



Kids and elders sing Young Life's praises • p 6

Danny Hagen's path to assessor's office win • p 7

Your Independent Hometown Award-winning Newspaper

LA CONNER WEEKLY NEWS

VOL. 15 • NO. 32

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2022

www.laconnerweeklynews.com

\$1.25

Hope Island fish pens on way out



SOON TO BE A DISTANT MEMORY – The Cooke Aquaculture salmon net pen facility on Skagit Bay off Hope Island and Lone Tree Point will not be part of the local seascape much longer. The state did not renew Cooke's lease for the facility and has banned all net pen finfish farming in Washington waters. — Photo by Bill Reynolds

State ends Hope Island fish pen operations

By Bill Reynolds

A local controversy that has lingered for more than three decades will soon be an historical footnote.

The net pen salmon farm off Hope Island and Lone Tree Point is going away.

Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz and state Department of Natural Resources staff informed Cooke Aquaculture last week that the state will not renew an expired lease for the Skagit Bay facility, nor one for a similar net pen operation near Bainbridge Island.

Cooke Aquaculture must finish operations and begin removing its facilities and repairing any environmental damage by Dec. 14.

Friday Franz announced Washington's public aquatic lands will no longer be home to finfish net pen aquaculture.

The state actions come five years after a net pen collapse and escape of 300,000 farmed fish from a Cooke operation off Cypress Island near Anacortes.

Swinomish Tribal Senate Chairman Steve Edwards was among those applauding the reversal of a pro-aquaculture stance that had been part of the state's fisheries management for generations.

"We're very pleased that Commissioner Franz rejected Cooke Aquaculture's lease application," Edwards said in a statement. "Removal of the existing net pen (off Hope Island) will restore full access to the tribe's

culturally important fishing area in northern Skagit Bay.

"Swinomish are the People of the Salmon, and fishing has been our way of life since time immemorial," Edwards added. "Cooke's net pens have interfered with the exercise of our treaty rights for far too long. We look forward to the day when the Hope Island net facility will be a distant memory."

Siting a net pen operation here has been a point of contention from the get-go.

Snee-Ooosh area residents, led by Dale Fisher and banding together as the Kiket Bay Organization, voiced objections when the facility was proposed in the late 1980s. They raised concerns of potential environmental and aesthetic impacts and noted that the permitting process for aquaculture was more stringent elsewhere.

At the time, there was popular support for fish farms. Advocates envisioned a "Blue Revolution" on Puget Sound like the "Green Revolution" that emerged in agriculture in the 20th century.

Science, too, sided with salmon net pens 35 years ago. Biologists joined aquaculture specialists when the proposed Hope Island facility went before Skagit County Commissioners in November of 1987. Some contended there was no evidence of pollution nor evidence of disease associated with fish farming.

There was anticipation that aquaculture projects would provide

employment opportunities and provide a ripple effect for the La Conner area economy.

Those perspectives, impacted by the Cypress Island net pen collapse, have undergone a 180-degree change. Cooke was fined \$332,000 and found negligent by the state Department of Ecology and the Cypress net pens were removed in 2018.

Tom Wooten, chairman of the Samish Indian Nation, located on Fidalgo Island west of La Conner, shared Edwards' enthusiasm for the state's decision.

"By removing the Sound's remaining net pens, our delicate ecosystem now gets a chance to replenish, repair and heal," Wooten said. "We are grateful and lift our hands to the DNR's partnership in helping protect the Salish Sea that ties us to our history and culture."

Holiday Closings Thanksgiving

November 24

Bank
Buses, no service
La Conner Weekly News
Trash pick up, no service

November 24-25

Library
Post Office
Schools
Town Hall
County government offices

Anderson wins Skagit County over Hobbs

Gilday-Shavers election headed for recount

By Ken Stern

Democratic challenger Clyde Shavers held a 137 vote lead districtwide against State Rep. Greg Gilday (R-Camano Island) for state legislative district 10 State Representative Position 1 after Monday's ballot tallies in Skagit and Snohomish counties. Skagit County election staff reported the count of most of the remaining 800 ballots Tuesday after the Weekly News went to press.

Snohomish County staff are to list the result of the bulk of their remaining 100 ballots today, Nov. 23.

It is not known how many ballots are from LD 10 precincts.

Monday Gilday gained 21 votes: 14 in Skagit County and seven votes in Snohomish County, 17 of 27 10th district votes counted. Skagit elections staff counted 691 votes, 120 in the 10th district.

There may not be enough uncounted 10th district ballots in the three county district to put Gilday ahead.

While Gilday will win Snohomish County by some 4,150 votes, 59.2%, Shavers will win in Skagit County by over 1,200 votes, with about 56.6%. Shavers won Island County with 53.5% and a 3,000 vote margin.

The 10th legislative district covers Island County, the southwestern portion of Skagit County and the northeast corner of Snohomish County. Island County finished counting votes Nov. 15.

State Rep. Dave Paul (D-Oak Harbor) has been reelected to the LD 10 Position 2. He has 52% and a 3,113 vote lead districtwide. In Skagit County Paul, has taken 59.3%, an advantage of 1,737 votes.

Skagit County offices

Danny Hagen has 54.9% of the vote against Karrie Storle for county assessor. Lisa Janicki

(continued on page 7)

Shelter Bay's Sunday town hall

By Bill Reynolds

Topics related to litigation against Shelter Bay board members could not be discussed, but there was still plenty to talk about during the second in a series of Shelter Bay town hall forums at the community clubhouse Sunday night.

The scheduled one-hour session lasted 90 minutes as a large gathering – though somewhat smaller than the standing room only crowd that last month's meeting – waded through several subjects, most notably increased HOA (homeowners' association) fees and the status of new master lease talks with the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.

The dialogue was fast-paced and mostly civil, though at one point an attendee repeatedly used a term describing bovine fecal matter in contesting a response from Shelter Bay Board President Wendy Poulton.

Poulton, Vice President Joseph Hurley, Secretary Monte Hicks and Gary Ladd, the board's newest member and forum emcee, were called upon to field the bulk of questions posed by community residents.

(continued on page 10)

Space shortage slows county elections vote count

By Bill Reynolds

Skagit County Auditor Sandy Perkins has given election workers a ringing endorsement for their yeoman work processing tens of thousands of mail-in ballots.

But there's still room for improvement, she and elections supervisor Gabrielle Clay insist.

Only they are speaking in literal terms and not in reference to job performance.

"We need more space," Perkins explained during an hour-long interview with the Weekly News last Thursday as the Nov. 8 election votes continued to be counted under the watchful eyes of volunteer observers from both major political parties.

Cramped in a small, secure work area in the Skagit County Courthouse Annex in Mount Vernon – built in the 1970s prior to the advent of large modern ballot sorting and scanning machines – the number of staff and observers is limited by lack of space, Perkins and Clay said.

"We'd love to have space for more observers," Perkins said. "There's so much disinformation and misinformation out there regarding how the (ballot counting) process works. So, we'd love to have additional observers."

"It would be great to have more observers," said Clay, whose office used to be in a storage closet. "That way they can see what's happening."

"Everyone who has been here as an observer," Perkins added, "has said they hadn't realized how much work goes into this. They tell us, 'you folks do a great job.'"

Perkins plans to again lobby Skagit County commissioners for increased room, a 2023 or future budget request.

"We need more space," she repeated. "I tell that to them every time we meet with them."

On Saturdays, when the auditor's office is closed to regular business, workers can spread out into a hallway. That option is not possible Monday-Friday due to ballot security requirements and

(continued on page 7)



ENSURING AN ACCURATE COUNT – La Conner's Sybil Jenson was on hand at the Skagit County elections office last Friday, once again participating in the democratic process of tallying votes. — Photo courtesy of Skagit County auditor

From the editor —

Being thankful together

Thanksgiving is Thursday. Feasts will take place at dining tables across the country as family and friends gather in celebration and care for each other. There will be few masks and little social distancing. Everyone wants the coronavirus pandemic to be over and most Americans are acting like it is, not paying attention to the almost 100 million cases and over one million deaths the past three years.

Our small individual gatherings bind families together. That is not the reason that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national day of Thanksgiving in 1863. In the midst of our great Civil War Lincoln sought collective healing, going to the well of humility:

"I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, ...to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving ... And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him ..., they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union."

Secretary of State William Seward wrote those words for the president that October.

That call was for a national day of Thanksgiving for all of us to be in Union "to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it."

A Thanksgiving of friends and family is personal. In the ecosystem of any community, family takes a small place by definition. A capital-T Thanksgiving must stretch open hands into the wider world to clasp and grasp humanity. For the nation to reach "the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union" today, the Blue tribe and the Red tribe must sit down together. And sitting down together is just the start, the beginning, not the goal.

How do we get to a shared table and how can we stay together for more than one meal?

Locally, as a family, congregation or club, everyone is thankful for their survival and prosperity. The challenge is to recognize and maintain that thankfulness for a survival and prosperity that has always been tenuous for the collective "we" as we aggregate into large communities of towns, counties, regions and states. The truth is, we have a common struggle. We need to want to define a shared, necessary path toward a solution.

Our struggle is not with our fellow humans, not with the great unwashed or those who are "woke" and imposing their version of reality on others. However we choose to gather, coming together with allies alone will be a smaller communion, not a Thanksgiving with the purpose Lincoln called for.

Across the land there is "lamentable civil strife." Too many are fully engaged in it, taking sustenance and strength in the enjoyment of pushing conflict forward, of finding the enemy among their fellow citizens. We are a wounded nation. All our wounds are self-inflicted. While we are thus divided no larger Thanksgiving is possible.

Thanksgiving is Thursday. How do we carry a national Thanksgiving forward into the weekend, the new year, an ongoing future of sitting down at a common table to share the bounty that is all around us?

If we do not offer thanks that way we are not truly giving thanks to all who make this world possible.

— Ken Stern

Gift drive for immigrant families

Local immigrant families will be able to stay safe and warm this holiday season, courtesy of Immigrant Resources and Immediate Support, a non-profit organization serving Skagit and Whatcom counties.

Donations will be used to purchase food, blankets, warm winter clothing and household necessities. Additionally, IRIS will connect each family to

a local program providing holiday toys.

Donations can be made online at irisnw.org/donate or mailed to the IRIS Holiday Drive, 1050 Larrabee Avenue, Suite 104, #498, Bellingham, WA 98225. Dec. 15 is the deadline for donations.

For questions, please call Norma Govea Suarez, IRIS executive director, at 360-935-1688. *Source: IRIS*

Art and tourism options

This letter is written by four women. Two of us are professional, working artists. One is a long-time collector of fine art, who recently donated a major sculpture to the town of La Conner. The fourth is a long time gallery owner and the director of the La Conner Arts Foundation.

We write out of concern for the proposed Love La Conner sign. We feel that the town is not being well represented by this ill-conceived project. While perhaps good intentioned, these kinds of projects actually degrade La Conner's image. Attempts to promote La Conner this way creates an impression of a crass tourist trap, rather than the historic, unique place it is. We can do better than this.

At the town council meeting Nov.8 it was clear that at best this project had few fans and many critics. Two of the council members didn't seem happy with it. It has a checkered past with rejected designs. Most who spoke did not want it in Gilkey Square. Maybe it shouldn't be placed anywhere.

It's not clear that the La Conner sign code would legally permit such a sign. Clearly it is off-site, since it doesn't have a specific location to represent. It is not directional, unless you count the instruction to "Love La Conner" as a direction. All the locations mentioned for possible installment already have great views that should not be obstructed!

We would like to suggest that the \$20,000 cost could instead pay for projects that would actually serve the public good, including visitors. It could buy art. The labor of fine artists is one of the historic features that bring people to town.

