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Cruising into the holiday season



A NIGHTTIME PARADE ON THE WATER – Christmas music and loud exchanges of “Merry Christmas” could be heard across the water as this year’s boat parade made its way down the Swinomish Channel, bringing light and cheer after sundown.

– Photo and text by Nancy Crowell

Boat parade lights up channel and town

By Max Drews

“There are a lot of unique things in La Conner that you can’t get anywhere else,” noted Mark Hulst, director of the La Conner Chamber of Commerce last Thursday. The Swinomish Yacht Club’s annual lighted boat parade may be at the top of Hulst’s list.

Once again, the town found every parking lot occupied, every restaurant full and, perhaps, every hotel room booked as evening descended and people from across the region crowded the boardwalk on the Swinomish Channel ahead of the 6 p.m. parade start.

The Chamber’s first time investment in TV advertising in King and Pierce counties may have played a role in increasing day visitors. For overnight stays, Hulst said visitors will book rooms one year in advance so that they are assured a space in their favorite hotel.

By 5:30 p.m., as Hulst predicted, spectators started filling space on the boardwalk. Ten minutes before six the last parade boat made its way to the northern end of the channel and ten minutes after six a police boat turned on its lights and flashed its siren to let everyone know the 2022 parade was underway. The Swinomish patrol boat led the parade with its own version of Christmas lights: red and blues.

The boats that followed were decorated with string lights, inflatable Christmas icons and more (Santa, Snoopy, trees, a fishing pole and its fish) and perhaps the most precious ornament of all: people. From all along the boardwalk everyone could see that beyond the decorations, just one pane

of glass further, the boats were full of families and friends. It was a night of spectacle for La Conner and its guests, but it was for the parade’s participants, also.

This mutual perspective elevated the evening from a show to a total-participation event. “Merry Christmas” was thrown freely between the water and the land. Cheers went both ways. Boaters stood on their decks and waved as they passed.

One of the boats clearly hosted a full party. It passed, sending out many wordless shouts and hollers. “Come over and pick us up!” one woman on the boardwalk called out. Two separate boats’ occupants started a back-and-

forth chant of “Ho-ho-ho” with the audience. Elizabeth LaRance, a Shelter Bay resident, ran to one of the floating docks to compliment a boat before it got away. She took pictures and shouted her praises to it before it got too far. “I love it, it’s beautiful. This is such a great community,” she commented

Towards the end of the line, in a tone that indicated some simple, genuine curiosity, a boater called from his observation deck: “Do you guys all live in La Conner?” At least half of the crowd shouted “Yes!” And in the ensuing break of silence, one woman said “No, I don’t.”

(continued on page 8)

November very cold, pretty wet

By Ken Stern

A lot of rain last month, 5.6 inches, and plenty cold: the daily minimum of 31.5 F was 6.5 F below the 22 year century average. That is a huge difference. The daily average, 38.4 F, was 5.6 F below the century average; and the daily high, 46.6 F, was 4 F below that average. Only 2005 was colder, when the daily average was 34.4 F and the daily average high a mere 40.6 F.

Five minimum daily temperature records were set, early, Nov. 2, Nov. 9, then mid-month. Nov. 18-20, at 23.2 F, 23.9 F and 25.1 F, the last of nine frost morning, eight with temperatures below 29.0 F.

It frosted 17 mornings. Only

twice was the morning low above 41 degrees.

The high topped 50 degrees six times. Nov 4 was the warmest and wettest day, starting out at 43.1 F, going up to 55 F.

Almost half the month’s 5.6 inches of rain fell that day, 2.4 inches. It rained 3.3 inches Nov. 2-4, then another 0.5 inches Nov. 7-8. That’s 67% of the month’s precipitation the first week. The month ended wet: six days of rain, bringing 1.3 inches.

Rainfall was an inch above the century average but 3.5 inches below last year’s record 8.2 inches, when it rained 24 days.

This year: 17 days it rained. Five years since 2015 there has been at least 5.6 inches of rain. Ten

(continued on page 3)

Avian flu hits waterfowl around La Conner, Fir Island

By Anne Basye

Larry McCormick has been seeing a lot of dead birds.

