with pride

An Important Reminder

To All Skagit County Property Owners

SECOND HALF PROPERTY TAXES

are due October 31, 2022

Jackie Brunson
Skagit County Treasurer
700 S. Second St. Room 205
PO Box 518
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

1954495

visit our website at www.skagitcounty.net



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