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Your Independent Hometown Award-winning Newspaper

LA CONNER WEEKLY NEWS

VOL. 15 • NO. 27

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2022

www.laconnerweeklynews.com

\$1.25

Cheers and tears after a long career



WARM EMBRACE – Head volleyball coach Suzanne Marble received a hug from retired administrator Peg Seeling during pre-game ceremonies at Landy James Gym Oct. 13. Marble was saluted on her outstanding 30-year career at La Conner Schools, where her teams have captured six state titles. Seeling originally hired Marble to teach and coach here

– Photo by Madoc Hiller

Suzanne Marble's coaching retirement celebrated

By Bill Reynolds

La Conner High School volleyball fans were in the mood to celebrate Thursday night.

And that was before the defending state 2B champions knocked off 4A Glacier Peak in straight sets in front of a supportive home crowd at Landy James Gym.

It was a festive mood that filled the arena Oct. 13 as Washington Hall of Fame Coach Suzanne Marble was formally honored courtside on her 30-year career here, a tenure marked by six state titles, three academic state championships, 17 state tournament trophies and much, much more.

Among those in attendance was the retired schools' administrator who hired Marble three decades ago.

"She said 'I'll give you two years,' recalled Peg Seeling, now 70, "I guess, maybe, that her math was wrong."

Seeling and other speakers agreed that Marble has rarely gotten much else wrong here. The 564 career victories – and counting – is but one example of her success, they said.

"Suzanne has grown as a person

and as a coach," Seeling stressed, "and she has built a great health and fitness program for which La Conner should be proud."

"Suzanne Marble is the epitome of the ideal volleyball coach," she added, "but that pales when compared to the impact she has had on hundreds of La Conner students. She has taken young girls and turned them into successful women."

The audience included many former players who later gathered at midcourt for a photo op with Marble.

"Every young woman who left this program left not only a better volleyball player but as a better person," said alum Julie Hulbert Marble, who went on to play at Central Washington University and was one of the ceremony's lead organizers.

Mike Schick, on the executive board of the Washington State Coaches Association, into whose hall of fame Marble was inducted in 2015, lauded her as "a great ambassador for the sport of volleyball."

Schick, editor of the WSCA magazine, told the Weekly News that Marble is simultaneously a tireless champion on the court and promoter

of the game.

"She is an outstanding representative for volleyball," said Schick, who presented Marble with a commemorative plaque to a loud standing ovation. "She's a great coach and a great person."

Superintendent Will Nelson opened the 15-minute program, praising Marble for having "shaped the hearts and minds of students" since her arrival on the local campus.

"We want to thank her," Nelson said, "for serving our kids and families."

Marble shifted attention from herself to her roster, a team that regularly defeats foes from larger schools, and the volleyball alums seated behind the Lady Braves' bench.

"This isn't about me," Marble insisted. "It's about all the young women here. We love volleyball, but we love the relationships and community we've built here in La Conner."

Seeling echoed that. "I want you to know," she said, "that if I had a daughter, I'd want her to be just like you."

Town Council Oct. 11 meeting

Residents voice Center Street parking problems

By Bill Reynolds

Once upon a time, the late Doug Caldart insisted the only parking problem in La Conner was when there were no cars here to fill spaces in front of closed and boarded up storefronts.

Those days are long gone.

For decades the issue has instead been there are too few parking spaces available to handle increased traffic downtown.

Shortage of parking is now a major topic residents gave voice to at the La Conner Town Council hybrid meeting at Maple Hall Oct. 11.

Center and Morris Street residents do not believe there is enough parking for the 21-unit condominium building behind The Slider Café and the Firehall brewery planned next to Pioneer Market.

They contend the housing project will take half the 31 parking spaces required of the café in 1989 when the Town approved an application for a restaurant. The result, they noted, will be more (continued on page 3)

Election voting about to start

By Ken Stern

Friday the Skagit County elections office mails ballots to registered voters. The two statewide contested seats are U.S. Senate and Washington secretary of state. Supreme Court Justices Barbara Madsen, G. Helen Whitener and Mary Yu are running unopposed.

In our region, U.S. Congressional District 2 and the two state representative positions will be decided.

For legislative district 10, first term Position 1 State Rep Greg Gilday (R, Camano Island) has to overcome Democratic challenger Clyde Shavers, a Navy veteran from Oak Harbor who won the primary by 2,000 votes.

Position 2 challenger, Oak Harbor realtor Karen Lesetmoe has a 4,300 vote deficit to erase in her (continued on page 5)

Get ready to vote

Ballots are mailed Friday.

Help get all ballots counted quickly:

Vote and return your ballot now

Sign your ballot envelope

Use a county dropbox

Mail your ballot by Nov. 4

Election drop boxes nearby:

La Conner Regional Library,

614 E. Morris Street

Swinomish Indian Tribal Community:

Social Services Building,

17337 Reservation Road

Ballots must be in drop boxes by

8 p.m. Nov. 7.

You can register to vote on election day.

Voting information and register to vote at

VoteWa.gov.

Skagit County Elections: 360-416-1702

Farm report: Dry, with warm weather while water stays scarce

By Anne Basye

A long dry season has been a mixed blessing for local farmers.

Back in June, when the Skagit Valley was so cold and drenched some fields could not even be planted, Dean Swanson thought we would never hit 80 degrees.

"Farmers asked for a warm dry fall to recover from the late start," he said, "but we forgot to ask for a couple of timely rains."

Fortunately, copious spring rains gave plants a good start. A deep snowpack kept river levels high all summer, making more water available for irrigating corn, pasture and potatoes. Heat helped.

While Swanson's early June strawberries were "thimble-sized", his raspberries were "tremendous" and he's still picking blackberries, ever-bearing strawberries and green beans.

All crops from Ralph's Greenhouse are a month late, said owner Ray deVries.

The specialty vegetable grower lost

about half his leeks when they were transplanted from the greenhouse last spring. "It was so cold they thought it was winter and 50 percent bolted and went to seed."

Keeping his workforce has been his biggest challenge. With harvest delayed until August for the first time in deVries' 34 years of farming, many seasonal staff took other jobs. High school students became a third of his workforce.

The corn Jason Vander Kooy planted in his soggy Bradshaw Road fields in June is finally mature enough to be cut this week.

But the valley is very, very dry. Only two-tenths of an inch of rain have fallen since July 4. "If you kick the dirt near the river," said Vander Kooy, "there's still moisture in the ground, but plow the fields farther north and you're just turning over dust."

Irrigation pumps can operate when the Skagit River's instream flow is greater than 10,000 cubic feet per second, the baseline for keeping fisheries (continued on page 3)



The La Conner Swinomish Library opened for the community to again browse and check out books for the first time Tuesday, Oct. 18. Hours are Monday-Friday 11 a.m.- 6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Checking out their choices are Library Foundation Director Susan Macek; Katryna Barber, staff; and Gretchen McCauley, supporter extraordinaire, from left. Come check out your library! A short story on page 4.

– Photo by Marissa Conklin

From the editor —

Voters' feelings and truths

Ballots get mailed to all Skagit County voters Friday. No need to rush your voting. You have till 8 p.m. Nov. 8 to deposit the ballot in a drop box. If you mail it through the post office, do that by Friday, Nov. 4. It has to be postmarked by Nov. 8 to get counted. Warning: Ballots go to Seattle before getting postmarked.

The Weekly News is making its annual endorsement of you, the voters, as the most critical people in the election equation. Taking former President Ronald Reagan's mantra, "trust, but verify," this paper implores every voter to search their soul, wrestle with their conscience and wrack their brains to examine and decide on the facts and what is true in the process of choosing candidates.

Yet, the bet is peoples' feelings will dominate.

The Weekly News, on its news pages and editorial page reports the absolute truth that the coronavirus is real, that over one million Americans have died from the disease since 2020. People that believe the pandemic is a hoax or that the common flu is equally dangerous are carrying false information. Like those infected with a virus, they are a danger to themselves and their communities. Any candidate holding these positions is equally dangerous.

Likewise, fellow citizens, the fact is that Joe Biden won the presidential election. That is a horrifying truth to some. The more horrible and terrifying truth is that Donald Trump committed treason against the United States, planning and setting loose an insurrection against the government he led.

This is a time when democracy is in peril from individuals and organizations playing people like drums, leading them, as the pied piper did in a fable, not merely astray but out of the land of our stable society. This is neither gloom nor doom nor crazy talk. This has been growing for decades and amplified in the last five years by the greedy, amoral titans of social media companies.

