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Goodbye Summer



FALL IS HERE – Local photographers gathered at Cornet Bay to capture the sunset over Deception Pass bridge on Thursday, Sept. 22 as part of the Autumnal equinox. October is just around the corner!
– Photo by Nancy Crowell

Autumnal equinox was a photographer's dream

By Nancy Crowell

Every year, twice a year, the sun sets directly beneath the Deception Pass bridge – on the Spring equinox and the Autumnal equinox. For years it has been a kind of ritual for photographers to gather at this spot on Cornet Bay to line up their cameras and shoot the phenomenon. Some do timelapse. Some set up on the beach when the tide is low. Some stay up above the beach at a specific spot where there is an ideal opening.

Every year is different. Sometimes clouds cover the sun, sometimes the clouds are the stars of the show. Photographers who gather to shoot this passage of seasons often cheer when a boat or kayak moves into the image at just the right moment. Nobody really cares that everyone is shooting the same subject. It's fun to share the moment and when the sun does make an appearance, it goes down surprisingly fast. Many people start going out to shoot pics days or even a week or two before the

actual day of the equinox. This year the weather forecast was for clouds on the day of the actual equinox, so fellow photographer Sarah Walls and I went out on the night of the 21st and captured the very last sunset of summer along with about 10 other photographers from around the Puget Sound. When the sun finally dipped below the horizon there was quiet applause. It was all too brief, but Summer 2022 went out in spectacular fashion.

Town administrators determine 1986 contract rezone 'unenforceable'

By Ken Stern

The conditional use permit to build a three-story condominium at 306 Center Street filed by Kate and Brandon Atkinson early in 2022 has been approved by Town of La Conner Planning Director Michael Davolio, an administration determination made Sept. 20 in a four-page letter. The administration rejected the challenge brought by residents Linda Talman and Debbie Aldrich, and others, that conditions of a 1986 contract rezone agreement between the Town and then owners Donna and Gerald Blades govern the zoning.

The validity of the contract rezone has been the central issue since Talman's public record request located it last spring. Town staff failed to file it with the county auditor in 1986, though the Town was to "record this agreement with the Skagit County Auditor so that this agreement will become a matter of public notice to subsequent purchasers and shall become an encumbrance upon the land."

Town Attorney and Administrator Scott Thomas (continued on page 6)

Planning commission hearing has Part 2 Oct. 4

By Bill Reynolds

The La Conner Town Planning Commission public hearing on municipal code and zoning map changes was the talk of the town last week.

That talk will continue Oct. 4.

Following lengthy discussions over changes sought by the Port of Skagit at La Conner Marina and several potential development regulation updates, commissioners, upon the recommendation of planner Michael Davolio, opted to continue the Sept. 20 hearing another two weeks.

Those unable to attend next Tuesday can submit written comments to Town Hall by Sept. 29 for inclusion in the meeting packet.

The hearing, coupled with a Town forum the night before, has given residents and elected officials an opportunity to focus on La Conner's future. Still, lifelong resident Bruce Cornwall asked commissioners and other local leaders to not lose sight of the community's time-honored (continued on page 5)

Residents share creative hopes at town forum Sept. 19

By Bill Reynolds

Pressing issues in La Conner, much like a jigsaw puzzle, rarely lack for complexity.

They also require patience, which along with creative problem-solving skills, was much in evidence during the latest in a series of public forum events last Monday at Maple Hall.

About three dozen attendees used the 90-minute session to brainstorm many key community pieces, from how best to preserve La Conner's envied quality of life to developing strategies for fostering improved communication between residents and Town leaders.

Town council members MaryLee Chamberlain and Rick Dole, communications committee members, coordinated a jigsaw format with participants divided into five groups, each with a primary spokesperson and scribe. At night's end, ideas and points of concern generated at each table were shared with the whole group.

Facilitator Gail Bruce laid down the ground rules, which were readily accepted, stressing use of positive language and showing respect for differing opinions. It proved a winning formula.

Longtime La Conner resident Bob Raymond was still singing its praises at the following night's town planning commission meeting.

"Last night, here in Maple Hall, the communications committee held the third of its community outreach events," Raymond said during the public comments segment of the commission agenda.

"The 30 or so townspeople who attended were divided and sat at separate tables with five or six at each," he continued, "I believe there were valuable takeaways. "The first takeaway," Raymond noted,

"is how that format led to open, enthusiastic, intelligent exchanges about what the attendees liked, preferred, loved about the community and their concerns for the future. It was not constrained by three minutes or a process that stifles open and creative discussion. Each participant was heard by the others. There were follow-up questions and attempts to capture community preferences on paper. There was enthusiasm. Laughter. Appreciation. Good ideas. It was fun and productive. And a model for public input.

"Such a process, repeated over a few weeks, months, or even a year should be the foundation of important policy, the (Town) Comprehensive Plan and/or code reviews," Raymond said. "I hope the council and commission would find them useful."

Bruce said at the outset of the forum that its primary goal was to generate new and creative ideas that could be forwarded to Town officials.

Gretchen McCauley, spokesperson for one of the five tables, noted that Town Administrator Scott Thomas was a member of her group and took "copious notes."

The overarching theme, Bruce said near the close of the forum, was "What is La Conner and what can it be?"

"The Town and its people," added former Skagit Leadership Director Kate Bennett, another of the main spokespersons, "need to determine what they want."

Flow sheets on easels around the room provided plenty of insight. Among priorities listed were: What to do with the Moore-Clark property? Clean energy. Green space. Affordable housing for families. Preserving economic and cultural diversity. Farmland preservation. Transparency in government. Communication. Public safety. Valuing the local agricultural

community. Meeting the needs of citizens of all age groups. Creating balance between what the public expects of the planning commission and the town planning staff. Ensuring peoples' voices are heard and respected. Increasing children's play areas. Establishing more safe cycling and pedestrian-friendly spaces. Maintaining respect for La Conner's historical context and expanding community engagement, especially with young families.

Open dialogue was encouraged by allowing participants to comment, list concerns

and areas of growth and cite reasons that make La Conner such a desirable community in which to live.

Bruce invited attendees to add their thoughts to flow sheets developed at other tables prior to adjournment.

"This is all about sharing," Bruce said. "It's about tapping creative juices. Everything that is discussed will be recorded and forwarded to Town officials.

"This," she stressed, "isn't over. It's a process."



TALKING TODAY ABOUT OUR FUTURE – Close to 40 people joined together Sept. 19 for a forum organized by the town council's communication committee. Town Administrator Scott Thomas and planning commissioner John Leaver were resources as well as participants.
– Photo by Ken Stern

From the editor —

Town council discussions and decisions

While everyone everywhere endorses the concept of truth and reconciliation, the little town of La Conner is fast becoming a tale of two cities – or two towns – as a cadre of residents are increasingly engaged, enraged and feeling isolated from the council members representing them and charged with governing.

These residents want the council to stop a three-story condominium building from going up on Center Street behind The Slider Cafe.

They want council to honor a 1986 rezoning agreement approved by the council that year.

Citizens want council members to respond at council meetings, voicing their positions on the issue.

Meanwhile, council speaks barely a word. At least one council member finds the Weekly News divisive. If council and staff are following procedures, codes and the letter of the law, can't residents understand and appreciate the limitations they are under?

Residents cannot. Hired legal council analyzes the contact rezoning and advise it was effective upon adoption. That is the phrase used. The property zoning converted from residential to commercial because of the 1986 council vote. The agreement was enacted. No one disputes that. The Town's file of applications and planning commission resolution and meeting minutes detailing the history of the process is perfectly clear.

Then the law firm analyzes the words "so that," as in "so that this agreement will become a matter of public record," the paragraph near the end of the document and just above the signatures of all parties. The law firm finds, "arguably, this statement indicated the issuers intent."

Yes. Everyone in 1986 intended the agreement to be filed. By mistake, it was not.

Why is any person in the town government – certainly the elected officials, but also staff – unable to say, "we were wrong in 1986 to not file this agreement. The Town made a mistake."

When the hearing examiner remands issues back to the Town, residents want the council, not the staff, to respond. Residents are looking for accountability. They want leadership. They want their elected officials to be the final arbitrators and decision makers for critical decisions that determine both the design, scale and size of a building constructed in 2023 and the lived impact of additional people and cars living at that address will have on the community well into the future.