“You drive around Best, Calhoun, Bradshaw, you see them,” said the La Conner resident, an avid hunter. “At one farmer’s field with goose decoys out, I picked up 14 dead geese. A guy I know counted 81 dead ducks in a ditch on Best Road. It’s bad.”

In a Dec. 8 release, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife confirmed that it has retrieved more than 700 deceased birds of several species – primarily juvenile snow geese – from the Skagit Bay shoreline between Fir and Camano Islands. Samples from these birds are being tested for the H5N1 strain Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza bird flu.

By Monday, WDFW had collected 800 birds, said DFW wildlife biologist Robert Waddell, who is based at the La Conner office. Besides mallards, swans and geese, they include one great blue heron and scavengers like short-eared owls. An eagle collected recently tested negative for bird flu.

“There is lots of uncertainty about the impact to scavengers, where this might jump,” said Waddell.

HPAI was recently confirmed in a raccoon and there are concerns about coyotes. Waddell says the agency has “been scrambling” to pick up as many birds as possible to lessen the chance for avian or mammalian scavengers to contract bird flu.

WDFW is monitoring hot spots on the Fir Island Farm Reserve, the dike and the public walkway.

“We can’t even respond to all the reports coming in,” he said. “We have heard from boaters and hunters who have seen numerous dead geese along the shoreline or beach. We are also responding to inland reports on farms, little ditches and other spots where there can be quite a few birds.”

Sick and dead waterfowl have been reported in Whatcom and northwestern Snohomish counties and on Camano Island and Port Susan in Island County.

Ailing snow geese are often alone and disoriented, says McCormick. Usually swans move away when people approach. Sick birds don’t.

“Three geese I saw across from Christianson’s let me get within 10 feet of them. They tried to fly and couldn’t.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control, since early 2022, more than 49 million birds in 46 states have either died as a result of bird flu virus infection or have been culled (killed) due to exposure to infected birds.

The last time avian flu struck the United States, (continued on page 8)



THIS FLU IS FATAL – Dead geese can be seen along the roads on Fir Island. WDFW has its hands full cleaning up dead birds.

– Photo and text by Nancy Crowell

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Fire District Meeting –

FD 13 permitting for new housing almost done

By Bill Reynolds

If patience is indeed a virtue, Skagit County Fire District 13 Commissioners and staff at manufactured home retailer Coach Corral have certainly earned their way onto Santa's nice list this year.

Commissioner John Doyle reported tangible progress in a lengthy permit process for the addition of a modular housing unit at the Sneec-Oosh Road station at the panel's meeting Dec. 8.

"It's been a rocky road with the permit process," Doyle acknowledged, citing "bureaucratic stuff" and changes in the floor plan to three bedrooms and an office from four bedrooms.

"Coach Corral has been real patient with me," he noted, "They've made some revisions and we got resolution yesterday. We're in full compliance now."

Doyle said the major sticking point was accessibility, necessitating wheelchair ramps. Personnel compensation and

the much-anticipated launch of a district community paramedicine program were also covered at the commissioners' monthly hybrid meeting.

"We're all aware of inflation and its impact," said Commission Chair Bruce Shellhamer. "First and foremost for me is that we take care of our people to the best of our ability."

The district has twice increased compensation for its "shiffters" to remain competitive with neighboring departments.

Fire Chief Wood Weiss said fire officials from Tulalip recently shared insight into starting a community paramedicine program here.

"They gave us a lot of good pointers," district medical officer Drew Farrell confirmed. "It was a helpful meeting. They gave us information on how to get a program up and running, so we're on the right track."

Weiss said the district paramedicine project expects to benefit from grant funding.

"When the grant comes through," said Weiss, "it will

allow us to move forward with full-time positions."

Emergency management head Ted Taylor and Good Morning, District 13 coordinator Gary Ladd stressed the importance of maintaining a HAM radio network should the La Conner area be hit with an earthquake, tsunami or other disaster.

"When you have a major catastrophic event like the ones Ted frequently talks about, the internet, cell phones and power all go down," Ladd said. "When that happens, one of the key areas for emergency services is communication."

Ladd suggested all full-time personnel be trained as HAM operators.

Shellhamer and Weiss agreed. Taylor advocated for the public to log onto mil.wa.gov/alerts to learn how to program cell phones to automatically receive emergency preparation and response information.

