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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

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,

This mutual perspective elevated the evening from a show to a totalparticipation 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

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

"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

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

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 et 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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From the editor —

This newspaper's for you

This is the last week of sending the Weekly News to every address in the La Conner School District. This annual subscription drive is an economic venture: La Conner News Publishing, LLC is a single person corporation, owned by its publisher. The Weekly News is a business, aiming to be profit-making. It is not its owner's "boat," not a hobby business.

What an odd duck industry newspapers are. Back in 1789 newspapers were so essential, so vital to the fabric of the nation that our Founding Fathers wove them into the Constitution, the only private, profit-making capitalistic enterprise named, and placed first, part of the First Amendment.

There in the middle is this, joined with citizens' right to say what they please, no "abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press." The whole thing:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. The first addition made to the Constitution was to enshrine

the right to participate, to say and write what is on our minds and thus to dissent. We are obligated to be critical thinkers, to assess, evaluate, promote better decisions and solutions and insist we be listened to. That is the press' job, along with you, the people. What trust to

take in forming a nation's government, to enshrine criticism and dissent into the governing documents. Life is dynamic and change comes through thoughtful criticism

and the courage of one's – the masses, actually – convictions. The Weekly News is the only Skagit County newspaper with its own editorial voice, weekly sharing its analysis of issues in your backyard and in front of your governments, school boards and homeowner associations.

The Weekly News does not ask for agreement, but engagement and participation. It wants that between residents, elected officials, boards of directors and professional staffs.

The Weekly News trusts its readers, siding with Thomas Jefferson. He wrote:

"Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter. But I should mean that every man should receive those papers and be capable of reading them."

On the editorial page the publisher can be way too serious. On every page the purpose is to provide information to the community for the community's own benefit, be it town budgets, sick birds, concerts at the Lincoln Theatre, boat parades or any of a

In 1789 and 1989, newspapers were the internet of their day. But then came the 21st century and the real internet, the future of all of us, transforming our lives in ways large and small.

Newspapers, which depend on their readers, are no longer the sole source of information. Are they the best source? This newspaper does not provide tomorrow's tide chart or weather forecast and if you ask it a question it will not respond, unless you call the office. The Weekly News aims to be a trusted source, an ethical

source and always a local source. And, like the art museum, it is a curated source. Everything you read is here on purpose, with you the reader in mind. The Weekly News' future depends on trusting that every per-

son is "capable of reading" these pages and understands their value to themselves, their neighbors, children and community – communities. This newspaper's for you. If you are not a subscriber, take a

chance on your future and consider becoming one.

– Ken Stern

Losing newspapers in state continues

By Ken Stern

When newspapers close, communities lose and democracy

It is happening in Washington state. A new study by the League of Women Voters of Washington is blunt: "Local newspapers are in crisis." Since 2004 over 25 weeklies and three dailies have closed, roughly 20% of the state's newspapers.

The impact on communities readers and nonreaders – is significant. Citizens are "experiencing an explosion of mis- and disinformation, creating significant challenges for public health officials and others. Coverage of government agencies and elected officials in Washington has dropped significantly, as well."

The report, "The Decline of Local News and Its Impact on Democracy," echoes national studies, finding with newspaper closures a "the loss of the souls of communities and the glue that holds communities together. When newspapers close voter participation drops. There is "less community engagement and greater political partisanship."

"This is not a journalism problem. It's a democracy problem,"

concludes Benjamin Shors, from Washington State University's Edward R. Murrow College of Communication.

The study contrasts social media with journalism, which provides "information that features a systematic discipline of verification. That verification not only presents facts, but it presents the truth about the facts."

Good newspapers provide beat reporting, or "accountability reporting," an "in-depth and continuous reporting on city councils, county councils or county boards of commissioners, health departments, schools and the like." This is "the work of holding the powerful accountable," says the American Press Institute

The League calls newspapers a valued institution, serving the public good, as are libraries, public education, public health programs and the justice system.

The 133 page study is rich in examples, interviews and specific working solutions. It looks at philanthropy, non-profits and state and federal legislation as approaches to fixes.

Read at lwvwa.org/resources/ Documents/Studies/LocalNews/ Decline%2036.pdf.

A Citizen's View –

Habitat for Humanity builds homes to solve housing crisis

By Tina Tate

In February of 2022, I took the CEO position at Skagit Habitat for Humanity after working for eight years in homeless services. I had once been homeless and hopeless myself. I joined Habitat because I felt like I could make more of a difference by helping with the root causes of homelessness rather than just providing a band-aid. Homelessness is a housing issue. In November of 2013, I bought my very first home and it changed my life forever, so I know what a blessing being a homeowner is.

Affordable housing has been at crisis levels for several years. In the U.S. alone, 1-in-7 families spend half – or more – of their income on housing, a level deemed severely cost burdened. In Skagit County there are few empty apartments: the rental vacancy rate is zero percent and rents are up to levels never seen before.

The housing market to purchase has climbed to levels so that most people in our community cannot afford to own a home. These are people that you see every day when you go shopping or eat at a restaurant or get your pet groomed because they are the people that are working in these places. They work at the grocery store, restaurants, retail and hospitals. The area median income is over \$75,000 per year and even folks earning that much are unlikely to be able to purchase a home in today's market. Most of the residents in Skagit County do not earn near that amount.

We help families in our community that have

jobs and work hard and still can't afford rent or home ownership. Skagit habitat for Humanity can make the dream of home ownership a reality for people that are considered low income. We serve folks that earn between 30-60% of the area median income (AMI). Sixty percent of AMI is \$45,000 per year. That is considered low income.

At Skagit Habitat for Humanity:

- We partner with the new homeowners to build their homes (yes, they build too).
- We assist them in financial matters regarding the purchase of their home (yes, they buy them). • We provide them with a support partner to
- walk them through the whole process and provide support for a year or more.

• They must have a good credit score and have a good debt to income ratio.

• They must have stable employment.