Other possibilities include funding a children's art event that could bring families to town and designing unique, specially lighted crosswalks on the ever-more-dangerous Maple Avenue, where guests in the hotels must cross to walk to the shopping district.

The options are endless, and the citizens should be invited to imagine these possibilities when the next round of community forums are held. Respectfully,
Nancy Crowell
Maggie Wilder
Sylvia Strong
Marilyn Thostenson
Submitted to Town Council, mayor, art and planning

LETTERS

Tragedy in art and life

My daughter treated me to the last performance of the opera, Otello, at McIntyre Hall two weeks ago. This moving and beautifully performed tragedy dealt the cards of viciously spread "misinformation," lies, deceit and racism in order to overthrow the Moor, Otello, to discredit his victories, honorably won, his position of power and deep domestic happiness, all for the goal personal power.

Iago, our lying villain (beautifully and compellingly sung), personifies, not only the evil of the 1500s in Cyprus, but of the recent political reality in this country. The trepidation of a MAGA victory in the 2022 election was a reflection of the opera, lies over truth, vengeance politics, justice defeated.

Yet the voice of America voters has spoken, and they have spoken against chaos, against lies, extremism and "misinformation." Katie Hobbs won her governorship over the election denier Katie Lake. Marie Glusenkemp Perez, a Reed College graduate and auto shop owner, beat Green Beret Joe Kemp, who supported Mr. Trump's lies, a total abortion ban and among other travesties, supported the ability to purchase a machine gun, available for the casual gun buyer.

One quietly hoped such outcomes might be possible, that common sense and truth still mattered, that a Supreme Court that refuses to take public opinion and the majority of the will of the people into consideration would be held to account. And they were, held to account, and the voice of the people of this country spoke through their votes.

The voice of the American people (mostly) said "We are still a democracy, we believe in the rule of law, justice over injustice."

The true tragedy of power in vindictive hands has been averted, as the tragedy that defeated the Moor, Otello, was not. I breathe more easily, feel faith in our people restored.

Sincerely,
Christine Wardenburg-Skinner
Edison

More effective meetings

I attended the Nov. 8 town council meeting. There was a lot on the agenda, including proposed changes to the municipal code. I would like to suggest that in the future when there are detailed material to present and discuss, especially when language precision is important, such as amending code language, using a screen and Power Point or similar desktop publishing software that has redline and strikeout functions.

There were several instances of council members having difficulty tracking the changes that the planner was discussing, even though they may have had electronic versions on their laptops. And the planner was frequently thumbing through papers to find the code language or amendments under discussion.

This may just have been an inconvenience for the council and the planner, but it put the interested public at a serious disadvantage in understanding the discussion and the decisions.

Frankly, it seemed unnecessary, as serious communication tools have been readily available for decades.

Bob Raymond
La Conner

Thank you, friends

Dear La Connerites, I want to thank everyone who was concerned about me and trying to help me find a home. This is my community and I did not want to leave here. Thanks to my family, who are helping me buy a house in Shelter Bay. It is a safe place to be and close to my work. Now I can continue giving people touch and helping people have better health along with bringing color into their lives through plants. Thank you to all of you who have supported me through the years. May the holiday season bring you all much joy.

Joanne Mitchell
La Conner

CORRECTION

Fidalgo Danceworks is the company dancing "The Nutcracker" at Anacortes High School's Brodriak Hall Dec. 11 at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Marina visioning open house Dec. 1

The public is invited to attend an open house hosted by the Port of Skagit Thursday, Dec. 1 to share ideas and learn more about the vision and goals for redeveloping the La Conner Marina. Staff welcome more feedback from the community as the Port looks at the future of the 13 acre commercially-

zoned parcel in the center of the La Conner Marina property.

Staff will answer questions and there will be opportunities to offer input on the vision and goals for the La Conner Marina.

The open house is 4-6 p.m. at the Swinomish Yacht Club

Would removing all limits on oil production make the U.S. energy independent?

By Greg Whiting

Removing all limits on U.S. oil production will reduce oil prices, if other countries do not reduce their supplies to match our increased supplies.

Is that energy independence?

Energy independence in the United States offers three possibilities for us: low energy prices, stable energy prices and energy prices unaffected by the actions of foreign governments.

How did energy independence become important?

The price of oil was \$3.38 a barrel in October 1973. Then, OPEC, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, withheld supply, both to make more money for its members and to achieve political goals held by some OPEC member countries.



The price of oil reached \$11.10 a barrel by March 1974.

Why was there such a dramatic price increase?

Demand couldn't change instantly via mechanisms like more fuel-efficient cars, so supply was lower than demand. At first, lower supply resulted in lines for gasoline. It took hours waiting in line to fill your tank. Gas stations ran out before everyone got gas, or limited the amount people could buy. Very quickly thereafter, prices went up. People made hard choices and used less gas.

Demand fell. Supply and demand balanced again, at a higher price than before.

In 1973, gas prices in the U.S. averaged \$0.39 a gallon. In 1974, the average was \$0.59 a gallon, a 51% increase. The minimum wage in 1973 was \$1.60 an hour.

Gas prices doubled again in 1979, when the Iranian revolution reduced supply from that country.

The lines, the increased costs and, ultimately, the subsequent recessions, were directly caused by the oil-related actions of hostile foreign governments. Energy independence became a popular goal.

Suppose the U.S. produced as much oil as we use (as we did, briefly, a few years ago). Would we be energy independent?

No. We'd be part of an inter-

national market. If OPEC, or a major non-OPEC producer like Russia, interrupted supplies, buyers outside the U.S. would offer to pay our producers more for U.S. oil. They would outbid some U.S. buyers. The price of oil would go up, fast. That is what "energy independence" is supposed to avoid.

Suppose we produced twice as much oil as we use. Prices might be lower (or they might not, because U.S. production is expensive), but if OPEC — you get the idea.

To become energy (oil) independent, we would have to withdraw from international oil markets.

However, international markets drive production to the low-cost oil, which keeps prices down. It costs more to produce

oil in the U.S. than it does in places like Saudi Arabia, which still has light oil with a lot of gas pressure at shallow depths. The U.S. doesn't have much of that oil. We have to use deep offshore wells, or inject polymers into old wells or fracture shales. U.S. production is expensive. It requires high prices.

If we withdrew from international markets, all increased use would have to be supplied with higher and higher cost oil. Prices would be more volatile, because fewer sources of new supply would be available and small demand reductions would have a disproportionate effect on the ability of high-cost domestic producers to make money.

Can the U.S. ever be energy independent?

More about this next time.

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

Copyright ©2022



Ken Stern, Publisher & Editor

editor@laconnernews.com

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

Postmaster:

Send change of address to:

La Conner Weekly News

PO Box 1465, La Conner, WA 98257

Michelle Havist, General Manager
michelle@laconnernews.com

Bill Reynolds, News Editor
news@laconnernews.com

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

Marissa Conklin, Production Manager
marissa@laconnernews.com

Kathleen Anderson, Sales Representative
kathleen@laconnernews.com

Eileen Engelstad, Proofreader
Rick Shorten, Special Projects

Contributors:

Anne Basye, Judy Booth, Robin Carneen, Nancy Crowell, Don Coyote, Mel Damski, MaryRose Denton, John Doyle, Janna Gage, Bob Hamblin, Ollie Iversen, Katie Kramer, Bobbi Krebs-McMullen, Patricia Paul, Brad Reynolds, Claire Swedberg, Sarah Walls.

OBITUARY



Jon Skiffington

Jon Skiffington, long-time resident of La Conner, peacefully went to meet Jesus on Thursday, November 17, 2022, at home surrounded by family. He was born in Seattle, March 31, 1952, to Lennon and La Vonne. After high school, Jon served as an Air Force SERE Survival Instructor. There Jon encountered Jesus in an amazing way. From that day to his final moments on earth, Jon shared the love of Jesus with everyone he met. He earned a degree in Pastoral Studies from Northwest Bible College where he met his wife of 45 years, Renee Skiffington.

Jon and Renee were of one mind: to share the love of Jesus with others. They moved to La Conner in 1981 with two small children to start a church and went on to share a lifetime of adventures. Jon served the community for over 40 years as a pastor, school board member, little league coach, volunteer fireman, Kiwanis member, and in countless other ways. While continuing to pastor, he also served for 23 years as a Community Service Officer for the Mount Vernon Police.

Jon shared his unlimited creativity, joy and sense of fun as singer and songwriter for his band, Closer to Home, combining his love for Jesus and music. He also enjoyed videography, community theater, and fly fishing with childhood friend and band mate, Dan Keim. To impact the Boomer generation, he created the YouTube channel Boomer Salt and Light Company at www.theboomersaltandlightcompany.com.

Jon never met a stranger and saw every person as created and loved by God. He especially loved his family well: his wife Renee; children Jessica, Jesse, Billy, and Jenny; children by marriage John, Callie, and Molly; grandchildren, Addie, Will, Katherine, and Sophia; siblings Linda and Don, Terry and Donna, Robin and Heath, David and Tom, and Kevin; along with countless others who knew and loved him. We celebrated Jon's life and shared memories together in La Conner's Maple Hall 3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 23.

In lieu of flowers, help continue Jon's legacy of love by donating to your favorite charity. You may offer your condolences and share your memories of Jon with his family online at www.kernfuneralhome.com.

MoNA Giving Tuesday

Donate to the Museum of Northwest Art's year-end campaign on Giving Tuesday, Nov. 29. Help raise \$135,000 by the end of the year to sustain the quality and impact of MoNA's programs.

Donations can be made at monamuseum.org/make-gift or by mail at PO Box 969, La Conner.

Source: Museum of Northwest Art

The process began in January last year and will end next winter.

County hears from area farmers on agritourism

By Aven Wright-McIntosh

"I should be able to do whatever I want on my land to generate revenue and enable me to continue farming," a farmer commented. An engaged group of two dozen attendees gathered last Thursday evening at Maple Hall to discuss with Skagit County planners the development of agritourism and its impact on farms and farmers.

Staff are reviewing what agritourism means to the County's agricultural community, rural residents and other stakeholders.

Agritourism is generally considered to be a commercial enterprise at a working farm, ranch or agricultural plant conducted for the enjoyment of visitors, generating income for the owner. Activities could involve education, entertainment, direct sales, outdoor activities, or hospitality. Think Snow Goose Produce,

Schuh Farms, Festival of Family Farms and the Tulip Festival on one end of the scale with pop-up seasonal berry stands and La Conner Gardens on the other.

Lisa Grueter, principal planner with BERK Consulting of Seattle, presented a series of projected slides and guided the discussion. Easel-mounted zoning maps were displayed and color handouts complemented the presentation.

The process began in January last year and will end next winter. An online survey in early 2021 netted 166 responses while a survey this fall has more than 500. It is a topic with lasting impact on the county's rural character. "Our heritage is small farms and small farmers. Let's keep that," someone insisted. "It's very difficult to close the gate once it's open," said another.

"We need to make provisions with an upper limit, so we don't

let in everything under the sun — we don't want a Denny's," said Kai Ottesen, farm manager with Hedlin Farms.

Kraig Knutzen, farm manager for Knutzen Farms in Burlington, is a fifth-generation farmer with an active sixth generation in the queue. "When we talk about corporate agriculture, it doesn't really exist in Skagit. How can we continue to operate in a positive light around agritourism with compatible, not competing uses and make sure it's done in a congenial way, so they don't harm each other?" he asked.

A lively discussion between staff and attendees filled the hour. Comments were recorded to be added to those from two public meetings earlier this month. An agritourism town hall Dec. 6 in the Skagit County Commissioner's hearing room will follow.

