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# LA CONNER WEEKLY NEWS

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## Remember the fallen



A TIME-HONORED TRADITION, CONTINUED — La Conner High School senior Sammy Williams concluded the Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Memorial Day service by playing taps. This was the fourth year in a row that Williams has played. Members of Scouts of America Troop 4001 are in the background. They began the ceremony with the raising of the American flag.

— Photo by Madoc Hiller

## La Conner residents recall history at Memorial Day services

By Bill Reynolds

Busy lives paused Monday as local residents took time to reflect on the past during annual Memorial Day services at two area cemeteries.

Somber holiday programs drew large turnouts to the Pleasant Ridge and Swinomish Indian Tribal Community cemeteries despite cloudy and chilly conditions.

Rev. Don Robinson and Anne Basye keynoted the one-hour gathering at Pleasant Ridge, site of the oldest cemetery in Skagit County and where the accomplishments and sacrifices of veterans, pioneers and Native Americans were recognized.

Tribal Senator Brian Porter served as master of ceremonies at the multi-denominational Swinomish service, which paid tribute to the community's living and deceased veterans.

Robinson, who is filling a vacancy on the Pleasant Ridge Cemetery District Board of Commissioners, spoke of "stones of remembrance and living stones." He did so while also focusing on Abraham Lincoln's famed appeal to "the better angels of our nature" as the nation in early 1861 faced a pending civil war.

"Military personnel are often called to be peacemakers," said Robinson. "Each one of us bears responsibility to be a peacemaker — to respond to divi-

sion and conflict with civility, compassion and care in the spirit of 'angels of a better nature.'"

Robinson noted how gravestones serve as memorial markers, each having a story to tell.

"When I look to the north," said Robinson, who stood facing the audience with the cemetery at his back, "I see stones of remembrance marking the lives of those persons no longer with us. We have stones to help us remember."

Robinson expressed gratitude for the contributions of fallen veterans, deceased pioneers and the area's native peoples, whom, he reminded the gathering, gave up often at great cost for immigrants to settle here.

Robinson likened his audience to living stones able to convert Lincoln's plea to positive action.

"Today," Robinson said, "we look to those who have gone before us as stones of remembrance. We remember their sacrifice and service. We also look to ourselves as living stones who, in Lincoln's words, strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up wounds, to care to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

In addition to stones of remembrance, Robinson said Pleasant Ridge Cemetery on Monday bore flags marking the known graves of military

veterans from the Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Basye shared with the Pleasant Ridge assembly a Decoration Day essay written by her then-teenaged grandfather, and a Remembrance Day poem penned by late centenarian Joyce Johnson, who died in February.

The composition by Basye's grandfather offered a critique of early Decoration Day (the original name for Memorial Day) speakers at Pleasant Ridge. He expressed a preference for keynoters who used the active and concise style embraced by Lincoln as opposed to the florid language and wordy approach of the future president's frequent 1850s debate opponent, Stephen Douglas.

At Swinomish, former tribal chair Brian Cladoosby referred to the high percentage of Native Americans who have enlisted across generations for military service.

"Our men and women," he said, "have always stepped forward."

Cladoosby recalled how as a youth he witnessed the importance placed upon Memorial Day by that era's Swinomish leadership.

"Memorial Day," he said, "has always been a day for coming together

(continued on page 6)

## Town seeks a south end master plan

By Ken Stern

The Town of La Conner seeks consultants to create a master plan, the first step for development of the 3-acre industrial area west and south of its S. Third Street parking lot below the town hall to Caledonia Street.

It posted a request for qualifications May 22, with a June 18 submittal deadline. The RFQ timeline lists town council review and approval for July 23 and signing the contract July 25, eight weeks from now. The plan completion deadline is Dec. 31, 2024.

Funding is from a \$30,000 state of Washington Community Development Block Grant awarded in 2022 and \$20,000 in town funds.

The RFQ is ambitious, aiming to: "involve the public in a robust community planning and design process, establish a vision for a diverse community, identify projects and policies which will stabilize nearby single-family neighborhoods, improve existing multi-family housing and identify opportunities for inclusionary growth, reduce land use

(continued on page 6)

## Tribal senior center hosts training for disaster preparation

By Bill Reynolds

Being prepared is no longer exclusively a Boy Scout thing.

It works for senior citizens as well.

That's why the Swinomish Senior Center was the site of a three-hour community disaster preparedness training program last Friday.

Tribal Community Emergency Management Coordinator Brian Geer and Swinomish EMC specialist Keri Cleary led the interactive session, which focused on how to prepare for a wide range of disaster scenarios.

"A disaster is anything that overwhelms your immediate resources," Geer said.

By definition, then, Western Washington disaster threats include but are not limited to earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanos, wildland fires, flooding, tidal surges, windstorms, rockslides and power outages.

Geer and Cleary encouraged those attending the training to begin creating emergency kits filled with items that can help sustain them during extended shelter-in-place or evacuation situations.

"There are some good, pre-packaged kits, but we encourage you to build your own kit," Geer said. "All you need is a backpack that you can easily carry on your back."

Geer said the American Red Cross is an excellent source for emergency kit items like flashlights, batteries, non-perishable food, packaged or bottled water, and first aid materials. If space permits, he added, one might consider including a favorite book or deck of cards. Local maps merit serious consideration as well.

"Our goal is to help you build your kits as best

(continued on page 8)

## State leaders hear Swinomish Tribe thoughts on literacy and education

By Kurt Batdorf

The state's top educators want to learn why some Native American students struggle with literacy more than their peers, so they're traveling the state to hear from families.

The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community gym was the second stop for Henry Strom, executive director of the Office of Native Education for the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, and his staff. They came from an information-gathering session in Yakima.

Next, they'll talk to Native educators in Suquamish.

About 50 Swinomish parents, children, tribal elders and La Conner School District leaders came to Native Family Literacy Night May 23 to offer suggestions over frybread and chili, get free books and play Lushootseed bingo.

"We have a legislative proviso to look at literacy of Native kids and provide technical support to schools," Strom said. "We hope to get feedback from parents and kids, what works, what barriers they face. We know Natives are

challenged with literacy, but we think it's (an education) system issue, not just a Native issue."

OSPI offered a table of children's books. Jennifer Peters from Swinomish Behavioral Health and La Conner Middle School/High School prevention specialist Christine Valdez spoke about the importance of early childhood literacy. Research shows that third grade is a critical time for young readers' comprehension and development of a lifelong interest in reading.

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DECISIONS, DECISIONS — Olivia and Brooklyn Bailey select free books from three tables stacked with options at Native Family Literacy Night at the Swinomish gym on May 23.

— Photo by Kurt Batdorf

From the editor —

## For no future soldier deaths

Memorial Day this year was cool and gray. That did not prevent people from gathering with family and friends. Outside picnics might have been few, but lots of folks celebrated, boating, home barbecuing and going out in the many ways we do on holidays. The U.S. Transportation Security Administration reported record numbers of passengers at the nations' airports.

In greater La Conner scores of people attended services at Pleasant Ridge Cemetery and the Swinomish Cemetery to honor departed military, pioneer and family members. That is how locals recognize "these honored dead," as Abraham Lincoln did at the Gettysburg battlefield in 1863.

"We here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain," he said.

For 176 years, from the U.S. Invasion of Mexico in 1848 to current engagements in Iraq, Syria, the Middle East, throughout Asia, Africa and Europe, our government has sent – historically – young men into harm's way. In every case, some returned in body bags, now, in coffins in prior generations.

Our weapons of war, increasingly accurate, powerful and technologically advanced, are ever more lethal, so we kill many foreigners. Inevitably some of our soldiers die or are wounded, physically. The mental, emotional and social wounds are invisible to the eye but are often deeper and too often lasting lifelong.

War destroys all who encounter it, on both sides of the battlefield, on both sides of the gun or whatever weapon is pointed at the enemy.

War. The military fights wars. Our government conducts wars: plans them, decides to start them, executes them and has us, the nation's citizens, fund them, both in the present moment and through payments on the national debt, which is largely accrued from our past military engagement in this and the 20th century.

War. When you are the most powerful nation on earth, you mostly start them, or provoke them or respond and go in to punish the offender and teach them a lesson. Israel calls its military the Israeli Defense Force, but we are seeing the lie every day, as one of the most advanced war machines on the planet attacks – offensively – with jets and tanks and sophisticated military intelligence, much of all of this supplied by the United States or acting in coordination with U.S. staff.

War. Until 1947, our government was more honest and transparent. The military was run by the Department of War. That was the name for it when it was established by the first Congress in the first year of George Washington's presidency in 1789 for the actions our government pursued.