There is an affordable housing crisis in Skagit County and Skagit Habitat for Humanity can provide a solution. We are pushing to build more houses than ever. We hope to have 12 built by mid-2025 but land is hard to come by. We hope to work with cities on acquiring land and provide affordable homes for their residents and people that work in their city, so people don't have to commute as far as they have been to get to work. It is what creates a healthy and thriving community.

Habitat's 41st Home Dedication Ceremony is 2 p.m. Sunday at Channel Cove, 938 Park Street. RSVP for parking instructions: 360-420-3649; volunteer@skagithabitat.com.

An all-electric future without oil is possible



By Greg Whiting

Let's update the energy independence question: Is it possible for the U.S. to develop and maintain stable supplies of energy, which are not subject to significant price volatility or the whims of foreign governments, and which are simultaneously low enough to maintain a modern, growing society?

Yes. It is a convenient truth that doing so would also substantially reduce America's carbon footprint.

Eliminating the economic ups and downs caused by volatile oil prices; achieving security of energy supplies; and realizing well-publicized environmental goals can all be accomplished, as follows: Minimize the direct use of fuels extracted from the earth, especially oil, which is particularly subject to price volatility and vagaries of global politics. Replace them with renewable heat sources and electricity, including electricity produced with extracted fuels when such electricity is cost-effective. When gas or liquid fuels are required, work towards using biofuels, or fuels manufactured using lowcost electricity.

Electricity can be produced using several feedstocks: sunlight, wind, moving water, geological heat, garbage, biofuels, uranium or thorium, coal, gas or oil. If one feedstock, like oil, suddenly becomes expensive, the industry can move to the others, usually with small price changes, because the generation system is overbuilt for almost all hours in a year and usually has spare

Utility regulations today allow competition between wholesale generators. American utilities can buy energy on a competitive market from the lowest cost producer. Computers capable of fast grid management and less expensive energy storage systems, are enabling utilities to incorporate low-cost, but variable and intermittent, solar and wind power while maintaining reliability.

Solar and wind generation costs have fallen by 90 to 99% over the last 50 years. Solar generation panels now cost less than \$1 per watt, down from over \$100 per watt in 1973. Rechargeable battery costs have fallen more than 90%. In 1973, lithium-ion batteries didn't exist. Today, they cost less than \$200 per kilowatt-hour, which sounds expensive until you consider the fact that they can be charged and discharged thousands of times.

Batteries, or hydrogen produced by using low-cost electricity to split water into hydrogen and oxygen, can provide electricity for cars, trucks and trains. Boats and ships also have the option of using sails and thus being powered, at least in part, by wind.

Lubricants, plastics and fuels like gasoline, diesel and kerosene can be manufactured without oil by using the Fischer-Tropsch process, which combines water, coal or plant mass and electricity to synthesize hydrocarbons. The U.S. Air Force has shown that modern airplanes can fly using such synthesized fuels.

At 1973's low oil prices and high electric costs and in the absence of modern rechargeable batteries, fast computers and hydrogen fuel cells, none of the above made economic sense. Today, though, some of these strategies do make economic sense and cost trends favor the others. Wind, solar and battery combinations have recently won competitions with proposed fossil fuel plants to supply power 24 hours a day, because the renewable projects have offered lower costs.

Oil won't disappear overnight; this transition will take decades to complete. Replacing existing buildings and vehicles, or synthesizing their fuels will take time. Fischer-Tropsch fuels usually do not make economic sense yet. However, they are likely to become economic. Oil is becoming more expensive and off-peak electricity is becoming less expensive.

Habitat and Channel Cove ceremonies

Everyone is invited to attend Skagit Habitat for Humanity's 41st home dedication ceremony 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18 at 938 Park Street in Channel Cove. Walk over or get parking instructions by RSVPing to 360-420-3649 or volunteer@ skagithabitat.com.

The three-bedroom duplex volunteers have renovated is one of five homes in the 25 unit Channel Cove complex Skagit Habitat controls separately from Skagit Home Trust, the community land trust managing the development.

Skagit Home Trust invites people to attend a groundbreaking ceremony 3 p.m. Dec. 20 for five homes it is constructing on the north end of Channel Cove.

Past plans called for Grandview Construction building 1,300 square feet, three bedroom, two bath homes

Completing the development near Caledonia Street and Maple Avenue has been delayed since 2019, derailed by the coronavirus pandemic and the economic troubles in its aftermath: labor and material availability and costs and inflation.

Home Trust of Skagit has owned the Channel Cove neighborhood since 2011. Its Mount Vernon properties are the Summerlynd neighborhood and some scattered housing.

As a community land trust, Home Trust of Skagit, owns the land underneath the homes.

Christmas choir concert this week

The Skagit Valley Chorale winter concert, "Heralding Christmas" is Saturday, Dec. 17 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 18 at 2 p.m. at McIntyre Hall. You can purchase tickets online at mcintyrehall.org.

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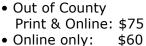
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Fire District Meeting –

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 Snee-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

"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 "shifters" 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

"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

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. Leibrand, 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 symp-

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 appointmentsvatprepmod.doh.wa.gov/appointment/ en/clinic/search; 360-416-1500.

Order free COVID-19 athome test kits at sayyescovidhometest.org/.

Find a flu vaccine provider at vaccines.gov.

Source: Skagit County Public

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)

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-

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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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:

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



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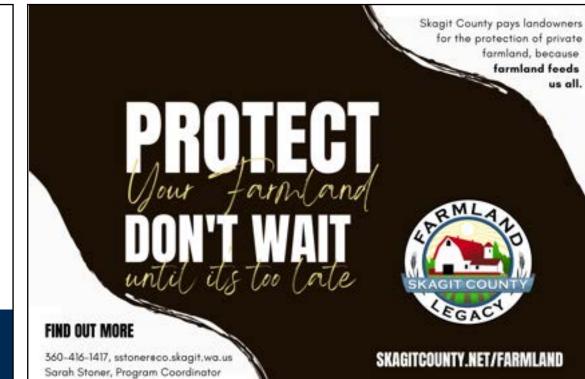
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La Conner School District Five-Year Plan

By Will Nelson, Superintendent

The 2022-23 school year is Year One of our Five-Year Plan that includes the following focus areas detailed below: Equity, Social-Emotional Learning, Universal Design for Learning, and Professional Learning Communities.