What's next? Based on feedback from research

and policy proposals from County staff, a legislative proposal will be developed for consideration by the Skagit County Planning Commission and county commissioners. This process allows the County to propose amendments to the Comprehensive Plan, zoning map and development regulations, with input from the public and stakeholders, to address agritourism.

Hal Hart, Skagit County planning and development services director, summed it up with a question and an invitation: "What do you want to see in your valley? What should you be able to do with your 20 acres that supports farming as a primary use and yet avoids negative effects on neighboring properties? Now is the best time to weigh in."

Learn more and share your insights through Dec. 6 at skagit-county.net/agritourism.

FD 13 approves 2023 budget

By Bill Reynolds

The special Friday morning hybrid meeting at which Fire District 13 commissioners approved a 2023 budget lasted just 20 minutes.

But the real hard work crafting the fiscal plan of slightly more than \$1.6 million and operating expenses nearing \$1.4 million took place in the weeks before Nov. 18.

Chairman Bruce Shellhamer praised district secretary Tracy Berg and Fire Chief Wood Weiss for preliminary work in developing the budget.

"Tracy and Chief Weiss have been working hard on this," said Shellhamer. "They've done a great job coming up with an efficient budget that gives us flexibility in these uncertain times."

Weiss said the primary need was a workable budget that allows the district to deliver all necessary firefighting and emergency medical services on a "24/7" basis.

District budget projections for 2022 have proved on the money thus far. Just over \$1 million in expenses were penciled in for the entire year. Through Nov. 10, ex-

penses stood at about \$840,000, according to the finance report Berg provided commissioners Friday.

Two District 13 career firefighter positions are budgeted in 2023, a response to staff leaving for jobs at larger fire departments. Those firefighter salaries total \$112,000.

In addition, the district plans to launch a community paramedicine component next year with two paid positions totaling \$164,000. One includes firefighting duties.

On the capital side of the budget, the main item will be the firefighter housing unit planned for the Snee-Oosh Road station. That project continues to wind through the permitting process, commissioner John Doyle said Friday.

Only \$111,325 has been spent of \$300,000 budgeted in 2022 for the housing unit line item. The 2023 budget estimates \$200,000 being spent on the long-sought station upgrade.

"Everybody seems amenable to making it work," said Doyle, who this week was scheduled to meet and discuss permit procedures with Swinomish Indian Tribal Community officials.

Fisheries advocate Lorraine Loomis will be honored by state Nov. 30

By Bill Reynolds

More than a year after her passing, the legacy of the late Lorraine Loomis continues to grow.

Loomis, a longtime Swinomish Tribal Community fisheries manager who served seven years as chair of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, will be honored posthumously Nov. 30 in Seattle as recipient of a Do Epic Award presented by Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz.

The memory of Loomis, who died in August of 2021 at age 81, will be celebrated at the Seattle Convention Center during a 12 p.m. ceremony next Wednesday.

"Throughout her life," Franz said in a statement issued last week, "Lorraine was an outspoken leader whose work was built around ensuring that Native cul-

ture here in Washington thrived."

Franz, only the second woman to serve as the state's public lands commissioner, said she launched the annual Do Epic Awards presentations "to honor people across Washington who are doing epic things to improve our community and uplift the people of this state."

"This is truly my favorite event of the year," she added, "where we get to talk about the great work people are doing across this state."

Loomis was a great influence during initial stages of Franz's career, she reflected, noting, "Lorraine was a mentor to me dating back to my early days as an environmental land use attorney working to protect salmon habitat."

Franz described Loomis as an

(continued on page 8)

ARNE SVENDSEN TRUCKING
 Rockery Rock • Rip Rap
 Dump Trucking
 Crush Rock • Grading • Pit Run
360-424-0258
 ARNEST1044BW

Spotlight on Missy

Missy is approximately eight 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@skagitshamane.org.

Home Loans Made Simple

Jessica Nguyen
 Skagit County Home Loan Specialist
 Specializing in Shelter Bay lending
 Office: (360) 848-7211 | Cell: (360) 420-4192
peoplesbank-wa.com/jessica

Peoples Bank

Port of Skagit

Aerospace Manufacturing
 Marine Manufacturing
 Value-added Agriculture
 Broadband Infrastructure
 Economic Development
 General Manufacturing
 Business Aviation
 Outdoor Recreation

And so much more.....

Good Jobs for the Skagit Valley
www.portofskagit.com | 360-757-0011

KERN

FUNERAL HOME

RECEPTION ROOM
 MOUNT VERNON CEMETERY
 MOUNT VERNON CREMATORY
 MOUNT VERNON
360-336-2153
 "Since 1913"

Guest Rent

Work less, earn more!

Seamless Next-Gen Property Management

Above market rental income, high-quality guests, passive return on investment

425-736-6761
GuestRent.us

Contact us today for a **FREE PROPERTY ASSESSMENT**

Not just playing: La Conner students take theater seriously

By Bill Reynolds

There's plenty of drama going on at La Conner Schools these days.

Which is just fine, especially when blended in equal measure with comedy, stage craft and set construction.

Theater arts, which boasts a long and storied tradition here, is back on campus after an intermission imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A trio of young college-trained theater aficionados is welcoming La Conner students back to the stage twice weekly as an extracurricular program – similar to the format used in districts whose states schedule drama as an after school competition event, akin to athletics.

The instructional team is led by Alicia Pedroza, director of the La Conner Co-Op Preschool. She attended the elite Los Angeles Theater Academy prior to graduating from Portland State University.

She is joined by her cousin, Taylor Pedroza, a theater arts and philosophy graduate of Gonzaga University and his fellow Gonzaga alum, Jess Clement. He earned a communications degree with a theater arts minor at the Spokane school.

Clement and Taylor Pedroza are Seattle-based independent video production contractors.

Introducing local students to the many facets of theater arts is truly a labor of love for them. They gladly block out 90 minutes on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at the schools' Bruce Performing Arts Center.

"We're excited about it," Taylor Pedroza told the Weekly News. "Kids come here who want to be here. They're very willing to meet and learn."

The focus thus far has been on the basics – instruction in the fundamentals of acting, vocabulary unique to the theater and an introduction to stage-building and set design.

"I like to say that we're thinking big and starting small," said Clement.



STRIKING A POSE – Members of the La Conner High School's drama department after an acting class in the Bruce Performing Arts Center. From left: Kenneth Tronsdal, Madoc Hiller, Jack Dougliss, Jess Clement, Taylor Pedroza and Eleanor Drews. -Photo by Madoc Hiller

They began with cleaning the theater arts classroom and clearing that space to create a hybrid instructional area and green room.

The goal is to build upon the history of school-community popular productions guided by numerous faculty sponsors and administrators over the years.

Along the way, the hope is students will gain appreciation for the role theater arts plays both in the economy and with community bonding.

The study of theater arts, Clement and the Pedrozas insist, is a springboard to real world jobs.

"It builds teamwork that transfers to other industries," Taylor Pedroza stressed. "There are a lot of opportunities out there with significant rates of pay. Most of the people we work with aren't actors."

They cited as an example La Conner's Ethan Anderson, whom they said is engaged in major stage construction projects in Hollywood.

"The teamwork you develop in theater arts," said Taylor Pedroza, "can fit in with any career."

Clement said that La Conner students will be learning all that goes into a theater production.

"I feel real strongly and

passionately about this," she stressed. "It's a great opportunity to train for future careers."

"It brings 100 art forms together," Clement said. "Every small detail builds a finished product."

"There are so many pieces that go into it," Alicia Pedroza confirmed.

Taylor Pedroza began his career as an actor but has since shifted to writing and directing. He noted that stage managers have knowledge and expertise in each aspect of a production – a skill set that is widely valued within the industry and beyond.

"It's important for the kids," added Alicia Pedroza, who pointed out that beyond the world of work theater arts opens the door to lasting friendships and insight into the human experience.

Clement agreed.

"It's the journey that's fun," she said. "It's magical. You learn so much about yourself and your peers. You make friends for the rest of your life."

"It's more than careers," insisted Clement. "It's about the camaraderie. I'm passionate about making that available to the kids. When you work with acting partners, for instance, you learn how to understand them and why they might be portraying a character differently than you would."

The tri-directors are grateful to the La Conner Arts Foundation, which helped them find grant support for a spring play.

"That was awesome," Alicia Pedroza said. "We're excited about that. The grant is for including the community in some way. We love that the arts community in La Conner is so supportive of having a theater program. People in La Conner are interested in community theater."

(continued on page 7)

Braves hoop team ready for season

By Bill Reynolds

It only seems fitting that the high school basketball team plans an up-tempo style this season.

That's because the Braves have gotten the 2022-23 hoops campaign off to a running start thanks to logging nearly 80 off-season games.

"It's a group that got to be together a ton in the off-season," head coach and athletics director C.J. Woods told the Weekly News. "When you get to be with a group that you enjoy being with, every day we get to play basketball is exciting."

Building camaraderie before preseason workouts tipped off Nov. 14 was especially important since the roster has gone through a massive makeover after losing numerous key players to graduation last spring.

"It was a big senior class," said Woods, who is entering his second year at the Braves' helm. Despite the personnel turnover, Woods is confident the team can bond quickly given the work players put in over the summer.

Much of the scoring load will be handled by Isaiah Price, who produced 18.9 points and 9.3 rebounds per contest a year ago.

"He's strong, physical and



C.J. WOODS

flows well with this group of kids," Woods said. Price was goalkeeper for the soccer team this fall.

Ivory Damien, who played quarterback on the football team, is ticketed for time in the backcourt.

"Ivory reads the floor well and we thought he matched up well with the guards we played against this off-season," Woods said.

Isa Gonzales-Rojas, who enjoyed a superb fall soccer season, will assume a major role applying backcourt pressure. C.J. Edwards, a wideout on the

(continued on page 7)

Ellie Marble earns statewide honor for play at volleyball tourney

By Bill Reynolds

Ellie Marble delivered some big hits in Yakima for the state champion La Conner High School volleyball team this November.

In turn, Marble was a big hit with Washington Interscholastic Activities Association officials.

Marble was named the WIAA Athlete of the Week based on her play in leading the Lady Braves to a fourth consecutive 2B net title.

A 6'-0" senior outside hitter, Marble totaled 92 kills and 101 digs and was 68 of 72 on serve receive over four matches at the SunDome.

Marble and her teammates defeated Okanogan, Lind-Ritzville-Sprague and Manson in straight sets before downing longtime nemesis Colfax in four frames in the championship round.

Marble was especially impressive in the finale. She recorded 29 kills, 18 digs and two service aces against Colfax.

La Conner was seeded third in the 16-team field, behind Kalama and Manson. The Lady Braves avenged a regular season road loss to Manson in the semi-final round.

Colfax, which had defeated

La Conner in five prior state finals meetings, knocked off No. 1 Kalama to set up yet another championship pairing.

This time it was La Conner that prevailed, posting a 25-12, 24-26, 25-19, 25-18 victory for the program's seventh state crown, all coming under the direction of Marble's mom, Hall of Fame head coach Suzanne Marble. This season she completed her 30th year with the team.

Before departing for Yakima, Ellie Marble signed her official letter of intent to play college volleyball at Central Washington University, joining an impressive list of La Conner standouts who have competed at the Ellensburg school.

Central Washington coaches, like the WIAA leadership, had to like what they saw of Marble in Yakima. The Athlete of the Week Award is exhibit one.

Each week the WIAA and Gesa Credit Union recognizes Washington student-athletes for outstanding performances and impactful contributions in their communities. Eligibility for the statewide honor is also based on solid work in the classroom.