They want to know they are heard.

Council hears from residents but residents wonder if they are being listened to. Little has been said by any council member in the time they have been petitioned by residents.

Last evening resident Dan O'Donnell's agenda item, an ordinance to have council approve "the rezoning is hereby deemed valid and in effect" was in the council packet.

Council met after this edition went to press. Was a motion made and a second offered so the issue got debated? I don't know, but I hope so. Council either accepted the challenge to take up and resolve this issue, going on the record with their positions and their reasons for them – and sharing their concerns around this project and acknowledging their constituents' apprehensions – or they did not. Either way, it is disappointing and frustrating to many that only by a resident's request, for that is how the ordinance is labeled, has the validity of the 1986 agreement come before council.

Neither challenging the government to engage nor wanting to get beyond the intricacies of the municipal code is divisive, nor is asking for responses and dialogue from the town's legislative body to its citizens.

— Ken Stern

LETTER

To the Residents of La Conner

Two law firms looked at the situation on 306 Center and the 1986 Contract Rezone and came up with opposite conclusions. How do lay people like the rest of us decide who is right? They were both long opinions and cited case law. I believe that my guy was right but the town, which is vulnerable to a lawsuit from the developer, believes their firm to be correct.

The town holds the power card. It is called the Administrative Permit. It is used for certain planning situations (Variance and Conditional Use). It gives the planner kingly powers. And so, he used that power by writing an Administrative decision for 306 Center. We had hoped for this to be resolved differently with the planning commission and council involvement.

The Administrative Permit did not always exist in our code. Now that it does, the Planning Commission – a diligent and experienced group – has become powerless. But we citizens can and should change the code.

Two weeks ago, I wrote to suggest that our code be revised to eliminate administrative permits of any type and give the power back to the Planning Commission – e.g. to the residents of La Conner. This, and many other resident generated pieces of code will be considered later in the fall.

The PC meeting on October 4 will be a continuation of the Public Hearing of the code changes suggested by the planner. Mark your calendar, pack the room, and make your voices be heard again – just as we did in the last PC meeting.

Linda Talman
La Conner



Remember the Birdman of Alcatraz? I am introducing you to the Birdman of Shelter Bay.

I'm buying a house in Shelter Bay with different feeding areas, including a bird watering hole. I'm converting one of my patios to a seed station.

About 55 years ago, give or take, I was hired to work at a sleep-away camp in New Hampshire. It was a big deal because I was the only one of my friends who could not afford to be a camper, but now I was going as a counselor.

The only opening was to be the rifle instructor and I gamely undertook the position even though I didn't know much about guns.

There were twin mattresses lined up in a row, facing a row of targets mounted on posts about 30 feet away. My job was to teach gun safety and make sure that a hyperactive camper didn't turn the BB gun on his tent mate.

But one day, bored between sessions, I lay down on a mat and took aim at a target. A bird perched just above it, and I set my sights higher and killed it with a clean shot. I got an adrenalin rush and kept shooting, and the birds kept falling.

That night, I was hit with tremendous remorse. I understood the impulse, the testosterone driven caveman instinct. I saw it for what it was – a base animal instinct that I thought I should be able to rise above.

You probably have figured out by now where I'm going with this: I hate pleasure hunting. I'm not a vegan, so I understand that animals are systematically slaughtered to put food on our tables. So, if someone is hunting animals to eat, I have no problem with it.

Most hunters hunt for meat. These hunters are men who take pleasure in stalking and killing animals. Sometimes they don't even bother to stalk – they are led to the animals feeding grounds so that they are guaranteed a trophy to take home.

There is a viral video on YouTube of the CEO of a large American corporation killing a huge elephant at point blank range. He then stands on top of his prey in the classic hunter's pose.

When there was some understandable outrage that might affect his company's profitability, the man said he did it to help the local farmer's protect their crops. Please!

What particularly riles me is that this is called a sport. Perhaps, if the animals were armed as well, it might have a sporting component and I would understand why there are all these sporting goods stores in our area that don't sell basketballs or footballs, only hunting and fishing equipment.

They should be called Killing Beautiful Defenseless Animal stores. Let's call it like it is. Some men get a masculine rush by felling a beautiful duck in flight or dropping a deer that is gracefully hopping through the forest.

If we want to get the adrenalin rush of felling a flying object, let's go to the range and shoot skeet or clay pigeons. Let's be honest and admit that killing a beautiful bird in flight is unjustifiable homicide.

LETTER

Communicating with the Town

On Monday night, last week, the town council communications committee held its third community outreach event. The 35 or so townspeople who attended sat in small groups at separate tables with six or seven at each. And then they chatted: about what they liked, preferred, and loved about our community and also about their concerns for the future. Each participant was heard by the others. There were lively exchanges, enthusiasm, laughter, mutual respect. And ideas captured on paper for a summary report. The communications committee deserves our thanks.

I believe there were valuable take-aways from that evening. I'd like to mention three.

First. The community cares about the town and wants to be heard.

Second. The communication committee chose an effective model for public input – one not constrained by three minutes or a "hearing-like" process that stifles open and creative discussion – the flawed go-to of the Town's public involvement. Such a process, repeated over a few weeks, months or even a year should be the foundation of important policy, visioning, comp plan reviews and code amendment. The council and planning commission would find them useful and the community would actually have a voice in the runup to important decisions.

The third takeaway is that at least half of the tables identified a concern that there have been troubling mistakes in development decisions that have resulted from the administration and not the planning commission or town council driving the outcomes. There is a serious and disturbing imbalance between the influence and roles of the administration on the one hand and of the council and planning commission on the other.

Some of us feel that the planning commission and the council are our best hopes for capturing and reflecting community values. However to achieve that, those two bodies must be supported in their efforts to understand community values and by changing the code to return to them to the roles and influence they once had. The Town is hiring an assistant planner. I hope that planner will have a commitment and responsibility to seek, actively, community input, to understand community values and to directly support the planning commission and the council in their efforts to reflect community values in policy, plans, and codes.

A friend recently opined that too many horses have already left the barn. There are still valuable horses in there. They should be protected from rustlers. The barn door can still be closed.
Bob Raymond
La Conner

LETTER POLICY

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

Write a 450 word guest column.

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

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

SEND TO
editor@laconnernews.com

Electric vehicles are in your car buying future

By Greg Whiting

What's the quickest way to significantly reduce how much you pay for energy, make the U.S. more energy independent and reduce your carbon footprint?

The answer is the same for all three questions. Buy an electric vehicle, called an EV, and use it as much as possible instead of a gasoline-powered car. (Hybrids will also help, but not as much.)

If you haven't driven an EV, try one. They're fun. With no mechanical inertia, and instant torque at the wheels, a subcompact EV accelerates like an expensive gasoline sports car.

Energy cost savings are significant. Washington drivers average about 11,000 miles a year. At 25 miles per gallon, a gasoline car needs 440 gallons of gas a year. At \$4 a gallon, that is \$1,760 annually. An electric car that uses 30 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per 100 miles needs 3,300 kWh a year. At \$0.12 per kWh, that's about \$400 a year.

Over ten years, an EV would reduce an average Washington driver's energy bill by \$13,600, or more if gas prices spike again. Also, EVs don't need oil, belt or coolant changes. Over ten years, that'll save some \$3,000. Some new EVs are eligible for a federal tax credit of up to \$7,500. Recent

legislation offers tax credits on some used EVs.

You can expect to pay \$5,000-\$15,000 more for a new EV than for a similar gasoline car, before tax credits. Some models have bigger price differences. You'll also want a home charger, which will cost about \$2,000-\$3,000. However, EV costs have fallen fast with mass production. It is now possible that the net total cost of EV ownership can be lower than the cost of a gas car over the life of a vehicle.

EVs contribute to energy independence by reducing the use of oil, regardless of the status of U.S. oil production. Producing more oil domestically helps keep gasoline prices down, but U.S. oil production doesn't make U.S. gasoline prices independent of foreign governments' oil policies. If other countries reduce oil supplies, gasoline prices go up here even if this country produces more oil than it uses, and even if we do not import oil from the countries that have reduced supply. Some buyers of the now-unavailable oil will just try to outbid U.S. users for available oil.