Equity - Our Equity Policy gives us the means and direction for providing support to each and every one of our students. We are in the process of creating a team that will help build the Equity Procedure (the specific tasks and activities that we undertake as a district to uncover and address inequities) that supports our Equity Policy. This policy is the foundation for everything we do as a district in support of students: "Our collective belief is that all students have limitless potenital and that together, we can create the conditions for all students to succeed" (Board Policy 0600).

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) - Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) creates structures to identify and assist students through increasing interventions depending on their level of need. There are three progressive tiers of support for addressing student needs, each focusing on attendance, social/ emotional well-being, and academics. As part of this work, we have adopted a new K-8 SEL curriculum, Caring School Community, that promotes intentional conversations around social and emotional learning. We are also engaging in Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) that helps students create and understand a framework of expected behaviors and accountability for the unexpected behaviors.

Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is a framework to improve and optimize teaching and learning for all. The framework focuses on three principal areas: 1) Engagement, 2) Representation, and

3) Action and Expression. Our UDL implementation plan is designed to address inequities we see in trend data; UDL helps teachers identify and remove barriers that may contribute to these disparities. As part of this work, we are identifying essential standards that every student will know and be able to do as they progress through the grades in our district.

Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) create structures and provide tools that allow teachers to collaborate professionally in support of each and every student in our district. Through PLCs, teacher teams can spend time really digging to get to the root of individual learning needs and support. PLC structures guide teachers to utilize common assessments aligned with essential standards to see where additional learning and reteaching needs to take place in order to develop the connections to prior learning and to increase academic growth.





Profile of a La Conner Learner

attended a recent webinar from the State Board of Education, she was intrigued by the work they were sharing: a document entitled "Washington State Profile of a Graduate." She noticed right away the connection betweeen this document and our districtwide areas of focus for improving student learning outcomes. She shared this document with our instructional leadership team. We started to talk about what we might want in our La Conner Graduates. A few weeks later, we brought this open-ended question to the staff: "By the time they graduate, all La Conner Learners should be able to..." and asked them to begin to define what values, dispositions, and attributes they thought all students at La Conner should have.

As a staff, we looked at the State Profile of a Graduate and took those ideas into consideration. We reviewed our State and National standards that we use as the foundation of our teaching. And, we also encouraged folks to think about our values as a district and as members of the Town of La Conner, the Swinomish Tribe, the Skagit Valley, to incorporate things that are unique to our diverse community of learners. We asked students to contribute, gathering lists from kindergarten through high school. The result is a wide-ranging list of values and attributes

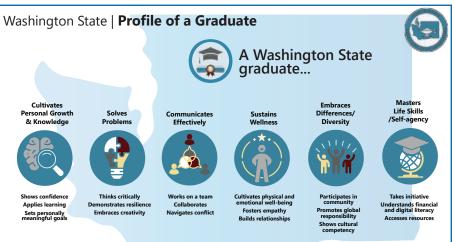
from a multitude of voices around the district. However, our Profile of a La Conner Learner cannot be completed without community involvement and input. So, we have taken this question to the La Conner Co-op Preschool, and to the Native American Parent Advisory Council (NAPAC) for their thoughts. We have two meetings scheduled this winter (see Upcoming Events list) at which we will ask for community input and feedback to answer the same question: what values,

By Beth Clothier, Assistant Director of Teaching and dispositions, and attributes do you feel all students at La Conner should embody? We hope you'll join offer suggestions for values we should consider for When Secondary Principal Christine Tripp in this discussion and help us create a Profile of a inclusion in our profile, we encourage you to join Graduate that speaks to our local community.

Creating this list is only the beginning of this process for us. Once we define our profile and the 6-10 attributes that we all agree on as our "shared outcomes" or what we want every single student at La Conner to be working toward, then the hard work begins. Our next step will be for each grade level and each content area to align their standards to these values. For example, if one of our shared outcomes is "communicates effectively," then at all grade levels and in each of the content areas, teachers should be able to identify which learning standards are most critical to helping students achieve that goal.

Our goal for this work is this: once we define what values we want to instill in our La Conner Learners, then we can align our essential standards to each of those attributes, and align our lessons to those standards. Everything that we teach is therefore taught with the intention of helping students achieve this vision of them as a learner.

If this vision (our list of values) is clear to us, to students, to families, and to our community, then everything we do becomes more coherent and cohesive, providing multiple supports to help guide each student to become their best version of a La Conner Learner.



If you'd like to contribute your thoughts and us at either of our upcoming LCSD Community Voice Outreach Engagement gatherings: January 26, 2023 at 6:30 PM (Swinomish Youth Center) and Febraury 8, 5:30 PM (Maple Hall). Alternatively, you might consider offering your ideas through our online form: https://bit.ly/3HbheXA (Case sensitive). If you have any questions about the Profile of a La Conner Learner, please reach out to Beth Clothier, Assistant Director of Teaching and Learning, at bclothier@lc.k12.wa.us or 360-466-3171.

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 16, 9:00 AM School Board Study Session
- Dec. 18, 2:00 PM 6:00 PM Class of 2025 Gift Wrapping Fundraiser - MS Gym Dec. 19, 6:30 PM - Native American Parent
- Advisory Committee Meeting (NAPAC) Swinomish Social Services staff room/Zoom Dec. 20 - Candy Cane Brunch AM. Early Release
- Dec. 21, 2022 Jan. 3, 2023 No School Winter

at 11:40

- Jan. 4, 2023, 6:30 PM NAPAC Swinomish Social Services staff room/Zoom Jan. 5, 5:00 PM - CTE Meeting with EDASC -
- Zoom CTE Director Tanya Houle Jan. 9, 1:00 PM - School Board Study Session
- Jan. 9, 6:00 PM Booster Club Meeting
- Jan. 19, 7:00 AM Candid Conversations and Community Coffee with LCSD @ Beaver Tales Coffee
- Jan. 23, 5:00 PM School Board Meeting
- Jan. 26, 6:30 PM LCSD Community Voice Outreach Engagement Meeting @ Swinomish Youth Center, 17275 Reservation Rd.
- Feb. 1, 6:30 PM NAPAC Swinomish Social Services staff room/Zoom
- Feb. 8, 5:30 PM LCSD Community Voice Outreach Engagement Meeting @ Maple Hall