In 1858 Abraham Lincoln said, "I hope I am over wary. There is, even now, something of ill-omen amongst us. I mean the growing disposition to substitute the wild and furious passion in lieu of sober judgment."

Righteous passion is energizing and contagious, creating a positive feedback loop in an in-person crowd or individuals connected by keyboards and clicks. Shaped into anger, it amplifies. In America it has advanced from furious to dangerous.

Sober judgment, however, is often an individual process. There is the mind of reason, the heart of conscience and the soul of ethics. While we can decide to believe the most fantastic things, that voting machines were manipulated and ballot boxes either stuffed or spirited away, passion must be supported by facts examined in the light of day.

That is what our courts have done. Those rejecting these decisions have stepped outside the bounds of our common society. Be wary before joining them there.

As president, Lincoln said, "So hard it is to have a thing understood as it really is."

Before deciding on your candidates and their party when voting, test yourself on this possible truth: Is it true that insurrection is the only path to fixing our democracy?

Think about the Skagit County auditor and her staff, your neighbors working at the election office: Are they crooked and in conspiracy to steal democracy from you?

In the end, these are questions of the heart and soul and not of the mind.

Does your heart long to live as one country under God or ache to separate into the righteous and the damned?

Voting starts once you get your ballot and ends Nov. 8.

— Ken Stern

Legal research cost Town \$6,349

By Ken Stern

The Kenyon Disend law firm charged \$5,861 to the Town of La Conner for 25.1 hours of work in September assessing the 1986 contract rezone agreement for the 306 Center Street property.

Almost all the hours, 24.9, were Sept. 1-8. The firm sent their memo to Town Administrator Scott Thomas Sept. 8. Thomas reported the findings at the Sept. 13 council meeting.

Over half the hours were spent on legal research on contract

rezones and a 1972 court case, *Durocher v. King County*. Staff examined if the Town's 1986 agreement was a legislative act and if it was effective upon adoption.

No hours were billed after Sept. 13.

The total costs, including related expenses and the \$481.50 billed in August, were \$6,348.55.

All numbers are from the firm's invoice to the Town obtained from a public records request.

Town funds nonprofits tourist promotion

By Ken Stern

The La Conner Town Council has granted \$112,805 to nine area nonprofits to promote bringing tourists into the Skagit Valley. The La Conner Chamber of Commerce received the bulk of the funding, \$83,000, 73.6%, to fund its operations.

La Conner Live Concerts will get \$9,000, 8% of the total, to manage the summer Sunday concert series in Gilkey Square, The Museum of Northwest Art, at \$7,500 and the Lincoln Theatre, at \$5,000, receive the next largest grants. Read the table for all funds granted.

The Town of La Conner is tapping \$60,456, 35% of the

\$173,261 of the total pool, for cleaning the bathrooms on Morris and First Streets, landscaping, new security cameras and maintenance on the Maple Hall cameras and advertising.

The Town started 2022 with \$224,180 in this fund. Its 2022 collection projection is \$150,450, though through September over \$135,000 has been taken in. If trends hold, this year's total may top \$190,000. Staff have provided a conservative 2023 projected total of \$133,190 from this tax.

Council members made the unanimous distribution decision at its Sept. 27 meeting.

If Tribe ran Shelter Bay

What would happen if Shelter Bay didn't pursue a new lease with the Swinomish Tribe? I think that we should start looking at the possibility that in 2044 the Tribe will take over the community and possibly the management of the community. Why wouldn't they want to? They have proven themselves to be good managers of businesses and can probably do a very good job.

One problem between now and 2044 is getting 30 year fixed rate mortgage loans. I don't know what the mechanism would be for securing that but maybe a letter from the Tribal Senate to lenders that guarantees people will be able to finish their mortgages would be enough.

Now why would the tribe want to do that? Simply good business. It would ensure that the homes in Shelter Bay stay occupied with people who will pay their assessments, lease and taxes. The values of the houses will increase which in turn increases profit to the Swinomish Tribe and the occupants paying homeowner association dues to maintain the property between now and 2044 and beyond. So keeping the homes occupied would be a major concern and supply and demand would determine the balance point for the cost of living in SB.

For now, residents would have a lot less anxiety, no more lease task force and no more advisory fees. And maybe we can start to collaborate more and continue in this wonderful community and our greater community of Swinomish and La Conner. Cate Grinzell Shelter Bay

Election subversion begins again

During October, just three weeks from the Nov. 8 election, Republicans have reignited their misinformation campaigning in Skagit County. In Burlington, Mount Vernon and Fidalgo Island, residents are reporting the door knocking of members of the "Election Integrity Committee." All reports are the same.

The person appearing at your door will be an unassuming person warning you to not mail in your election ballot early. They will distribute Republican-only campaign literature. You will be encouraged to take your ballot to your municipal in-person polling location the last day, Nov. 8.

Their unfounded claim is that during the 2020 election there were 1,600 ballot discrepancies that may have compromised the election. They claim to know this because a group of "concerned citizens" went door to door after the election to verify information. Who were these people? They were not authorized by county officials.

There are many possible reasons why on election day any number of voters might not be able to get to their polling locations. This is an effort to suppress voting. Residents are urged to vote early. We cannot allow subversion of our right to vote. Vote early and use the drop boxes.

Charles Ivory Mount Vernon

Have you seen our new website?
laconnerweeklynews.com

LETTERS

A march to the Hats

Oct 6, 2022 was a landmark day in La Conner. It was truly unprecedented and unlike any other in the Americas in the last 500 years that we know of. It was brought to our attention by Mr. Jay Bowen, who was gracious in his explanation that this March from the people of the Shelter Bay Community was the first of its kind: An Anglo-Saxon community walking on foot in humility to another co-host government, a native culture. Jay was gracious and spoke to us about our walk and its significance. A huge heartfelt talk was presented by Eric Day.

We came to discover with curiosity and to explore our neighbors at the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community Hat ceremony park. We were met surprisingly by members of the tribe. Mr. Tony Cladoosby gave us a very warm welcome, as did a wonderful fellow known as Moose and the brave fellows from our local La Conner Fire Department. The fire fighter's voice could have been put on radio, it was so powerful to hear. If I could personally appoint him an Indian name, it would be, "voice." But mostly, the genuine expression of appreciation, was so uplifting and will remain in all the hearts of those who attended. We were very much welcomed, and it was expressed to us that the quality of our lives mattered to them. I can't think of a more loving thing to have been shared with us.

There were offerings brought from the Jewish Community, as this momentous day landed during the high holidays. It was truly much more than a diverse group, it was a group that came in gratitude and curiosity. Mr. Jack McKenzie spoke about the past gone wrongs but with an emphasis on doing right. He managed to bridge that importance with true passion and sincerity. A giant spoonful of gratitude to Mr. Jim Barrett who coordinated the effort is also owed.

As we go forth now, I think all that attended left with a strong sense of openness. We learned an Indian gesture for the spoken words, thank you. We left with more respect for Mother Nature and to be better stewards of the land but mostly desires for continued connection between our communities in this time of great transition in the world. Lisa Versteegh Shelter Bay

Concerning 306 Center Street

How about a better way to utilize the property at 306 Center Street?

A three-story, sun blocking, non-neighborhood friendly structure with short-term rentals and inadequate parking will mean parking on the street and blocking residential homeowner's parking.

I see a project by and for developers adding expense and problems to the Town and residents of La Conner.

How about single-family homes? I have been told there can be three of four homes built on this property, where families can raise children and have a yard with grass and flowers.

These families would be part of our town, shop in our stores and send children to our schools.

I suggest we keep the neighborhood for neighbors.

Lynn Laurel La Conner

English Colin Mondays

My Mondays are a treasure these days thanks to two gentlemen I have met. Both are named Colin and both are from England. While technically neither one lives in La Conner, they meet Monday afternoons from 3-5 p.m. for a "pint or two" at their "local boozier" (The Brewing Company in this case). I don't remember how I fell in with them but it has become a delight I look forward to. They are teaching me English as well.

You might hear an Oi Mush! (sort of like hello!) upon joining the table. Colin #1, as we have designated him, grew up in a village at the north end of the White Cliffs of Dover during World War II. He regales us with stories of watching German bombers and V1 buzz bombs flying overhead and the British fighters pursuing them. I asked if he were worried and he said no, they were headed for London. He talks of Americans driving through town in Jeeps and throwing Hershey bars to the kids as they chased them down the lane. He also recalls the older folks saying of the Americans, "over-paid, over-sexed and over here".

He grew up to be an aircraft engineer and he and I talk of that often, since I did, too. He also owns a 1930 Ford Model A which he often drives to La Conner from Shelter Bay.