Almost no U.S. electricity is generated using oil. Electric vehicles eliminate dependence on foreign oil sources because they use electricity produced from coal, gas, uranium and

renewable sources (mostly hydroelectric, wind, solar and geothermal). Coal, gas and uranium are international commodities, but are not as easily affected as oil by the actions of antagonistic governments. Renewable electricity used in the U.S. is produced here.

There's a lot more to energy independence. I'll talk about that concept more in future columns.

Finally, carbon footprint. I just said that EVs use some coal power. How much does that matter?

A car that uses 440 gallons of gasoline a year emits about 8,600 pounds/year of carbon dioxide. A car that uses 3,300 kWh a year of electricity, produced using a third renewables or nuclear, a third gas and a third coal (close to Puget Sound Energy's most recent numbers), would emit about 4,400 pounds of CO2/year, factoring in about 6% in losses for delivery of electricity from the power plant to the car charger.

As the fraction of renewable energy on the grid increases, zero emissions will become realistic. A battery EV in Seattle or Tacoma, both of which have over 90% renewable electricity, already has nearly zero carbon emissions.

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Library Happenings

La Conner Swinomish Library is on the move!

We are scheduling Book Moving Volunteers for Thursday, Oct. 6, Friday, Oct. 7 and Saturday, Oct. 8.

If you already signed up to be a volunteer, you will get a phone call to schedule a shift to help one of those days. We'll start calling on Monday, Sept. 26. If you didn't sign up yet and want to help on any of these days, please call 360-466-3352 or email library@lclib.lib.wa.us.

Saturday, Oct. 8, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. is Kids Day to Help! Show up with your parent or guardian and help move the children's book collection. Feel free to bring your wagon, a book bag, or we can load up your strong arms with books.

On a slightly different note, if you participated in Summer Reading 2022, bring in your reading chart so you can receive your reward. You can do this on Oct. 8, or call to arrange a time to come in. We'd love to finish this up before too much time goes by.

Thanks to all of you for being patient with the library hiatus. The big knot in the system has been the supply chain issues. These issues disrupted our carefully coordinated dates and forced us to close longer than we hoped; however, we now have firm dates for moving, so the wait is almost over!

We are looking forward to seeing you all in the new La Conner Swinomish Library!

State awards \$76 million for salmon recovery

The Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board announced Sept. 26 the award of nearly \$76 million in grants across the state to help ensure the survival of salmon in Washington.

The board also approved an additional \$58 million in grant requests for 55 projects through the Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration program once funding is approved by the Legislature in 2023. If approved, the combined funding would be the largest amount of money directed at salmon recovery in a single year since the board was created 23 years ago.

The grants that were funded today went to 138 projects in 30 of the state's 39 counties. The grants will pay for work to restore salmon habitat, including repairing degraded habitat in rivers, removing barriers blocking salmon migration and conserving pristine habitat.

"This is incredibly important work," said Gov. Jay Inslee. "The projects will help restore salmon across the state. That means more salmon for our endangered orcas, more jobs for people and industries that rely on salmon and improved habitat that can better protect us from floods and the effects of climate change."

Over \$2.4 million in grant funding is being given to Skagit County. Projects using this funding include conserving the Skagit River floodplain, planting riverbanks and floodplains in the Skagit River watershed, conserving habitat in the Skagit River watershed, designing restoration of the Similk Estuary and more. Descriptions of these projects can be found on the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office website, rco.wa.gov.

Source: Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office

Fatal motorcycle collision near La Conner Sunday

By Bill Reynolds

The intersection of La Conner-Whitney Road and State Route 20 north of town was the scene of a fatal traffic collision involving two motorcycles Sunday, Sept. 25.

According to the Washington State Patrol, Robert C. Bray, 64, of Blaine, died at Island Hospital in Anacortes as a result of a crash with another motorcycle ridden by Michael Icenhour, 30, of Snohomish.

Icenhour was airlifted to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle.

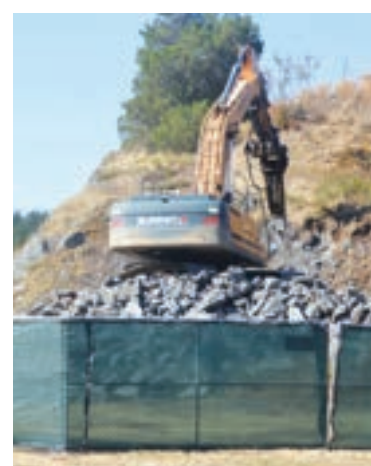
The incident, which is under investigation, occurred during the 39th annual Oyster Run, which draws thousands of bikes to Skagit County and is believed to be the largest rally of its kind in the Pacific Northwest.



OYSTER RUN – The 39th annual Oyster Run brought thousands of motorcyclists to Skagit Valley Sunday, Sept. 25. One popular stop was the Longhorn Saloon in Edison. This is the largest motorcycle run in the Pacific Northwest and although there is no starting point, everyone ends the day in Anacortes.

– Photo by Marissa Conklin

Snapdragon Flats apartment project underway



– Photo by Ken Stern

By Ken Stern

Excavation started Sept. 15 for developer C.J. Ebert's

Snapdragon Flats apartment buildings. Rock will be removed from the base of Snapdragon Hill, a two to three week process. The excavation will create a pad for the first triplex on Hill Street, Ebert explained in an email. Construction will start in the spring.

Ebert walked the nearby streets the week of Sept. 12, passing out a flyer. He informed residents of the coming "noise and truck traffic associated with this work," offering his "sincere apologies for the inconvenience" and pledging the work would be finished as quickly as possible.

"It is expensive and the quicker it is complete the better in terms of cost," he told the

Weekly News.

He noted the permitting process with the Town took a full year.

Finalizing permits will take another six months he estimates. Design work is also ongoing.

He is calling this first triplex Snapdragon Hill.

Its twin on the southside of the cliff, Snapdragon Park, does not have a construction start date.

Ebert is building six total units though zoning allows eight. "Six better fits the character of the site," he wrote, and that required parking is onsite.

He also shared that the plat was created in 1890 by Louisa A. Conner.

Jan. 6 hearing today

The Jan. 6 Select Committee hearing to investigate the attack on the United States Capitol is today, Sept. 28 at 1 p.m. The hearing can be livestreamed on the committee's official website, january6th.house.gov.

Source: Select Committee

A big thanks

These are all the people who helped with Jim Valenzuela's service on July 1st. La Conner Fire Department, La Conner Fire Association, Fire Chief Wood Weiss, Pastor Pat Nicholes, Skagit County Dispatch, Chaplain Pat Ellis, singers Knut Bell,

Kiralee Harris, Karissa Vaifale and Lindsee Nichols; Santo Coyote, Mayor Ramon Hayes, Cathy Garcia, Debi and James Valenzuela, Beatrice Lude and the La Conner Weekly News.

You can contact Mary Alice Valenzuela at 360-941-6699, 613 35th St., Anacortes.

–Mary Alice Valenzuela

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"Since 1913"



ON THE RUN – Braves quarterback Ivory Damien (5) scrambles left for a short gain in La Conner's home opener with Coupeville Friday night. Damien led La Conner with 62 yards on 17 carries. But it wasn't enough as the Wolves posted a 46-0 NW2B triumph. – Photo by Madoc Hiller

Braves football lose to Coupeville in home debut

By Bill Reynolds

The Coupeville High School football team needed just one score and 16 seconds to post an NW2B shutout win over La Conner at Whittaker Field Friday, Sept. 23. Coupeville's Scott Hilborn returned the opening kickoff 78 yards for a touchdown that opened the floodgates to a 46-0 Wolves triumph. Hilborn reeled off a 10-yard scoring jaunt that edged Coupeville 13-0 less than a minute into the game, following one of five La Conner lost fumbles. Coupeville capped its scoring

onslaught when quarterback Chase Anderson tossed a 12-yard touchdown strike to Timothy Ursu with :06 remaining in the half. Neither team scored in the final 24 minutes. La Conner mounted one solid first half drive, cranking out four first downs and marching from the Braves' 25 to Coupeville's 32 before losing possession on a fumble. Quarterback Ivory Damien paced La Conner by rushing for 62 yards on 17 carries. Damien added two completions in three pass attempts for 12 yards, one a 10-yard throw to Randy Ikebe and the other a two-yard flip to

C.J. Edwards. As a team, La Conner managed 104 yards total offense, 92 coming on the ground against a physical Wolves stop unit. With the lopsided win, Coupeville improved to 3-1 overall and 1-0 in conference action. The Wolves entertain Friday Harbor, which blanked La Conner 52-0 on Sept. 16, in their homecoming game this Friday. La Conner (0-2) is idle this week. The Braves are next scheduled for an Oct. 7 non-league test in Tacoma with Charles Wright Academy.