But the 20th century was also the age of marketing, so the spin – a later marketing term – was to change the name to the Department of Defense. Why? Our enemies are all around us and the peace-loving American government is focused exclusively on defending itself. That must be it.

"War." The 1970 rock song made famous by Edwin Starr were true words sung: "War. What is it good for? Absolutely nothing."

If our honored dead could speak, what words they say – and sing? Which side would they be on?

Which side of the grave would we rather have them be on?

– Ken Stern

A citizen's view —

## Affordable homes aid communities, families

By Felicia Minto

Home Trust of Skagit is a community land trust that serves all of Skagit County. Currently, we are serving 28 homeowners and 18 renters. Home Trust of Skagit offers affordable homes now and preserves that affordability for future homebuyers. Our goal is to have homes in neighborhoods and communities throughout Skagit County (preferably near community transit routes) and to provide opportunities for both homeownership and affordable rentals. With a healthy mix of housing types and home sizes available, we strive to serve those earning up to 80% of the area median income.

Long-term affordability is important for workforce retention in our local communities. If a fam-

ily cannot afford to live where they work, they will commute. This destabilizes the economic growth of the local community. More opportunities for long-term affordable housing stabilizes the local workforce and communities we serve. Home Trust of Skagit helps to fill this gap.

Programs through Home Trust of Skagit help provide homeownership to individuals and families with limited income (once an impossible dream to many). Homeowners build equity in their homes, an investment in their future and building wealth is the long-term result. Homeownership promotes healthy families and involvement in the community in which they permanently reside.

Affordable housing allows people to live where they work,

which enriches local economy. Home Trust of Skagit protects limited-income residents from displacement in their communities (in many cases for over 30 years). Communities make the most of the land while preserving green space. Through providing long-term affordable homeownership in Skagit County, Home Trust of Skagit is instrumental in providing safe and stable communities.

Home Trust of Skagit is a 501c3 nonprofit, and operates on grant funding and individual donations. If you would like to donate funds or property to our organization, please contact our executive director, Felicia Minto, at 360-428-0014.

Minto became executive director in November 2023.

## A past Musings — still on this editor's mind

Memorial Day was May 29th this year. That is John F. Kennedy's birthday. I know that because it is also my mother's birthday, Mary Madeline Nemunis Stern. My mother was born in 1920. She would have been 103.

I believe my mother hated war. She never told me that. Nor did she ever take her five children to a demonstration against the Vietnam War or go on her own. She did tell me this story once, that in 1964 my parents were at some work-related social function of my dad's, of course, for few women worked outside the home then. He worked for the UAW, the United Auto Workers, as the editor of a weekly labor newspaper. He and his peers were ardent Democrats fully in support of President Lyndon Johnson. Asked in casual conversation about the Vietnam war, she spoke against it, being against war, as most mothers are. My dad shushed her, for she was bucking the party line, ahead of her time as she was in opposing that war.

Memorial Day cemetery services are about our honored dead, as Lincoln said at Gettysburg. The annual Memorial Day Pleasant Ridge Cemetery service is a tradition and ritualistic. At its center is a flag folding ceremony by the Marine Corps League Skagit Valley, which includes a narrative spinning out a story of the American flag from before Betsy Ross stitched hers through Valley Forge and our nation's wars from the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli and all the way to New York's World Trade Center towers and Afghanistan.

But this recounting skipped – missed, indeed avoided – the very reason Americans gather at cemeteries – our Civil War. This listing of battle heroics went from the 1846 Mexican war to San Juan Hill in Cuba in 1898.

The PBS TV website shares this: "Originally called Decoration Day, from the early tradition of decorating graves with flowers, wreaths and flags, Memorial Day is a day for remembrance of those who have died in service to our country. It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868, to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers, by proclamation of Gen. John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former Union sailors and soldiers."

The lyrical recounting at Pleasant Ridge omitting leaving the Union and the shelling of Fort Sumter in 1861 was not missing a minor blip in our history. A listing of Civil War battlefields rolls off

the tongue readily, from Bull Run – twice – to Appomattox. From 1861 to 1865 the landscape ran red with the blood of fallen Americans. That is what we all were, and are, though half of us turned their backs and their guns on the rest of us. We can avoid those facts but there is no getting around those dates with destiny.

All Americans need to face the fact that a segment of our patriotic military veterans are as loyal and fervent in their reverence of the southern confederacy and its stars and bars battle flag as they are to the U.S. flag. Especially now, two years after the Confederate battle flag was brought into the U.S. Capitol for the first time in the spirit of that rebellion against our elected government, it needs to be called out.

The Civil War was not a minor dispute between family members. Southern politicians decided to go to war against the United States in order to maintain slavery.

To honor American war dead from the Civil War is why people first gathered at cemeteries in 1868.

As a society we are torn, not because a sizable faction believe the South's cause was noble but because all of us have never forthrightly sat with, held and discussed together and entirely embraced the complete truth of the centuries of our slave-holding past.

Glorifying war seems noble and patriotic. Examining with our fathers, sons, family and friends who we really are and what we really did to each other for hundreds of years – through this present moment – is much more difficult.

Some Catholic nuns have long insisted, "If you want peace work for justice." This country will never be whole until more of us have the courage to reach for justice. Our nation's military veterans have had many difficult and arduous assignments. This is the most difficult campaign that they – and all of us – have to tackle.

Only the complete, unvarnished, difficult truth will ever set all of us free.

May 29 is also Ethan and Sydney's birthdays, children of my friends Lisa and Dick. This year the twins turned 22. May their work and their lives result in a world without war, where no one dies a military-related death and no one forgets the root causes of every war that has ever been fought.

Reprinted from the La Conner Weekly News, June 7, 2023.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Rexville Grange thanks for support

The Rexville Grange is so grateful for the many inquiries and requests to help support or join our local Grange hall. Our thanks to Anne Basye, Ken Stern and the La Conner Weekly News for highlighting the history of this unique community hall and explaining some of our current concerns (Weekly News May 1 and 8).

We are so pleased to hear from many of our neighbors and new friends willing to help us grow into a bright future. Reach us at rexville815@gmail.com.

Thank you.  
Rexville Grange board president  
Greater La Conner

organizations including the Organic Consumers Association; Greenpeace; Buddhist Tribunal on Human Rights; Ecoworld of Scandinavia; Partners for the Land & Agricultural Needs of Traditional Peoples; Network for Human Rights, Equality & Justice; World Permaculture Association; Asia Pacific Research Network; Earthlaw Alliance; Women's Alliance for Peace; Freedom US / Earth Democracy Group; Rights of Nature Europe; Friends of the Earth to name a few.

A complete list of international supporters is available at Monsanto-tribunal.com Additional information can be found via Google and Facebook. Search "Monsanto tribunal."

Dorothy Bird  
La Conner

### LETTER POLICY

Please write! Letters to the editor of up to 350 words are welcome, as are longer analyses and statements. Write a 500-word guest column. Deadline: 5 p.m. Sunday. Include your name, address and phone number for verification. All letters are edited for civility, clarity and style.

SEND TO:  
editor@laconnernews.com

## Wind offers potential to fill our energy needs

By Greg Whiting

Wind energy – both on land and offshore – has been falling in cost almost as dramatically as solar power. It's down well over 90% since 2000.

The relevant technologies are still improving. Furthermore, wind has some advantages over other forms of electricity generation, including other renewable generation systems. For instance, wind generators can be installed in far more places than hydro-electric or geothermal generation plants, both of which require very specific geology.

On average, a well-sited wind turbine will produce about twice



the amount of energy over a year as a photovoltaic solar installation of similar nameplate capacity. Wind power is also more consistent than solar power. Wind produces more energy at night than during the day, which makes it an excellent complement to solar systems.

Given price trends for solar, wind and energy storage systems, the combination of solar and

wind on the same site, with storage anywhere on a nearby grid, may become the most cost-effective generation system for new large-scale electricity within the next 10 years.

Although the airspace a wind turbine requires to capture that energy is about seven times the amount of space required for solar, the wind turbine's support post takes very little space on the ground itself. Therefore, it's possible to install wind turbines with less impairment of other surface uses than ground-mounted solar.

The area that a wind turbine requires to generate 1 megawatt-

(continued on page 6)

### World Court finds against Monsanto

Thank you, Maggie, for your letter addressing concerns about Glyphosate / Roundup and the considerable and the enormous dangers to our environment. I would like to support that with some additional information.