Colin #2, is a bit younger but equally interesting. He is from London and has worked as a French chef, samurai sword expert (still works at this), sculptor, as well as an authority on older cars. He owns four Cadillac La Salles ranging in years from 1938 to 1942.

Both Colins immigrated to the U. S. in the mid-1960s but still retain their beautiful accents. We talk of cars, airplanes, world events, samurai swords and almost anything else. There are typically five of us sitting in the group. Me, Wayne, Randy and of course the Colins. All of us own cars or trucks ranging from 1928 to 1946 with The Ghost of Tom Joad (mine) being the oldest.

So, if you should stop into our Local Boozier between three and five Monday afternoons, pop over and have a pint, sadly, a 16 ounce American pint, not a proper 20 ounce English pint.

When we depart, there are a lot of "Pip Pip Cheerios thrown about."

Until next time Pip Pip, Cheerio!
Rick Dole La Conner

Policy on letters

Several readers asked about the unsigned letter Oct. 12. That was an editing error, dropping Frank Gardner, Fernley, Nevada. The policy for letters is that all must be signed and an address and phone number provided for verification.

LETTER POLICY

Please write! Letters up to 350 words are welcome as are longer analyses and statements.

Write a 450 word guest column.

Deadline: 5 p.m. Sunday for next issue.

Include your name, address and phone number for verification. Letters are edited for civility clarity and style.

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La Conner Weekly News

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

Subscriptions

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

Member of Washington Newspapers Publisher's Association

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Continuing the tradition of weekly publishing in La Conner since 1878

The Weekly News sits on the original homelands of the Coastal Salish peoples

La Conner News Publishing Co., LLC

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

360-466-3315 • Fax: 360-466-1195
www.laconnerweeklynews.com

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Send change of address to:

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FD 13 considering becoming career department

By Bill Reynolds

If you can't beat 'em, join 'em.

More than a familiar adage, it's now the approach local Fire District 13 could well approach to solve manpower issues going forward.

The district has in recent months faced the loss of personnel to what Chief Wood Weiss calls "career departments" able to pay full salaries and benefits. In response, Fire District 13 is providing fuel stipends for commuting shift staff and is considering use of two-person rather than three-person crews.

That's not all.

The district will budget for two new paid positions next year, part of plans to launch a community paramedicine program.

"We need to start moving toward becoming a career department," Weiss told fire district commissioners during their monthly meeting at the Snee-oosh Road station last Thursday. "We really need to address our manpower problems."

Commission chair Bruce Shellhamer, participating remotely, agreed, saying, "That's the natural, logical next step."

For now, the pros and cons of scheduling two-person shifts will be studied.

Weiss has sought input on the matter from the Everson Fire Department in Whatcom County near the Canadian border.

"They're ahead of us on putting on full-time personnel," Weiss said. "They do two-person, not three-person shifts."

Weiss did acknowledge a downside in the one-third reduction.

"If they have a transport to make," he noted of two-person crews, "we would have to make sure La Conner (fire department) can cover us."

That's no minor consideration. The fire district has transported more patients to local hospitals this year than last. The district logged 19 transports last month alone, according to medical officer Drew Ferrell.

Still, Weiss insisted it isn't an insurmountable challenge.

"It's not a huge, huge issue," he insisted. "At times it could stress us, but that can happen

anyway. There will be times when we're stressed but that's the nature of this business."

In the meantime, said Weiss, "we'll hold onto the three-person shifts as long as we can."

In other developments:

* Assistant Chief Jamie Jurdi said the district had deployed firefighters to the ongoing 10,000-acre wildfire near Skykomish. "It isn't really all that accessible," Jurdi said. "That's where the smoke in our air is coming from. It's expected to burn until mid-November."

* Capt. Ted Taylor said the national Great ShakeOut earthquake preparation event is scheduled tomorrow (Oct. 20) at 10:20 a.m., with area tsunami sirens sounding as part of the drill.

* Commissioner John Doyle thanked Taylor and "Good Morning, District 13" program coordinator Gary Ladd for their work with area CERTs (Community Emergency Response Teams) and ham radio operators to prepare for potential disaster scenarios. "You guys are the heart and soul of the CERT program," Doyle said.

Weather. . . (from p.1)

healthy, according to the Washington state Department of Ecology.

The river dropped below that in September. On October 14, instream flow was about 6,600 cubic feet per second.

On Aug. 30 Skagit Public Utility District and the Anacortes Water notified customers to shorten showers, let lawns go dormant, flush the toilet less and fix leaks.

As junior water rights holders, irrigation districts are told – not asked – to stop irrigating.

The pumps at the south end of Kamb Road shut off at the end of August, after cabbage seed starts had been watered and the irrigation season was winding down. They are operated by Skagit County Drainage and Irrigation Improvement District #15, which covers about 8,500 irrigated acres between La Conner and Mount Vernon south of McLean Road.

The Instream Flow Rule has been contentious since it was established in 2001.

The good news is that all voices on this issue, including water users and water rights holders, have been meeting around the same table since 2018. Co-chaired by State Rep. Debra Lekanoff and State Rep. Keith Wagoner, the Washington state Legislature's Joint Legislative Task Force on Skagit Water Supply convenes legislators; representatives from business, farming, tribes and environmental advocacy groups; and Skagit, Whatcom and Snohomish counties, cities and PUDs.

Together, Joint Task force

members have been digging deeply into how river water is used, what salmon need to thrive and whether instream flow calculations might be more finely calibrated.

Its supply and demand study confirms that agricultural needs are not huge, said Jenna Friebel, executive director of Skagit County Drainage and Irrigation Districts Consortium, one of two farming industry representatives.

"Unlike Eastern Washington," she said, "we have awesome climate, high ground water and really good soils that hold water, so when we irrigate it is a smaller subsection of the entire crop portfolio and irrigation is not the only source of water."

Only about a third of the crops grown in District 15 need supplemental irrigation. "Tulips don't need irrigation in July and August," Friebel said. "Neither do wheat, barley and other cover crops."

Reliable rain means almost no demand for irrigation in May and very little in June. Once the July-August peak is over, demand for water typically tapers off in September.

But not this year.

In 2021, it was so wet and muddy that John Thulen stopped digging potatoes on Oct. 18. This year, he is using well water and the last water in the ditches to dampen soil that is so dusty, it won't hold potatoes as they ride up the harvester.

"By irrigating, we're trying to give the potatoes a little grease, a little insulation, so their skins don't get scratched by the equipment," he said.

There is also concern that cover crops recently or soon to be sown over tilled potato and corn fields may not germinate.

"One good rain will germinate them, but right now the seeds are just sitting there," said Vander Kooy. "Hopefully it won't get

cold right away and they'll have a chance to get some growth."

While every autumn brings a gap between available water and needed water, Friebel says that gap is narrow. A new instream flow study commissioned by the task force may find a way to close it.

Friebel calls the study "a really big deal".

"It has taken 20 years to get this far," she said. "The Joint Task Force wants to make sure the habitat is getting what it needs and that farmers can get the water they need."

Friebel says how that plays out will be difficult—but a spirit of collaboration among task force members and a solid foundation in science will help make it happen.

"Hopefully it's win-win for everyone."

And this Friday, maybe we'll get some rain.

Council. . . (from p.1)

parking shifting onto neighborhood streets.

Longtime resident Linda Talman said the situation has become so dire that at least one business short on parking has attempted to lease spaces from a nearby business.

"We need to know a whole lot more," Talman said. "Why are they borrowing spaces from almost across the street?"

A town code rule allowing businesses to pay the Town fees in lieu of providing required parking spaces "doesn't help the neighborhood," she said.

Lifelong resident Gary Nelson said his home at Fourth and Morris streets will be directly impacted by the two projects.

"What I see coming," Nelson said, "is serious conflict (over parking) between the grocery store and the brewery. People aren't willing to walk far. It will impact my house and block my driveway. 306 (Center Street) and the brewery will have a direct impact on me and my neighbors and I think that's an egregious error."

The council, as is its policy, did not respond.

Also discussed at council

Ironically, the tourist industry – which brings cars to town – has helped generate increased sales tax revenues that could fund pressing budget priorities.

The Town, said Councilmember MaryLee Chamberlain, needs to set aside funds for capital improvement projects, such as replacement of the Skagit Beach water line and mandated upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant.

"It feels good," Chamberlain said, "to have a little extra money coming in."

Mayor Ramon Hayes confirmed that assessment, saying "We have some large infrastructure needs and challenges ahead."