Little Braves' Preschool Finding Success

By Ellen Benetti, PreK-12 Speech and Language

in student behaviors. For example, a student recently enrolled in the Little Braves' Preschool had no previous preschool or daycare experience. The student's family was concerned, a common response when a child starts school! On the first offer students a spot at our Little Braves' Preschool. day of preschool, the student cried the whole day and attempted to run away multiple times. When observed this week, the same student participated in play with his peers, circle time, breakfast, and followed verbal prompts to get his coat and line up. This is incredible growth in such a short amount of time. Preschool has provided a safe space for this student to learn basic student behaviors and how to be a part of a school community. If this student had missed the opportunity for preschool, I fear that his behaviors would have been similar to that first day as he entered kindergarten and he would have required immediate special education support and a self-contained classroom.

Another success of the preschool program is the transition from Individualized Family Service One of the major successes is the growth Plans (IFSPs) to Individual Education Programs (IEPs). If a student is receiving services through SPARC on an IFSP, they must transition to an IEP and join the public school system prior to their third birthday. With these transitions, we are now able to Previously, the school district has been responsible for finding a preschool program that would support a student's IEP and they would receive therapeutic services individually. Serving students within the preschool program of their own community is a more child-centered and naturalistic approach to special education services. There are four students at the Little Braves' Preschool that will transition from IFSPs to IEPs this fall.

A third success of the preschool program is the quick identification of students that might require special education services and implementation of early intervention. Best evidence-based practice supports early intervention for future school success.



We are now identifying students before they enter kindergarten and using early intervention to reduce the impact of delays and disabilities, so when they enter kindergarten they are more successful. This preschool also offers relief for families struggling with understanding child development and food

We applaud the work of the Little Braves' Preschool and appreciate the care for our youngest

2022-23 District Budget

22-23 BUDGETED EXPENDITURES



| = LOCAL TAXES |
|---------------------------|
| LOCAL NON TAX SUPPORT |
| STATE, GENERAL PURPOSE |
| = STATE, SPECIAL PROGRAMS |
| FEDERAL IMPACT AID |
| FEDERAL, SPECIAL PURPOS |
| ■ OTHER |
| |

22-23 BUDGETED REVENUES

| EXPENDITURES | 22-23 BUDGETED EXPENDITURES |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| CERTIFICATED SALARIES | \$4,952,720 |
| CLASSIFIED SALARIES | \$2,126,101 |
| EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS | \$3,032,787 |
| PURCHASED SERVICES | \$2,429,708 |
| SUPPLIES & MATERIALS | \$1,773,333 |
| TRAVEL | \$83,701 |
| | \$14,398,350 |

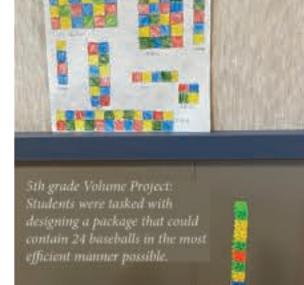
| 22-23 BUDGETED REVENUES |
|-------------------------|
| \$980,98 |
| \$1,146,49 |
| \$5,962,99 |
| \$2,306,29 |
| \$2,173,18 |
| \$1,166,34 |
| \$119,70 |
| \$13,856,00 |
| |

Math Gets an Update

When La Conner students returned to school in September, every student in the district was presented met the desire of our teachers to have a K-12 math with new math programs starting in kindergarten program that was not only rigorous and coherent, and ending with Algebra 2. The reason for the change but also built true mathematical understanding. was two-fold. One reason was lackluster math test The new approach is already having an impact in scores and the second was our desire to help students classrooms. When I visit classrooms, I see students quickly make up ground they might have lost during remote learning. As a result, in the 2021-22 school year, a committee consisting of K-12 teachers, administrators, and community members researched current curricula with the goal of finding programs that were high quality, standards-based and would provide coherence across all the grade levels. After countless hours of research, examining our current math data, discussions with the local experts, visits to other schools, input from teachers, and field-testing with La Conner students, the team recommended to the School Board a trio of math programs be adopted for implementation in the La Conner School District: implement each with fidelity; we believe we're already Bridges from Math Learning Center for grades K-5, seeing improvements in student understanding and

By Jan Auman, Math Teacher on Special Assignment Associates for grades 6-8, and Reveal from Houghton Mifflin for our High School.

All three programs were chosen because they working together on real-world tasks that help them understand why math works the way it does. The new approach allows students to understand and utilize more than one pathway to the correct answer. This model is helpful for kids who aren't naturally predisposed to math because it allows them to figure out answers in their own way rather than memorizing procedures that they struggle to comprehend. It's also proving to be effective for students who do well with the traditional approach because it is pushing them to understand why formulas work. The new math is demanding - teachers are working hard to i-Ready Classroom Mathematics from Curriculum appreciation for math.



Braves' Club

By Marlene Brenton, Braves' Club Director

There is never a dull moment at the La Conner Braves' Club. The students have been busy with candy cane experiments, colorful crafts, games galore, fun fitness challenges, 5 fun facts, On this Day in History, and STEM projects. In January, we will add Spanish lessons, sign language, and cursive writing! Join us for another month of amazing activities!

Can't join us but want to help? The Braves' Club is always seeking volunteers to share their special talents such as teaching chess, photography, culinary arts, martial arts, science, engineering, tech, or be welcomed in the club as a guest speaker. Another avenue to assist the club is to offer monetary support. The La Conner Braves' Club Fundraising Council is now non-profit which make donations to the council tax deductible! This year's goal is to raise 166K through tuition, concessions, levy dollars, grants, and community donations. 100 % of the tax -deductible donations to the LC Braves' Club Fundraising Council directly benefit the Braves' Club. For more information on volunteering or donating, please contact Marlene Brenton at 360-399-1921.