In 2016, Monsanto was taken to the World Court in the Hague and found guilty of health crimes against humanity and the environment, among other things. The suit was brought by over 1,000 international

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### Ken Stern, Publisher & Editor

editor@laconnernews.com

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#### Postmaster:

Send change of address to:

La Conner Weekly News

PO Box 1465, La Conner, WA 98257

Bill Reynolds, News Editor  
news@laconnernews.com

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

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

Eileen Engelstad, Proofreader  
Rick Shorten, Special Projects

#### Contributors:

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

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## Planning commission OKs gazebo for downtown store

By Bill Reynolds

Caravan Gallery on First Street has long been known for its unique vibe.

That likely won't change anytime soon based on action taken last week by the Town Planning Commission.

The downtown retail outlet, which enjoys a loyal customer base drawn to its one-of-a-kind collection of ethnic artifacts,

statues of Buddha and other deities, glass artwork, colorful scarves and trend-setting clothing, has received commission approval to install a permanent 12-foot-by-10-foot wood gazebo in its outdoor courtyard, according to Town Assistant Planner Ajah Eills.

"It's designed to replace an outdoor tent that the store owner typically uses for sales in the summertime," Eills told

the Weekly News.

The gazebo, featuring a steel roof, is to be constructed off-site and represents an allowed use in La Conner's commercial zone, Town Planner Michael Davolio told planning commissioners during their May 21 public meeting at Maple Hall.

Davolio recommended approval of the project in his written report to the commission. "The proposed location of

the gazebo would not have a negative impact on the main building or on any surrounding property," said Davolio, who also noted that Caravan Gallery is sited within the Town's Historic Preservation District.

His recommendation to the commission included five conditions, one of which is that project applicant Linda Banaszak obtain from the town a shoreline exemption permit as

the property – on the east side of First Street – is within 200 feet of Swinomish Channel.

Davolio pointed out that the Caravan Gallery property is located within a flood plain, but a floodplain permit is not required due to the size of the gazebo.

He noted that a State Environmental Policy Act determination is not required in this case.

### OBITUARIES

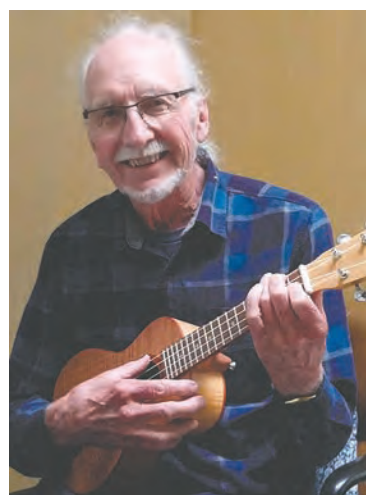
#### Clark Scarboro Nov. 4, 1932-May 10, 2024

Clark Scarboro loved boats and boating from an early age. He became a highly respected boat designer and engineer. In the late 80s, he retired from Bayliner Marine, where he designed the popular 3288 model.

The Scarboros moved to Shelter Bay in 1999. They loved living among and cruising with other boaters. Clark became the Commodore of the Yacht Club in 2004. Over subsequent years, he served the community as a member of the Building and Harbor committees.

Clark and Joan celebrated their 60th anniversary in April. Their family includes daughter Zoe Fisher, her husband Steve and their children Brandt and Elle. Attending the grandchildren's performances in music and musical theater has been a great pleasure for the proud grandparents.

Over the years, Clark played



the flute, piccolo and oboe, recorder and tin whistle. When arthritis made playing difficult, he took up the ukulele. He enjoyed the camaraderie of playing and singing with others. One of his last goals was to start a ukulele club in SB. Sadly, he was never able to play with the newly formed group, but he hoped that starting it would become his legacy to the community.

#### Gerald Robbins

Gerald Robbins passed away peacefully at his home on April 2, 2024.

A fifth-generation Skagitian, he was raised in La Conner and graduated from La Conner High School, where he achieved state championships in multiple sports. He was the drummer for the Esquires, Skagit Valley's pioneering rock and roll band and played throughout his life. In addition to his musical pursuits, Gerry worked for Dunlap Towing and attended Skagit Valley College. He was a car and motorcycle enthusiast, and a "hot dog" skier.

During the Vietnam War, Gerry enlisted in the Air Force. Following his military service, he studied photography at the Cornish School of the Arts in Seattle. He then began his lifelong career in homebuilding alongside his brother, John. Renowned as master carpenters and builders, they earned the admiration and respect of architects, homeowners and the construction community for their honesty, integrity and expertise. Many of their homes were featured in publications like Fine Homebuilding and Sunset.

Gerry enjoyed various boating activities, including crabbing, fishing and sailing in the San Juan Islands. He spent multiple summers fishing in Bristol Bay and serving on the crew of a research vessel for NOAA in the Bering Sea. With an adventurous spirit, Gerry also traveled to Denmark, France and England. After retiring, he traveled extensively with his family, visiting Hawaii, New Orleans, Sri Lanka and Dubai, with extended stays in Qatar and Vietnam.

Above all, Gerry cherished his family, including his wife, three daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Family always came first for him. He will be deeply missed by numerous relatives, friends and neighbors who remember him as kind, friendly and generous.

The family expresses heartfelt gratitude for the care Gerry received from hospice and the Veteran's Administration.

If you are interested in attending a celebration of Gerry's life, please email [celebrategerry42@gmail.com](mailto:celebrategerry42@gmail.com).

## La Conner Library District board questions coverage of state audit

By Ken Stern

The monthly La Conner Rural Partial County Library District monthly board meeting Tuesday, May 21, proceeded pretty much like most small governmental district board meetings, from starting with approving the April meeting minutes to experiencing small glitches with new board management software used in the meeting.

The April financial report included the library's receiving \$113,139 from Skagit County, its property tax allocation for the first half of 2024. The assessment rate is 0.32%.

Sarah Rabel, the library foundation director, was upbeat in announcing that Gail Bruce is joining her board. The Skagit Community Foundation gave funds toward a bathroom door that is power operated. Author Janet Yod's reading with an overflow audience of 50 was the best attended event to date. The arts committee is planning the fall-winter art exhibit for the library.

Board member William Smith reported he contacted the Town of La Conner for the \$5,000 it allocated to the library. He asked that town staff shovel snow from the front steps when clearing the sidewalk.

Library Director Jean Markert reported working with the school district to give every student a library card by next fall. The Summer Reads program will start soon. Her

announcement that the Reptile Man will return for a kids' program was greeted with laughter and applause.

The computer and internet policy is under review by the board.

When new business came up on the agenda, retired former board chair Jim Airy asked if the state auditor's report had been discussed. He said he came to the meeting to answer questions board members might have and expressed concern that board meeting minutes could not be found by the auditors.

Turning to Weekly News Publisher Ken Stern, who reported the story May 15 and was reporting the board meeting, he asked about the article and the timeline with it and questioned the need to name the past two directors, both of whom the board had removed, finding it an unnecessary detail.

Board member Sarah Christensen asked why there

were only two quotations and two other references from library personnel in the story.

Smith asked Stern if the library still had problems.

Stern responded that the timeline framed the story by contrasting the years of clean audits under librarian director Joy Neal to Markert's tenure and her appointment from board president to director though she had no experience working in a library.

The audit report was 19 pages and Stern said he focused the story on its findings. He quoted library personnel to emphasize their commitment to following recommendations and to transparency.

Stern did not know if library problems remain. He doesn't have access to information or documents, he said.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m., after 75 minutes.

The library district board meets the third Tuesday monthly. The next meeting is June 18.

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**Raven's Cup Coffee & Art Gallery**

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**Interested in TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN?**

La Conner School District is currently gathering information on whether there is a need in our community for a transitional kindergarten program. If you have a child who will be four years old on or before August 31, 2024, they may qualify for a place in a transitional kindergarten classroom.

Please complete this survey to help us determine whether or not there is a need for this program in our community.







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## Transitional kindergarten eyed as option to fill preschool void

By Bill Reynolds

When national Head Start budget cuts announced earlier this year spelled the imminent demise of the Little Braves preschool program, La Conner Elementary School Principal Heather Fakkema reacted with sadness. But not panic.

Fakkema was among those who first floated the idea of following up the Little Braves mission with a new educational concept – transitional kindergarten.

Transitional kindergarten, which serves students who are at least 4 years old, has been implemented in Washington state and elsewhere to help eligible children prepare for a success-

ful kindergarten experience the following school year.

State lawmakers in 2023 bolstered the program with codified Transition to Kindergarten legislation.

La Conner School District is exploring transitional kindergarten as a potential successor to its on-campus preschool program, which will close when school dismisses for the summer.