Speeding traffic remains a

challenge. Digital speed signs installed in heavy traffic volume areas on Maple Avenue and North Third Street are not enough. More remedies are needed, residents say.

Sgt. Beau Montgomery, of the Skagit County Sheriff's Office La Conner detachment, said more traffic patrols have been assigned to Maple Avenue, calling it "an emphasis area."

Another option is stretching the Town public works budget next year to purchase "speed cushions" for use on non-arterial streets.

Resident Marilyn Thostenson, earlier praised for having donated the Roger Small sculpture "The Visionary," now installed at the foot of the Benton Street stairway, shared her experiences with wayward motorists in front of her Whatcom Street home next to Snapdragon Hill.

"I've had three trucks in my yard," she said. "They've never left messages, just (vehicle) body parts."

Thostenson said a deterrent, such as speed cushions, would be more effective than signage.

In other business:

* Members unanimously approved a new noise ordinance reducing construction hours in residential areas.

* Council approved paving work by C. Johnson Construction at the wastewater treatment plant.

* Public Works Director Brian Lease, answering Councilmember Annie Taylor's question, said that the salmon slide at Conner Waterfront Park faces either demolition and replacement or a \$30,000 rebuild.

* Town Administrator Scott Thomas said the Jensen property is expected to close at the end of the month.

* Hayes said that he has sold his downtown jewelry store. "Tomorrow my business officially transfers," he said, "and I will be gainfully unemployed."

SEAPORT BOOKS

A Little Bit of Land
By Jessica Gigot
about Skagit Valley!

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Spotlight on Missy

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

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

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

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

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

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Braves fall short in homecoming defeat



CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT—The La Conner High School homecoming royal court was honored during halftime of the Braves-Friday Harbor football game at Whittaker Field Friday night. The 2022 school royalty was comprised of King Jacob Pommels and Queen Makayla Herrera; freshman escort Kenny Tronsdal and freshman princess Yamileth Ocampo Contreras; sophomore prince Corran Eisen and sophomore princess Kendall Lee; junior prince Alfonso Sampson and junior princess Hallie Walls; and senior prince Cole Madeiros and senior princess Josie Harper.

By Bill Reynolds

The La Conner High School homecoming football game last Friday was full of bright shining moments.

Not so much in the final score, but certainly during isolated moments of a 67-18 grid loss to league foe Friday Harbor and at intermission when the royal court led by King Jacob Pommels and Queen Makayla Herrera was introduced to a large Whittaker Field crowd.

While the homecoming royalty could not decree a second straight Braves win a week after the team broke a lengthy scoring drought in a convincing 30-6 victory at Charles Wright Academy, halftime festivities in its honor helped take the sting out of a lopsided Friday Harbor triumph.

The Wolverines amassed 369 yards and seven touchdowns on the ground in a physically dominant performance.

Junior running back Chris Gustufson led the victors with

157 yards on 11 carries, including a 43-yard TD jaunt for the game's first score early in the first frame.

Gustufson's backfield partner, sophomore running back Pierce Kleine, carried 14 times for 137 yards and three rushing touchdowns. Kleine also reeled in a 26-yard scoring toss from Wolverines quarterback Jaxson Waldron, who added two short TD scampers to his night's work.

Victor Velsquez brought back an interception 42 yards for a touchdown and Cody Anderson reached paydirt on a 27-yard run and 66-yard kickoff return, rounding out their scoring.

Still, the Braves provided their fans a few highlights to savor.

Junior signal caller Ivory Damien capped a seven play, 57-yard drive with a four-yard TD pass to Isaac Kitchen that narrowed a first period Friday Harbor lead to 21-6. On the play, Damien somehow escaped big hit from Gustufson in the pocket, maintained his balance and scrambled to the right to find

Kitchen open in the back of the end zone.

The score was set up by 47-yard hookup from Damien to Tommy Murdock.

The Braves narrowed the score to 21-12 on their next possession on a brilliant 48-yard TD dash by Damien.

The team would not score again until Murdock powered in from three yards out with less than three minutes to play.

Damien finished with 64 yards rushing on 13 attempts. He completed 11 of 27 passes for 170 yards. In addition to Kitchen and Murdock, C.J. Edwards was also a favorite target, grabbing six Damien passes for 68 yards.

The Braves (1-4) showed marked improvement from their earlier 52-0 defeat at Friday Harbor. They resume NW2B action at Coupeville, which bested La Conner at home 46-0 on Sept. 23, this Friday at 7 p.m.

Coupeville (5-1) had its Oct. 14 game at Cascade of Leavenworth canceled due to poor air quality from regional wildfires.

—Photo by Madoc Hiller

Rising above Mount Vernon and Glacier Peak

Volleyball fundraiser for cancer research a winner at senior night



SENIOR SLAM – Senior outside hitter Ellie Marble delivers a big hit during the Lady Braves' straight-sets win over 4A Glacier Peak at Landy James Gym Thursday night.

—Photo by Madoc Hiller

By Bill Reynolds

The defending state 2B La Conner High School volleyball team is used to posting big numbers when it takes the floor.

But none bigger than last Wednesday at Landy James Gym.

The Lady Braves swept Mount Vernon High School in straight sets Oct. 12 and raised more than \$1,000 for breast cancer research as part of their annual Dig Pink/Senior Night match.

The Dig Pink effort shows head coach Suzanne Marble's commitment to providing public service projects for her players.

As for Senior Night, fans had the opportunity to salute Josie Harper, Kennedy Miller, Makayla Herrera and Ellie Marble for their contributions to the net program.

That quartet and their teammates made fast work of Mount Vernon, besting the Lady Bulldogs 25-5, 25-14, 25-10.

Glacier Peak, a team ranked in the Top 25 of the 4A ranks, offered a bit more of a challenge before the Lady Braves prevailed 25-15, 25-22, 25-16.

Ellie Marble powered the opening frame, setting the tone with two monster spikes that highlighted a 14-4 spurt to close out the game. On one kill, Marble

rocketed a hit that nearly knocked Glacier Peak's Tessa Mossburg on her back.

During that stretch, Marble also delivered a key service ace.

In the second set, La Conner broke to a 5-0 lead behind strong serving from junior outside hitter Morgan Huizenga.

Buoyed by well-timed blocks from Addison Galbraith, the visitors battled back to knot the score at 8-8. But, as in the first set, La Conner responded with a spurt, with Huizenga, Marble and Herrera stringing together a series of kills to provide a 19-11 lead.

The visitors rallied to within 24-22 before Herrera blasted the set-winning kill.

La Conner led wire-to-wire in the third set, by double-digits much of the way, behind strong front-line play from Marble, Herrera and Huizenga, the latter providing the match-winner with a deft tip finding open court space behind their opponents front row.

The match repeatedly produced extended volleys as both teams displayed superb defense and passing. The difference was La Conner's power game up front.

Next up for La Conner is a 4:30 p.m. home date tomorrow, Oct. 20, against Friday Harbor.

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Your library now open for your browsing pleasure

By Ken Stern

The La Conner Swinomish library opened its door to the public for the first time Tuesday, Oct. 18. Blue and silver helium balloons were tied to the railings leading up the stairs to the doors of the 520 Morris Street building. Tony Harrah and Brian

Wilbur waited for 11 a.m., the first members of the public in the library. Already present were staff and La Conner Regional Library board members. Craig Barber checked out the first book, his wife, Katryna, staffing behind the counter.

La Conner Mayor Ramon Hayes soon entered, as did Anne

and Jim Airy, the latter a library board member.

Library regular Mike Heaton came in, as did Gretchen McCauley and Dave Buchan, in support of Library Foundation Director Suuan Macek, his wife. Her greeting: "Welcome to our soft opening." Yes, please go in.

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AND THE BAND PLAYED ON – The Skagit Community Band held its fall concert Oct. 14 at Maple Hall. The near full house crowd heard “Variations on America,” a selection invoking the country’s widespread geography and history, from the Ohio River to the South to “New York 1927” composed by Warren Barker. *-Photo by Ken Stern*

Book review —

Start of bridge game ends with murder

By Terri Schlichenmeyer, *The Bookworm*

It’s your deal. Cards cut, they’re in your hand and now you dole them out. Thirteen cards each, one at a time around the table, let the game begin. Do you bid, or pass and hope that your partner has a good hand? As in the new mystery, “Peg and Rose Solve a Murder” by Laurien Berenson, do you even have a shot at winning?

It should’ve been a very good day.