Skagit Budding Birders: Students learned about migration, species, and the importance of birds in the Skagit Valley.



eSports Seeks Gamers

By Liz Baun, High School Math Teacher and eSports

Students: if you enjoy playing video games, then this is the (e)sport for you! We compete with schools across the state to determine who is the best at video games. Last year, our Rocket League team, filled with freshmen only, leveled up from club play to Varsity within the first few weeks, going against powerhouse schools that had previously made it to the State Tournament. We made it all the way through to the Semi-Finals and walked away with 4th place in State in our first official year competeing in eSports. This year, we are hoping to compete in the Finals! We are offering Rocket League again this year, and also offering Ultimate Smash Bros, and would love to have more players! The pre-season starts on January 15th; students must sign up by December 16th. We have competitions every week beginning in February. Talk with Ms. Baun or Ms. Croghan in the office if you are

P.O. BOX 2103. LA CONNER, WA 98257

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 midseason 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

Ellie Marble scored a gamehigh 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 La Conner High School

team is truly in a class of its own.

state championship volleyball

The netters were selected

the Washington Interscholastic

Activities Association Team of

the Month for November among

all 2B athletics programs in the

"It's an incredible group that

worked so hard to improve every

By Bill Reynolds

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

McCormick finished with eight points, two rebounds and an assist. Casey drilled a threepointer 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

La Conner was coming off equally convincing victories

Volleyball champions Team of the Month

earlier in the week over nonleague 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

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 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

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

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 Klinger, 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

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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.

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 school has held the state

2B volleyball title since 2018.

The Lady Braves have also

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.



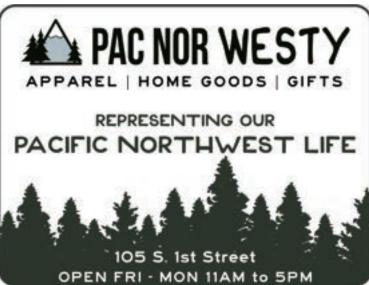
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La Conner School District, THE BRAVES

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:

- On committees, such as District Advisory Committee, Career and Technical Education, General Advisory Committee, and others
- With athletics or clubs
- In an elementary classroom
- In our building offices
- At the Braves Club
- As a greeter at our front doors at the start of school
- During recess or at lunch
- In concession stands
- As a tutor in middle or high school

We would love to see more volunteers in our schools making connections with our communities. You can find the volunteer handbook and application on oui website: lcsd.wednet.edu/Page/2311





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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

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

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."

La Conner history book | 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

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. at karlabonoff.com.

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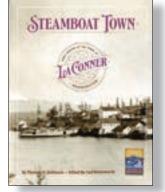
Early History of the Town of la Conner By Thomas H. Robinson

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Flu. . . (from page 1)

50 million birds died in 21 states. But over twice as many states have been affected this time.

Locally, juvenile snow geese seem to be the hardest hit.

"Avian flu is a disease that all waterfowl live with," said Waddell, "but juvenile snow geese don't have the resistance that adults have. This highly pathogenic strain can do a lot of damage to adults as

"It's tough to see and not an ideal situation, but we have a robust snow goose population and as a department we are not concerned about an overall negative impact."

WDFW says that bird flu spreads among birds through saliva, nasal secretions, feces and contaminated surfaces. It is not easily

transmissible from birds to

While the agency recommends that people not handle sick or dead birds, "if you have a bird in your yard and don't want your pet or child getting exposed to it, then wear gloves and dispose of the bird in a black plastic garbage bag," said Waddell. "Discourage your dog from picking up a dead bird or running up and grabbing a sick bird."

WDFW says that for hunters, waterfowl and other birds that appear healthy or are actively flying likely present minimal risk but should be cooked thoroughly before consumption.

Goose hunting opened again Dec. 10 and will remain open until Jan. 29. McCormick plans to keep hunting – but he will only hunt for adults.

"I won't have anything to do with the juveniles,'

Parade...

(from page 1)

Once the last boat passed and floated down towards Shelter bay, the crowd broke and people quietly found their ways back to their cars or dinner tables. The La Conner Pub & Eatery had turned out the indoor lights closest to the waterside for the benefit of their patrons' view. But despite the boats' eventual encore as they returned north, the Pub's lights came back on.

Orcas...

consciousness than

anything else, for now.

"It's recognizing that

to thrive and that we are

we all have inherent rights

all connected," Kevorkian

"It's not new. This has

we're just following. We're

indigenous and native wis-

dom. It's like this wakeup

call that people are finally

We definitely need to start

The hope is that more

cities and counties and

eventually the state will

If more governments

recognize the rights of

orcas, that could lead to

policy changes, Kevorkian

said. These might include

Snake River, to provide

more of the salmon that

by KNKX: knkx.org/en-

vironment/2022-12-07/

port-townsend-recogniz-

es-legal-rights-of-south-

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ern-resident-orcas

orcas need to survive.

dam removal on the Lower

Published Dec. 7, 2022

adopt similar legislation.

catching on. Oh, yeah.

respecting nature."

been around forever and

finally catching up to

(from page 3)

about shifting

"They're coming back! They're coming back!" a voice outside said just moments after the crowd had dissipated.

This was "the quintessential night for family and friends," reflected Daniel Castillo, a father and a teacher at La Conner School District.

The line of traffic leaving town was long and lit red and packed from the for some time. In a backwards way, perhaps it's a

roundabout to Nasty Jack's

good omen for next year's turnout.