Schools observe Orange Shirt Day Friday

By Bill Reynolds

La Conner School District colors have long been blue and white.

But on Friday, Sept. 29 students will add orange to the color scheme.

La Conner Schools is among the first districts in Washington State to embrace Orange Shirt Day, which in Canada is a statutory holiday recognizing the impact residential schools had on indigenous students and communities for over a century.

"We want to thank the La Conner School District for embracing this," Swinomish Education Director Michael Vendiola said during an interactive Zoom program that aired last week.

"La Conner," said Vendiola, "is one of the few schools that takes the time to learn about it."

The Zoom program also featured a conversation between school board student rep Taylor Rae Cayou and Swinomish elder Janet Wilbur that focused on the trauma generations of native families have suffered as a result of the residential school experience.

"Orange Shirt Day, to me," Wilbur said, "is about healing, not pretending it didn't happen, but learning to become stronger from it. It's a day to make healing happen."

"Orange Shirt Day," she said, "is a time to be proud of our heritage and keep our children healthy and strong."

Thousands of indigenous children in Canada and the U.S. were

forced to attend boarding schools – the nearest to Swinomish was at Tulalip – created to strip them of their culture, Vendiola said. Many did not return home, succumbing to malnutrition, disease, abuse and the rigors of attempting to escape home.

A La Conner alum, Dr. Kisha Supernant, a faculty member at the University of Alberta, has taken a lead role in locating the unmarked graves of native students who died while attending residential schools.

Orange Shirt Day, observed annually on Sept. 30, was started by Phyllis Jack Webstad, whose personal clothing – a new orange shirt of which she was especially proud – was taken from her during her first day of residential schooling and never returned.

The orange shirt, said Vendiola, is used as a symbol of forced assimilation of indigenous children that the residential school system enforced.

"The Orange Shirt movement got started in Canada and is working its way into the United States," said Vendiola, who praised La Conner Schools for being at the forefront of observances in Western Washington.

"It's important," he said, "to acknowledge that part of the history."

Wilbur, a retired La Conner Schools paraprofessional, said Swinomish youth have an opportunity to convert past trauma into future success.

"To native students," she said, "I'd say to be proud of your heritage and get your education down. Don't give up on your dreams and goals."

Volleyball wins league opener last Thursday

By Bill Reynolds

The La Conner High School volleyball team split a pair of matches last week but literally won the one that counted.

The defending state 2B net champs were edged in three sets at 1A Nooksack Valley Sept. 20 before sweeping Friday Harbor on San Juan Island in La Conner's

NW2B/1B debut on Thursday, Sept. 22.

The Lady Braves (3-1), who typically play a challenging non-conference schedule, had earlier defeated 2A Anacortes and Sehome at home.

"Nooksack is a very solid team," La Conner head coach Marble said after the team's 22-25, 19-25, 23-25 setback in

Everson. "We had a difficult time on defense due to Nooksack's strong offense."

Nooksack was able to offset a brilliant outing from La Conner senior outside hitter Ellie Marble, who finished with 20 kills, 34 digs and 21 of 21 on serve receive.

Setter Abby Udlock fueled the Lady Braves attack with 24 assists. Morgan Huizenga joined

Marble in double-digit kills with 10.

Coach Marble said the Nooksack match could benefit La Conner going forward.

"We will continue to improve and learn from our tough matches as we head into our league matches," she vowed.

That assessment proved prophetic.

La Conner blasted Friday Harbor less than 48 hours later with an impressive straight-sets (25-0,

25-6, 25-7) victory.

The victors set the tone at the service stripe. La Conner served at a 98% clip, with Huizenga flawless on 30 attempts, 25 of which came in the opening set. She paced the Lady Braves with nine aces.

Ellie Marble added eight service aces to go with 15 kills and 14 digs.

Middle blocker Makayla Herrera was strong at the net with seven kills.

La Conner, which entertained rival Concrete last night, resumes its NW2B/1B slate tomorrow, Sept. 29 with a 5:30 p.m. home match opposite Coupeville.

The Lady Braves go back on the road this weekend with matches in Eastern Washington in Chelan on Friday and Manson on Saturday.

The Braves soccer team moved to 2-5 on the campaign by splitting a pair of matches. La Conner blanked Coupeville at home 1-0 on Sept. 20 before falling 3-0 at Mount Vernon Christian on Thursday.



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LOCAL ARTIST EXHIBIT – Native American artist Jay Bowen displayed his art at the Shelter Bay clubhouse last weekend, Sept. 23-25. – Photo courtesy of Giuliana Nakashima

Hearing

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

bedrock values. “Fifty years ago,” Cornwall reminded the three dozen or so people crammed into the Maple Hall meeting room, “the town’s waterfront was lined with fishing boats. How many fishing boats are in La Conner today?”

Cornwall urged against enacting policies that “edge people out who are here for other peoples’ visions.”

Port of Skagit Planning and Development Director Helen Rogerson opened with proposals for modifying industrial zoning to restrict allowed uses at La Conner Marina to maritime ventures.

She reiterated the Port’s request for permitting 60-foot buildings, a move opposed by those citing local firefighting equipment that is limited to 30-foot structures.

On that point, Davolio told commissioners that the La Conner fire department is “fine with 60-feet as long as it’s a single-story building, which is what the Mavrik Marine Building is,” while former council member Stuart Welch suggested that the Port, as a public entity, “should be paying for fire protection for that building.”

Mavrik Marine owner Zach Battle, noting his business provides more than 100 living wage jobs, expressed support for both the Town’s interests and the Port’s zoning initiatives.

Resident Debbie Aldrich, as did others, counseled caution.

“I’m not opposed to building boats,” said Aldrich. “I love boats. But we need to watch these heights.”

The conversation shifted to housing, a proposed reduction from 25 feet to 15 feet of the Town agricultural setback requirement and local quality of life issues in general.

Greg Ellis, who has plans to develop housing behind Pioneer Market, endorsed the tiny homes concept.

“More than 50 per cent of the population can’t afford to buy any kind of house,” Ellis noted. “We should allow tiny homes here so our kids can afford to live in the community.”

Several people feared that an agricultur setback reduction could create safety hazards and conflicts between what resident Bob Raymond termed “patio people versus farmland.”

Former planning commission member Linda Talman, Zooming in from Atlanta – where she was babysitting – asked commissioners to think in terms of a toddler scooting across a patio to watch a tractor.

Fifteen feet, she said, would be

much too close.

“The setback,” Talman said, “shouldn’t go to anything less than 25 feet.”

La Conner organic farmer Dave Hedlin, a founder of Skagitians to Preserve Farmland, pointed out that ag setbacks used to be 50 feet.

“The big thing for me,” said Hedlin, “is to urge caution and thoughtfulness. Our farm depends on having good relations with everyone. So, I urge careful thought.”

Hedlin also shared a couple of his famous “Dave-isms.”

“Bring your patio chairs out to the farm,” said Hedlin, tongue firmly planted in his cheek, “and I’ll drive a tractor and plow by you and see what your thoughts are.”

“Back during the Green Revolution,” he added, “everybody worried about what we sprayed on our crops. Now I worry about people spray on their rose bushes.”

Amy McFeely, who resides on South Fourth Street, addressed prepared remarks to the Port, Davolio, the planning commission and town council that touched on inclusion and quality of life standards.

“La Conner’s Neighborhood Conservation Goal,” she said, “clearly states the role of codes in our development. (It is to) encourage a balanced and organized combination of open space, commercial, industrial, recreation and public uses served by a convenient and efficient transportation network, while protecting the fabric and character of residential neighborhoods.”

McFeely provided emphasis on the final nine words.

She acknowledged the difficult work undertaken by the planning commission and council.

“Work with our community to change this climate of contention and litigation,” she implored. “Help us build a vision for an inclusive, innovative, climate resilient and sustainable La Conner that will stand solid against the tide of outdated urbanization and suburbanization.