Peg Turnbull was judging at a dog show and being with dogs was her favorite thing. The dog show community in her part of Connecticut was close-knit, she knew everyone, the sun was shining – and then she saw her sister-in-law, Rose.

Back when Peg and her dear, departed Max were first married, a teenage Rose had just entered a convent. Fast forward through the years, Rose left the nunnery to marry a priest, blah-blah, Max died, Rose and her husband moved nearby, Peg still didn’t get along with that woman.

And there Rose was, ruining a perfectly good dog-judging day with a ridiculous invitation for Peg to join her in a bridge club.

After so many decades, Rose Donovan felt it was time to try to connect with her sister-in-law. Rose had things to apologize for and neither of them were getting any younger. Years ago, Peg used to play bridge or something, didn’t she? So maybe they could – well, if not be friends, at least not be enemies anymore.

As it turned out, the bridge club needed two new

hands and they welcomed Peg and Rose into the fold immediately – although the two women could tell right away that there was big drama inside the room. There were hints of impropriety and personality clashes, both of which had Peg intrigued. She loved nothing more than a good mystery.

So when one of the bridge players was shot inside his home, she wondered if Rose would make a good partner outside of the bridge club, too?

For a mystery lover, “Peg and Rose Solve a Murder” could be a bit of a let-down.

At least a third of this book passes before there’s even a whiff of crime, in favor of dog show and bridge plotlines and character introduction. The murder itself feels almost like a footnote or a minor faux pas once it finally appears and it’s only discussed in terms relative to the people in the bridge club, as if no one else in Connecticut could’ve been the killer.

Don’t put this book down yet, though.

Author Laurien Berenson writes with a breezy flair that’s perfect for this kind of mystery and that breezy blows in the humor. Berenson’s Peg is feisty and ornery, a perfect companion to prim, fussy Rose. Seriously: You know a TV series like this, don’t you?

Mystery mavens who love dogs will particularly love this book, as will readers who enjoy sleuths who are past A Certain Age. If that’s you, though it has its bumpiness, grab “Peg and Rose Solve a Mystery.” You’ll like it a great deal.

Three poets’ performances at Poetry Festival

By Judy Booth

Listening to Javier Zamora sing one of his poems at Maple Hall to a Meringue beat during this month’s Skagit River Poetry Festival, you would be surprised to learn he had traveled more than 3,000 miles on foot, by bus and boat, across rivers, deserts, through barbed fences to reunite with his parents. At nine years old. Solito. Alone.

Two months of travel, abandoned by his “coyote,” held at gunpoint by a farmer while gulping water from a hose after crossing the Sonora desert, peeing orange, living in cages, his backpack of clean clothes, toothbrush and water stolen, arrested by La Migra, he reunites, finally, with his mom and dad whom he has not seen for five years. They said he smelled of “... piss, shit, sweat, a nasty stench.” They can still smell it.

Of the fifty or sixty migrants he traveled with, only he and the familia of four they crafted out of complete strangers made it across to safety. He fears the others perished in the desert.

But that is not the crux of his memoir, titled “Solita.” It is a journey of love. Love of familia. A familia of complete strangers who chose to care for him, protect him, give him food and water and carry him

on their backs when he was too exhausted and dehydrated to walk in the desert furnace. And his birth familia también, reunited after fleeing civil war in El Salvador years before.

Written in the voice of his nine-year old self, in powerful prose, his memoir, long overdue, reflects the lives of millions. “I was tired of reading news articles about immigrants written by non-immigrants. I heard a poem by Pablo Neruda and began writing poetry.”

Zamora holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of California at Berkeley and a master’s degree from New York University.

He still suffers from PTSD and survivor’s guilt.

Sasha Taqwseblu La Pointe

Elegant punk, tough, tattooed Sasha Taqwseblu (tock-sha-blue) La Pointe, was one of those people you try not to start at. And fail. Great granddaughter of Upper Skagit Tribal member, linguist and storyteller, Vi Hilbert, La Pointe, wore her history, beauty, pain and joy tight on her skin.

“You write for yourself.” She said, dismissing lessons about “finding your audience.”

La Pointe, a homeless teenager, constantly on the run from one Rez to another, fleeing desperate poverty and child sexual assault, she writes of

her lonely isolation, her spirit broken.

Weaving her life’s journey from that spiritual desert to a search of her ancestors along the beaches of the Washington coast to the punk rock scene in Seattle, she has gifted us “Red Paint.”

It’s difficult to read a book through watery eyes.

Lorna Crozier

With sixteen books of poetry and a memoir, colorful, passionate Lorna Crozier is one of Canada’s and the world’s most beloved poets. “Through the Garden” is a memoir of her romance with Patrick Lane, her husband, also an award-winning poet and novelist. Lane was the star and winner of the 2014 Skagit Poetry Festival contest. He died three years ago.

“Through the Garden” intimately portrays their love affair and his last painful years. It is filled with “unflinching honesty and fierce tenderness.”

Of the thousands of poems she could have read to us, two she chose stand out: “My Last Erotic Poem,” – a poem Patrick begged her not to read in public – and “For My Mother” from her poems about inflicting curses on people, which she read with eyes-a-sparkle.

Crozier is head chair of the writing department at the University of Victoria and an Officer of the Order of Canada.

The Rocky Horror Show plays at Lincoln

The Theatre Arts Guild (TAG) presents The Rocky Horror Show at the Lincoln Theatre Oct. 21-Nov. 4. Directed and choreographed by Mike Jenkins, the cast features talent from Skagit Valley, Bellingham and Seattle. Audience participation and callbacks are encouraged. Prop bags will be sold before the show for \$5. Visit lincolnthatre.org for showtimes and to purchase tickets.

Source: Lincoln Theatre

Friday Harbor Film Festival

Join film lovers in Friday Harbor for three days of in-theatre documentaries, filmmaker Q&A’s, an opening night gala and more Oct. 21-23. Watch most of the features, shorts, student films and recorded Q&A’s online Oct. 24-30. Visit fhff.org for more information on the films, tickets and volunteer opportunities.

Source: Friday Harbor Film Festival

Voting

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)
race against two term State Rep. Dave Paul D, (Oak Harbor).

Four county seats are contested. Christian Burns, contractor from Birdsvie, needs to win countywide against Lisa Janicki. He came close in the August primary among voters in the northeastern District 3, 225 votes behind. Self-proclaimed Constitutionalist Kevin Ewing seeks to defeat incumbent Don McDermott for the sheriff’s office. Eric Hull questions the integrity of county elections overseen by Sandy Perkins,

finishing her first term as county auditor. The challengers are Republicans, the office holders Democrats.

For county assessor, choose between Kari Storie, who worked 19 years in that office, and Danny Hagen who is in his eighth year on staff. County Assessor Dave retires in December.

Other county office holders are running unopposed.

There are two advisory votes on the ballot for tax measures enacted by the state Legislature.

Get voting information and register to vote at VoteWa.gov.

Questions: Skagit County elections office: 360-416-1702.

Ashley Sweeney book signing

Come to Seaport Books Thursday, Oct. 20 to buy and have Shelter Bay novelist Ashley Sweeney sign her newly released third novel, “Hardland,” a western set in the Arizona Territory at the dawn of the 20th century. In it you will meet protagonist Ruby Fortune, a strong, independent, yes, feminist.

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AGENDA

Town Council Agenda
 October 25, 2022
 104 Commercial Street
 Upper Maple Center
 And by Zoom
 Information is below and on the Town Website
 I. Call to Order
 II. Pledge of Allegiance
 III. Public Comments (Limit: 3 Minutes per person)
 IV. Presentations:
 V. Consent Agenda
 A. Consent Agenda (approved without objection 5/0)
 1. Approval of the Minutes: council meeting October 11, 2022
 Finance:
 Approval of accounts payable
 Approval of payroll
 VI. Reports
 1. Administrator's Report
 2. Mayor's Report
 3. Council Committee Reports
 VII. Unfinished Business:
 1. Public Hearing - 2022 Proposed Code Amendments
 2. Public Hearing - Parks And Fire Impact Fees
 3. Ordinance - Parks And Fire Impact Fees
 3. Jenson Property - Discussion
 4. Center Street Project - Discussion
 VIII. New Business
 1. Agreement - Western Display Fireworks (4th Of July Event)
 2. Ordinance - 2022 Budget Amendment
 Mayor Roundtable
 IX. Executive Session
 There may be an executive session immediately preceding or following the meeting as allowed by rcw 42.30.110 and as announced by the presiding officer.
 Meeting ID: 865 3187 0369
 Passcode: 3hYfDS