Moving? Email



AGENDAS

MEETING NOTICE TOWN OF LA CONNER PLANNING COMMISSION Tuesday, December 20, 2022 6:00 p.m. Location Lower Maple Center 104 Commercial Street, La Conner, WA And by Zoom. Information below and on the Town website

Agenda 1. CONVENE

2. PUBLIC COMMENT (Topics not otherwise on the Agenda) - Time Limit 3 Min-

3. MINUTES Approve minutes from the

October 18, 2022 meeting 4. OLD BUSINESS Status Report: 306 Center

Street 5. NEW BUSINESS Staff Presentation on 2023-

2025 Comprehensive Plan Update 6. CLOSING COMMENTS Meeting ID: 871 6250 5257

Passcode: sL9k04

Friday, December 16, 2022 Regular Board Meeting 9:00 a.m. District Office Board Room and Zoom - 9:00 a.m. 1. Opening Items

A. Call to Order - 9:00 AM

B. Flag Salute

C. Roll Call

D. Approval of Agenda

2. Consent Agenda A. Approval of Minutes

B. Accounts Payable and Payroll

C. Personnel Actions D. Contracts, Agreements,

Other 3. Public Comment

4. Action Items

A. Election of Board Officers

Resolution No 23-05 Wahkiakum SD Financial Assis-

5. Discussion Items

A. Reader Board B. Financial Update

C. Review WSSDA Self As-

sessment Survey Results 6. Closing Items

A. Board Member Reports B. Future Meetings Listed

C. Adjourn info@laconnernews.com **Prepare GENERAC®** for power outages today WITH A HOME STANDBY GENERATOR \$0 MONEY DOWN + LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS





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Weekly SUDOKU -

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Super Crossword

Answers D I V I D E R BEDMATE SENSOR ATOMIC EMPEROR CAROLCHANNING T B I L I S I M A R C I A C R O S S O N E I L L O M A H A H Y D E J A N C L A Y T O N N A M A T H A R M E N I A N A R Y I T O R I S M I N E E Y E P I E C E C I N D Y C R A W F O R D A L S A S A A K I T A A A T A R I A A T A EMO GREGMORTENSON P A R T S K 1 M O V A Y E A I S L A A L E C G O P H E R S G O S E E K P E T E R L O R R E B O A S M A R D I T O A T E E B O B B Y V I N T O N A L I C E W A L K E R A S N I T

Answers to December 14 puzzles

Facebook

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NOTICE OF RECEIVERSHIP SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHING-TON, COUNTY OF SKAGIT Commercial Aircraft Interi-

ors, LLC, No. 22-2-00860-29. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on November 15, 2022, Turnford Restructuring Group was appointed as General Receiver for Commercial Aircraft Interiors, LLC, whose last known address was 1415 Pacific Drive, Burlington, WA 98233. Counsel for the Receiver is Christine M. Tobin-Presser, 601 Union St., #5000, Seattle, WA 98101. In order to receive any distribution, should funds become available, you must submit a proof of claim no later than January 18, 2023. A Proof of Claim form may be obtained by request to Paula Sutton at psutton@bskd.com and when completed, must be emailed to psutton@bskd.

Published in the La Conner Weekly News Dec. 14, 21, 28,

WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY No. 22-4-00597-29 PROBATE NOTICE

SUPERIOR COURT OF

CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030) In the Matter of the Estate of

Alice Marie Kammenga, Deceased. The personal representative

named below has been appointed as personal representative 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 as-

Date of first publication: December 14, 2022 John E. Kammens

Personal Representative SKAGIT LAW GROUP, **PLLC**

LAURA MINTON BRECK-ENRIDGE, WSBA #16140 Attorneys for Personal Representative

P.O. Box 336/227 Freeway Drive, Suite B Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Published in the La Conner Weekly News Dec. 14, 21, 28, 2022.



LEGAL NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY Estate of

Charles Elmer Brown, Deceased Probate No. 22-4 00588-29 Dated: November 23, 2022. PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS

(RCW 11.40.030) The personal representa-

tive named below has been

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

DATE OF FIRST PUBLICA-TION: December 7, 2022 PR: /S/ Gale Hickok Address

TORS with the Clerk of the

Court: December 6, 2022

of PR 1301 Riverside Drive, Mount Vernon, WA 98273 Attorney: William G. Knudsen WSBA #6064

Published in the La Conner Weekly News Dec. 7, 14, 21,

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASH-INGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SKAGIT IN PROBATE No. 22-4-00577-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.40.030 In the Matter of the Estate of MILDRED JUNE LANDRY,

Deceased.

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

11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets. Date of filing copy of NO-TICE TO CREDITORS with

Clerk of Court: 11/21/2022. Date of first publication: November 30, 2022.

Richard Torset Personal Representative LAW OFFICE OF COLE &

GILDAY, P.C. By Robert R. Cole WSBA #10936

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 Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 2022.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY DWANE E. PORTER & STEPHANIE L. PORTER,

ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN CLAIMING ANY INTEREST IN OR TO THE SUBJECT REAL PROPERTY

h/w Plaintiff vs.

Defendants. No. 22-2-00832-29 SUMMONS BY PUBLI-CATION

THE STATE OF WASHING-TON TO: ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN CLAIMING ANY INTEREST IN OR TO THE SUBJECT REAL PROP-ERTY, Defendants: You are hereby summoned to

appear within sixty days after the date of the first publication of this summons, to wit, within sixty days after the 9th day of November, 2022, and defend the above entitled action in the above entitled court, and answer the complaint of the plaintiffs, and serve a copy of your answer upon the undersigned attorney for plaintiffs at his office below stated; and in case of your failure so to do, judgment will be rendered against you according to the demand of the complaint, which has been filed with the clerk of said court.

The object of this action is to quiet title to certain real property, located in Skagit County, Washington, and described as

That portion of the platted alleyway appurtenant to Lots 1-6 inclusive, and that portion of the platted alleyway appurtenant to Lots 28-31 inclusive, Block 19, "TOWN OF McMURRAY, SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON", as per the plat thereof recorded in Volume 2 of Plats, page 107, records of Skagit County,

EXCEPT any portion thereof that may lie within the rightof-way of the P.S. Pulp & Timber Co., a Delaware corporation, as conveyed by the English Lumber Co., a Washington corporation, by instrument dated January 1st, 1945 and recorded November 3rd, 1948 under Skagit County Auditor's File No. 424512.

(P75144 & P75146) DATED: November 2nd, 2022.

CRAIG SJOSTROM #21149 Attorney for Plaintiff 1204 Cleveland Ave. Mount Vernon, WA 98273 (360) 848-0339

Published in the La Conner Weekly News Nov. 9, 16, 23, 30, Dec. 7, 14, 2022.