“Design the codes,” McFeely advised, “to protect that exemplary vision and demand that developers meet those codes.”

After an hour it was clear that still more was left to be said. Thus, the decision to continue the public hearing.

Commission Chair Marna Hanneman applauded the move, saying La Conner’s future merits continued study.

“What’s the long-term vision for the town?” Hanneman asked. “That’s what’s really important. What will La Conner look like in 25 or 50 years. How will the town change? That’s what we’re concerned about.”

“Welcome to Indian Country” opens Poetry Festival

By Anne Basye

Some of the 37 guest poets and artists participating in this year’s Skagit River Poetry Festival are crossing oceans to reach La Conner.

Others just have to cross the Rainbow Bridge.

Canadian poet Karen Solie, flying in from St. Andrews, Scotland, is coming the farthest.

Katherine Paul of the band Black Belt Eagle Scout can just stroll down the street. Her dad Kevin Paul can commute from Swinomish Village.

Father and daughter will open the festival’s Thursday, October 6 program, “Welcome to Indian Country: A Reading to Celebrate our First Nation Roots” with music and blessings.

Two of the three Native poets reading are from the Salish Sea. Rena Priest of the Lummi Nation, Poet Laureate of Washington State, is making her second Skagit County appearance, following her recent reading and workshop at the Lincoln Theatre in Mount Vernon.

Sasha LaPointe, poet and author of the memoir “Red Paint: The Ancestral Autobiography of a Coast Salish Punk,” is a member of the Nooksack and Upper Skagit tribe. She is also great-granddaughter of educator and Upper Skagit elder Vi Hilbert, who as the last fluent speaker of Lushootseed did so much to conserve the language.

Meskwaki (Red Earth People) tribal member Ray Young Bear is from Iowa. According to the Poetry Foundation website, his poetry is often surreal and informed by the Meskwaki culture, and his sources are myth, history, and dreams.

“Ska je tah lo” Lona Wilbur

will definitely be in the audience. “I enjoy Indian writers from our communities, whose writing reflects our lives as Tribal people,” she said. “Their words give life to us as Indian-born peoples.”

“Welcome to Indian Country” and Thursday night’s Poet’s Soiree Dinner will be held at Maple Hall, the central gathering point for the festival and its Friday and Saturday evening readings.

The many readings and panel discussions planned for Friday, October 7 and Saturday, October 8 will take place around town at the Museum of Northwest Art, the Skagit County Historical Museum, the Methodist Church, Santo Coyote Restaurant, the Civic Garden Club, the La Conner Country Inn and the Channel Lodge.

Friday’s sessions are for high school students like La Conner High School senior Rachel Haley. As a middle school student, she always looked forward to the week that a Skagit River Poetry Project poet taught her English class.

“They definitely opened the doors for me, and I actually started my own poetry journal after that,” she said. “I’ve been writing in that for at least five years.”

She’s excited about attending sessions on Friday and encountering new voices and inspiration.

“We do the festival for the kids,” said Skagit River Poetry Foundation Executive Director Molly McNulty. “The students in our Poets in the Schools program get to rub elbows with the poets they read in their classrooms.”

Students with a valid school ID can also attend readings and sessions for general ticket holders, which begin at 3:30 p.m. Friday and continue through Saturday afternoon October 8. Sessions

tackle themes like humor, grief and healing in poetry, as well as poetry about love, tragedy, work, sins and virtues, and advocacy and witness.

“A committee reads the poets and figures out who fits together and what a captivating subject would be,” said McNulty. “We keep it fairly loose so we don’t box in the poets, but we like to give them and the audience a guide.”

At Friday night’s Gathering of Poets, each participant reads one poem. An after-hours open mike follows.

The Saturday evening reading, “Healing the Divide: Poems of Kindness and Connection” features nationally known poets Lorna Crozier, Terrance Hayes, Jane Hirschfield and Karen Solie.

“All our featured poets are remarkable people whose voices are making a huge difference in our country,” said McNulty.

A full festival pass is \$300 and entitles the bearer to hear all the poets and sessions plus the Thursday night soiree and reading. Day passes are also available – \$80 for Friday, \$95 for Saturday. A Friday-Saturday pass costs \$150.

A ticket to the “Welcome to Indian Country” on Thursday night, not including the soiree, is \$50.

Tickets may be purchased online at skagitriverpoetry.org/festival/festival-tickets/ or at Maple Hall. To volunteer to set up, take down and host venues and a myriad of other essential tasks, see skagitriverpoetry.org/about/volunteer/ or call Molly McNulty at 360-840-1452.

“The festival always costs us more than we take in,” McNulty said. “It’s a gift we give our community, because we are so passionate about poetry and poets in the schools.”

Jess Gigot finds roots on a Skagit Valley farm

By Anna Ferdinand

Forty people gathered on the top floor of Village books to hear local author Jess Gigot read from her new memoir, “A Little Bit of Land” on Thursday, Sept. 15, munching on puff pastry adorned with sauteed lamb raised on her

farm, the Sally Best cheese from her sheep, listening to the sounds of local band, Hot Tomatoes.

“The book is very relevant in terms of exploring why our regional food and farming knowledge-base is so vital,” said Gigot, who runs Harmony Fields farm with husband Dean Luce.

“This is also the story of following a passion and I think a lot of people are re-examining their own lives right now.”

The book, published by Oregon State University Press, recounts her journey into farming, with roots in 9/11, as she faced

(continued on page 6)

National Silent Movie Day

Celebrate National Silent Movie Day at the Lincoln Theatre tomorrow, Sept. 29 with a free silent movie showing at 7:30 p.m. The Wurlitzer pre-show is at 7 p.m. The theatre suggests a \$5 donation.

Source: Lincoln Theatre

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Town. . . (from page 1)

and Davolio agree that the rezone agreement "is unenforceable as a matter of law." They relied on an assessment by the Seattle-area firm Kenyon Disend, which believes "a strong argument exists that the Contract Rezone is not binding on subsequent purchasers since there are no facts indicating the purchasers had constructive or record notice of the Contract Rezone."

Thomas sent eight questions to the law firm, including asking if the 1986 agreement was effective upon adoption. The firm responded, in their "opinion, the Contract Rezone was most likely effective upon adoption as a proper exercise of the Town Council's contracting authority." The 306 Center Street property was zoned residential earlier in 1986 but the zoning changed to commercial, evidence that portion of the agreement was enacted.

Davolio's determination was forwarded to the Town's planning commission, council and all parties of record to the hearing examiner's May decision. Parties of record have 10 days to appeal to the hearing examiner.

The determination listed 10 findings of fact of the case, including the dates of the hearing examiner's hearing (March 31) and decision (June 21). The conditional use permit applied for allows residential units above the first-floor short term rentals, which are an approved commercial zone use.

Hearing Examiner David Lowell ruled on reconsideration requests July 20, remanding back to the Town the question of the validity of the contract rezone agreement.

Kenyon Disend was engaged in August, providing its assessment Sept. 9. Thomas summarized those conclusions at the Sept. 13 council meeting. The firm charged \$481.50 for 2.3 hours of work.

AGENDA

SPECIAL MEETING
NOTICE TOWN OF LA CONNER PLANNING COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING Tuesday, October 4, 2022 6:00 p.m. 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 - Time Limit 3 Minutes
3. OLD BUSINESS
Continuation of Public Hearing regarding Municipal Code Amendments
4. NEW BUSINESS
None
5. CLOSING COMMENTS
Our next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, October 18, 2022.
Meeting ID: 882 6656 0265
Passcode: SVt8A8



LEGAL NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY
In Re The Estate of Richard Cardoza aka Richard Cardoza Jr. Deceased.
No. 22-4-00400-29
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE
The above Court has appointed me, KA THY ANSTENSEN as Personal Representative of Decedent's estate. Any person having a claim against the Decedent must present the claim: (a) Before the time when the claim would be barred by any applicable statute of limitations, and (b) In the manner provided in RCW 11.40.070: (i) By filing the original of the claim with the foregoing Court, and (ii) By serving on or mailing to me at the address below a copy of the claim. The claim must be presented by the later of: (a) Thirty (30)days after I served or mailed this Notice as provided in RCW 11.40.020(1)(c), or (b) Four (4) months after the date of first publication of this Notice. If the claim is not presented within this time period, the claim will be forever barred except as provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective for claims against both the Decedent's probate and non-probate assets.