LEGAL NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY
 In the Matter of the Estate of JOHN T. BURKE,
 Deceased. No. 22-4-00531-29
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 (RCW 11.40.030)
 The personal representative named below has been appointed as personal representative of this estate. Any person having claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the personal representative or the personal representative's attorney at the address stated below, a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060.
 This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets.
 Date of first publication: October 19, 2022.
 HEIDI K. BURKE
 Personal Representative
 SKAGIT LAW GROUP, PLLC
 Published in the La Conner Weekly News October 19, 26, November 2, 2022.

against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets.
 Date of First Publication: October 12, 2022
 Personal Representative: Adam M. Mantell
 Attorney for Personal Representative: Aaron M. Rasmussen, WSBA #29496
 Address for Mailing or Service: Barron Smith Daugert PLLC, 300 N. Commercial St., Bellingham, WA 98225; Phone: 360-733-0212
 Published in the La Conner Weekly News October 12, 19, 26, 2022.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR KING COUNTY
 Estate of BEVERLY DIANNE LENNING AKA BEVERLY DIANNE MARZYCK,
 Deceased. NO. 22-4-04944-5
SEA PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 (RCW 11.40.030)
 The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the Decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after the Personal Representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.
 Date of First Publication: October 19, 2022.
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 Personal Representative
 SKAGIT LAW GROUP, PLLC
 Published in the La Conner Weekly News October 19, 26, November 2, 2022.

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 Date of First Publication: October 5, 2022
 Personal Representative: Erica Lynne Turner
 Attorney for the Personal Representative: Michael Biesheuvel
 Address for Mailing or Service: 114 Second Ave. S., Suite 101, Edmonds, WA 98020
 Court of probate proceedings and cause number: King County, WA
 Published in the La Conner Weekly News October 5, 12, 19, 2022.

the court. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the notice agent served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.42.020(2)(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 11.42.050 and 11.42.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets.
 Date of Filing Notice With Court: September 29, 2022
 The notice agent declares under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington on September 27, 2022, at La Conner, Washington, that the foregoing is true and correct.
 Notice Agent: Kathleen M. Paulson
 Attorney for Notice Agent: FELICIA VALUE
 WSB No. 27635
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 La Conner, WA 98257
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 Published in the La Conner Weekly News October 5, 12, 19, 2022.



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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

T	I	M	E	D	E	L	A	Y	C	A	B	P	A	J	A	M	A	S	
I	R	O	N	O	X	I	D	E	O	L	E	A	L	A	M	O	D	E	
N	E	W	S	W	O	M	A	N	M	A	G	E	S	I	M	P	S	O	N
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Answers to October 19 puzzles

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



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SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY
 In the Matter of the Estate of Margaret "Margie" Mantell, Deceased. Cause No. 22-4-00525-29
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 (RCW 11.40.030)
 The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(3); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets.
 Date of First Publication: October 19, 2022.
 HEIDI K. BURKE
 Personal Representative
 SKAGIT LAW GROUP, PLLC
 Published in the La Conner Weekly News October 19, 26, November 2, 2022.

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR THE COUNTY OF SKAGIT
 In the Matter of the Estate of BETTY J. WILSON, Deceased. Cause No. 22-4-00508-29
NONPROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 RCW 11.42.030
 The notice agent named below has elected to give notice to creditors of the above-named decedent. As of the date of the filing of a copy of this notice with the court, the notice agent has no knowledge of any other person acting as notice agent or of the appointment of a personal representative of the decedent's estate in the state of Washington. According to the records of the court as are available on the date of the filing of this notice with the court, a cause number regarding the decedent has not been issued to any other notice agent and a personal representative of the decedent's estate has not been appointed.
 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 11.42.070 by serving on or mailing to the notice agent or the notice agent's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY
 In the Matter of the Estate of Derek Michael Gannon, Deceased., Cause No. 22-4-00505-29
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 (RCW 11.40.030)
 The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(3); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets.
 Date of First Publication: October 5, 2022
 Personal Representative: Gabrielle Valencia Pla
 Attorney for Personal Representative: Aaron M. Rasmussen, WSBA #29496
 Address for Mailing or Service: Barron Smith Daugert PLLC, 300 N. Commercial St., Bellingham, WA 98225; Phone: 360-733-0212
 Published in the La Conner Weekly News October 5, 12, 19, 2022.

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Skagit County candidates in contested contests

Christian Burns
County Commissioner



Why are you the right candidate?
I am running for county commissioner to preserve Skagit County and to make it a place where the next generation can have a better future than we have. Many of the issues facing Skagit county seem to be getting worse and the solutions, if any, from county government are not having much of an impact. I will be coming to this office with fresh perspective and will look at how we can work together as a community and not just depend on government agencies.

About your office
As a county commissioner, I work for the people of Skagit County. Being accessible to the public will be one of my main focuses. Spending time in the community, listening to the people here.. If elected, I work for you. I will do my best to always listen and make sure you are heard.

Critical office functions
As the county board of commissioners, together we are responsible for 1) Adopting a balanced budget for each calendar year; 2) Adopting, amending and repealing all county ordinances; 3) Appointing members of many of the 49 county boards and committees. We also oversee the county departments of public roads and public works programs, public health services, the planning and zoning of unincorporated areas, emergency services and civil defense programs and our county park and recreation systems.

Most important message to voters
In District 3, we have a dire situation with the risk to farmers of losing farmland because of mismanagement of the elk herd by Washington state Fish and Wildlife. Over 13,000 acres of farmland are at risk and the county commissioners have a responsibility to hold Fish and Wildlife accountable for this violation of the Growth Management Act. I will stand up for the farmers that grow and produce our food. One of the main complaints that I have received is from citizens who feel our local government is out of touch with the difficulties of regular people. The property taxes that are forcing seniors out of their homes and there are struggles in raising a family in this economy. People don't feel represented and they don't feel like they're being listened to.

Lisa Janicki
County Commissioner



Why are you the right candidate?
I have served for the past eight years as county commissioner and will continue utilizing my business background and work relationships to improve our community in Skagit County. I have developed connections with state and local officials so we can strategically invest and protect infrastructure, environment and our most vulnerable community members. Long term projects such as permanent supportive housing and upgrading technology take time and perseverance. I am willing to serve to the people of Skagit County for another four years to keep this good work moving forward.

About your office
I'm always surprised that folks do not always understand that county commissioners are elected by all voters in Skagit County. In the primary, only voters in District 3 can choose candidates. In the general, all voters can select the best candidate.

Critical office functions
The legislative authority of county commissioners comes from state law RCW 36.32.120 where the historic focus has been building courthouses, jails and county roads. While that is still true, the breadth of what the commissioners must budget and plan for includes public health, community services, parks and trails, housing, permitting and development services. What most people don't know is that law and justice system currently represents almost 75% of the general fund expenses. Financial challenges are real and planning for the future requires thoughtful, sustainable approach to social and physical infrastructure.

Most important message to voters
We're seeing more people suffering with significant mental health issues, increased numbers of fatal overdoses and random violence that puts everyone on edge. The cost of housing and energy impacts family budgets and pushes stress levels even higher. However, federal and state governments are making significant investment in local programs building resiliency and social structures for the most vulnerable. My goal as county commissioner is to build these systems that will far outlive my term in office.

Keven Ewing
County Sheriff



Why are you the right candidate?
I was nominated for sheriff by 52 Skagit peers to end the lawlessness of the elected officials in Skagit County that have broken their oath of office to the people of Skagit County. I have taught the constitution at the Burlington Library and public venues for the past 23 months. Our deputies will function to preserve the rule of law and our God-given Rights by the Constitution!

About your office
My biggest concern is the children of Skagit county. I am going to immediately sponsor a junior deputy program for every child who wants to participate in Skagit County. This county program has 60 years of success to its credit. The results are overwhelming, less truancy, less juvenile delinquency, less drug use and more high school graduates, per capita, than any other of the 67 counties in the state of Florida. (Collier County) This program will build a strong lawful county.

Critical office functions
Because of the vast area of Skagit County: 1) Deputies will concentrate more on property, business and personal safety of Skagit residents and less on rural traffic control; 2) Monitoring public officials to assure the public that the elected officials are constitutionally compliant; 3) Communication, monthly meetings in the alternating 20 communities of Skagit county, to hear what the residents need from their Sheriff and his department.

The most important message to tell voters?
I believe the Constitution is the ultimate rule of law for every officer, elected public official, resident and visitor of Skagit county. I will do my duty as required by law to protect the citizens of this county, their lives, property and their businesses from all foreign and domestic enemies.