“We are currently hoping that if we are able to provide a transitional kindergarten class that we will start in October,” district director of teaching and learning Beth Clothier told the Weekly News on Friday. “What I’m excited about for transitional kindergarten is that it provides

our 4-year-olds an opportunity to get kindergarten ready at no cost to families, in the school setting, and with all school services available.”

The Washington State Office of Public Instruction (OSPI) states that transitional kindergarten:

- Serves children whose families do not meet income eligibility for ECEAP (Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program) and Head Start but can’t afford private fees for other early learning programs.
- Allows for access to a continuum of placement opportunities for children with disabilities.
- Supports children with behavioral/physical disabilities not well served in other early learning programs.

- Expands options for children in unstable housing or experiencing homelessness.

“Transitional kindergarteners would have access to the same specialists – in our case, music, art, and physical education – as well as services like speech therapy or special education as needed,” Clothier said.

She said that a transitional kindergarten here would be taught by a certified teacher, “ideally by someone with an early learning endorsement who utilizes a play-based curriculum.”

La Conner school officials have said they will embrace standards from OSPI’s TK Workbook as a roadmap while they plan for a local transitional kindergarten.

Clothier said the program

would introduce “appropriate skills that will help students develop a healthy sense of self and community in the school environment to be better prepared as learners when they get to kindergarten.”

She said the goal for crafting a transitional kindergarten curriculum is to include social-emotional skills, language and literacy, mathematics, science, social studies and the arts.

The district is conducting a transitional kindergarten online interest survey for parents and families that is available at tiny.cc/LCTK.

“This is so that we can determine if there are enough eligible/qualified students to create and sustain a program,” Clothier said.

## Father and son bond over Prefontaine Classic runs

By Bill Reynolds

La Conner distance runner Toby Walls caught up with some of the biggest names in track-and-field on May 25.

Walls and his son, Sylas, an up-and-coming middle school racer, were part of the large crowd attending the annual Prefontaine Classic at legendary Hayward Field at the University of Oregon in Eugene, Ore.

Named for late Oregon running icon and Olympian Steve Prefontaine, who from 1973-75 set American records at every distance from 2,000 to 10,000 meters, the Prefontaine Classic each year draws the world’s best track-and-field athletes. This year it served as a major preliminary for the 2024 Olympics in Paris.

Attending the Prefontaine Classic “was a bucket list event for Toby,” said his wife, La Conner photographer Sarah Walls, a frequent Weekly News contributor.

It was also much anticipated by the couple’s son, a sixth grader who competed in three races – mostly against older runners – at the district middle school meet in

“I’m going to be there early wearing my Prefontaine shirt and carrying a Sharpie to hopefully get some autographs.”

Toby Walls

Burlington last week.

Toby Walls, a La Conner School District employee who regularly trains during his off hours, said his wife bought the Prefontaine Classic tickets as a 50th birthday gift for him.

“I’m going to be there early wearing my Prefontaine shirt and carrying a Sharpie to hopefully get some autographs,” Toby Walls said before setting off for Eugene.

They also collected several photos of the setting, often referred to as “TrackTown USA,” including a shot of Toby Walls with women’s Olympic 100-meter favorite Sha’Carri Richardson. Richardson won the Prefontaine Classic 100-meter dash with a 10.83 finish.

The Wallses also saw Kenya’s Beatrice Chebet set a new



RUN BUDDIES — Toby and Sylas Walls of La Conner.

women’s 10,000-meter record at 28:54.14.

Toby Walls was especially looking forward to seeing the Bowerman Mile duel between archrivals Josh Kerr of the United Kingdom and Norway’s Jakob Ingebrigtsen.

In what was billed beforehand as the “mile of the century,” Kerr set a new British record at 3:45.34. He overtook Ingebrigtsen with 600 meters to go and held on to take the win. Ingebrigtsen finished in 3:45.60. American Yared Naguse was third in 3:46.22.

The Prefontaine Classic, with plenty of drama beyond the Kerr-Ingebrigtsen clash, was televised live on NBC. But for the Wallses, there was no substitute for being there.

## Murdock takes gold at state

By Bill Reynolds

La Conner High School senior Tommy Murdock continued to set the gold standard for the state’s Class 2B boys’ hurdlers on Saturday.

For the second year in a row, Murdock swept the 110- and 300-meter hurdles events at the Washington State 2B Track and Field Championships in Yakima.

Murdock capped his amazing Braves career – one in which he collected five state gold medals dating to the 2022 campaign – by leading the La Conner boys to an eighth-place finish out of 31 schools competing in the 2024 2B trials at Zaepfel Stadium.

Murdock accounted for all 28 of La Conner’s points on the boys’ team leaderboard. He claimed the 110 hurdles in 14.84 seconds and the 300 hurdles in 39.88.

He also finished third in the 200-meter dash with a time of 22.86 and seventh in the 100-meter dash at 11.43.

His brilliant state performance drew praise and congratulations from numerous posts on social media, including ultra runner and former La Conner assistant track coach Yvonne Naughton, who now resides in Durango, Colorado.

Murdock wasn’t the only La Conner thincad to shine at state.

On the girls’ side, head coach Peter Voorhees saw his 4x200-meter relay team of Kiana Jenkins, Lydia Grossglass,

Morgan Huizenga and Maeve McCormick clinch second place in 1:50.34. The quartet ran just behind event victor Brewster.

Jenkins, Grossglass, Huizenga and McCormick also teamed to record sixth in the sprint relay, posting a finish time of 53.40.

Jenkins, an eighth grader, took fourth in the 400 meters (1:01.69) and seventh in the 200 (27.24).

Grossglass ran sixth in the 100-meter hurdles (17.15) and eighth in the 300 hurdles (54.27).

Nora McCormick, another of the La Conner track program’s eighth graders, contributed an eighth-place finish in the long jump with a leap of 15’-5.25”.

The girls’ team placed ninth overall with 25 points.

The La Conner teams finished ahead of their NW2B rivals Coupeville and Friday Harbor.

In another state-level competition, La Conner’s Kendall Lee won one of three matches at the Yakima Tennis Club, defeating Riley Tax of Cle Elum 2-6, 7-5, 6-3. Lee, who competed with 2A Anacortes during the regular season, fell one match victory shy of advancing to the 2B/1B trophy round. Her opening round loss was to eventual gold medalist Avi Sahota of Chewelah.

In Tumwater, at the state 2B/1B golf tourney, La Conner’s Sammy Williams (90) and Corran Eisen (92) fell just below the cut line on the first day of play and didn’t advance. Abigail Udlock narrowly missed the cut in the girls’ bracket.

### La Conner Pub & Eatery, Inc.

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## If I ran the zoo

By MEL DAMSKI



No, my obsession is no longer Donald Trump or the Mariners or preparing to vote for the Oscars. My obsession is BIRDS.

I sit in my hot tub at least twice a day and I am transfixed by the bird feeders that I have in my backyard. The birds scatter when I walk by but I settle down and don't move around at all and they come back in droves.

I've also placed a feeder in my front yard that I can watch while I am sitting in front of the television in my living room.

This has led to a very important decision in my life: I have left God a message that when I die, I will be reincarnated as a bird. Obviously, that is a very important decision and there are many other options, but I will be

very happy as a bird. Why? Because I love to be on the move and birds have an extraordinary ability to fly around and cover a tremendous amount of territory but also settle down in beautiful places, often with amazing views.

They incessantly chatter to each other and have extraordinary visibility that protects them from any threatening consequences. If they get bored or hungry, they have the capacity to travel near or far.

I know God is very busy right now with all of the horrific things happening on our planet, but hopefully he will get my message and off I will go eventually into the wild blue and green yonder.

## MoNA sets 32nd art auction June 8

By Ken Stern

While the 32nd Museum of Northwest Art's Annual Art Auction is at the museum June 8, more than 300 of some 418 pieces of art can be viewed in person in its galleries or online. People are already making silent auction bids for those 388 works of art and another seven special experiences ranging from a glass blowing class to wine, and some pieces have been purchased.

At the June 8 event, 30 pieces will be auctioned live. Additional funds will be raised through the "golden raffle," with the winner getting her choice of almost any art item. The audience, in person and online, will be asked to raise the paddle to "Fund-the-Future"

of the museum, the moment "the museum's future and the future of a thriving community are woven together," wrote Executive Director Stefano Catalani on the auction website.

In his letter, Catalani calls on museum patrons to "celebrate together the extraordinary power of art and creativity to move, change, and transform our lives!"

The theme this year is "spreading our wings," with a butterfly icon as the logo. Attendees may purchase the "butterfly ticket" for \$100 or a "monarch ticket" for \$250. The latter supports a donating artist's attendance at the auction. Those purchasers also get a seat "at a table for a memorable experience." On Monday

two were still available.