Weiss reported the district is on pace to log over 1,350 service calls this year.

Tim Eyman must pay \$5.5 million for campaign violations

OLYMPIA — A Washington state appeals court Dec. 6 upheld virtually all of the ruling against initiative promoter Tim Eyman in the campaign finance case brought by Attorney General Bob Ferguson.

After a 2021 trial, a Thurston County Superior Court ordered Eyman to pay a civil penalty of \$2.6 million. The court also ordered Eyman to pay \$2.9 million to cover the state's costs and fees associated with investigating and prosecuting the case. Eyman subsequently appealed, resulting in today's decision.

The judge ruled that Eyman intentionally committed "numerous and blatant violations" of Washington's voter-approved campaign finance laws. On multiple occasions, the state caught him illegally and intentionally concealing hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions that ended up in his personal bank

account. "Yet another court determined that Tim Eyman engaged in an intentional conspiracy to conceal political contributions and kickback payments to himself," Ferguson said. "We appreciate that the Court unanimously upheld the overwhelming majority of the trial court's ruling, including affirming Eyman's numerous egregious and intentional violations and keeping in place key court orders to make it harder for Eyman to engage in future illegal conduct. Importantly, the Court of Appeals ruled that the state is the 'predominantly prevailing party' in this appeal. Consequently, the court ordered Eyman to reimburse the costs we incurred responding to his appeal. This is in addition to the \$2.9 million in attorneys' fees he must already pay, which the Court of Appeals upheld."

Source: Washington Attorney General's office

Port Townsend recognizes legal rights of southern resident orcas

By Bellamy Pailthorp, KNKX Public Radio

A growing legal movement seeks to recognize the rights of nature. Activists in the Northwest are celebrating a first here: the city of Port Townsend, Washington, recognized the inherent rights of Southern Resident orcas Dec. 5.

The City's mayor signed a proclamation Monday night, urging action by local, state, federal and tribal governments to protect those rights – and the ecosystems on which they depend.

"Whereas the Southern Resident Orcas are culturally, spiritually and economically important to the people of Washington State and the world ..." the declaration begins.

It states that despite legal pro-

tection for nearly 20 years, the population continues to decline. The species is critically endangered, with only 73 individuals left in the wild. And it says their rights: "include, but are not limited to, the right to life, autonomy, culture, free and safe passage, adequate food supply from naturally occurring sources, and freedom from conditions causing physical, emotional or mental harm ..."

Kriss Kevorkian is one of the activists who worked to make it happen, together with the Earth Law Center. She's the founder of Legal Rights for the Salish Sea and has been working to establish rights of nature in Washington for six years. She said the Port Townsend proclamation is "historic" – even though she admitted it's more

(continued on page 8)

Wearing masks indoors recommended again

Communities in Washington and nationwide are experiencing an unprecedented surge in viral respiratory illnesses, including respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), influenza and COVID-19. As a result, local emergency departments, urgent care clinics and walk-in clinics are severely strained and many have reached full capacity.

"I recommend that everyone wear a high-quality, well-fitting mask when around others in indoor spaces to protect yourself and others" says Dr. Leibbrand, Skagit County Health Officer. "As a reminder, N95s and KN95s provide you the best protection."

Health professionals recommend those with symptoms of COVID-19, Influenza, or RSV stay home and to test for COVID-19 if showing symptoms.

New COVID-19 variants are taking hold and immunity from past vaccination is waning for many people who have not received an updated booster shot. In western Washington, the surge in these viruses is resulting in many illnesses, with a record number of schools reporting more than 10% absenteeism this fall.

This impact extends to businesses, workers, families and our entire community. Everyone eligible for the

COVID-19 updated booster needs to get it now.

Everyone six months and older needs to be vaccinated against COVID-19 and flu. Those eligible for an updated COVID-19 booster can go to Skagit County Public Health for a no-cost, no insurance required COVID-19 vaccine.

Schedule COVID-19 updated booster appointments at prepmod.doh.wa.gov/appointment/en/clinic/search; 360-416-1500. Order free COVID-19 at-home test kits at sayescovid-hometest.org/.

Find a flu vaccine provider at vaccines.gov.