NELL THORN

WATERFRONT BISTRO & BAR

WE ARE NOW OPEN ON MONDAYS!

LUNCH MONDAY-FRIDAY
11:30 AM TO 3:00 PM

BRUNCH SATURDAY-SUNDAY
11:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

DINNER 7 NIGHTS A WEEK
4:00 PM TO CLOSE

360 466 4261

PAC NOR WESTY

APPAREL | HOME GOODS | GIFTS

REPRESENTING OUR
PACIFIC NORTHWEST LIFE

105 S. 1st Street
OPEN FRI - MON 11AM to 5PM

THE REX BAR & GRILL

Featuring gourmet sandwiches, local beer and homemade treats!

TACO TUESDAY • BIKE NIGHT ON WEDNESDAY
HAND-DIPPED FISH & CHIPS ON THURSDAYS
FRIDAY - SUNDAY: We have delicious burgers featuring Mesman's organic beef

19271 Best Rd., Mount Vernon
Hours: Thurs.-Sun: 9 to 8 • Fri. & Sat.: 9 to 9
Give us a call for orders to go: 360-466-5522
Find us on Facebook @ The Rex Bar and Grill

SWINOMISH SHELLFISH COMPANY

FRESH, LIVE LOCALLY GROWN OYSTERS

Available DAILY from the Chevron Market at the Casino: 12939 Casino Dr., Anacortes

FRIDAY 3-6
from our Retail Store:
11455 Moorage Way, La Conner

ORDER ONLINE FOR PICK-UP
www.swinomishshellfishcompany.com



FESTIVE FEASTING

Good food brings us together.

360.336.9777 • Downtown Mount Vernon • skagitfoodcoop.com

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS! Kitchen OPEN Sun. thru Thurs., until 9 PM / Fri. & Sat. until 10 PM

OUTDOOR HEATED PATIO Customer preferred Fish and Chips and Chowder

EST. 1972 - Family Operated



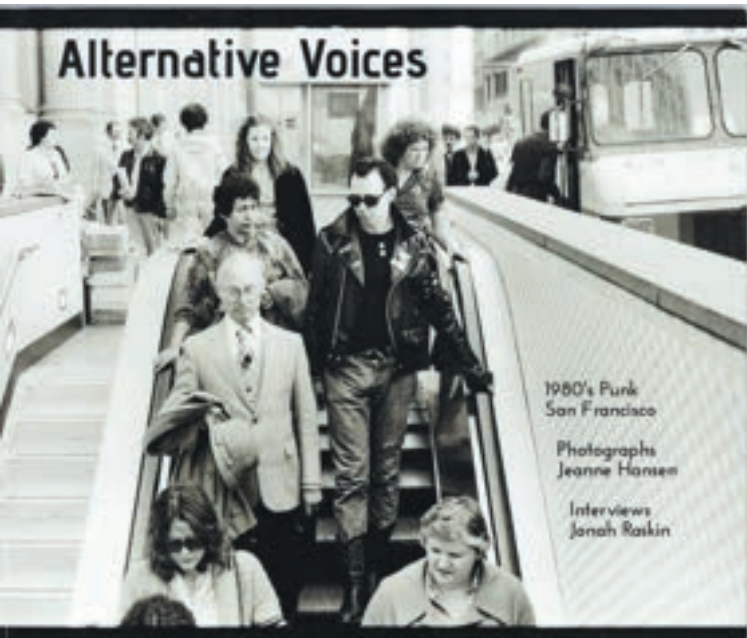
La Conner Pub & EATERY, Inc.

360-466-9932 • 702 S. First St. • Waterfront Dining

360-466-9932 • 702 S. First St. • Waterfront Dining

Book review —

Same decade, different views



By Nancy Crowell

Looking at the photos and reading the stories in Jeanne Hansen's book, "Alternative Voices: 1980s Punk San Francisco," one thing is clear to me. We lived in different worlds during the 1980s. I was the editor of a windsurfing magazine and spent my time traveling to beaches around the world, interacting with sun-kissed athletes, while she immersed herself in documenting the punk rock alternative scene in San Francisco.

I did visit San Francisco in the '80s, but I spent my time down at the beach in the Presidio, watching windsurfing races. Windsurfing was its own subculture, a combination of surf and ski bums and traditional yacht racers who embraced a challenging new sport.

Hansen captures another subculture thriving in pockets of San Francisco: the punk rock scene. More than anything, this book translates to me as a love letter to the people she knew during that time. No one interviewed in the book was a native San Franciscan, yet all came to the city for the same experience — to find themselves, to rail against the machine and to experiment, especially with music.

A graduate of the San Francisco Institute of Art, Hansen takes photographs that are unapologetic and journalistic, shot in a style akin to what has since become known as "street" photography. Her contrasty black and white images were captured with an unblinking eye, revealing raw and unscripted moments.

There are no formal portraits, no traditional compositions — Hansen is expressing her creativity in response to the energy and creativity she is documenting. She captures the zeitgeist beautifully, from the sweaty performances in small cafes to morning-after party detritus, protesters and poets, politicians and punk rockers

were young adults during the era, but also those young adults living there now who only know the city as a high-priced tech hub.

I remember eating in restaurants in what had been old houses and shopping in warehouses back then. No doubt everywhere I went has since been gentrified.

There was an underbelly to the city that was different and alluring to anyone who had never seen a city like that. I may have missed the punk scene, but I do have fond memories of the quirkiness and creativity that graced the city then.

The culmination of eight years of Hansen's careful re-examination and editing of her work and life during that time, plus the candid and entertaining interviews by Jonah Raskin, brings to life the San Francisco experienced and dreamed of by the people who flocked there for the punk rock alternative scene. The book was published to coincide with an exhibit of Hansen's prints at the Jewett Gallery of the San Francisco Public Library. Postponed by the pandemic, the book was self-published in 2021.

Looking through and reading this well-curated collection of images and stories gave me insights into a world that had gone completely unnoticed by me when I was pre-occupied with wind speed and wave height and who might set the next speed sailing record. Thanks to Hansen, I can see now what I missed.

It's a testament to the power of photography — and the creative eye of the photographer — to capture what others miss.

As a photographer, I understand the difficult task of curating one's own work and the labor of love required to pull together a book. I can only imagine how difficult it was for Hansen to narrow down the images as she no doubt relived the time and place she so expertly documented.

— it looks and reads, like an alternative college yearbook. The central figures in her book were musicians and cabbies, waiters and poets, dreamers just getting by, and they stand out against the backdrop of men in business suits headed to traditional jobs.

Hansen skillfully documented a San Francisco that is long gone and in so doing saved for posterity the punk energy and discontent of the Reagan era, capturing this unique time and place. It was just at the beginning of the HIV/AIDS crisis and when I showed this book to a gay friend he smiled as he looked at it then turned away, saying "It makes me sad because we lost so many people to AIDS."

That is the tension that holds this book together — the scenes of earnest, yet ultimately innocent youth who are protesting the miserable world capitalism is creating, embracing the freedom of self-expression and yet on the cusp of a horrific disease that would wipe out so many of their peers and forever change the city.

I can't help but think this book's isn't just those of us who

Identifying species with similar traits

By Bob Hamblin

Identifying a species of bird is usually based on color patterns, size and its movements, but occasionally it becomes more complex and can lead to dead ends. Sometimes actions overlap and size doesn't help. I've spent some time hiking the dike trail on the west side of the parking lot on Padilla Bay and had problems identifying some common species.

The habitat was basically acres of low grass grown as lawn grass for seed. It is short and green all year. Birds seen at a distance were foraging for worms, mainly cutworm and wireworm. They were probing with their bills and walking around showing a shore tail; they made no sound and took short flights as a scattered flock. There was little flight pattern.

Meadowlarks used the same area and resembled the darker birds in size and flight. I was not close enough to see details like color patterns, however, I finally noticed a yellowish tinge and a breast band. These were western meadowlarks wintering in the area. They are grass lovers. They used to be common in western Washington in the last century

when small cattle farms were numerous. There are small flocks on Fir Island in winter, but they don't nest here anymore.

The similar species turned out to be common starlings, which also spends much time on the ground in short grass. When probing for worms the starling inserts its bill into the sod and opens it, forcing the worm to the surface.

In October there were only a few migratory shorebirds present in the mud flats at Hayton Farms game range on Fir Island Road south of the Snow Goose Produce market. You will need a bird book to identify these species. Look for a smaller plover about robin sized. They have fairly short straight bills.

You need to look for subtle color variation. Juvenile and adult winter plumage is similar but the juvenile plumage on the pacific golden has a yellowish-brown cast on the back. The eyebrow is dark whereas the American golden plover winters in the Pacific Ocean area. Their common wintering grounds are beach areas of Hawaii where people are not present.

These birds nest in the arctic area in the tundra plains.

'Always Patsy Cline' sold out

"Always Patsy Cline" was sold out Friday and probably on Saturday at the Lincoln Theatre in Mount Vernon and deservedly so. Ria Peth as Cline and Kelly Visten as fan Louise Seger were great and so was the band. It was a production of which to be proud. Friday night's audience thoroughly enjoyed it.

Happy birthday Margaret!

When your sister turns 70 there better be a shout out in the newspaper. Here is it: Happy 70th birthday Margaret!

Much love from your siblings.

LINCOLN THEATRE

SEATTLE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY COMPETITION

LIVE! NOV. 26

IN 35MM **NOIRVEMBER**

CLASSIC FILM NOIR • TUESDAYS IN NOVEMBER

Nov. 22 **DOUBLE INDEMNITY**

DECEMBER Curtis Salgado • Jake Shimabukuro
Magical Strings • Celtic Yuletide
Karla Bonoff & Livingston Taylor
Kuinka & Savanna Woods

712 S. 1st St. • Mount Vernon
360.336.8955
lincolnthatre.org

Chorale

HERALDING CHRISTMAS 2022

Saturday, Dec. 17 at 7:30 p.m.
and
Sunday, Dec. 18 at 2 p.m.

Tickets: Reserved seating \$20-\$30; Seniors, Students, Military and groups \$18-\$30

McIntyre box office
360-416-7727, or
www.mcintyrehall@skagit.edu

Breakfast with Santa

Presented by:
Rotary Club of La Conner AND La Conner United

December 3, 2022
Breakfast 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Holiday Craft Fair 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Photos, Goodies, Fun!

Maple Hall, 103 Commercial, La Conner, WA
\$7 Adults \$3 Children
Bring your camera for family photos with Santa!

FESTIVAL OF tiny trees

Silent Auction
La Conner Swinomish Library
Friday, December 2, 2022
6:30 to 8:30 pm
520 Morris Street

Join the festivities, see our beautiful new library and bid on the tree of your choice!
Sign-up at the Library or WaFed Bank in La Conner.

Preview at the Library:
Monday, November 28 — Friday, December 2

MoNA Store
Holiday Open House
Saturday, December 3
10am to 5pm

Gifts for all ages, Live Music with Ford Giesbrecht, Refreshments & Door Prize!

MoNA
Museum of Northwest Art

Holiday Craft Show

Saturday, Dec. 3
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Maple Hall
104 Commercial St.
La Conner

Sponsored by:
La Conner United & La Conner Kiwanis

VINTAGE LaCONNER THRIFT SHOP

DECK YOUR HALLS
New Christmas Items Added each Friday!

And celebrate big Savings on Bargains Galore At our non-profit Thrift & Consignment Store

Donations accepted each Monday from 1pm to 3pm

www.Facebook.com/VintageLaConner

Open Fri., Sat. & Sun. 11 AM to 5 PM
301 Morris Stop by!