Date of First Publication of this Notice: September 28, 2022.
Personal Representative: Kathy Anstensen
1004 Commercial Ave., Ste. 157 Anacortes, WA 98221
Published in the La Conner Weekly News September 28, October 5, 12, 2022.

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE
Sedro Woolley 1977 Mobile Home. Mobile Home for Sale.
Public Auction
Lien Foreclosure, 13th of October, 2022. 10:00 a.m.
1725 S Burlington Blvd, Burlington WA
Published in the La Conner Weekly News September 28, 2022.

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR THE COUNTY OF SKAGIT
In the Matter of the Estate of BARBARA JOAN BISSELL, Deceased.
Case No. 22-4-00458-29
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS
RCW 11.40.020, 11.40.030

The Personal Representative named below has been appointed and has qualified 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 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.

Super Crossword

Answers

Grid of crossword puzzle answers including words like UTOPIAS, LOCALLES, BLAST, SALERNO, ALABAMA, LASTS, SPEAK OF THE DEVIL, EMCEE, REOS, TOR, TIL, RUPERT, ASPER, MASSIVE, ONES, DOWN, THEROAD, HEELTOTOE, ABATED, ELTON, GAIN, ROSSI, PSAT, ATTAIN, ADD, LEN, NEE, FETCHANDCARRY, ASTI, TEA, EROS, ANISE, STANDONCEREMONY, HAVOC, MWAH, RAW, ARE, SHAKETHINGS, SUP, RES, ERA, TAN, LAOTSE, PRAY, ANAIS, ELM, S, LETON, STORKS, SITASPELL, COMEWHATMAY, AGES, ESIA, SON, MIENS, UNTIED, ATO, AID, OHNO, COREY, OBEDIENCE, SCHOOL, ERASE, CLEANED, STOOPED, RESTS, TENSELY, TEXTILE

Answers to September 28 puzzles

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: September 21, 2022
Roger Mark Hurd
Personal Representative
SKAGIT LAW GROUP, PLLC
MEGAN OTIS MASON-HOLDER, WSBA #29495
Attorneys for Personal Representative
P.O. Box 336/227 Freeway Drive, Suite B
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
Published in the La Conner Weekly News September 21, 28, October 5, 2022.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY
No. 22-4-00473-29
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

In the Matter of the Estate of Gene Sargent, 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 assets.

Date of first publication: September 21, 2022
Michael L. Sargent
Personal Representative
SKAGIT LAW GROUP, PLLC
MEGAN OTIS MASON-HOLDER, WSBA #29495
Attorneys for Personal Representative
P.O. Box 336/227 Freeway Drive, Suite B
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
Published in the La Conner Weekly News September 21, 28, October 5, 2022.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

Grid of sudoku answers: 1 9 2 5 7 4 3 6 8, 6 4 3 9 8 1 7 5 2, 7 5 8 3 2 6 9 1 4, 8 1 6 4 9 5 2 7 3, 9 2 5 1 3 7 8 4 6, 4 3 7 2 6 8 1 9 5, 5 8 1 7 4 3 6 2 9, 2 6 4 8 1 9 5 3 7, 3 7 9 6 5 2 4 8 1

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Poet. . . (from page 5)

the new world order as a young college student.

Her story goes back and forth between her family's life on the farm, her personal journey getting there and the process of "trying to figure out my life, my way."

Her subtle humor guides her reader through the characters that populate the various farms and schooling she will encounter, "animal hoarding" as she refers to in the book when she finally has her own farm, (two new miniature donkeys, ducks, the sheep and a dog); her first ride in her Subaru, packed with hay bales, before she would finally find her own work truck.

She incorporates an elegant economy of words, stark visuals of life on a farm, of beets, and sheep, birthing and death, the beauty of it all balanced with the brutal reality of it.

"I have actually been writing this book since 2013," says Gigot, who incorporates the words of environmental writer Wendell Berry throughout, as meditations on the modern-day disconnect with the land.

Berry's voice is a thread in a tapestry that weaves understanding of the soil, the larger politics of small farms and her journey to the Skagit Valley where she becomes a teacher, a wife, a mother and a writer.

Gigot is author of two volumes of poetry books, "Flood Patterns" and "Feeding Hour, poems about the succulent earth, about mothering, about sheep and the

environmental crisis we face as humans living on earth.

Gigot moved to Skagit Valley 20 years ago. She was working on her masters in vegetable pathology and received her Ph.D. in horticulture.

"Attending the Breadloaf Environmental Writing class in 2016 was a pivotal experience because I felt like it gave me permission to explore the craft of writing and integrate the eco-poetics and science/nature writing that I had been interested in all along," says Gigot.

"As I mention in the first chapter I never felt like I had a good response to the question, 'Did you grow up on a farm?' Memoir felt like the best avenue."

As their farming business grows, so too does her writing career. Her second book of poems won a Nautilus award and was a finalist for the Washington State Book Award. She is a Jack Straw writer for 2022.

Recently she published an opinion piece in the Seattle Times, arguing the need for support of first generation farmers and educational pathways so that people who do not grow up in farming families can see themselves in farming.

In her next project, she hopes to focus on the trumpeter swans who make their home in the Skagit Valley each year for a period of time.

"I didn't intend to be a local author, but it feels like there is a lot to talk about here. After a long detour into science and research, I did finally realize I was a poet at heart."

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- 1. The Woman King (PG-13) Viola Davis, Thuso Mbedu
2. Barbarian (R) Georgina Campbell, Bill Skarsgard
3. Pearl (R) David Corenswet, Mia Goth
4. See How They Run (PG-13) Kieran Hodgson, Pearl Chanda
5. Bullet Train (R) Brad Pitt, Joey King
6. Top Gun: Maverick (PG-13) Tom Cruise, Jennifer Connelly
7. DC League of Super-Pets (PG) Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart
8. The Invitation (PG-13) Nathalie Emmanuel, Thomas Doherty
9. Minions: The Rise of Gru (PG) Steve Carell, Pierre Coffin
10. Moonage Daydream (PG-13) David Bowie*
*Archive footage

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Complete Events Calendar on laconnerweeklynews.com

ASSISTANCE

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.

LIBRARIES

La Conner Library. 614 Morris St, La Conner. 360-466-3352. lclib.wa.us. Closed indefinitely to start the move process to new building.

Anacortes Public Library. 360-299-8067, CityofAnacortes.org. 1220 10th St, Anacortes.
Tech Help. Every weekday at library front desk. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Drop-in for hands-on help.

Mount Vernon Public Library. 360-336-6209, mountvernonwa.gov. 315 Snoqualmie St, Mount Vernon.
Virtual Reality. Every Saturday 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Must be 18 or older.
Baby Storytime. Every Friday 10:30-11 a.m.

Burlington Public Library. 360-755-0760, burlingtonwa.gov. 820 E Washington Ave, Burlington.
Costume Swap. Oct. 10-31. Bring your old costume and leave with a new one. All ages. Donations accepted.

MUSEUM EXHIBITS

Museum of Northwest Art. Hours: Mon-Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun 11 a.m.-4 p.m. monamuseum.org, 360-466-4446. *Exhibit: Alfredo Arreguin.* Painter from the New World. Through Oct. 2.
Exhibit: In Pursuit of Abstraction. Instructors at the UW School of Art in the 1960s. Through Oct. 9.

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.
International Quilt and Fiber Arts Festival. Oct. 7-9. Fri-Sat 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Edward D. Hansen Conference Center, 2000 Hewitt Ave, Everett.
Exhibit: Essence of Japan. Through October 9.
Exhibit: Tangled Fibers. Through October 30.

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THE TOWN OF LA CONNER IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS for position of Planner Assistant. This position is to support the Planner and all departments in reviewing and routing permits for the Town of La Conner, and responding to public records requests. This is a fulltime position at \$50,000 per year with full benefits. For an employment application and full job description, please refer to the Town of La Conner website www.townoflaconner.org under Employment. Application, cover letter and resume are to be received by October 7, 2022, at 4 p.m. Late submissions will not be accepted.