All attendees will enjoy a "dazzling evening with artists, delectable oysters, pink martinis and love for art!" In keeping with the theme, they are asked to "trust those butterflies in your stomach, yes it is love!" — of art and the Museum of Northwest Art.

Catalani ends his letter "It is because of your sense of community that makes it possible for MoNA to spread its wings!"

This year's art auction procurement team is Earlene Beckes, Lucy Mae VanZanden and Meg Holgate.

The auction is scheduled for 5-7 p.m. Saturday, June 8, at MoNA. Information: monamuseum.org.

## Skagit County Farmland Legacy 2023 annual report

The Skagit County Farmland Legacy Program is sharing their accomplishments with county residents in their 2023 annual report. It is inserted in this week's Weekly News. The report provides insight into the role of agriculture in Skagit County and how protecting farmland helps us preserve agricultural viability.

After protecting 425 acres of farmland in 2023, Skagit County farmland under conservation easement protection totals 14,700 acres. This includes row crops, seed crops, dairy and cattle operations, as well as silage, hay pasture, bulbs, flowers, and berries.

More than 200 conservation easements on Skagit farmland place permanent restrictions

on future use and development of the land. This is 17% of the 89,000 acres designated Agricultural-Natural Resource in the county.

The 2023 properties stretch from Bow to Fir Island through La Conner.

The 300 acres Alex Ball is stewarding reaches back five generations to the late 1800s. The Ring and Lillquist families manage their 60 acres of La Conner farmland together.

Colleen Fisher's newly protected 40 acres of farmland on Fir Island has been in her family for several decades.

The 25 acres protected by Edison Fields is adjacent to 156 acres they preserved in 2020.

The Skagit County Farmland Legacy Program is one of the most active and successful

farmland preservation programs in Washington state, due to the number of protected acres and the ongoing community and county government support.

For 26 years the Farmland Legacy Program has been a county-funded initiative that compensates landowners for placing a perpetual conservation easement on their land. Landowners retain ownership of their land and continue their farming operations. The conservation easement runs with the land, no matter who owns it. The program's primary goal is to protect Skagit County's vital agricultural productivity.

For information: Program Coordinator Sarah Stoner, sstoner@co.skagit.wa.us; 360 416-1417; skagitcounty.net/farmland.

Source: Skagit County government

### A&E BRIEFS

Mark your calendars for some upcoming fun activities.

**June 5 fun fundraiser for La Conner Fire Association:** The La Conner Fire Association invites everyone to "take over the La Conner Pub & Eatery" from 4-9 p.m. Wednesday, June 5, 702 S. First St. Come out, enjoy a delicious meal with family and friends, and help make a difference in the community. Fifty percent of food and beverage sales and 100% of gratuities will go directly to support the La Conner Fire Department.

**La Conner Live 2024 Summer Concert Series** takes over Gilkey Square every Sunday from 1-4 p.m. through Sept. 8 at First and Morris streets. The lineup

features Utopian Monk Revival, June 2; Adrian Xavier & Ska Island, June 9; Chris Eger Band, June 16; BrohamM, June 23; Full Spectrum, June 30; Joan Penney & Herding Kats Jazz Nonet, July 7; The Fabulous Murphtones, July 14; Lost at Last, July 21; Mojo Cannon, July 28; Billy Appleton Band, Aug. 4; Midlife Crisis and the Alimony Horns, Aug. 11; The Walrus, Aug. 18; Cascadia Groove, Aug. 25; Pacific Twang, Sept. 1; Chris Eger - Richard Williams Invitational Jam, Sept. 8.

**Come to the Celtic Arts Foundation!** All events at Littlefield Celtic Center, 1124 Cleveland Ave., Mount Vernon. Info:

www.celticarts.org.

- June Scottish Music Session: 11 a.m. Sunday, June 2.
- A Celebration of Piping: A fundraising event to support community piping competitions in the Pacific Northwest. Free and open to the public. Door prizes, whisky bar and bagpipe performances from local pipers. Silent auction funds will benefit competitions at the Skagit Valley Highland Games, the Pacific Northwest Highland Games, the Portland Highland Games and the Pleasanton Highland Games. 3 p.m. Sunday, June 2.

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# Master plan

■■■ (from page 1)

conflicts, provide opportunities for recreational land uses and ultimately serve as a model for effective and equitable growth, improved public health and livability policies and built environment improvements throughout La Conner.

The winning consultant will have experience “with intense landscape and urban design, working with multiple stakeholders to coordinate numerous capital projects, developing a signature design that will become integral in the redevelopment of downtown. ... (and have capabilities including) urban planning, civil design, critical areas analysis and public involvement.”

The resulting plan will have four deliverables: a public engagement plan that “effectively gather authentic input ... (and results) in equitable opportunities to provide feedback;” an existing conditions survey consisting of housing profile, an economic analysis and an environmental survey; goal establishment: developing community-based goals for the area based on seven factors; and offering recommendations based on community goals addressing land use; housing and density; open space and pedestrian needs; environmental and sustainability; economic development; and completing the project by Dec. 31, 2024.

Mayor Marna Hanne-man, Town Administrator Scott Thomas and Planning

Director Michael Davolio will be the selection committee evaluating proposals to choose the firms to be interviewed.

A site visit for applicants will be June 4. It is not open to the public.

The RFQ defines the subarea as “Moore-Clarke ... include(ing) derelict buildings.” It is zoned commercial transition. Most of the properties are privately owned by Triton-American LLC, stated Ajah Eills, assistant town planner. The pump station parcel on Caledonia Street is town property.

The grant is federal funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The town’s website contains links to the RFQ: [townoflaconner.org/161/Planning-Permits-Codes](http://townoflaconner.org/161/Planning-Permits-Codes).

# Memorial Day

■■■ (from page 1)

as one, as a family.”

Cladoosby said it was a personal honor to have been asked to read aloud the names of deceased Swinomish veterans, a list that includes John K. Bob, who was killed in action during World War II and for whom the tribal ballpark is named and Cary Bobb, Sr., featured speaker at the tribe’s 1984 Memorial Day service.

“This,” Porter added, “is a day of grief but also a day of celebration. It’s a very emotional day for all of us. It’s a day of reflection.”

Like Robinson, Porter cited the bravery of military veterans who had “looked death in the face.” He said he had heard first-hand accounts of such

service from family elders who saw action in World War II and Korea.

“They remembered their brothers who didn’t come home,” Porter said. “We’ve held onto these memories. We remember what they did for us.”

Former Swinomish Senator Kevin Paul sang “Soldier Boy” and the Swinomish Canoe Family performed an honor song before the tribe’s living veterans were invited forward to accept handshakes and well-wishes.

During the prayer segment of the tribal service an emotional message was delivered by Doug York, who referenced the trauma experienced by surviving combat veterans.

“I’m always mindful of those who gave their lives,” York said, “including those who died in slow

**“This is a day of grief but also a day of celebration. It’s a very emotional day for all of us. It’s a day of reflection.”**

*Brian Porter  
Swinomish Tribal Senator*

motion.”

Remembering the past with reverence while seeking to forge a brighter future were themes common to both Memorial Day programs.

“Behind me are the stones of remembrance,” said Robinson. “In front of me are the living stones. When I look into your faces, I see living stones. I see people who have both a story to tell and a legacy to leave.”

# Literacy

■■■ (from page 1)

Strom and his OSPI colleagues asked the crowd, “How do you define your student’s success that might be different than traditional measurements? What keeps your child engaged and coming to school? Are there cultural ways to help you feel more connected to school?”

Participants chimed in with feedback.

One student said his friends and favorite teachers keep him engaged with their support.

In a nod to outgoing Superintendent Will Nelson, a member of the Blackfeet Tribe, parents and elders said they want to see more tribal teachers, assistants and volunteers in the schools, a tribal student representative on the school board and younger tribal members serving on the elected school board.

“Kids see the value of seeing a tribal member working in the school as a role model,” one parent said.



**TELL US A STORY, MOLLY** — Swinomish children gather around to hear Sovereign Bill, the voice of Molly in the PBS Kids show “Molly from Denali,” read them a story in the Swinomish gym on May 23. — Photo by Kurt Batdorf

Another wanted to see more Lushootseed speakers and an indigenous curriculum for the district. Beth Clothier, La Conner School District’s director of teaching and learning, perked up at the ideas.

“I’d love to get Lushootseed into the elementary school,” Clothier said. She listened intently to the suggestions.

The audience got a useful language lesson when Olivia Bailey, who teaches Lushootseed at La Conner High School, called bingo

using Lushootseed words and their English translations. Players giggled when she called “underwear.”