Source: Skagit County Public Health

Rain. . . (from page 1) times since 2011 at least 4.7 inches came down.

Novembers are historically wet in the 21st century. At least 3.5 inches of rain has fallen 16 years. More than four inches of rain fell 12 times. In nine years, over five inches fell and six inches or more has fallen five times.

Five years this century less than 3 inches of rain has fallen. Two of those years were 2019-2020.

The area is still 2.8 inches of rain below average for the year against the century average, 10%, at 25.7 inches.

There is no data for 2003. Measurements and data are at Washington State University's Mount Vernon weather station on Memorial Highway.

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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@skogithomene.org.



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Rain Report: November

Rain last week,
Nov. 27-Dec. 3: 0.8"
Rainfall in Nov: 5.6"
Number of rain days: 16
Least rain, one day: 0.01", 3 days
Most rain, one day: 2.4", Nov. 4
Least rain: 1.61", 2000
Most rain: 8.15", 2021
Average rainfall, 2000-2022: 4.5" *

* No data, 2003.
Data from WSU Mount Vernon.

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High school girls' hoops team wins three

By Bill Reynolds

Just a handful of games into its schedule, the high school girls' basketball team is already in mid-season form.

La Conner passed crisply, defended and rebounded tenaciously, repeatedly scored in transition and executed its high post-low post half-court offense to near perfection in an impressive 73-57 non-league triumph over 4A Skyline at Landy James Gym Saturday.

Ellie Marble scored a game-high 25 points, Makayla Herrera registered a double-double and Josie Harper tallied 17 points – including a pair of perimeter treys – as the team improved to 5-0 going into last night's scheduled non-conference home battle with 1A King's of Shoreline.

La Conner's double-digit win was even more impressive given the quality of its opponent.

"They're really good," head coach Joe Harper said afterward. "They can really shoot, especially from the corner. And they're the first team that's come out and tried to press us."

His team handled Skyline's backcourt pressure with little difficulty, though, committing just two turnovers in the first quarter and only five by halftime, at which point the Lady Braves had built a nice 38-24 cushion.

The hosts received strong contributions from their freshman backcourt tandem of Maeve McCormick and Shaniquah Casey.

McCormick finished with eight points, two rebounds and an assist. Casey drilled a three-pointer and dished off three assists, just one fewer than Josie Harper, who also notched four steals for the winners.

Skyline had issues all night matching up inside with Marble and Herrera.

Marble converted 10 of 15 shots in the paint and earned multiple trips to the foul line, where she knocked down five of nine free throws. Herrera was seven of eight from the floor and hit four of six charity tosses for 18 points and grabbed a game-high 13 rebounds.

La Conner broke open a close contest with a 17-2 run bridging the first and second quarters. Marble and Herrera combined for 15 of the 17 points, a spurt highlighted by a deft scoop shot in traffic by the 6'-0" Marble.

Skyline managed to cut its deficit to nine at 31-22 but the Lady Spartans got no closer. The home team closed out the half with a 7-2 spurt capped by a deep trey from Harper off a feed by Marble.

La Conner was coming off equally convincing victories

earlier in the week over non-league foes Blaine and Jackson.

The Lady Braves crushed 1A Blaine 69-20 on the road behind 24 points from Harper. Marble and Herrera also landed in double figures and Casey and McCormick contributing six points apiece.

La Conner thumped 4A Jackson 75-31 at home as Harper and Marble combined for 58 points and Herrera posted nine points and eight rebounds. Casey and McCormick rounded out the Lady Braves attack with four points each.

Kennedy Miller reeled in five rebounds and had a pair of assists for the victors, who meshed 29 of 56 shot attempts, including six of 17 beyond the trey arc.

La Conner resumes non-league play tomorrow, Dec. 15 with a 7:15 p.m. tipoff at Kamiak. The Lady Braves are scheduled at North Kitsap Friday at 6:15 p.m. and visit Mount Vernon Christian for a rare 3 p.m. matinee date on Saturday.

Boys' team scores

The boys' team stood at 2-4 in pre-league action following a 50-21 home loss to 1A Meridian and two-game split of road tests at Auburn Adventist and Rainier Christian. The Braves fell 62-50 to Auburn before rebounding to edge the Mustangs 44-39 Friday night.