REPORTER WANTED Like to write? Want to see your name in print? Part-time writer needed for: Freelance, contract work. Some weekends. Send letter of interest and writing samples to: Ken Stern, publisher: editor@laconnernews.com

LOOKING FOR 1-4 Acres of land in Whatcom, Sedro Woolley, La Conner, Marblemount, Stanwood, Anacortes, Coupeville, etc. for off-grid homestead for my small family. Must have trees and year around access. Have \$40-75K cash in hand for whole payment, with minimal building restrictions preferred. Please call 425-772-1096

STAY IN YOUR HOME ON YOUR OWN TERMS. I am a healthy retired teacher and former veteran offering homestay, caregiving and housekeeper solutions for seniors. I would prefer a live-in situation, renting a room from the employer. Call Nick at 206-422-1179 or email earboneman@hotmail.com.

JO'S HEALING HANDS. When is the last time you got a massage? Call and make an appt. Today - Jo's Healing Hands LMT 360-708-2022.

Skagit County Historical Museum. 360-466-3365 or skagitcounty.net/museum. Hours: Thurs-Sun 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Exhibit: Lavone Newell-Reim: A Life Well Lived. Through October 2.
Exhibit: Hunt and Peck. Through October 31.

NOT TO BE MISSED

Cub Scout Adventure Day. Oct. 1, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Fire Mountain Scout Camp in Mount Vernon. All Cub Scouts, parents and siblings are invited.

Washington Brant Foundation. *Bird decoy carving and painting.* Oct. 5, 4-6 p.m. at Maiben House in Burlington. 8-week series is \$70 for adults and \$50 for youth.

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.

ART & THEATRE

Lincoln Theatre. 712 S 1st St, Mount Vernon. 360-336-8955. lincolntheatre.org.
The Skagit Drag Show. Oct. 1, 6 p.m. Tickets are \$20. Available to stream online.

McIntyre Hall. 2501 E College Way, Mount Vernon. mcintyrehall.org.
Show: "Capitol Comedy." Oct. 7, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$35-\$45. Students are free. Poking fun at today's political and social events.

Whidbey Playhouse. 730 SE Midway Blvd, Oak Harbor. 360-679-2237. whidbeyplayhouse.com
Show: "Grease" through Oct. 2. Fri-Sat 7:30 p.m., Sunday 2:30 p.m.

Cassera Galleries. 106 1st St, La Conner. casseraartspremiers.com.
The Art of Furniture by Stuart Welch. Through Oct. 20.

MEETINGS

Town of La Conner 204 Douglas St, La Conner. 360-466-3125. Zoom info @Townoflaconner.org/calendar.
Special Planning Commission Meeting. Oct. 4, 6 p.m. at Maple Hall and Zoom.
Town Council. Oct. 11, 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. Oct. 10, 1-3 p.m. at district office board room.
Financial Aid Night. Sept. 27, at high school library.

Skagit Conservation District 2021 E. College Way #203, Mt. Vernon. 360-428-4313. Zoom info @ skagitcd.org.
Board meetings. Every fourth Wednesday 7:30-9 a.m. Next meeting September 27.

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.

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Aqiimuk's Kitchen

By Patricia Aqiimuk Paul, Esq., Food Editor.

Pear Sauce

Thankful for generous friends. Sheila Klein offers pears each year, from her trees. The pears are picked and sorted into varieties. We bring boxes and take our selections home. I keep orca pears cool until they ripen, in yellow tones. Using them while they are firm, before they soften. I started this recipe with 18 medium pears, cut in half and filled an 8 quart slow cooker. The end result was two pints of pear sauce. Pear sauce is like applesauce.

Ingredients

- Orca pears, 18 medium
- Cinnamon sticks, 8
- Whole cloves, 10
- Sugar, 1/8 cup

Preparation

Wash the pears and cut in half. Place, cut side up, until you fill the slow cooker. Set the cinnamon sticks and whole cloves on top. Place the lid on and set the temperature to slow. Cook all night. In the morning, allow to cool. Take out the spices. Then use a food mill to remove the skin and seeds. Measure. For four cups of pear sauce, add 1/8 cup of sugar, in a large cooking pot. Bring to a boil. Remove from heat and ladle into pint canning jars. Water bath can for 15 minutes. Will keep for one year. Refrigerate after opening.

AqiimuksKitchen@outlook.com

The
Garden
Bug

Saving seeds

Harvest seed pods by the stem when the green color is all gone, and they appear brown and dry. Crumble the pods in a bowl until the inner seeds are released. Spread the seeds on some paper, keeping each kind separate. Let them dry for one week; then collect them into small paper packets or envelopes, labeling each one with its plant name and the date you gathered them. Store your seed packets in a dry, dark location. - Brenda Weaver

Sources: rodalorganiciife.com, howtosaveseds.com, www.motherearthnews.com

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Super Crossword

<p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Perfect places</p> <p>8 Places</p> <p>15 Firing noise</p> <p>20 Italian province or its capital</p> <p>21 Mobile's place</p> <p>22 Goes the distance</p> <p>23 "We were just talking about you!"</p> <p>25 Roast's host</p> <p>26 Early 1900s cars</p> <p>27 The Raptors, on sports tickers</p> <p>28 Up to, for short</p> <p>29 Actor Everett of "Stardust"</p> <p>30 In accordance with</p> <p>33 Really big</p> <p>36 Low-value billfold fillers</p> <p>37 Yet to happen</p> <p>41 Regular way of walking</p> <p>43 Stacked off</p> <p>44 "Your Song" singer John</p> <p>46 Acquire</p> <p>47 Martini's partner in winemaking</p> <p>48 Exam for some jrs.</p> <p>49 Acquire</p> <p>52 Tally up</p> <p>55 "The Ipcress File" novelist</p> <p>56 Maiden-named</p> <p>58 Bring items to someone as a server would</p> <p>61 Italian province or its capital</p> <p>63 Steeped quaff</p> <p>65 Love god</p> <p>66 Ouzo flavorer</p> <p>67 Insist that formalities are observed</p> <p>73 Extensive destruction</p> <p>76 "Air kiss" sound</p> <p>77 Crude</p> <p>78 Greek god in a chariot</p> <p>82 Make radical changes to the norm</p> <p>87 Hi — graphics</p> <p>89 Long time</p> <p>90 Beige</p> <p>91 Father of Taoism</p> <p>92 Talk to a deity</p> <p>94 Novelist Nin</p> <p>96 Shade trees</p> <p>97 Acknowledge</p> <p>99 Wading birds</p> <p>100 Relax briefly</p> <p>105 No matter the consequence</p> <p>107 A long time</p> <p>108 1988 NFL MVP Boomer</p> <p>110 Bearings</p> <p>111 Loosened, as a skate</p> <p>113 From — Z</p> <p>114 Assist</p> <p>115 "That's awful!"</p> <p>119 Actor Feldman</p> <p>120 Place to teach the eight commands featured in this puzzle</p> <p>125 Rub away</p> <p>126 Mopped, e.g.</p> <p>127 Crouched</p> <p>128 Relaxes</p> <p>129 In a nervous way</p> <p>130 Woven fabric</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Khrushchev's fed.</p> <p>2 Sticky stuff</p> <p>3 Butter substitute</p> <p>4 Field laborers</p> <p>5 Really bug</p> <p>6 Year, in Rio</p> <p>7 "Mister" of ice cream trucks</p> <p>8 Bert of "The Wizard of Oz"</p> <p>9 "Go, torero!"</p> <p>10 Ill-bred dude</p> <p>11 Assists in crime</p> <p>12 Sumptuous</p> <p>13 Actress de Ravin of "Lost"</p> <p>14 Actor Mineo</p> <p>15 — cheese dressing</p> <p>16 Sendup</p> <p>17 Liftoff follower</p> <p>18 Hi-fi system</p> <p>19 Feared fly</p> <p>24 Swimmer Dara with 12 Olympic medals</p> <p>29 Installed anew, as flooring</p> <p>31 Beer vessel</p> <p>32 Prof's degree</p> <p>33 Having a dull finish</p> <p>34 Hurly-burly</p> <p>35 Eschewer of animal products</p> <p>37 "The Little Rascals" girl</p> <p>38 Conical woodwinds</p> <p>39 Had no life</p> <p>40 Royal name of Norway</p> <p>42 Soup holder</p> <p>45 Mother-of-pearl</p> <p>48 Hammer end</p> <p>50 Norse god in a chariot</p> <p>51 Nonlethal stunner</p> <p>52 Jackie's hubby #2</p> <p>53 HMO participants</p> <p>54 Henna, e.g.</p> <p>57 SFO guess</p> <p>59 PC support givers</p> <p>60 Writer Seton</p> <p>62 Merits a "so-so"</p> <p>64 Acknowledge</p> <p>68 Antigen</p> <p>69 Has</p> <p>70 Actor Conrad of early films</p> <p>71 Nanny Poppins</p> <p>72 Have a debt</p> <p>73 Pres. elected in '48</p> <p>74 "Caught you!"</p> <p>75 Boxy vehicle</p> <p>79 Weaponize again</p> <p>80 "Traffic" actress Christensen</p> <p>81 Full of lip</p> <p>83 Packed firmly</p> <p>84 Gas pump attachments</p> <p>85 Novelist Sinclair</p> <p>86 Grads' dance</p> <p>88 Lucifer</p> <p>93 Lacking vitality</p> <p>95 Medium to poor</p> <p>96 Least difficult</p> <p>98 Lead-in to chic or hazard</p> <p>99 Sow or cow</p> <p>100 Dish under a cup</p> <p>101 Brush aside</p> <p>102 "Neon" tank swimmers</p> <p>103 Prone</p> <p>104 Triangular sail</p> <p>106 Least narrow</p> <p>109 Coke and Pepsi</p> <p>112 Peepers</p> <p>114 Roddick of tennis</p> <p>116 Pueblo people</p> <p>117 Yuletide tune</p> <p>118 Dated, quaintly</p> <p>120 Mo. with the birthstone opal</p> <p>121 Suffix with opal</p> <p>122 Fish that can be shocking</p> <p>123 — Jeanne d'Arc: Abbr.</p> <p>124 "Friends" co-star Courteney</p>