“You know, what you wear under your clothes,” Bailey said with a laugh.

Rounding out the evening, Sovereign Bill, the voice of the PBS Kids cartoon “Molly from Denali,” read stories to enchanted children. Bill, 19, is the only Native actor who plays a Native character lead on a current television show.

# Wind power

■■■ (from page 2)

hour of energy is about a quarter of the area required for the same generation from a hydroelectric dam. However, the space wind actually requires is much smaller, again because the support post itself takes very little ground area. On the other hand, a hydroelectric dam provides recreational lakes and drinking water reservoirs.

In short, wind energy has high potential to help meet the need for new generation in Washington. Land-based wind energy development is well advanced; over 2,000 megawatts of land-based turbines are already operating. However, the best land-based wind resources in Washington are in the mountains, and in some areas north and

east of Yakima.

Offshore wind has additional potential. The technologies and engineering systems required to install durable wind systems on the ocean floor, to produce energy using the even more consistent winds that naturally occur along ocean coasts, and the additional systems required to take that energy onshore, have long been under development in Europe. They have now been proven commercially. Their costs are falling. These systems are starting to reach the U.S.

There are no major offshore wind farms serving Western Washington yet, but our side of the state has significant offshore wind energy potential. The National Renewable Energy Lab estimates Washington’s offshore wind generation potential to be thousands of megawatts.

The biggest wind resources are off the Pacific coast — a lightly populated area that would require significant transmission line development.

Development in, say, Grays Harbor, won’t address the transmission constraints in the northwestern counties that we discussed last week. However, there is a promising area for wind development, in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, from which power could be developed and brought ashore on Whidbey Island, to help provide new local generation in northwestern Washington.

Successful offshore wind development requires attention to migratory bird routes, siting and construction that minimizes sea life impacts and some attention to visual aesthetics. European experience, particularly, has shown that these concerns can be addressed.

# LEGAL NOTICES

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SKAGIT IN PROBATE**  
No. 24-4-00255-29  
**PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
RCW 11.40.030

**In the Matter of the Estate of CYNTHIA A. MERVYN, Deceased.**

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

Date of filing copy of NOTICE TO CREDITORS with Clerk of Court: 5/9/2024.

Date of first publication: May 15, 2024.

CRYSTAL L. MERVYN  
Personal Representative  
LAW OFFICE OF COLE & GILDAY, P.C.  
By Gregory L. Gilday  
WSBA #366608  
Attorney for Personal Representative  
10101 270th St NW  
Stanwood, WA 98292  
Office: 360-629-2900 or  
FAX: 360-629-0220

Published in the La Conner Weekly News, May 15, 22, and 29, 2024.

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SNOHOMISH**  
In re the Estate of:  
**JERRY R. PARKER, JR., Deceased.**  
NO. 24-4-01086-31  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
(RCW 11.40.030)

The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having claims against decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative’s attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the Personal Representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(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: May 29, 2024

DEVAN C. ROUSH, Personal Representative  
c/o Maren Benedetti, Attorney  
3128 Colby Avenue  
Everett, WA 98201  
425-339-8556

Published in the La Conner Weekly News, May 29, June 5, and June 12, 2024.

**SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON COUNTY**  
No. 24-4-00281-29  
**PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
(RCW 11.40.030)

**In the Matter of the Estate of James E. Monroe, Deceased**

The personal representative named below has been appointed as personal representa-

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

Date of first publication: May 29, 2024

Robert “Skip” Pass  
Personal Representative  
SKAGIT LAW GROUP, PLLC  
MEGAN OTIS MASON-HOLDER, WSBA #29495  
Attorneys for Personal Representative  
P.O. Box 336/227 Freeway Drive, Suite B  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
Published in the La Conner Weekly News, May 29, June 5, and June 12, 2024.

# MOMENTS IN TIME

- On June 10, 1072, Bruget Bishop became the first person executed for witchcraft during the notorious Salem witch trials, after a trial lasting eight days. She had already been accused and declared innocent a decade prior to the hysteria.
- On June 11, 1509, England’s King Henry VIII married the first of his ill-fated wives, Catherine of Aragon. When she failed to produce a male heir, he divorced her against the will of the Roman Catholic Church, triggering the country’s Protestant Reformation. Catherine spent her last years in isolation and continued to consider herself England’s rightful queen until her death.
- On June 12, 2016, Omar Mateen forced his way into Pulse, one of Orlando’s biggest nightclubs, and opened fire with an assault rifle on the predominantly gay crowd. Forty-nine people died and dozens more were injured in what was then the deadliest mass shooting in modern American history.
- On June 13, 1805, having hurried ahead of the main body of his expedition to the Pacific with fellow explorer William Clark, Meriwether Lewis and four other men arrived at the Great Falls of the Missouri River, confirming that the party was headed in the right direction.
- On June 14, 1922, at the dedication of a memorial site for Francis Scott Key, composer of “The Star-Spangled Banner,” Warren G. Harding became the first American president to have his voice transmitted by radio while addressing a crowd. It was not until three years later, however, that a president (Calvin Coolidge) would deliver a radio-specific address.
- On June 15, 1300, poet Dante Alighieri was elected one of six Priors (magistrates) of Florence, Italy, his native city. His political activities, which included the banishment of several of his rivals, led to his exile from Florence and separation from his family for 15 years, during which time he wrote his most famous work, “The Divine Comedy.”
- On June 16, 2012, China launched the Shenzhou-9 space capsule on a mission that included the country’s first female astronaut, military pilot Liu Yang. The crew spent a week at the Tiangong space lab to test systems and conduct experiments.

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**Weekly SUDOKU**

Answer

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

**Super Crossword**

**Answers**

S	I	L	I	C	A	A	L	E	A	P	D	W	I	W	A	N	G		
O	V	I	S	A	C	R	O	U	S	H	E	I	N	O	D	O	R		
R	A	B	B	L	E	T	O	U	R	N	A	M	E	N	T	E	A	S	E
E	N	S	N	A	R	E	D	A	N	O	D	E	T	I	G	H	T		
		B	B	C	R	A	P	T	H	E	M	I	S	S	I	O	N		
D	M	I	T	R	I	C	S	A	M	O	R	E	R	A	M	O	N	A	
O	S	A	K	A	G	O	I	N	G	B	A	U	M	D	O	E			
M	E	D	S	D	A	W	N	A	V	E	N	G	E	R	H	U	N	T	
		B	I	D	F	R	E	A	K	M	O	U	S	E	R				
A	L	P	M	A	S	S	A	G	E	A	R	A	B	B	E	E	T	L	E
B	I	O	L	A	B	P	A	N	E	L	L	E	G						
R	A	M	B	L	E	D	E	G	S	W	H	I	R	R	I	D	E		
A	R	P	L	O	S	S	A	S	H	E	N	P	E	R	O	T			
		C	A	I	N	O	U	T	I	N	G	R	E	P	O	R	T		
S	E	S	A	M	E	A	A	A	I	N	S	I	T	O	N	Y	A		
A	L	E	S	O	F	J	U	S	T	I	C	E	H	M	S				
H	I	L	T	S	E	L	I	M	S	A	E	S	T	H	E	T	E		
A	X	E	L	R	E	A	M	E	D	A	N	D	S	H	O	U	T	E	D
R	I	C	E	A	R	I	A	U	D	I	O	R	M	O	N	D			
A	R	T	S	E	S	T	L	E	A	K	S	T	E	E	N	S	Y		



By Patricia Aqimuk Paul, Esq., Food Editor

### Asparagus and bacon frittata



This is the perfect, easy to prepare breakfast, if you have the ingredients on hand. We don't eat bacon every day. I rotate it in and out of our menus. I rarely have heavy cream on hand, but I was lucky. Asparagus fresh in season is our favorite. This serves two or three.

#### Ingredients

- Asparagus, 4 thick stalks
- Bacon, 1 thick slice
- Onion, two slices
- Eggs, 3 large
- Heavy cream, 1 C
- Ceramic pie dish
- Olive oil, 1 T

#### Preparation

In a sauté pan over medium heat, add the olive oil. Clean asparagus by floating in a bowl of water. Snap off hard end of asparagus and freeze to use

later. Chop asparagus into bite-size pieces. Cut bacon and onion small. Cook bacon, asparagus and onion in olive oil. Do not overcook. Turn off burner, set aside. In mixing bowl, whip eggs and heavy cream. Spread the asparagus mixture into a ceramic or glass pie dish. Pour the egg/cream mix over the asparagus. Bake in a 350 F oven for 30 minutes. Can be refrigerated for one day and eaten cold. We prefer to eat ours warm.