4 netters named All-State

Marble voted 2B volleyball player of year

By Bill Reynolds

Another week, another slew of post-season honors earned by the state 2B champion La Conner High School volleyball program.

As expected, senior outside hitter Ellie Marble, who led the Lady Braves to their fourth state title in five years, was named the 2B Player of the Year.

The 6'-0" Marble is a top Central Washington University volleyball recruit.

She dominated play at the 2022 State 2B Tournament in Yakima last month, totaling 92 kills and 101 digs and was 68 of 72 on serve receive over four matches at the SunDome.

Marble is joined on the 2B All-State first team by teammate

Makayla Herrera, a 6'-2" senior middle blocker, also a major force at the net.

That's not all.

Senior middle blocker Josie Harper and junior outside hitter Morgan Huizenga garnered All-State honorable mention recognition.

In another non-surprise, Suzanne Marble got the nod for state 2B Coach of the Year.

A member since 2015 of the state coaches Hall of Fame, Marble has guided La Conner to seven state crowns over the course of her 30-year career here.

All-State recipients were selected by the state coaches association.

Girls' youth basketball places second in league tournament

By Bill Reynolds

They took silver, but La Conner Middle School players in the Skagit-Whatcom-Island-Snohomish-Hoops league girls' basketball tournament here Saturday were good as gold in the eyes of coaches Robert Hancock and Jamie Lam.

The local team, comprised of seventh graders, advanced through a double-elimination bracket before falling to an eighth-grade entry in the finals of the SWISH championship tourney.

La Conner got off to a strong start with a convincing 42-20 win over Sedro-Woolley.

"I think this group has a pretty good story," Hancock told the Weekly News. "We started as third graders in a fourth-grade league and lost all our games. We even had a game we didn't score a point.

Through it all, the fun has never been separated from the game's fundamentals.

"We've had over 20 girls play on our teams and allowed any

girl who wanted to play," said Hancock.

Saturday's roster featured Maicy Bowles, Annika Keith, Olive Klingler, Finley Hancock, Reese Bird, Nora McCormick, Abi Poulton, Kiona Jenkins, Jacqui Lam and Aisley Zimmerman.

"They run an offense and play hard," Hancock said. "Skills instruction is really important, but the big thing is to just let them play."

Players rotated in and out of the lineup as they tired while playing a fast-paced tempo marked by defensive pressure, steals and transition baskets.

The strategy worked up until the championship round.

"We ended up playing a team with eighth graders that was just better than us," Hancock allowed.

Still, good news abounded.

"Our 5th/6th and 4th grade teams won their league tournaments," Hancock said. "This is the first year we've had three teams competing at these levels."

Volleyball champions Team of the Month

By Bill Reynolds

The La Conner High School state championship volleyball team is truly in a class of its own.

The netters were selected the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association Team of the Month for November among all 2B athletics programs in the state.

"It's an incredible group that worked so hard to improve every

day and their hard work and determination paid off by capping their 2022 season with a state title," said head coach Suzanne Marble.

La Conner captured league, district and state crowns during the fall campaign. The team's seniors – Josie Harper, Makayla Herrera, Ellie Marble and Kennedy Miller – claimed their third state championship in four years, missing out only in 2020 when no state tournament was held due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The school has held the state 2B volleyball title since 2018.

The Lady Braves have also been champions in the classroom, coach Marble noted, posting a team academic grade point average of 3.7 out of a perfect 4.0.

The WIAA and Les Schwab Tire Centers monthly recognizes a varsity team for each of the state's six enrollment classifications. Team of the Month recipients are chosen based on academic and athletic performance plus service to their respective communities.

As a winner, the volleyball team will receive from Les Schwab a commemorative trophy and \$100 donation.

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La Conner School District, THE BRAVES

There are many volunteer opportunities in our district:

The La Conner School District deeply values partnerships with the Swinomish Tribal Indian Community and the Town of La Conner. We also value relationships with our community members. In continuing to develop relationships, we wanted to connect you with our amazing students, families, and staff through opportunities to volunteer. Some of you may already be volunteering, and we are grateful to you for lending your support. For those of you who have the time and interest, we would love to have you join us:

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- With athletics or clubs
- In an elementary classroom
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- During recess or at lunch
- In concession stands
- As a tutor in middle or high school

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La Conner history book launched at museum

By Bill Reynolds

Few people knew La Conner history as well as the late Thomas Robinson. Thanks to his exhaustive research and the editing magic of Carl Molesworth, the town's early development is between a book's covers.