Peace On Earth

PRESENTED BY THE SHELTER BAY CHORUS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9th AT 7PM & SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10th AT 2PM

SHELTER BAY CLUBHOUSE, 1000 SHOSHONE DRIVE
LA CONNER, WA 98257

DIRECTOR: LYLE FORDE, PIANIST: SALLY RIGGERS
SUGGESTED DONATION \$10, MASK REQUIRED

La Conner Christmas Past

Downtown La Conner
Early 1900s-Themed Celebration
Saturday & Sunday December 3-4
Dress in Turn-of-the-Century Costume or Come as You Are!

All are Welcome

Music/Carolers & Elf Hunt
Shopping & Dining
8 am Saturday Santa's Breakfast & Craft Fair @ Maple Hall
Sponsored by History Club of La Conner

Quilt Museum Open House
Tree Lighting Saturday @ Gilkey Square

Celebrate the season & support local business!
Sponsored by Opal

POLICE BLOTTER

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sunday, November 13

1:11 p.m.: Found boat— A 12-foot aluminum boat was found on the side of the road. The information was posted on social media in an attempt to locate the owner. Bay View Edison Rd., Greater La Conner.

Monday, November 14

8:51 a.m.: Fender bender — A vehicle stopped for a school bus letting children off. The other vehicle couldn't stop in time and crashed into the back of it. Both drivers reported minimal damages to their vehicles. Best/Fir Island Rds., Greater La Conner.

Tuesday, November 15

8:38 a.m.: Lost civilian — A suspicious male was located walking in the area. He told law enforcement he was lost and was trying to get back to Bellingham. The man was given a ride to the Mount Vernon Bus Station. Beaver Marsh Rd., Greater La Conner.

3:39 p.m.: Car crash — A Ford truck crashed into the back of a Honda passenger car that was stopped for a vehicle waiting to turn off the road. The occupants of the Honda were transported to the hospital for treatment of injuries from the collision. Maple Ave., La Conner.

Wednesday, November 16

1:26 a.m.: Bar fight — Two patrons got into a physical fight inside the bar. Some furniture in the bar and on the sidewalk was turned over. No injuries were reported to law enforcement. One patron was permanently banned from the tavern. 1st St., La Conner.

3:16 a.m.: Found firearm — A firearm was in a vehicle and collected for safe keeping by law enforcement. 3rd St., La Conner.

8:34 a.m.: Shellfish thieves — A group of people were caught taking shellfish from a privately owned shellfish farm. The people were contacted and told not to return to the property. Similk Bay Rd., Greater La Conner.

Thursday, November 17

8:34 a.m.: Scam attempt — A citizen received a text message with an online link from an individual pretending to be UPS and stated they had the incorrect shipping information. The link went to a website requesting the citizen's credit card information. The citizen recognized the attempt as a scam and didn't give any information. Center St., La Conner.

Swinomish awarded two climate change adaption grants

By Bill Reynolds

The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community is one of a dozen tribes in the state to receive grants addressing the impacts of climate change, awards funded by federal infrastructure legislation passed earlier this year, U.S. Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell announced Nov. 3. Ten tribes and two tribal organizations in Washington state have been awarded grants from the Bureau of Indian Affairs Branch of Tribal Climate Resilience.

The grant funding will help combat the disproportionate impact of climate change on tribal communities, Murray and Cantwell said in a joint statement. They took lead roles in negotiating passage of the infrastructure law.

A total of 21 grants totaling \$10,767,838 were awarded. Funding will aid tribes with ocean and coastal planning, relocation and climate adaption planning that protect tribal lands and waterways.

The two Swinomish grants total \$302,834, one for planning and the other to increase access to and yield of huckleberries in an area of traditional gathering.

A \$239,542 grant will fund a Swinomish integrated natural

resources strategic climate policy and resilience plan and integrated natural resources climate resilience strategic plan.

A \$63,292 award will facilitate development of new trails and enhancement of existing ones intended to allow more community members — especially children and elders — into Swinomish huckleberry patches.

Swinomish leadership has since 2007 advocated taking action to mitigate climate change. The tribal senate has emphasized engagement in climate change adaption planning across Swinomish departments and agencies. The Tribe has linked storm surges, flooding, erosion and various impacts to tribal fisheries resources to climate change.

"The Swinomish Tribe will continue its leadership to prioritize climate adaption action and ensure we are prepared to support and protect our people, our waters, our natural and cultural resources and our way of life for the next seven generations," Swinomish Tribal Senate Chair Steve Edwards said in a statement posted on the tribe's climate change initiative webpage.

The \$10 million-plus federal investment will help Swinomish and other tribes reduce impacts

of sea level rise, drought and other climate-related threats to their communities and way of life.

"From devastating wildfires to road-buckling heat, climate change is real in Washington state and it's having a disproportionate impact on our tribes," said Murray. "That's why I fought hard to pass the Inflation Reduction Act, the biggest ever climate investment in American history, and it's why I fought to bolster our climate resiliency — and get resources to communities bearing the biggest burden of climate disasters — via the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law."

Cantwell said Washington tribes are in the eye of the climate change storm.

"Some tribes," she said, "need to relocate buildings and homes now because of sea-level rise and the threat of tsunamis. Others are working to protect salmon and critical fisheries from warming water temperatures and drought, while other tribes are simply trying to find ways to adapt to their changing lands and waters."

The grants come from a \$45 million program supported by \$20 million in funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and \$25 million from fiscal year 2022 annual appropriations.

Young Life faith-based outreach program praised

By Bill Reynolds

The iconic Rainbow Bridge has connected La Conner and Swinomish Reservation since 1957.

The Young Life ministry is extending that connection on spiritual and social levels.

Members of the La Conner and Swinomish communities celebrated that connection during the annual two-hour Young Life

dessert banquet at La Conner Seafood & Prime Rib House Saturday night.

"The Rainbow Bridge is perfectly named," explained Jaime Stroebel-Reinstra, one of the event's lead organizers, "because you always think of a pot of gold being at the end of a rainbow. The bridge makes it so that La Conner and Swinomish each has a pot of gold, and it brings the two communities

together."

Stroebel-Reinstra and other speakers, including Swinomish Indian Tribal Community Senators Brian Wilbur and Barb James, lauded fundraising and volunteer support that has allowed youth to participate in Young Life clubs and camps.

"We have a lot of participation by our kids," Wilbur said. "Our kids really appreciate it. What Young Life does is foster that sense of shared community."

Young Life is a faith-based all-volunteer Christian ministry which provides teens opportunities for regular fellowship and to attend summer camp in British

Columbia and Central Oregon.

Those camp experiences create memories to last a lifetime, participants said.

"It's been something to really look forward to in the summer," said La Conner High School student Kali Adams. "It's been some of the best weeks of my life. It's fun. It works really well. And everybody always asks, 'When's the next one?'"

"You meet people from all over and connect with them," Chloe Edwards, another student, noted. "It's definitely an experience everyone should have."

High school teacher-coach Peter Voorhees and pastor Johnny Dean of Inspire Church on Swinomish Reservation served as emcees. Janie Beasley,

a former longtime school board member who represented the Swinomish district, offered a prayer in Lushootseed, the language spoken by Puget Sound region tribes.

"It's exciting to see them sharing time with friends, leaders and people they might not even know, and maybe do something they've never done before," said Dean, noting the camps feature games, ziplines, water sports, food and personal growth activities and that La Conner youth also attend monthly Young Life club meetings.

He was roundly applauded after singing "Amazing Grace"—a vocal prompted by Swinomish master carver Kevin Paul.

(continued on page 7)



Operated by
Robert Desmarais and crew
Skagit County Native for 44 Years

22,000 SQ FT SHOWROOM & WAREHOUSE

CEDAR SIDING	HARDWOOD DECKING - Tiger wood • IPE • Bamboo & more	CEDAR FENCING - 1x4 • Split Rail • 1x6
TIMBERS		CEDAR DECKING
TRIM		

DECKORATORS COMPOSITE DECKING

360-424-4548 • 1-800-466-6081 • 2600 Cedardale Rd
Mount Vernon • I-5 Exit 225 • www.soundcedar.com



Elderly Household Help

Next up on your to-do list:

- ✓ Moving holiday decoration boxes
- ✓ Computer & tech help
- ✓ Assembling & moving furniture
- ✓ Changing lightbulbs & batteries
- ✓ And more!

Call 360-336-6351 to see how we can help!

4ourLinkedLives | www.ourLinkedLives.com



NATIONAL HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE MONTH

Hospice of the northwest

Life is precious.
Live every moment with compassion and dignity.

(360) 841-5550
www.HospiceNW.org

Thank YOU to our incredible team!

Paid for by Hospice of the Northwest Foundation



LINCOLN THEATRE 712 S. 1st St. • Mount Vernon, WA

Live! On Stage
Salgado
Curtis

DECEMBER 3
SATURDAY • 7:30 PM

360.336.8955
lincolnthreatre.org



Toss It
Junk removal

HAVE JUNK? CALL OR TEXT (360)-854-8409 TODAY!

We recycle, donate or re-purpose anything possible before taking to the the transfer station.

- Soil Delivery
- Garage Clean Out
- Donation Pick Up
- Light Demolition
- Property Clean Out

Owner, Rudy Cavanaugh
Burlington, WA 98233

facebook.com/Tossit360
www.Tossit360.com



Winter Fresh!

Just dug from the ground, our spring supply of Magnolias, Dogwood, Japanese Maples, hedging laurels and boxwoods.

Now is the time to plant the pick of the patch!

November is a great planting month for trees and shrubs.

Camellias in bloom 15% off
Through November 30th

www.christiansonnursery.com
15806 Best Road, Mount Vernon • 466-3821

Hours: 9-5 Daily

CHRISTIANSON'S
Nursery & Greenhouse

"Peoples Choice" Award-winning nursery

Election. . .

(from page 1)

Lisa Janicki gained 57.9% versus Christian Burns for county commissioner. Sandy Perkins wins with 54.2% over Eric Hull for county auditor and Sheriff Don McDermott retains his job, beating Kevin Ewing with 63.2% of the vote. Corrin Hamburg has won the Position 3 Public Utility District Commissioner race with 51% of the vote against incumbent Germaine Kornegay.

All unopposed Skagit county officeholders won re-election, as did the three state Supreme Court justices.

Federal and statewide

U.S. Senator Patty Murray handily won re-election. She has 57.2% of the vote against Republican Tiffany Smiley. In Skagit County she has 51.8%.

Congressman Rick Larsen will win with over 60.1% of the vote in the 2nd Congressional District. In Skagit County he gained 53.3% of the vote against Dan Matthews.

While Steve Hobbs has been elected Secretary of State with 49.9% of the statewide vote, Pierce County Auditor Julie Anderson has won Skagit County, perhaps by 1,800 votes. She is up by three percentage points, with 47.9%. The

Republican write-in has 7.3% of the vote. Hobbs has 44.8% of county votes.

Winning candidates in all other Skagit County and statewide elections have long been decided since the Nov. 8 election, except for the final totals.

Skagit County election staff estimate some 57,200 residents will have voted, 67% of the county's registered voters. Statewide the turnout will be about 63%. Island, San Juan and Whatcom counties had turnouts above 70%.

Skagit County will certify its vote Tuesday, Nov. 29 and the Secretary of State's office by Dec. 8.

Voter outreach key to victory in Hagen's assessor's race

By Bill Reynolds

The new Skagit County Assessor is assessing his recent successful election campaign.

Danny Hagen, running as an independent, parlayed a series of public forums into a comfortable 57-43 per cent electoral victory over GOP candidate Karie Storle earlier this month. He is a former Shelter Bay resident and past member of the La Conner High basketball coaching staff.