### NOT TO BE MISSED

#### Pacific Northwest Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum Porch Sale.

Fabric, notions, yarns, threads, roving, patterns, books and lots more for quilters and fiber artists at really low prices! 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, June 14, and Saturday, June 15; 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, June 16. 703 S. Second St., La Conner.

### LIBRARIES

#### La Conner Swinomish Library.

520 Morris St., La Conner. 360-466-3352. www.lcilib.lib.wa.us. Open 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. • Storytime for Children. 11 a.m. Fridays. • Tech Help. 3-5 p.m. Mondays. • Dungeons & Dragons Club. 3-5 p.m. Tuesdays. No experience necessary.

#### Mount Vernon Public Library.

315 Snoqualmie St., Mount Vernon. 360-336-6209. mountvernonwa.gov. • Seedling Storytime: 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. For young ones who may be shy. • Board Games: 1-5:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Classic board games for a variety of ages.

#### Anacortes Public Library.

1220 10th St., Anacortes. 360-299-8067. CityofAnacortes.org.

### Submit an event

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

- Family Storytime: 10-11:30 a.m. Fridays. For ages birth to 5, siblings welcome.
- LEGO at the Library: 3:30-5:30 p.m. Mondays.

**Burlington Public Library.** 820 E. Washington Ave., Burlington. 360-755-0760. burlingtonwa.gov/library. • Bilingual Storytime: 10:30-11:30 a.m. Saturdays. For ages 6 and under and their caregivers. Enjoy stories and songs in English and Spanish.

### MUSEUMS

**Pacific Northwest Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum.** 703 S. Second St., La Conner. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. qfamuseum.org, 360-466-4288. Current exhibits: • A Quilted Earth, Marie O'Kelley, through June 2. • New Meditation: Silks & Weavings from Melissa Scherrer Paré and Audrey Ducas,

through July 7. • Word Quilts, Janine Holzman, through July 28.

**Skagit County Historical Museum.** 360-466-3365 or skagitcounty.net/museum. Hours 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday-Sunday. Current exhibit:

- Signs, Signs, Everywhere Signs: The Art of Bob Mortenson features the life and work of local sign maker, graphic artist and painter Bob Mortenson of Mortenson Signs of Mount Vernon. His signs are all over the county. Through Sept. 29.

**Museum of Northwest Art.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, noon-5 p.m. Sunday and Monday. monamuseum.org, 360-466-4446.

### MUSIC

**Ukelele Fun & Song Circle.** Meets 1-2 p.m. Wednesdays, Burlington Senior Center. For more info, email yoga-heartspace0@gmail.com.

**Shelter Bay Chorus.** Meets 4:30-6:30 p.m. Thursdays, Shelter Bay Clubhouse. No auditions. Call Joan at 360-941-7507.

### SERVICE & VOLUNTEER

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

**Swinomish Helping Hands Food Bank.** Food distribution from 2-5 p.m. every Thursday. Non-essentials every first

Thursday. 17444 Sneeh Oosh Road, La Conner. 360-856-2211. helpinghandsfoodbank.org.

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

### MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

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

**La Conner Swinomish Regional Library.** Library board of trustees meets at 5 p.m. second Tuesdays in the library, 520 Morris St., La Conner.

## Super Crossword

### MISS SOUTH CAROLINA

- |   |   |   |                                |                                 |                               |
|---|---|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>   | 46 Leaving                                  | 95 Entry points                           | 5 Region of Italy's "toe"      | 42 "Zounds!"                    | 79 "Finding —" (2016 film)    |
| 1 Quartz, e.g.  | 47 Oz creator L. Frank —                    | 96 2017 film about skater Harding         | 6 Sour in taste                | 43 Gelatin in a petri dish      | 80 "Tell Mama" singer James   |
| 7 Take — of faith                                       | 49 Female rat                               | 97 Supreme Court members' favorite beers? | 7 Longtime Yankee nickname     | 44 See 47-Down                  | 84 Clic — (Bic pen brand)     |
| 12 Imbiber's hwy. crime                                 | 52 Things docs prescribe                    | 100 Royal Navy letters                    | 8 Singer Rawls                 | 47 With 44-Down, big embrace    | 85 Place to buy a leash       |
| 15 Gown designer Vera                                   | 53 Daybreak                                 | 101 Sword parts                           | 9 Ger.'s continent             | 48 "Diana" singer Paul          | 86 Queens' homes              |
| 19 Brood pouch  | 54 Search for a Marvel superhero?           | 102 Some sports rounds, for short         | 10 Very simple                 | 49 Attic buildup                | 87 Novelist Oz                |
| 20 Baseball Hall of Famer Edd                           | 58 eBay action                              | 103 Lover of beauty                       | 11 Ghostly figure              | 50 Like Ogden Nash's "lama"     | 88 Hot cereal, often          |
| 21 German "a"   | 59 Flip (out)                               | 108 Skating jump                          | 12 Myers once of CNBC          | 51 To be, to Gigi               | 89 Punchline drum hit         |
| 22 Smell  | 60 Rodent-catching cat                      | 109 Yelled while using a juicer?          | 13 "You can't — all!"          | 53 More than mere doubt         | 90 Big desert                 |
| 23 Sports contest between two disorderly crowds?        | 61 Rubdown given in a mountain chalet?      | 112 Pilaf base                            | 14 Savings acct. buildup       | 55 Osso buco meat               | 91 Miracle drink              |
| 26 Give relief  | 67 Winged insect native to Iraq or Oman?    | 113 Singer Grande, to her fans            | 15 "Alas!"                     | 56 Film director Nicolas        | 92 Choose                     |
| 27 Trapped  | 69 Setting for petri dishes                 | 114 The "A" of A/V                        | 16 Slowly, on music scores     | 57 Color shade                  | 93 With milk, in French       |
| 28 Negative battery pole                                | 70 List of jurors                           | 115 Actress Julia                         | 17 Have as a snack             | 58 Jezebel's god                | 94 "— sure you know ..."      |
| 29 Fitting snugly                                       | 72 Lower limb                               | 116 The "A" of A&E                        | 18 — Green (old eloping mecca) | 59 — shui                       | 98 Heckles                    |
| 30 Telly network  | 73 Talked on and on about chicken products? | 117 Vermont hrs.                          | 24 Sleuth, slangily            | 61 "— -Ca- Dabra" (1974 hit)    | 99 Give credit where credit — |
| 31 Perform a hip-hop song about a military operation?   | 75 Fan noise                                | 118 Tire problems                         | 25 Jay of "Gary Unmarried"     | 62 Untruth teller               | 100 "— So Shy"                |
| 34 Periodic table creator Mendeleev                     | 77 Use Lyft, e.g.                           | 119 Itty-bitty                            | 29 Despot of old               | 63 Pageantry                    | 103 Uproars                   |
| 38 Singer Cooke   | 81 Dadaist Jean                             | <b>DOWN</b>                               | 31 — to go (eager)             | 64 Mets' gp.                    | 104 Newsman Brit              |
| 39 Mined matter   | 82 Defeat                                   | 1 Very annoyed                            | 32 Church cry                  | 65 Big simians                  | 105 Boys' school in Britain   |
| 40 Kid-lit "pest"                                       | 83 Pale-looking                             | 2 "Terrible" Russian                      | 33 "It just came back to me"   | 66 Comics' bits                 | 106 Some till bills           |
| 41 Cry from a toddler who's dropped a Dairy Queen cone? | 85 H. Ross —                                | 3 Ad- — (wings it)                        | 34 Tragic destiny              | 68 Glittery jewelry, informally | 107 Jacuzzi effect            |
| 44 Present  | 86 Genesis brother                          | 4 13-digit ID in publishing               | 35 Allison of jazz             | 71 Brother in Genesis           | 109 Actress Issa              |
| 45 Port in Japan  | 88 Official account of an excursion?        |   | 36 Apple debut of 2010         | 74 Put on                       | 110 Org. for cavity repairers |
|   | 90 Bagel seed                               |   | 37 Clucks of shame             | 75 Cry feebly                   | 111 Suffix with beat or neat  |
|   | 93 Towing org.                              |   | 38 Clumsy boat                 | 76 Mother chickens              |                               |
|   |   |   |                                | 77 Seized auto, say             |                               |
|   |   |   |                                | 78 De-wrinkle                   |                               |

## CLASSIFIEDS

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### FIND PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 6

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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Back in the day —

# Pitching La Conner in the 1950s

By Bill Reynolds

Strange as it may sound today, there was a time when having a parking problem in La Conner meant more cars were wanted on First Street to spur retail shopping — and when retail meant purchases for home use.