Eric Hull
County Auditor
Did not respond.

Danny Hagen
County Assessor



Why are you the right candidate?
I bring the right combination of relevant experience, leadership and passion for our community needed to deliver complete transparency, fairness and professionalism in assessments. I am the first member of the Skagit County assessor's office to become an IAAO professional member and I am only a few steps away from becoming only the second person in the State of Washington to earn my Mass Appraisal Specialist designation. As a graduate of Leadership Skagit 2018 and a volunteer within Leadership Skagit in every class since, modelling the way, enabling others to act and inspiring a shared vision are leadership principles I try to practice every day. I am well invested in our community. I am the treasurer for the La Conner Youth Soccer Association, vice chair of the board of directors for Chinook Enterprises and a member of the Burlington Rotary Club.

About your office
The assessor's office does not control the amount of taxes collected in Skagit

(continued on page 8)

Karie Storle
County Assessor



Why are you the right candidate?
Having worked in the assessor's office for 19 years I had hands on experience in most areas of the office. That included front counter customer service (two years), appraisal (10 years), current use program (four years) and personal property (three years). This makes me the most qualified and experienced candidate. Plus, I retired after 30 years of honorable service in the US Army Reserves.

About your office
The Assessor's Office is responsible for valuing all taxable property fairly and equitably for property tax purposes, and applying all applicable exemptions. This includes residential, commercial and business personal property.

Critical office functions
Valuations: Equity – treat everyone fairly, ensure that all properties are appraised at their fair value on a timely basis according to our current laws and that corporate property owners pay their fair share.”

Transparency and integrity – to act in the public interest.

(continued on page 8)

Sandy Perkins
County Auditor



Why are you the right candidate?
I have been the Skagit County Auditor for four years, successfully managing all four departments in the auditor's office - elections, accounting, recording and vehicle and vessel licensing. I have been an auditor for over 25 years, working as internal auditor and fraud investigator in corporate offices, financial institutions, and also operating my own audit/investigation firm that helped vulnerable adults protect themselves from financial exploitation and elder abuse. I have proudly held the designation of Certified Fraud Examiner for 20 years, demonstrating that I am an expert in both fraud prevention and detection. I have also studied cybersecurity for 15 years, which is extremely beneficial in today's election environment.

About your office
The position of auditor is one of the most important in Skagit County government. The auditor administers all elections in the county (up to six different elections each year), oversees the accounting department (providing payroll, accounts payable and financial reporting services for the county), maintains ownership records for billions

Don McDermott
County Sheriff



Why are you the right candidate?
In my forty years as a public servant with the Skagit County Sheriff's Office, I have had the opportunity to gain experience, skills, and knowledge in the many roles I have filled as a public safety professional. These include corrections, patrol, training officer, investigations, tactical team leader, sergeant, patrol chief, investigations chief and as the undersheriff before I was elected as Sheriff in 2019. I believe one of my greatest strengths is the ability to bring people together to form and build teams that can bring about positive results for our communities.

About your office
Today the Skagit County Sheriff's Office is a leader in providing professional and quality law enforcement, corrections and emergency management services. Though enforcement is still a primary function, we of the SCSO work in partnership to help those who suffer from behavioral health, substance abuse, homelessness, domestic and youth violence. We strive to help make Skagit County a safer, healthier, and better place to live. The men and women of the Skagit County Sheriff's Office are the most dedicated, hard-working individuals I have ever had the pleasure to be associated with and I could not be prouder of their daily contributions to our communities.

Critical office functions
Provide law enforcement services to all citizens of Skagit County. Support and work cooperatively with municipal, state, tribal and federal law enforcement agencies in protecting the public.

The Civil Process, to include enforcing court orders and writs.

Operate the Skagit County Community Justice Center.

Coordinate search and rescue missions.

Prepare plans and coordinate responses to natural and manmade disasters

Advocate for improvements and efficiencies in the criminal justice, mental health and public safety systems

The most important message to tell voters

Over these past four years, as Sheriff, we have focused on preventing crime through a proactive approach, allocating office resources to implement a community policing strategy focusing on local, state, and federal partnerships to reduce crime and to combat the illicit drug trade. We have implemented programs such as the Integrated Model of Police and Crisis Teams that imbed mental health professionals with law enforcement. Together, local first responders and elected officials are working closely with the goal of improving public safety and service. It is an honor to serve and I hope I have the opportunity and privilege to serve as your sheriff for many more years.

of dollars of property in Skagit County, and oversees all vehicle and vessel licensing services (including oversight of five independently owned vehicle and vessel licensing companies across Skagit County). My experience in the position of auditor will be crucial in continuing the high level of customer service that our citizens now enjoy.

Critical office functions
Provide honest, ethical, and transparent administration of up to 6 elections each year, as well as accurate maintenance of all voter rolls. Provide accurate and timely processing of all accounting functions including payroll, accounts payable and financial reporting. Provide accurate and reliable maintenance of property ownership records now and into perpetuity. Provide convenient and accurate licensing services to all vehicle and vessel owners in Skagit County. Continue to reduce expenses and increase efficiencies in all areas of the auditor's office.

Most important message to voters
One of my proudest accomplishments as auditor is to have successfully administered a presidential election of historic proportions, during a global pandemic. At this critical time in our democracy, we cannot risk having someone who will undermine our elections in the position of auditor. I look forward to continuing to provide strong leadership as your Skagit County auditor for the next four years. Thank you for your ongoing support and for your vote.

Danny. . . (from page 7)

County. The taxing districts are legally allowed a specific budget and the assessor is tasked with making sure the tax burden is shared fair and equitably. Our office is also required to administer our various exemption and current use programs.

Critical office functions
The assessor's office primary duty is to determine the value of all taxable real and personal property within their jurisdiction for the purpose of equitable distribution of the tax liabilities of property owners for various districts. In addition, they are tasked with maintaining property record data, official assessor's maps and a history of property transfers.

The most important message to tell voters

A strong and resilient

community needs a fair and equitable tax system to pay for necessary services. When a community doesn't believe the administration of their local taxes are distributed fairly, the entire community suffers. I believe I am the most qualified and capable person to get that job done. I am also proud to be running as an Independent, as the assessor's office should not be a partisan office in my opinion, and I don't want to add to the political divide going on currently in our communities. I am proud to have the endorsements of outgoing County Assessor Dave Thomas, Commissioner Lisa Janicki and Commissioner Perter Browning. You can find out more information at my campaign website: www.votedannyhagen.com

Karie. . . (from page 7)

Exemptions: Supplying information to all seniors and disabled tax payers of the exemptions they may qualify for on their property taxes.

Current Use Programs: Supplying information to land owners regarding the Farm/Ag, Classified/Designated forest, Timber and Open Space programs.

The most important message to tell voters

I believe the citizens of Skagit County deserve an assessor with the experience and leadership skills necessary to do the job.

Watch candidate forums before voting

Watch candidate forums for November elections for Congressional District 2 and state representative district 10 through election day.

Dan Matthews versus Rick Larsen for Congressional District 2: lwbellinghamwhatcom.org.

Lived-stream on Oct. 20 from 6-7 p.m. for LD 10, Pos 1 are Clyde Shavers and Greg Gilday: lwwwhidbey.org.

Also lived-stream on Oct. 20 from 6-7 p.m. for LD 10, Pos 2 are Karen Lesetmoe and Dave Paul: lwwwhidbey.org.

Steve Hobbs and Julie Anderson are candidates for Washington secretary of state.

Their forum is live on public TV Sunday, Oct. 23, 3:30-4:30 p.m. in person at Gonzaga University and on area public TV stations and TVW: tvw.org.

Patty Murray and Tiffany Smiley are candidates for the U.S. Senate. They follow at 5-6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 23, in person at Gonzaga University and on area public TV stations and TVW: tvw.org.

Video of forums are available after the recording date at skagitlwv.org.

Ballots will be mailed Oct. 21 for the Nov. 8, general election.

Source: League of Women Voters of Skagit County



DAN MATTHEWS' DAY 1 CHECKLIST
My Commitment to America!