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By Patricia Aqiimuk Paul, Esq., Food Editor.

Persimmon Pecan Bread

Persimmons are remarkably easy to work with. The skin remains firm

as you scoop out the pulp. Tasty, too, when ripe. I prepared the bread

pan by my tried and true method. I use shortening and apply with my

Cut the top of the persimmons and scoop out the pulp. Four

persimmons creates about one and a half cup pulp. Add to a

the sugar. Then the eggs, one at a time. Then the vanilla and

blender and purée. For the next steps, I used a stand-up mixer.

the persimmon purée. When mixed, turn off the mixer. Next, in a

separate bowl, sift together the flour, salt, baking powder, baking

Gently stir the flour mixture in with the wet ingredients. Add the

pecans and stir until just mixed. The bread pan is greased with

shortening. Put the bread batter into the bread pan. Bake at 350 F

for two hours. Beginning at one hour, I checked it every half hour.

Once I took it out of the bread pan by turning it upside down on a

back into the bread pan. It split in half. I managed to pick up both

halves and the center pieces that broke off; and put back in the

rack. The center was not done. So I tried flipping it, with my hands,

bread pan. The bonus of that happening is I could clearly see when

AqiimuksKitchen@outlook.com

soda and cinnamon. Remove the mixing bowl from the stand mixer.

Put butter into the mixer bowl and soften. On a low setting, I added

This is a rich dense bread and takes a good long while to bake.

fingers, covering the corners well.

Butter, ¾ cup, room temperature

Ingredients

Eggs, 2

Vanilla, 2 tsp

Flour, 2 cups

Salt, ½ tsp

Preparation

Persimmons, 4 ripe

Sugar, 1 and ½ cups

Baking soda, ½ tsp

Cinnamon, 1 tsp

Baking powder, 1 tsp

Pecans, 1 cup chopped

Aqiimuk's Kitchen

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Complete Events Calendar on laconnerweeklynews.com

NOT TO BE MISSED

Fidalgo Dance Works.

Winter Celebration. Dec. 17, 6-7:30 p.m. at Brodniak Hall, 1600 20th St, Anacortes. More info at fidalgodanceworks.org.

Bellingham Vegan Winter Market.

Dec. 18, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at 1213

Cornwall Ave, Bellingham. Food, holiday gifts, raffle, and more. More info at bellinghamvegfest.org.

ART & THEATRE

GalleryW.

101 N 1st St, La Conner. 360-265-2374. galleryw.art

Exhibit: "Connected" featuring Sherry Ying Ruden. Through Feb. 26. Art White Elephant. Dec. 17, 7-11:30 p.m. An evening of friends and fun exchanging and stealing creative gifts. Lincoln Theatre.

712 S 1st St, Mount Vernon. 360-336-8955. lincolntheatre.org.

Live theatre: Frozen Jr. Through Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. and 2 p.m. on Sundays.

LIBRARIES

La Conner Swinomish Library. 520 Morris St, La Conner. 360-466-3352. lclib.wa.us. Open 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday.

Storytime. Every Friday at 11 a.m. Anacortes Public Library. 360-299-8067, CityofAnacortes.org. 1220 10th St, Anacortes.

Tech Help. Every weekday at library front desk. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Drop-in for hands-on help.

Movie and Craft. Dec. 20, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Fun for the whole family. Mount Vernon Public Library.

360-336-6209, mountvernonwa.gov. 315 Snoqualmie St, Mount Vernon. Virtual Reality. Every Saturday 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Must be 18 or older.

Baby Storytime. Every Friday 10:30-11

Burlington Public Library. 360-755-0760, burlingtonwa.gov. 820 E

Washington Ave, Burlington. Fragrant Shrubs for PNW Gardens.

Dec. 15 at 6 p.m. Presented by Diana Wisen, WSU-Skagit Master Gardener.

MUSEUM EXHIBITS

Museum of Northwest Art. Open daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m. monamuseum. org, 360-466-4446.

Exhibit: Consonance by Richard Nash. Through Feb 5, 2023.

Exhibit: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Honoring our Stolen Sisters. Through Feb 5, 2023.

MoNA Collection: New Acquisitions. Through Feb 5, 2023.

Pacific Northwest Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum. Hours: Wed-Sun 11 a.m.-5 p.m. qfamuseum.org, 360-466-4288. 703 S Second St, La Conner.

Exhibit: Celebrating 25 Years -Treasures from the permanent collection. Through Jan. 29.

Skagit County Historical Museum. 360-466-3365 or skagitcounty.net/ museum.

Hours: Thurs-Sun 11 a.m-4 p.m.

MUSIC

Ukelele Fun & Song Circle.

Meet every Wednesday. 1- 2 p.m., Burlington Senior Center. Beginners and all ages are welcome. Loaner ukes available. For more info, email yogaheartspace0@gmail.com.

2501 É College Way, Mount Vernon. 360-416-7727. mcintyrehall.org. Holiday Treasures. Dec. 22, 7 p.m. Fidalgo Youth Symphony. Purchase

Skagit Valley Chorale.

tickets online.

Heralding Christmas Winter Concert. Dec. 17, 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 18, 2 p.m. at McIntyre Hall. More info at skagitvalleychorale.org. Buxton's.

1904 Commercial Ave., Anacortes. buxtons.co.

Yule Bizarre. Dec. 17, 6-10 p.m. Tickets are \$25.

Jingle Jazz. Dec. 16, 7-9 p.m. A'Town Big Band performs your favorite Christmas music. Free admission.

SERVICE & VOLUNTEER

La Conner Sunrise Food Bank. Food distribution every Monday from 2:30-5 p.m. 602 S. 3rd St., La Conner. 360-488-3878. laconnerfoodbank.com

Skagit Valley Humane Society. 18841 Kelleher Rd, Burlington. 360-757-0445. skagithumane.org. Operating by appt. only at this time. Find volunteer/donation opportunites online.

Skagit Land Trust.