Hagen's ability to break down the complexities of managing the assessor's office into language easily grasped by voters won him support throughout the county during his numerous candidate appearances.

"The most gratifying aspects of the experience," he told the Weekly News, "was knowing all of my hard work has paid off. For the past five years I have been working extremely hard to not only appear qualified, but to also have the skills and tools needed to do an outstanding job."

Hagen, a graduate of the Skagit Leadership program and a member of Toastmasters, gladly accepted all invitations to address voters during the campaign.

"My main goal is education," he explained. "I want our taxpayers to learn more about how assessments are calculated and how a budget-based property tax system works."

"Training and education for the staff in the office and constantly building relationships with our state legislators, so they are knowledgeable when passing property tax-related bills, are also a part of the education piece," Hagen stressed.

Hagen said he was bolstered by those who know him best – his friends and neighbors.

"The responses and support I have received from the La Conner and Shelter Bay communities has been tremendous," he said. "I've been blown away by the willingness of people in our community to help."

Hagen told the Weekly News he remains committed to public outreach.

"I'm a huge believer in servant leadership," he said, "and am extremely excited to be a public servant for Skagit County. I'm always available to answer questions and would be willing to speak at any group gatherings where people want to learn more about property taxes and how they are administered in the state of Washington."

A graduate of California Lutheran University, Hagen has worked as a residential appraiser at the Skagit County Assessor's Office.

He has moved to Mount Vernon, closer to his new office, after residing the past eight years in Shelter Bay.

Space. . .

(from page 1)

the public needing access to the records desk and other services within the auditor's office.

Perkins and Clay are somewhat envious of their colleagues in Benton County, in eastern Washington, where officials have secured a spacious former Chuck-E-Cheese pizza restaurant to process ballots.

"Most people aren't aware of all the steps involved after a ballot has been placed in a drop-box or put in the mail," Clay noted. "They don't see what needs to be done. We're just working the best we can with the space we've got."

"It's quite a step-by-step process," Perkins said. "Even with all the new technology, many aspects of the process are manual."

It's a process that Perkins said election officials from other states repeatedly praise.

"They say we have one of the

best systems in the nation," she said.

Washington state began shifting toward vote-by-mail nearly 40 years ago. In 1983, the state allowed mail ballots for special elections. In 2005, legislators in Olympia cleared the way for mail-in voting in all elections but left it up to the counties to decide. All except Pierce County were quick to embrace the vote-by-mail format.

Eleven years ago, state lawmakers, in order to establish a uniform voting system, passed legislation calling upon all counties to conduct mail-in voting.

The system is anchored by a multi-tiered process designed to assure that ballots are safe and secure before, during and after an election.

Prior to every election cycle, counties test their voting systems to make sure machines are set up correctly and will accurately count votes.

"My work," Clay said, "actually starts a couple months before

each election."

Voters sign an oath swearing their eligibility to vote. Each voter's signature is compared to the signature in their voter registration file to confirm identity and eligibility.

Once a ballot is verified, its status is updated to "Accepted." The ballot is then opened and separated from its signature envelope and grouped with other ballots to be scanned. Ballots are scanned as they are processed and accepted through the voting period, with tabulation beginning after polls close on Election Day.

A large percentage of ballots flood in on Election Day, said Perkins.

"One of the political parties has encouraged its voters to only vote on Election Day," she said, "so we end up playing catchup. Fifty per cent of the ballots are returned on Election Day or the weekend before."

"Then," she chuckled, "everybody wants to know why we can't get 20,000 ballots done.

Hoops. . .

(from page 4)

football team, will also see quality minutes on the hardwood.

"He never gives in to pressure," Woods said of Edwards, "and he always competes. He possesses leadership attributes that we are excited to work with him on."

Woods said the team will look to fast break and score in transition.

"La Conner will be an up-tempo team," he insisted. "We're looking to provide lots of pressure offensively and defensively. We will press and push the basketball. We started the process late last season and this off-season."

November practices have focused on individual skills development and establishing that up-tempo attack in

preparation for the team's Dec. 1 home opener opposite 2A Sedro-Woolley.

"When you have players coming up daily saying they are excited for the season and for the first practice," Woods said, "wow, that's really cool. We're expecting big numbers of participants."

The Braves have a busy early slate, said Woods, with a Dec. 2 trip to Oak Harbor and a Dec 3 date with Cedar Park Christian.

"Our boys are doing everything they can for basketball," he said, "starting with the 78 off-season games. They have volunteered for Ragnar, Skagit Night, to clean the gym and have said yes to any opportunity to help the team."

"This," Woods added, "is a bunch of guys that really puts pride into wearing the La Conner uniform. They have

bought in, and we're excited about that.

"Every day is about getting one step better and doing it together," said Woods, who played his high school ball at Friday Harbor. "All we ask is that the fans come to the games. We want to pack the house as many nights as we can. When we look at La Conner, historically, the gym was packed and made it a tough place to play."

Assisting Woods on the bench will be Rene Pedroza, Travis Mager and head football coach Charlie Edwards.

Woods and his staff like the team's chemistry.

"Honestly," he said, "I love this group. They are such a good group of men and individuals. They are respectful, together, and want to work for one another. It's awesome and I'll let you know I'm pumped for this."

Theater. . .

(from page 4)

"So many people in La Conner can sew and create costumes," she said. "We have amazing artists and musicians. There is so much talent here." In the meantime, the plan is

to present a showcase event sometime after Thanksgiving.

Thus far, a half dozen or so students are involved in the program, launched shortly after school started, by which time commitments to fall sports and other extra-curriculars had

been made. Student numbers for theater arts are expected to increase after the holidays.

"The kids," Alicia Pedroza said, "have been so tenacious to keep it alive for themselves and future students."

The La Conner Weekly News: Your community newspaper



Your Independent Hometown Award-winning Newspaper

LA CONNER WEEKLY NEWS

Read it wherever you are

Stay informed with the Weekly News
Keep connected: Part of your role as a citizen
in our democracy

Subscribe or give a gift. Call or go online.

Get the paper that delivers.

119 N. Third St., La Conner, WA 98257

360-466-3315

www.laconnerweeklynews.com

Find us on Social Media

Facebook

@laconnerweeklynews

Instagram

@laconnerweeklynews

Hometown Thanksgiving!



Fantastic selection of beautiful, interesting jewelry in all price ranges!
Wonderful collection of giftware, barware and special Christmas ornaments!

Make it a Hometown Thanksgiving this year! Lunch On Us!
Shop with us on Friday Nov. 25 or Sat. 26 and get a gift certificate for local lunch spots.
(With purchase over \$200)

Hours 10:30am - 5:00pm, Tuesday - Saturday

EXTENDED HOLIDAY HOURS: Thanksgiving weekend Friday and Saturday 10-5:30
From Nov. 28 to Dec. 23, we will be open Mon.-Sat. 10:00-5:30, Dec. 2, to 9pm for the
Holiday Art Walk and Community Tree Lighting. Sundays Dec. 11 and 18, noon to 4 pm

We encourage you to work with us by appointment for custom design, complex jewelry repairs,
appraisal questions or personalized shopping experiences.

BURTON
JEWELERS SINCE 1930

7th & Commercial in Anacortes Washington
burtonjewelers.com • 888-293-6469 • info@burtonjewelers.com
REGISTERED JEWELER AMERICAN GEM SOCIETY



La Conner Marina Visioning Open House

The community is invited to ask questions and provide input on the redevelopment of the La Conner Marina, and learn about the Port of Skagit's goals and priorities.

Thursday, December 1, 2022 4-6pm at Swinomish Yacht Club

www.portofskagit.com

360.757.0011

Loomis...

(from page 3)

undaunted champion of salmon enhancement. "She fought tirelessly to protect treaty rights for tribes across the state," Franz said, calling her an enormous advocate for salmon preservation. "Lorraine's hard work and unwavering spirit have had a legendary impact on Washington, touching millions of lives and ensuring the preservation of our state's most valuable and sacred resources," Franz added. "Her legacy is an inspiration, and I'm honored to honor her decades-long labor of love."

Loomis was also remembered as "an incredible advocate" for climate justice.

"She was an exceptional example of what it means to truly foster a strong connection between people and our natural environment," said Franz.

Loomis, daughter of revered late Swinomish leaders Laura and Tandy Wilbur, Sr., started her career in fisheries management in the mid-1970s. She was named Swinomish fisheries manager in 1975. In 2014, upon the death of famed tribal fishing rights pioneer Billy Frank, Jr., Loomis was elected chair of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and in that role wrote a monthly column addressing regional treaty and fishing issues.

Among the many highlights of Loomis' long career was her involvement in developing and implementing the U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty.

Written comments must be submitted by 3:00 p.m. on Monday, November 28, 2022.

Will Nelson, Superintendent La Conner School District No. 311 PO Box 21 03/305 N 6th Street La Conner, WA 98257

Dated this 14th day of November 2022.

ATTEST: Will Nelson, Superintendent

Published November 16 and 23, 2022 in the La Conner Weekly News. Distributed to Skagit Publishing Board on the LCSD Website, Board Docs, District Office

Individuals who may need special accommodation or modification to participate in a meeting should contact Cheri Kahns, ckahns@lc.k12.wa.us as soon as possible in advance so that special arrangements can be made.

Published in the La Conner Weekly News Nov. 16, 23, 2022.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR WHATCOM COUNTY

In re the Estate of: JAMES F. CAREY, JR., Deceased. Cause No. 22-4-01036-37 NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.40.030

The Administrator named below has been appointed and has qualified as Administrator 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 administrator or the administrator'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 probated proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after the administrator 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: November 9th, 2022.

Name of Administrator: TONY A. CAREY

Attorneys for Administrator: David M. Neubeck, WSBA #31321 Sara LC Hulford, WSBA #52098 Todd L. Sliva, WSBA #54298

Address for Mailing or Service: Elder Law Offices of Meyers, Neubeck & Hulford, P.S. 2828 Northwest Avenue Bellingham WA 98225-2335 Telephone: (360) 647-8846 Facsimile: (360) 647-8854.

Published in the La Conner Weekly News Nov. 9, 16, 23, 2022.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON COUNTY OF KING Estate of:

JUDITH LEE CROSS, Deceased. No. 22-4-07206-4 SEA PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.40.030

The Personal Representative named below Personal Representative has been appointed and has qualified as the 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: (1) 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 (2) filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after the Personal Representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.

Date of publication in Skagit County: November 23, 2022.

Personal Representative: Fritz E. Wollett

Attorney for the Personal Representative: Denelle G. Reilly

Address for Mailing or Service: Denelle G. Reilly Somers Tambllyn Isenhour Bleck, P.L.L.C. 701 Pike Street, Suite 1510 Seattle, WA 98101

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

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR KING COUNTY Estate of W. LOUIS BARRETT, Deceased.

No. 22-4-07231-5 SEA PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.40.020, .030

Laurie V. Little has been appointed as personal representative ("personal representative") of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the personal representative or the personal representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) 30 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

LEGAL NOTICES

in RCW 11.40.051 and RCW 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets.

Date of First Publication of this Notice: November 9, 2022

Personal Representative: Laurie V. Little

Attorney for Personal Representative: Sarah C. Smith, WSBA #45798

Address for Mailing or Service: CONDIE & ADAMS, PLLC 611 Fourth Avenue, Suite A Kirkland, WA 98033

Court of probate proceedings and cause number: King County Superior Court, Cause No. 22-4-07231-5 SEA

Published in the La Conner Weekly News Nov. 9, 16, 23, 2022.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY

DWANE E. PORTER & STEPHANIE L. PORTER, h/w Plaintiff vs.