Robinson's voluminous manuscript, "Steamboat Town," which Molesworth, John Kamb, Jr. and other members of the Skagit County Historical Society's publications committee have pored over for about a decade, was launched in book form last Thursday.

Kamb moderated the informal evening program at the Skagit County Historical Museum, where copies of the book are available for purchase.

He shared highlights of Robinson's life and career. Robinson's parents farmed near the intersection of Avon-Allen and McLean roads and befriended his family.

He recalled, "My great-aunt Margaret grew up with Tom and I always looked at him as 'Uncle' Tom even though they weren't married."

Kamb said Robinson was "very intellectual" and would go on to serve in the U.S. Foreign Service and as a professor at the University of Maryland.

But La Conner and Skagit County remained much on Robinson's mind.

He chose La Conner as his retirement home, taking up residence in a condo unit near Sacred Heart Catholic Church and started work on "Steamboat Town" between teaching gigs at Skagit Valley College.

He emphasized the early stage of La Conner's settlement, a time when commercial water transportation on Swinomish Channel was king.

"I read through the original draft," said publications committee chair Dan Berentson, "and what I thought was a powerful part of the book is how it follows the money during the industrial age. The steam engine, railroads and transportation in general were taking off. I thought it was a realistic take on what was happening in La Conner. The initial speculators here were keen on maritime transportation. In

the meantime, the railroad got to Mount Vernon."

In "Steamboat Town," Robinson also chronicles in the detailed style of novelist James Michener landforms and geological features in and around La Conner, including an explanation why the current in Swinomish Channel flows primarily from south to north.

It references early downtown businesses and some of the characters who frequented the waterfront during La Conner's formative years.

Kamb said the "Steamboat Town" manuscript ran about 1,000 pages. Upon his death, Robinson bequeathed the lengthy, unedited version of the book to the museum on condition that it be published, said Kamb, retained as personal representative of the author's estate.

"We thought the material was edited and concise," Kamb related. "It wasn't."

Enter Molesworth, an author and retired newspaper editor. He was tasked with transforming the manuscript into a leaner volume more user friendly for a general readership.

"Carl did a great job," Kamb said.

"It was a very academic work," added former Skagit County Pioneer Association President Dan Royal. "I feel terrible that Tom died before he could see it printed. He was a really good guy and left us a great legacy with this book. People are always asking about the history of La Conner's early days."

Berentson said a strength of "Steamboat Town" is that it presents a realistic rather than nostalgic perspective of historic La Conner.

That doesn't surprise Kathy Brosnan, a student of Robinson's at SVC. His command of facts was unrivaled, she said.

"You could ask him anything," said Brosnan, "and he would talk and talk. The information that he had was amazing."

And what Robinson knew of La Conner he has shared in perpetuity.

Kamb, for one, plans getting the word out ASAP via his holiday shopping list.

"It's really good stuff," he said of the book, "and will make a perfect Christmas gift."

Local choir concerts commence



'TIS THE SEASON FOR SINGING, AND SWINGING, TOO – Friday and Saturday the Shelter Bay Chorus (top) performed their annual holiday chorus at their community's clubhouse. The 31 member chorus sang 13 songs to the theme of "Peace on Earth." Last Wednesday the La Conner Schools middle and high school choruses and band played to a full auditorium of family, friends, teachers and fellow students. Music Director McKenzie Clark led the middle school symphonic band, above. They played selections from their band method book.

– Photos by Ken Stern, top, and Madoc Hiller

Karla Bonoff holiday concert at Lincoln Theatre

By Marissa Conklin

Stroll down to the Lincoln Theatre in Mount Vernon next Thursday, Dec. 22 at 7:30 p.m. to attend a holiday live music concert from world renowned musicians Karla Bonoff and Livingston Taylor.

Their performance, titled "Home for the Holidays," will feature Christmas classics, songs from Bonoff's latest compilation album "Silent Night" and both musicians' greatest hits.