Samish Miles Work Party. Dec. 16, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at 10602 Halloran Rd, Bow. Visit skagitlandtrust.org for more

MEETINGS

Town of La Conner

204 Douglas St, La Conner. 360-466-3125. Zoom info @Townoflaconner. org/calendar.

Planning Commission. Dec. 20, 6 p.m. at Maple Hall and Zoom.

Town Council. Dec. 27, 6 p.m. at Maple Hall.

La Conner School District 305 N 6th St, La Conner. 360-466-

4113. lcsd.wednet.edu. School Board Special Meeting Study

Session. Dec. 16, 9 a.m. board meet-

Skagit Conservation District 2021 E. College Way #203, Mt. Vernon. 360-428-4313. Zoom info @ skagitcd.

Board meetings. Every fourth Wednesday 7:30-9 a.m.

Rotary Club of La Conner.

laconnerrotary.org. Meetings Monday, 6-7 p.m. at the Farmhouse restaurant - optional dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Skagit Cemetery District One. Regular meetings. Every second Thursday, 5 p.m. at Lori Buher's home, 17604 Valentine Rd., Mount Vernon

Little Mountain Gamblers.

Gamblers Anonymous. Every Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. at Senior Center in Mount Vernon. 1401 Cleveland Ave. Any questions, call Washington State Gamblers Anonymous hotline at 855-222-5542.

POLICE BLOT

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Monday, December 5

11:26 a.m.: Lost dog – A gray and white pit bull got loose at a service station and the owner has not seen it since. Young Rd., Greater La Conner.

Tuesday, December 6

3:37 p.m.: Cut fuel line – A fuel line on a service van parked at Astound Broadband was cut sometime last week. It appeared a suspect caused the damage to the van while attempting to siphon gas. A suspect

has not yet been identified. Maple Ave., La Conner.

it was fully baked.

6:24 p.m.: Intoxicated at game -An intoxicated spectator at the high school basketball game was being disruptive to other fans during the game. The subject was contacted by police and escorted off school property. 6th St., La Conner.

Saturday, December 10 2:03 p.m.: Suspicious individual -A subject in the parking lot near the bus stop was yelling obscenities and causing a disturbance. The subject was trespassed from the location by law enforcement and given a ride to the transit station. Morris St., La Conner.

2:58 p.m.: Struck deer - A vehicle traveling over the bridge struck a deer that was in the roadway. There was minor damage to the vehicle and no injuries to the driver. The deer was removed from the roadway. Rainbow Bridge, La Conner.

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27 Alley-28 Sousing sort 29 TV's Cheers,

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33 1960s-'70s talk show host

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59 Microscope component 62 Her first Vogue cover was in 1986

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fact 68 Japanese dog 69 Video game

pioneer glance 75 Music genre

for brooders 76 Co-author of the 2006 bestseller

"Three Cups of Tea" 81 Like low-fat mozzarella

86 Eggs, in labs 87 Pro's vote 88 Dot in the sea, to Jorge

89 Actor Baldwin 90 Tunneling rodents

93 What to do after hiding, in a kids'

game **95** "M" star 98 Big snakes 102 Perfectly 103 "Blue Velvet" singer

105 "The Color Purple" novelist **109** In

(irritated) 110 Habited sister 111 Slip-

(some shoes) 112 Links peg 114 Boatload 115 Pod veggies

119 Affluent Řio neighborhood 122 Sitcom associated with nine featured first

names in this puzzle 125 Hand-held filming

equipment 126 Soviet statesman Gromyko

127 Lost lady in "The Raven" 128 Stingingtentacle reef

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question 35 Suffix with form

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61 Balletic bend 63 Thanksgiving 16 Baseball's Ott side servings 64 Joking type 65 Water barrier 71 Add up to

39 "Pest" of

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40 Beet variety

41 Letter stroke

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(martial art)

47 Tolkien brute

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Leia's father 75 "And on and on": Abbr. 77 Architect Ludwig Mies

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117 Farmland unit 118 Shanty 120 Pick-up-sticks math game 121 Prefix with

car 122 Classroom aides: Abbr. 123 Antique Olds

124 Actress

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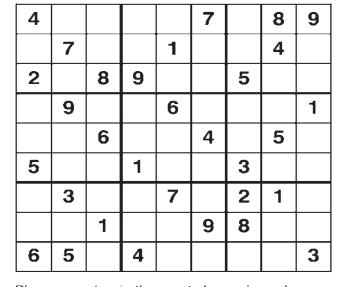
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by Linda Thistle



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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: lacktriangle

Moderate ◆◆ Challenging



Puzzle Answers Page 8



Happy Holidays, Shop Local





Beaver Tales Coffee Celebrates Anniversary

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

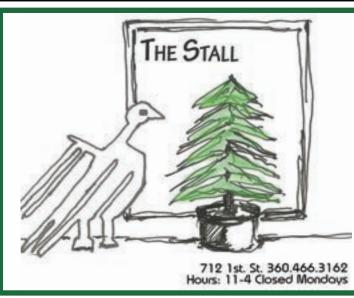
Beaver Tales Coffee celebrated the one-year anniversary of its retail coffee shop, tea house and cultural gift shop at 602 Morris St., on November 18, 2022 with an open house and community thank you event. "What an incredible year it has been! We could not have done this without the people of La Conner 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.

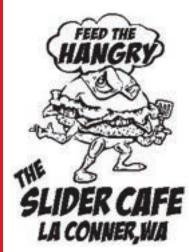
Come join us on our Journey!







Dec. 24th, OPEN, 7am-12:30pm Dec. 25th, CLOSED Dec. 26th, OPEN, 7am-3pm



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360-466-4466 313 Morris St. La Conner

Happy Holidays



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Appetizers Silent Auction
Champane Toast

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MERRY UFF DA

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Try our delicious beverages!

We feature La Colombe coffee, as seen on the TV shows Dangerous Grounds and Uncommon Grounds. Watch La Colombe's owner travel to remote locations in search of the very best coffee.

We also are thrilled to have Mt. Vernon's own award-winning Forté chocolates, both in bars and as powders for sipping chocolate.



We're adding art from here and from six continents, with a Pacific Northwest vibe.

New items daily!

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Yes, we still have candles.

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