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

Defendants. No. 22-2-00832-29 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF WASHINGTON TO: ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN CLAIMING ANY INTEREST IN OR TO THE SUBJECT REAL PROPERTY, Defendants:

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

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

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

EXCEPT any portion thereof that may lie within the right-of-way of the P.S. Pulp & Timber Co., a Delaware corporation, as conveyed by the English Lumber Co., a Washington corporation, by instrument dated January 1st, 1945 and recorded November 3rd, 1948 under Skagit County Auditor's File No. 424512. (P75144 & P75146) DATED: November 2nd, 2022.

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

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Estate of CARMELIA ANN THOMPSON. IN THE SUPERIOR COURT of the State of Washington in and for the County of King. In the Matter of the Estate of Carmelia Ann Thompson, Deceased. No. 22-4-07570-5 KNT Probate Notice to Creditors. (RCW 11.40.030).

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

Date of First Publication: 11/23/2022

Personal Representative: Kimberley Anne Thompson

Attorney for Personal Representative: MICHAEL SAFREN, WSBA # 46377

Address for Mailing or Service: The Law Offices of Jenyng Ling, 14900 Interurban Ave S, Suite 280, Seattle, WA 98168, (206) 859-5098.

King County Superior Court Cause No. 22-4-07570-5 KNT

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

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY Case No. 22-2-00734-29

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION MOE BROTHERS, LLC, a Washington limited liability company, Plaintiffs, vs. ARLYN PACHECO, individually, and all lawful Heirs, Devises and Assigns of FRANKLIN BUCK and MAGGIE BUCK, husband and wife, deceased; Defendants.

THE STATE OF WASHINGTON TO THE SAID DEFENDANTS: ALL OTHER PERSONS OR PARTIES UNKNOWN CLAIMING ANY RIGHT, TITLE, ESTATE, LIEN OR INTEREST IN THE REAL ESTATE DESCRIBED HEREIN YOU ARE HEREBY summoned to appear within sixty days after the date of the first publication of this summons, to wit, within sixty days after the 26th day of October, 2022, and defend the above-entitled action in the above-entitled court, and

answer the Complaint of the Plaintiff, Moe Brothers, LLC, a Washington limited liability company, and serve a copy of your answer upon the undersigned attorney for Plaintiff, Craig E. Cammock of Skagit Law Group, PLLC, at his office below stated; and in case of your failure so to do, judgment will be rendered against you according to the demand of the Complaint, which has been filed with the clerk of said court. The object of the action is to quiet title on real property in Skagit County, Washington against the claim of Defendants, "ALL OTHER PERSONS OR PARTIES UNKNOWN CLAIMING ANY RIGHT, TITLE, ESTATE, LIEN OR INTEREST IN THE REAL ESTATE DESCRIBED IN THE COMPLAINT," which real estate is situated in Skagit County, Washington, and is legally described as follows:

That portion of Government Lot 6, Section 25, Township 34 North, Range 3 East, W.M., described as follows: BEGINNING at the Northwest corner of said Section 25, Township 34 North, Range 3 East, W.M.; thence South 89°48'21" Northwest ¼ of said Section 25 for a distance of 1,330.62 feet to the Northwest corner of said Government Lot 6; thence South 0°48'58" East along the West line of said government Lot 6 for a distance of 1,056.06 feet, more or less, to the South line of the North 1,056.00 feet (as measured perpendicular to the North line) of said Government Lot 6 and being the TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING; thence South 89°58'21" East along said South line for a distance of 1,216.10 feet, more or less, to a point on a non-tangent curve on the Westerly right-of-way margin of Penn Road; thence along arc of said curve to the left, concave to the East, from which the center bears South 87°35'45" East, a radius of 1,289.70 feet, through a central angle of 0°22'12", an arc distance of 8.33 feet, more or less, to the North line of the South 264.00 feet (16 rods) as measured perpendicular to the South line of said Government Lot 6; thence North 89°56'56" West along said North line for a distance of 180.01 feet, more or less, to the Northwest corner of the lot created for Skagit County Short Plat No. 25-81 (Revised April 15, 1981) and recorded under Skagit County Auditor's File No. 8104220036; thence continue North 89°56'56" West along said north line for a distance of 1,035.91 feet, more or less, to the West line of said Government Lot 6 at a point bearing South 0°48'58" West from the TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING; SUBJECT TO and TOGETHER WITH easements, reservations, restrictions, covenants, liens, leases, court causes, and other instruments of record.

Situate in the County of Skagit, State of Washington.

DATED this 26 day of October, 2022.

SKAGIT LAW GROUP, PLLC By CRAIG E. CAMMOCK, WSBA #24185 Attorney for Plaintiff

Published in the La Conner Weekly News October 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 2022.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Special Meeting Public Hearing La Conner School District

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the La Conner School District #311 will hold a special meeting for a public hearing to review the La Conner Indian Policies and Procedures for Fiscal Year 2024, at 4:45 pm on Monday, November 28, 2022, in the District Office Board Room, 305 N 6th Street and/or via Zoom.

The meeting is open to the public and comments will be taken during the public hearing. Any person may appear and be heard for or against any part of the policies and procedures.

Documents are available on our website, BoardDocs, in the district office, or call 360-466-3171.

ONLINE GO TO: www.laconnerweeklynews.com

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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



Save Time, Save Money
Save the Environment
with digital invoicing

Send your email address to info@laconnernews.com and your next invoice will be delivered to your inbox.

Super Crossword

Answers

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

Answers to November 23 puzzles

FELICIA VALUE ATTORNEY AT LAW

PRACTICE EMPHASIZING WILLS, TRUSTS & PROBATE

360-466-2088
413 B Morris St. • La Conner


LA CONNER MARINA



Permanent and Guest Moorage
Dry Boat Storage, Boating Services
Public Laundry, RV Park

Office: 613 N. 2nd St., 360-466-3118
www.portofskagit.com

Edward Jones



Scott A. Price
Financial Advisor

708 E. Morris St. Ste C
La Conner, WA 98257
360-466-2933

edwardjones.com

TILLINGHAST POSTAL and BUSINESS CENTER

MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:30-5:30
SATURDAY 9-1

- GRAPHIC DESIGN
- OFFICE SUPPLIES
- PRINTING
- SHIPPING
- PO BOXES
- NOTARY PUBLIC
- AND MORE!

TILLINGHASTPOSTAL.COM
(360) 466-0474
521 MORIS ST, LA CONNER, WA 98257

JP Automotive

Full service automotive repair & maintenance shop.

360-336-3496
Mon. - Fri. 8 am - 5 pm closed Sat. & Sun.
1304 Memorial Hwy. Mount Vernon, WA

WE ARE EXPANDING OUR AT YOUR SERVICE DIRECTORY:

- LARGER PRINT AD PLACED WEEKLY
- APPEAR IN OUR ONLINE BUSINESS DIRECTORY

\$225 PER QUARTER
LONG TERM CONTRACT DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Complete Events Calendar on laconnerweeklynews.com

NOT TO BE MISSED

Lights of Christmas.
Nov. 25-27, Dec. 1-4, 8-11, 14-23, 26-31. Hours: 5-10 p.m. Located at Warm Beach. Purchase tickets online at thelightsofchristmas.com.

Open Season Health Fairs.
Nov. 30, 1-2:30 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Senior Center. Free admission. Call 360-202-8999 for more information.

La Conner Christmas Tree Lighting.
Dec. 3, 5 p.m. in Gilkey Square. Join Santa as we light the downtown tree!

WoolleyWood Christmas Festival.
Dec. 3, 2-6:30 p.m. in Sedro-Woolley. Tree lighting and lighted Christmas parade.

ART & THEATRE

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

Exhibit: "Connected" featuring Sherry Ying Ruden. Through Feb. 26.

Lincoln Theatre.
712 S 1st St, Mount Vernon. 360-336-8955. lincoltheatre.org

Seattle International Comedy Competition. Nov. 26 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$30. Adult content, not suitable for children.

LIBRARIES

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

Storytime. Every Friday at 11 a.m. **Festival of Tiny Trees.** Dec. 2, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Preview Nov. 28-Dec. 2, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sign up at library or WaFd Bank.

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.

Holiday Pop Up Sale. Dec. 2, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. All proceeds go directly to library.

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.

MUSEUM EXHIBITS

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

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

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

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

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

Exhibit: Best of the Festival. Through Nov. 27. Best of Show, Peoples Choice, Award of Excellence and first place award winners from this year's International Quilt & Fiber Arts Festival.

Exhibit: Through the Wall - Breaking Free. Through Dec. 4.

Skagit County Historical Museum.
360-466-3365 or skagitcounty.net/museum. Hours: Thurs-Sun 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

MUSIC

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

McIntyre Hall.
2501 E College Way, Mount Vernon. 360-416-7727. mcintyrehall.org.

A Winter Celebration. Nov. 29, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15. Join Skagit Valley College choirs, Mariachi Cardenales, and Skagit Community Band.

The Nutcracker. Dec. 2-4. Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Purchase tickets online.

MEETINGS

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

WAB Meeting. Dec. 6, 3 p.m. on Zoom.

La Conner School District
305 N 6th St, La Conner. 360-466-4113. lcsd.wednet.edu.

School Board Meeting. Nov. 28, 5 p.m. at District Office Board Room.

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.

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.

SERVICE & VOLUNTEER

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

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

Have you seen our new website?
Laconnerweeklynews.com



By Patricia Aqimuk Paul, Esq., Food Editor.

Cranberry Sauce

Some of my fondest holiday cooking involves fresh cranberries. Each season I cook up a slightly different version. I prefer their tart flavor to savor in every bite to especially compliment dressing or stuffing. It's also a make ahead recipe you can bring cold to a family meal.

Ingredients

- Cranberries, 2 cups fresh
- Sugar, 1 cup
- Cranberry juice, 1 cup
- Allspice, ground, ½ tsp

Preparation

In a medium saucepan, add all the ingredients. There are also choices of which cranberry juice to use. I selected a diet one, with artificial sweetener. Stir and set the burner to medium. Stir, as the sugar dissolves. Adjust the temperature to medium low, stir occasionally. Keep covered. Cook for thirty minutes. Each time you stir, squish down a few cranberries. After thirty minutes, turn off the heat and remove the lid. Stir occasionally, as it cools. Serve warm or cold. Optional to add an extra half cup of sugar for a sweeter sauce.



AqimuksKitchen@outlook.com

Prepare for power outages today
WITH A HOME STANDBY GENERATOR

GENERAC

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty! A \$695 Value!

\$0 MONEY DOWN + LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS

Contact a Generac dealer for full terms and conditions

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE
CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE
(888) 674-7053

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

LeafFilter GUTTER PROTECTION

BACKED BY A YEAR-ROUND CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE

EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!

20% OFF + 10% OFF

YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE SENIORS & MILITARY!

FINANCING THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET!