Bonoff grew up in Los Angeles, California playing various instruments. At 15-years-old she was already a songwriter

looking to pursue a career in music. Bonoff said she fell into this path because of her interest in playing guitar and growing up in an entertainment-centered city like LA.

"It was the right place and right time," she said.

Bonoff is known for writing hit songs for famed artists, including "Tell Me Why," covered by Wynonna Judd; "Isn't It Always Love," covered by Lynn Anderson and more. Bonoff also wrote music for movie soundtracks, including 1984's "Footloose" and "About Last Night," released in 1986.

During the COVID-19

pandemic, Bonoff recorded her holiday album "Silent Night." She knew it would be "fun to go out and play songs from the album" when the world opened back up. After its release in November 2021, she hit the road.

Having a long and sustainable career touring for over 40 years, Bonoff has performed at many historical venues. She revealed her most memorable venue was playing at the Colonial Theatre in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, in the Berkshires. It was built in 1903.

For tickets for Bonoff and Taylor, visit lincolntheatre.org. More information about Bonoff is at karlabonoff.com.

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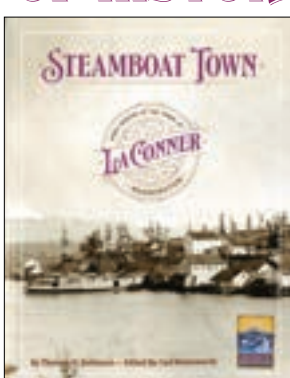
Early History of the Town of La Conner
By Thomas H. Robinson

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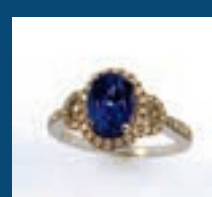
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and
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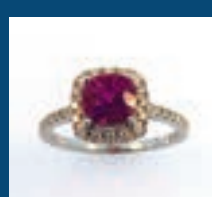
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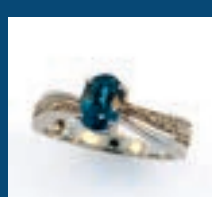
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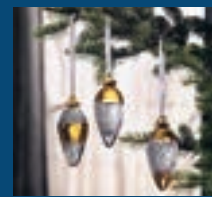


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Beaver Tales Coffee Celebrates Anniversary

Beaver Tales Coffee & Tea, Coffee with a Tlingit Kick!!!

Beaver Tales Coffee celebrated the one-year anniversary of its retail coffee shop, tea house and cultural gift shop at 602 Morris St., on November 18, 2022 with an open house and community thank you event. "What an incredible year it has been! We could not have done this without the people of La Conner and our loyal customers and friends. We are truly blessed to live and work in this community. Our vision for this space has come to life and it is growing! It is so exciting to see it all come together, and we have big plans for 2023," said Owners Michelle Calvin, Ah Dah Neik, Adopted Tlingit and Tony Cladoosby, Spah Kia Kud, Swinomish Tribal Member.

Beaver Tales Coffee ships fresh locally roasted coffee and indigenous merchandise nationwide and to Canada. They offer FREE delivery of roasted coffee and merchandise in Skagit County and now offer a coffee subscription service, loyalty rewards program and free coffee rewards. See their offerings at BeaverTalesCoffee.com.

Beaver Tales Coffee has been serving customers in Skagit County and nationally since

April 2019. This new location has allowed them to enhance their offerings and bring their services to a broader customer base. The company offers a wide range of products and services designed to honor the spirit in which the company was founded. They feature fresh roasted coffee, blended teas and authentic indigenous artwork and products. They promote local artists and are planning educational programming and workshops for the upcoming year. They recently launched a new podcast series in partnership with Meyer Sign – Tales of the Magic Skagit called Beaver Tales. This is a podcast series by, and about, the first peoples of the Skagit Valley and discusses topics related to indigenous culture and how we may bridge the gap between the first and new peoples living on this land we call home. The series is co-hosted by Michael Boss, the producer of Meyer Sign's "Tales of the Magic Skagit," along with Michelle Calvin and Tony Cladoosby, the co-owners of Beaver Tales Coffee in historic La Conner, WA.

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