It was also a period when home builders were being actively recruited to develop vacant lots to grow a town census that barely rose above 625 residents.

The year was 1957. Dwight Eisenhower was in the White House.

The space race was launched with Sputnik 1 orbiting the earth. The Fortran computer programming language was created. And the birth control pill was introduced.

Locally, Rainbow Bridge was opened amid formal dedication ceremonies that July. Salmon weighing 50-70 pounds were being caught off Hope Island. Dunlap Towing was conveying logs on Swinomish Channel. Dreams were afloat in and around La Conner of developing permanent moorage along an inviting waterfront for “hundreds of boat owners from as far away as Seattle.”

Economic development beyond traditional resources-related industries such as fishing, farming and logging was being touted for “Little La Conner,” a community whose total payrolls and bank deposits each flirted around \$1 million annually but had “far greater value than all that as a place for pleasant living.”

La Conner’s Chamber of Commerce sought to promote the town’s potential with a glossy 16-page brochure published by legendary Puget Sound Mail Publisher Pat O’Leary and whose orange cover matched the color of the new “scenic bridge” linking the town and Swinomish Reservation.

The arching span, the brochure noted, was already being hailed “as one of the most beautiful bridges in the nation.” It replaced a swing bridge at the west end of Morris Street that opened nearly 5,000 times in 1955 for boat traffic to pass through.

“La Conner’s beautiful new high-level bridge,” the brochure proudly proclaimed, “is on the Scenic Bridge Route which includes colorful bridges across the south and north forks of the



Skagit River and the famous Deception Pass Bridge.

“The Scenic Bridge Route,” the brochure account continued, “offers you views of unparalleled beauty. (There are) scenes of the green farmland of the rich La Conner flats, wooded hills, both peaceful and turbulent waterways, beautiful beaches and picturesque and historic La Conner.”

Nearly 67 years after its construction, Rainbow Bridge is now somewhat faded in daylight but its north side shines brightly at night due to lights installed during the mayoralty of Ramon Hayes, who formerly owned a gallery in the First Street building that previously housed Cecil Glenn’s funky Den of Antiquity.

The Chamber brochure, like the bridge, was made to last. Several copies remain in existence, including the one owned by local realtor Rebecca Chamberlain, who loaned hers to the Weekly News.

With its slick stock cover protecting slick pages bearing numerous black-and-white photos of local scenes and detailed text outlining the history of the town and surrounding environs — including the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community — the brochure sold for 35 cents. The minimum wage in 1957, by comparison, was \$1 an hour.

The booklet’s pages welcome readers to a La Conner which then was the epicenter of the Skagit Valley Tulip Show (held on the school campus the first weekend in May); where plywood fishing craft were produced at the downtown Channel Boat House; and the community’s various enterprises, service clubs

and youth organizations were said to offer a “great place for real living.”

The tulip show, the brochure justifiably boasted, drew “thousands from all over the Northwest” with some exhibits in the old high school gym containing as many as 5,000 blooms.

Among the brochure’s gems are photos of fisherman Al Herrold holding a 62-pound King Salmon caught on the north fork of the Skagit; tribal healer and master carver Andrew Joe dancing in full regalia; 11-man tribal racing canoes on Swinomish Channel; and the original Swinomish totem pole, carved by Charlie Edwards, bearing the image of President Franklin

Roosevelt.

The brochure encouraged visitors to follow “The Totem Trail” to La Conner, platted in 1872 by J.S. Conner and named for his wife, Louisa Ann Conner. In its earliest days, readers learned, the town was site of Washington state Territorial Court sessions and a key point on a planned coastal telegraph line to Europe via Siberia.

The histories of Town Hall, built in 1885 as a bank and the Civic Garden Club, constructed a decade earlier as a Grange Hall, are featured at length. The garden club embraced many uses, including as site of public debates, one of whose participants was Judge Thomas Burke for whom the famed Burke Museum at the University of Washington is named.

Burke, according to the brochure, was not the only luminary associated with early La Conner. Washington governor Henry McBride was active here before his rise in politics.

Yet, for all the town’s history, the brochure’s focus was on the future — one that in hindsight could hardly have been predicted in the 1950s.

Now a bustling and popular destination point and a crown jewel of the Pacific Northwest, La Conner nonetheless must cope with modern issues such as traffic congestion, overflow parking, income inequality, growth management and limited workforce housing.

The vibe was much different in the Ozzie and Harriett years, a generation before La Conner was discovered.

“We invite you to come to La Conner to live,” the brochure offered in a universal plea. “This area abounds with beautiful home sites and pleasant living.”

# POLICE BLOTTER

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## Sunday, May 19

**7:26 p.m.: More loose cows** – Caller said cows damaged a fence and were roaming the yard. The caller was advised to contact the farmer (who’s also the landlord) to fix the fence and recover the cows. La Conner-Whitney Road, greater La Conner

## Monday, April 20

**3:48 p.m.: Possible puppy mill** – At least 20 dogs were found to be malnourished at the location. Animal control is currently investigating. Young Road, greater La Conner

## Tuesday, May 21

**7:42 a.m.: Guess what? Cows loose** – Cattle loose again at the intersection. The farmer was contacted by animal control and advised that one-strand wire was not working and more fencing was needed. The farmer put up two more stands for a 3-wire fence. La Conner-Whitney and Young roads, greater La Conner

## Thursday, May 23

**4:59 p.m.: Lost and found?** – Report of an abandoned vehicle. When the deputy arrived, the vehicle was gone and no longer an issue. Best Road at North Fork Bridge, greater La Conner

## Friday, May 24

**8:12 a.m.: More lost and found** – Report of a black Audi abandoned near the intersection. A deputy arrived and found the car had no license plates and

the VIN code had been scratched from the dash, door and engine block. Vehicle was impounded and believed to be stolen. Fir Island and Best roads, greater La Conner

**10:25 a.m.: What’s loud and fast?** – Report of a white Subaru with a loud muffler driving over the speed limit on Maple. Deputies have been working the area and several citations have recently been written. Maple Street, La Conner

**1:46 p.m.: Fighters flee** – Report of a fight on the Rainbow Bridge between two males. Both subjects left prior to law arrival and the call was transferred to Swinomish Tribal Police as it happened on the north side of the bridge.

**5:50 p.m.: Still loud, still fast** – Another report of the speeding white Subaru. Deputies are watching the area and trying to locate the driver. Pioneer Parkway, La Conner

**7:14 p.m.: Gotcha** – Another report of the Subaru yielded a license plate number. The deputy was able to leave a message for the owner about the complaints of speeding and to slow down. Laurel Street, La Conner

## Saturday, May 25

**8:37 p.m.: Suspicious barking dog** – A caller reported a barking dog near a barn. The caller thought this was suspicious as nobody should be in the area. A deputy checked the barn and found it secure with no dog around. McLean Road, greater La Conner

# Preparedness

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

we can,” Geer said.

He noted that Swinomish each summer hosts annual preparedness fairs where emergency kit items acquired through grants and “hard money that the tribe provides” are disbursed to the public.

The kits are important, stressed Geer, because “emergencies are not always short-lived.”

Cleary agreed. “Most stores have three days of stock on hand,” she said. “If a bridge shuts down for a week, you’ll have shortages.”

Geer and Cleary urged their audience to develop and regularly practice home emergency and escape plans.

“You aren’t prepared until you make a plan,” Geer said. “But a plan is no good unless you practice it.”

Geer said an evacuation plan should designate a family meeting area. Those with two-story homes would be wise to install roll-out ladders. Pet owners should know the locations of pet-friendly shelters.

Geer and Cleary also advised getting to know one’s neighbors and becoming aware of their spe-

cific health care needs in advance of any emergency.

Geer said severe windstorms are this area’s most common disaster scenario. “It’s what we can expect every year.”

But wildland fires increasingly worry him.

“At Swinomish, we live in 12 square miles of woods with just two exits,” he said. “If you think it’s easy when everyone’s trying drive out at the same time, you’re wrong.”

The wildland fire threat is real.

“We’re just now coming up on wildland fire season, but about three weeks ago we had six wildfires pop up in the eastern part of the county and it was only mid-May,” he said.

Geer will start a supervisory position with the Skagit County Department of Emergency Management next month, making Cleary the “go-to” person for emergency management at Swinomish. She has an extensive background in emergency management, transportation planning and code enforcement.

Geer will remain active locally as a Swinomish Police reservist. He likewise will discuss emergency management issues here when available.

“I’m a nerd on this stuff,” he said. “I can talk about it all day long.”

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