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POLICE BLOTTER

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Monday, September 19
12:53 a.m.: Ding dong ditch – Report of a male subject in pajamas that rang the doorbell at the house. Law enforcement checked the area, but the male was not located. Calhoun Rd., Greater La Conner.

Tuesday, September 20
1:52 p.m.: Suspicious activity – Report of several incidents of drug abuse and traffic coming and going from the apartments. Law enforcement to conduct extra patrols in the area. Maple Ave., La Conner.

3:12 p.m.: Causing trouble – An unwanted female has a history of showing up at the business and causing problems. To alleviate future problems a trespass or court order could be served on the female. 1st St., La Conner.

Wednesday, September 21
8:56 a.m.: Phone call declined – A male who had been hanging

around in the fields near the road approached a house and asked if he could come inside to use a phone. The homeowner did not know who he was and declined. The male left and was not seen again. McLean Rd., Greater La Conner.

8:52 p.m.: Mystery crash – Deputies responded to the area for what was reported as a vehicle crash into a pole. The area was checked, and signs of a crash were not located. McLean/Beaver Marsh Rds., Greater La Conner.

Thursday, September 22
2:45 p.m.: Banned customer – The business requested information how to trespass a female permanently who was belligerent and rude. They were advised to call police if the female returns, and they do not want her there. She would be told by law enforcement she is not allowed to return. Morris St., La Conner.

La Conner priest member of famed Seattle class of '68



LOCAL PASTOR HAS HISTORIC ROOTS – Father Paul Magnano, a pastor at the historic Sacred Heart Church in La Conner, is a part of the largest class of priests ordained in the Archdiocese of Seattle. He is one of 16 priests from the archdiocese's class of 1968.

– Photo by Marissa Conklin

By Bill Reynolds

Father Paul Magnano has ministered in the Skagit Valley and the Puget Sound for 55 years.

He is well known to longtime readers of the Seattle Times and regional publications.

Magnano, pastor at La Conner's historic Sacred Heart Catholic Church and neighboring Skagit County parishes, has appeared in print numerous times in the past five decades, most prominently in a 1993 Seattle Times article featuring members of the largest class of priests ordained in the Archdiocese of Seattle.

Hailing from an esteemed Italian-immigrant Queen Anne family, Magnano is one of 16 priests from the archdiocese's class of 1968. Twenty-five years after ordination, their respective spiritual journeys were profiled by Seattle Times religion writer Lee Moriwaki.

Moriwaki, who was one of the first Asian-American news writers, producers and assignment editors in the San Francisco Bay Area, led and closed his 1993 piece by quoting Magnano, one of classmates still in the priesthood.

Magnano toured Moriwaki to his Skagit parishes and the area's tulip, corn and cabbage fields.

"I think I have a pretty nice job up here as a priest, don't you think?" Magnano asked the journalist.

His perspective hasn't wavered

in the nearly three decades since that article. Magnano still sees each day as another opportunity to do his part to help the church "connect to the real world."

Consider that after the 1993 Times article Magnano became the founding pastor of Christ Our Hope Church in Seattle, doing so in the name of social justice. He remains a tireless advocate on behalf of the homeless.

When interviewed by Moriwaki, Magnano and his classmates had come through a period of global turmoil and civil strife quite unlike the cloistered atmosphere of seminary life.

Magnano and classmate Kirby Brown were unique in seeing the world changing in real time while spending their final four years of theological studies in Rome.

"I went to Rome," Magnano recalled, "and I saw protesters demonstrate against the Vietnam War at the U.S. Embassy. Being in Rome between 1964 and 1968 is part of the reason that I'm a priest today."

Magnano, 80, went on to develop a doctoral dissertation on Hope as a graduate student at the University of Washington.

"Hope," he stressed, "is something that's long-term."

Perhaps that is a defining factor in Magnano's choice to remain in the priesthood for more than a half-century, long after many of his classmates left the clergy.

In the lengthy Moriwaki article, those who opted out

cited numerous reasons for their decisions, including disillusion with treatment received from senior priests, burn-out and the desire to marry.

Moriwaki wrote, "many began their journey in the 1950s when priests were placed on pedestals and youngsters were able to enter the seminary in their early teens."

Magnano was a junior at Seattle Prep Academy when he felt called to the priesthood. Initially he was drawn to the Jesuit Order, noted for its engagement in education, but ultimately chose a diocesan path.

"I felt there was a greater need for priests in parishes than in schools," he explained.

Still, Magnano didn't detach completely from the academic world. When ministering to Western Washington University students, many were concerned with being drafted to serve in Vietnam.

Magnano still expresses a great satisfaction with his calling. It's a daily charge to help others, serve God and enjoy the important moments in the lives of parishioners whom he often exhorts to "go out and live God's word in the world."

That's not likely to change as the words he shared with Moriwaki and the Times 29 years ago ring just as true to him today.

"I feel good about the parishes in the valley," Magnano told Moriwaki. "The church is very alive."

MARINA MOORINGS

Port of Skagit

The first day of fall came this week, with the maples starting to change colors and the Seahawks starting the season at 1-1. The boating season is slowing, and our visit numbers on the guest docks are falling. We are starting to line up winter moorage for boats that have been out for most of the summer and who will be on our transient docks for the slower winter season. We leave a large portion open for transient boats all winter, of course, but winter moorage allows us to support boaters who move around through our waters and stay at our docks for the rest of the year.

I spoke with a lovely couple this week who spent a hectic summer cruising with their grandchildren. They absolutely loved having the kids around – the enthusiasm, the adventuring, trying out new things in new places, all the go, go, go. But this week was just for them. They were here for a night or two, just the two of them, enjoying the peace and quiet of this shoulder season on the water. The weather is still warm enough to be nice during the day but the shorter days are telling us it's okay to slow down a little. They have several more nights planned on a slow trip down to their home port and their return to offices and the house. This week is a welcome peaceful close to their summer.

Another visitor to the guest dock was more focused on adventure. One of the Port's business park tenants was conducting sea trials on a fabulous vessel, an aluminum landing craft-style boat with 4 outboards on the back. Built in pole holders, down-riggers and a mounted crab pot puller, along with a super stout hydraulic hoist on the reinforced roof, all point to a boat built with expedition in mind. It is clearly designed to get out on the water at any time, in any season, and in almost any sea state. It is great to see these super high-quality boats being delivered here and to think they are being built here at the Port of Skagit.

This concludes my weekly Marina Moorings as the busy season is over. I look forward to sharing more marina happenings again next boating season. Wishing you all clear skies and fair seas!

– Chris Omdal, Harbormaster

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