- **Empower & Restore the Economy = JOBS**
- **Curb Inflation & Spending & Our National Debt**
- **Secure the Border**
 - ✓ Establish Immigration Sanity
 - ✓ Attack Trafficking: Human & Drug
- **Reduce Crime & Lawlessness = Law & Order**
 - ✓ Fully Fund & Equip Law Enforcement
- **Unleash American Energy = Independence**
- **Protect & Defend the Family**
 - ✓ Pass the Parents Bill of Rights
 - ✓ Provide Education Choice
 - ✓ Promote the Adoption Option
- **Secure our Elections = Trust & Confidence**
- **Rein in Out-of-Control Government = Weaponized**
 - ✓ Restrain IRS & DOJ
 - ✓ Limit Gov't Overreach / Intrusion
 - ✓ Accountability
- **Protect National Security**
- **Ensure Military Readiness**



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DON McDERMOTT

SHERIFF

Accomplishments
Skagit County Sheriff 2019-2022

- Oversaw the completion of an updated and reliable public safety communications system ensuring safety of deputies in the field and prompt and proficient responses to emergency calls with state of the art equipment that will support operations for the next several decades.
- Oversaw the creation of the Skagit County Sheriff's Office IMPACT team bringing new mental health professionals and additional specially trained crisis response deputies into field together to assist individuals in crisis.
- Oversaw the revamping of the Skagit County Interlocal Drug Task Force by adding manpower and expanding the mission of the Task Force to include ongoing neighborhood level nuisance issues up to cartel level drug interdiction operations with a special emphasis on disrupting the supply side of the fentanyl crisis. This effort culminated in the task force being nominated by the Western States Information Network as Task Force of the Year 2022.
- Oversaw the adoption of policies and training related to new law enforcement reform legislation passed in 2021 while balancing public safety needs and concerns in a reasonable manner.
- Oversaw grant funding to procure state of the art less-than-lethal force equipment for the Sheriff's Office and surrounding agencies to ensure deputies have the tools needed to use the least amount of force necessary for lawful purposes.
- Oversaw the addition of a specialized search and rescue staff position to ensure the Sheriff's Office search and rescue unit has professional policies, volunteers trained to industry standards and a unit that is mission ready for complex and dangerous search and rescue calls as one of the busiest search and rescue units in the State.
- Developed an updated fifteen-year strategic plan that focuses on public safety services tailored to individual community needs and improved response times throughout Skagit County by way of eventually staffing precincts in strategic locations.
- Oversaw the procurement and deployment of body worn cameras for all deputies ensuring maximum transparency and displaying the high level of professionalism, compassion and dedication deputies display each and every day.
- Consistently ensuring the Sheriff's Office has been responsible with tax dollars by bringing the Sheriff's Office in under budget annually through fiscal responsibility and treating every dollar spent as if it was his own.

Voters, democracy is on the ballot.
What are YOUR values?

Democrats

Democrats will fight for women's right to reproductive health in WA. Democrats in Congress continue to fight to pass the Women's Health Protection Act.

A healthy democracy requires election integrity. Washington's vote-by-mail system is recognized as the best in the nation; there were no 2020 cases of election fraud.

Urgent climate action and protecting and restoring natural ecosystems are critical to our future. Democrats support new green industries creating jobs and energy here in the US and in WA.

Gun violence is preventable and progress is possible. WA State is a national leader in sensible gun safety measures like adopting bans on 'ghost' guns that help keep our communities and police officers safer.

Republicans

EVERY Republican in Congress voted against the bill to codify a woman's right to choose: The Women's Health Protection Act.

Island County Republicans voted to reject the certified election results of 2020 and claim that President Biden was not legitimately elected. WA Republicans continue to spread the "Big Lie" of voter fraud.

93% of Washington State's Republican legislators are rated ZERO by Washington Conservation Voters. In D.C., not a single Republican voted for the first comprehensive climate legislation in U.S. history - the Inflation Reduction Act.

In Olympia this year, ZERO Republicans supported restricting large capacity magazines or banning ghost guns, or restricting weapons in public buildings and meetings like school board meetings. Nationally, Republican lawmakers oppose even the most sensible and constitutional firearm safety measures.

VOTE!

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POLICE BLOTTER

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Monday, October 10

7:56 a.m.: Intersection crash – Two vehicle non-injury collision at the intersection. A vehicle turning eastbound was struck by a vehicle turning southbound. La Conner Whitney/McLean Rds., Greater La Conner.

Tuesday, October 11

6:05 a.m.: Strange noise – Report of noise described as coming from a compressor was heard in the area during morning hours. Morris St., La Conner.

1:43 p.m.: Local theft – Report of theft from a home by a family member's friend, under investigation. Washington Ave., La Conner.

4:01 p.m.: Bumper tap – One vehicle was stopped at a stop sign while another vehicle was making a left turn. The stopped vehicle pulled out and hit the other vehicle's right

rear bumper. No injuries. Maple Ave/Morris St., La Conner.

4:39 p.m.: Asleep in car – Report of a non-resident sleeping in her car in the parking lot. The female was a guest of several residents in the apartment complex. She moved along prior to law enforcement contact. Maple Ave., La Conner.

7:58 p.m.: Possible litterer – Report of a female walking around the area and then left several items in the front yard. She did not stay in the area or retrieve her belongings that were described as garbage. McLean Rd., Greater La Conner.

Saturday, October 15

10:28 p.m.: Mysterious noises – Report of loud rustling that was heard in the bushes in the backyard. A sheriff's deputy checked the area and didn't locate what was making the noise. 3rd St., La Conner.

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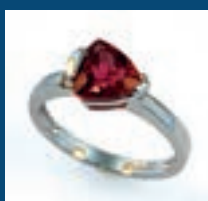


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Mark Hulst new La Conner Chamber of Commerce director

By Bill Reynolds

Just weeks after selling his auto repair business in Burlington, Mark Hulst is revved up for his next gig.

Hulst, owner of the Skagit Cellars tasting room here, has been tapped as the new executive director of the La Conner Chamber of Commerce. He succeeds Heather Carter, who stepped down in June after nine years at the helm.

Hulst was introduced by Chamber board president Chris Jennings at the La Conner Town Council hybrid meeting Oct. 11. Thursday he hosted an open house at the Chamber visitor's center on Morris Street.

Chamber members, town residents and others who filled the chamber offices to meet the new director were upbeat. Nary a face mask was worn.

Hulst was energetic in his remarks, promising to be visible, perhaps aware of the complaint that Carter rarely visited members.

"Our customers are happy to be here," Hulst told the group. "We want them to be. We want them to have the 'wow' factor."

"You will see me out on the street a lot," he pledged. "We need to provide information to businesses. As a business comes to town, they're bound to be successful. We are going to provide success. We will help businesses survive."

Mayor Ramon Hayes and La Conner Town Council members welcomed Hulst's selection, noting his current service on the Mount Vernon City Council and prior work on the Mount Vernon Planning Commission.

"You're perfectly equipped," said Hayes, who recently sold his downtown jewelry store, "to interface between the business



MARK HULST

community and local government."

Raised in Sedro-Woolley, Hulst has resided in Mount Vernon since 2001. He owned Bavarian Autohaus from 2009 until the end of August. Hulst opened Skagit Cellars Winery in 2012, a year after becoming chair of the Mount Vernon planning commission. He launched the tasting room in La Conner seven years ago.

"La Conner," he said, "is a great place to do business."

Hulst is now in his third term as a Mount Vernon council member, representing the city's second ward.

Taking a lead role at the La Conner Chamber fits nicely with Hulst's dual interests in entrepreneurship and public service, he told the Weekly News.

"I've always wanted to do something to help other businesses grow," he said. "This is an ideal opportunity to do that."

Hulst previously served six years on the Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce board of directors. He was the board's president in 2010.

Hulst is confident he will be an effective liaison between La Conner's business district and

Town Hall.

"I can work well with Town staff," he said. "I work well with other (Mount Vernon) council members. I think my relationship with the town council and staff will be beneficial."

Hulst's immediate goals include increasing staffing at the visitor's center.

"A main focus," he said, "is to recruit enough volunteers to keep the visitor's center open six days a week at some point. One of the things I really want to do is 'staff up' our visitor's center. I want to increase the hours. Even during the middle of the week we have people coming in."

Hulst sees processing information as a key element of his duties as director.

"I want to apprise Chamber members of pending legislation that might affect them," Hulst said. "It would be just facts and no opinions. Part of it would be to let them know who to contact. It's not my role to take a position, but to keep members informed."

He said another task will be to increase awareness among La Conner merchants and business owners of resources available to them through the Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County.

He would also like to build rapport between residents and the business community, helping them join forces on mutual interests and public events, perhaps starting with Christmas caroling during the holiday season.

Hulst said his can-do approach and appetite for positive results allows him to keep his plate full while juggling multiple assignments.

"I really don't have any hobbies," he said. "I guess you could say my hobby is my work. I enjoy being around people and helping any way I can."

Moving?

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Jackie Brunson

Skagit County Treasurer

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