FREE GUTTER ALIGNMENT + FREE GUTTER CLEANING*

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE
1-888-360-1582

Mon-Thurs: 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat: 8am-5pm, Sun: 2pm-8pm EST

*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. **Offer valid at time of estimate only. 2The leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 16 month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the "#1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America." Manufactured in Plainville, Michigan and processed at LIT Mercer Group in Ohio. See Representative for full warranty details. Registration# 036020922 CSLBA 1035795 Registration# HIC 0649905 License# CBC056678 License# RCE-51604 Registration# C127230 License# 559544 Suffolk HIC License# 52229-H License# 210221296 License# 262000022 License# 262000403 License# 210621296 License# MHIC11225 Registration# 176447 License# 423330 Registration# 10731804 License# 50145 License# 408693 Registration# 13049953000 Registration# H-19114 License# 218204 Registration# PK069983 License# 41354 License# 7656 DPL #1078658-5501 License# 423330 License# 2705169445 License# LEAFFNWB2JZ License# WVG056912

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads now in print and online • same low price

Submit your ad by Sunday noon for next issue publishing • laconnerweeklynews.com/classifiedads or 360-466-3315

RETIRED RN AVAILABLE for in-home caregiving and housekeeping as needed. I have decades of experience helping people and have always enjoyed doing so. Everyone is important. Call 360-310-7812.

JO'S HEALING HANDS. Having someone come for the holidays? Surprise them and schedule a massage. Call Jo's Healing Hands LMT at 360-708-2022.

FIND YOUR CHURCH CONNECTION at Skagit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Our welcoming and loving congregation promotes spiritual growth, justice and cares for the planet. Sunday services at 10:30 a.m. in person and online. Please request a link to the service: skagituu@gmail.com. Address: 500 W Section St, Mount Vernon.

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS
ADVERTISE STATEWIDE with a \$325 classified listing or \$1600 for a display ad. Call this newspaper or 360-344-2938 for details.

ATTENTION: OXYGEN USERS.
Gain freedom with a Portable Oxygen Concentrator! No more heavy tanks & refills! Guaranteed lowest prices. Call the Oxygen Concentrator store: 844-495-7230.

DONATE YOUR CAR TO CHARITY.
Receive maximum value of write off for your taxes. Running or not! All conditions accepted. Free pickup. Call for details, 855-635-4229.

ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING FOREVER! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 20% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-888-360-1582.

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES today with a GENERAC home standby generator. \$0 money down + low monthly payment options. Request a FREE Quote. Call now before the next power outage: 1-888-674-7053.

Super Crossword

EASY-PEASY

- ACROSS**
- 1 Conceptual framework
 - 7 Nickname of jazz pianist Earl Hines
 - 12 Cat feature
 - 16 Mailbox item: Abbr.
 - 19 Cajoles
 - 20 Backcountry
 - 21 Actor Alan
 - 22 Before
 - 23 Saving a Hilton from being demolished?
 - 26 Rove (about)
 - 27 Eisenhower, informally
 - 28 Dawn deity
 - 29 Country that's the setting of a story told by Jesus?
 - 31 Confusion when a golfer can't find the club for the green?
 - 36 2000-15 CBS show
 - 37 Two racing Unsers
 - 38 Strike — (do some modeling)
 - 39 Admission of defeat
 - 41 "The way things now stand ..."
 - 44 Road named for a head of state?
 - 50 Intent
 - 53 Golf average
 - 54 Mental sharpness
 - 55 Santa — winds
 - 56 One who's bad at playing practical jokes?
 - 62 Richard of "The Jackal"
 - 63 Former AT&T rival
 - 64 Creepy
 - 65 Tax audit org.
 - 66 Hunchback creator Victor
 - 67 Belgian river
 - 68 Favorite crucifix style?
 - 74 "I see!," facetiously
 - 77 Match units
 - 78 Cruise of "Top Gun"
 - 79 Actress Bette
 - 83 No. in File
 - 84 DVR choice
 - 85 Evangelizing in remote areas?
 - 89 Fast internet svc.
 - 90 Final words from a bully
 - 92 Tirana's nation: Abbr.
 - 93 Picnic pest
 - 94 Subatomic matter that may or may not exist?
 - 101 "Penn & Teller: —" (TV series)
 - 102 Maui "hello"
 - 103 Hunter constellation
 - 107 Three in "minimum"
 - 108 Big tea vessel
 - 110 Aviator who was really courageous?
 - 114 Little squeeze from a fuddy-duddy?
 - 118 Grain variety
 - 119 NASA's Eagle, e.g.
 - 120 Suffix with resin or riot
 - 121 Forehead border you had before you started going bald?
 - 126 — kwon do
 - 127 Coal source
 - 128 Door reply to "Who's there?"
 - 129 Most current
 - 130 Antiquated
 - 131 Fax, e.g.
 - 132 "The battle —!"
 - 133 Provides, as with power
- DOWN**
- 1 Italian tenor
 - 2 Devise, as a plan
 - 3 Would really rather not
 - 4 Application filename extension
 - 5 Actor Gibson
 - 6 According to
 - 7 Not stale
 - 8 Vienna's nation: Abbr.
 - 9 Two after uno
 - 10 Persists in discussing
 - 11 Thomas — Edison
 - 12 British bye-byes
 - 13 Perp's excuse
 - 14 Revered one
 - 15 Narrow road
 - 16 Groups of trial lawyers
 - 17 Fleeting quality
 - 18 Comic Foxx
 - 24 Mythical bird
 - 25 Bitterly cold
 - 30 Jungle den
 - 32 Recipe qty.
 - 33 Always
 - 34 Assistance
 - 35 Bullring holler
 - 40 Sky light
 - 41 40-Down studier's sci.
 - 42 Eyelid malady
 - 43 One of a flight of steps
 - 45 MPG monitor
 - 46 USA's Uncle
 - 47 A Gershwin
 - 48 Be an omen of
 - 49 Feudal vassal
 - 50 Big galoot
 - 51 Outrage
 - 52 Impair
 - 57 Frank Sacks' "— the Unicorn"
 - 58 Plunk lead-in
 - 59 Helpful hints
 - 60 Get it wrong
 - 61 "— Be My Girl" (top 5 tune for the O'Jays)
 - 66 Source of CBD oil
 - 67 "Right on!"
 - 69 Ancient Egyptian god
 - 70 Dwarfs' count
 - 71 Vodka brand, familiarly
 - 72 In support of
 - 73 Govt. health agcy.
 - 74 "— you act now ..." (infomercial segue)
 - 75 Is unrivaled
 - 76 Hardly ever employed
 - 80 By way of
 - 81 Hostel
 - 82 Mil. officer
 - 84 Bean curd
 - 85 Touch
 - 86 Traitor
 - 87 Yale alum
 - 88 "The Good Doctor" aier
 - 91 Virgin Mary's mother: Abbr.
 - 95 Actress Lanchester
 - 96 Many #1 songs
 - 97 Calder Cup rink org.
 - 98 Writer Santha Rama —
 - 99 Email giggle
 - 100 Verdi's "— tu"
 - 104 Instead (of)
 - 105 Danish port
 - 106 Big Apple MLB squad
 - 108 Coll. in Philly
 - 109 Made grain-sized
 - 111 Skater Sasha
 - 112 Python in "The Jungle Book"
 - 113 Scrabble 4-pointer
 - 114 Hernando de —
 - 115 Engine stats
 - 116 A Great Lake
 - 117 Roman 402
 - 122 Sydney's state: Abbr.
 - 123 Non- — food
 - 124 Sprinted
 - 125 "Inc." relative

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

© 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

Puzzle Answers Page 8



The Journey to 2023 from 2017: What a long, amazing ride these 5 ½ years!

Dear Valued Readers and Advertisers:

Wow. Just like that, as 2022 ends it has been 5 ½ years that the Weekly News has come to you under my watch. That is 5 years of Art's Alive, Not-so-Impromptu Parades, July 4th parades and fireworks, Halloween parades, boat parades, Pancake Breakfasts with Santa, Gilkey Square tree lightings, four high school state volleyball championships and, of course, Tulip Festivals.

Those stories and more have been in your community newspaper. What a long, wonderful trip it has been.

All this while, since January 2018, the price of advertising in the Weekly News has remained the same. More than once these 5 years – almost yearly for some items – costs have increased for:

- Paper
- Printing
- Postage
- Wages

Finally, and reluctantly, the Weekly News is raising its advertising rates in January. Your community newspaper is following area businesses in catching up with cost increases.

Over the past 5 years the Weekly News has been proud to:

- Print 10 page issues
- Update and improve its website – twice!
- Expand its social media presence
- Win 23 awards in 2021's Washington's best newspaper contest
- Win 34 awards in 2022's Washington's best newspaper contest

286 issues of the Weekly News will have been published and mailed to readers or purchased at bakeries, coffee shops, farmstands and stores from July 1, 2017 through Dec. 28, 2022.

The goal has been to bring the best possible newspaper to you, its readers, every week. This has all been made possible by the advertisers you see reaching out to readers through the Weekly News.

My heartfelt and profound thanks to the readers, advertisers and staff who are the reason for each issue.

Ken Stern
Ken Stern
Publisher
La Conner Weekly News

Lease. . . (from page 1)

Poulton addressed concerns raised about hiring at \$10,000 per month consultants Akid'nson LLC. over two years ago to serve as liaisons with Swinomish on the master lease matter. Several attendees questioned if that money has been well spent.

Poulton said the consultants, who were not named, are Swinomish members who reside in Shelter Bay and have been able to make some inroads in the stalemated master lease talks.

"I was not here, this was before my time," Poulton said. "It was something that I inherited, but the idea was to hire consultants with access to tribal members to get our feet in the door."

They have engaged both with tribal officials and allottees – individual Swinomish members from whom Shelter Bay leases

land – in attempts to move the process forward, Poulton said.

"We've had a two-and-a-half hour meeting with Chairman (Steve) Edwards and tribal senators," said Poulton. "Chairman Edwards said the tribe will create a proposal."

"The consultants have moved us farther ahead than we've been before," said Poulton, who also expressed confidence in Edwards and tribal leaders.

"Getting a new lease is better for the tribe and better for everyone," she said, noting that 30-year home mortgages in Shelter Bay are no longer on the table since the master lease expires in 2044.

"It will reinvigorate Shelter Bay," she said, "and be more affordable for families because right now families can't afford 15-year mortgages."

Ladd said that in 2015 Shelter Bay had "spent a lot of

money" on unproductive lease negotiations.

"The tribe was not willing to talk to us after that," he said. "We were at a stalemate. I believe the reason they were hired is to break the stalemate."

Shelter Bay leadership has indicated that allottees, with whom Akid'nson has conferred, stand to benefit under a new lease rather than reach a point where they would have to negotiate directly with lessees.

The consultants have also been tasked with development of educational videos to help interested parties better understand the lease issue, Poulton explained.

Increased monthly HOA fees consumed much of Sunday's discussion.

"Is the \$200 going to the consultants?" one audience member asked.

Ladd said HOA increases are necessitated to repair and/or

replace failing half-century old infrastructure for which capital improvements funding was not committed decades ago.

"Our forefathers in the 1970s didn't put aside the money," said Ladd. "We're now in a position where things are falling apart, and money wasn't collected over the years, and now we have to fix things."

Ladd and Hicks expressed pessimism that the community's swimming pools, closed for several years, can be opened in 2023. Hicks said the pools were constructed without permit in the 1970s and have no grandfather protection when it comes to meeting contemporary code requirements such as slopes and flow rates.

She believes it will be more cost effective to build one new pool that can serve the entire community rather than sink money into upgrading these pools.

When asked why the community picked up \$92,000 in fines imposed by Swinomish for unauthorized tree-cutting at Rainbow Park by Steve Swigert, a former board member, Poulton explained it was a matter of cutting their costs.

"To get that person to pay it would require a court judgment," she said. "To get a judgment, we would have to go to court. To go to court, we would have to spend quite a bit of money to get to the table."

Poulton also said there would be the risk of Shelter Bay not receiving a favorable judgment and then be assessed the other litigant's attorney's fees.

Poulton and Ladd stressed that Shelter Bay remains committed to holding town halls on the Sunday following each board meeting. There is no December board meeting or town hall, they said.