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Your Independent Hometown Award-winning Newspaper

LA CONNER WEEKLY NEWS

VOL. 16 • NO. 17

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2023

www.laconnerweeklynews.com

\$1.25

Step back in time



FAMILY HISTORY — Betsy Christianson speaks at the 119th annual Skagit County Pioneer Association Picnic about her relatives in the Benson/Berentson families. They were the honored family this year. — Photo by Bill Reynolds

Sun, salmon, memories brighten Pioneer Picnic

By Bill Reynolds

La Conner's Pioneer Park basked in sun, salmon and song last Thursday, a perfect combination for the 119th annual Skagit County Pioneer Association Picnic and Business Meeting here.

Ideal conditions drew more than 300 people on a sun-splashed day that honored championship La Conner High School volleyball coach Suzanne Marble and members of the Benson/Berentson family, who association president Peggy Stowe said "have been connected to every vocation imaginable" since emigrating from Norway to Skagit County via a Minnesota train more than a century ago.

Marble grew up in Spokane and attended college in California before embarking on a remarkable 30-year teaching and coaching tenure at La Conner Schools. She received the 2023 Pioneer Spirit Award.

She retired from coaching after leading La Conner to a seventh state net crown last fall and is taking a year's leave of absence that will afford her and husband Curt the opportunity to watch their daughter, Ellie, play collegiate volleyball as a freshman at Central Washington University.

Marble stressed that the relationships she built with students and players "were far more important than the state titles" in brief remarks to the audience

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SOMETHING SMELLS DELICIOUS — Patsy Good, right, adds more wood to the fire during the salmon barbecue at the Skagit County Pioneer Association Picnic Aug. 3. La Conner Civic Garden Club members sell salmon dinners annually, as a fundraiser. Her helper was not identified at press time. — Photo by Madoc Hiller

Joyce Johnson feted as oldest at picnic

By Bill Reynolds

There was much to cheer about at the Pioneer Picnic in La Conner last Thursday. But the loudest and most heartfelt ovation of the afternoon was given to beloved local centenarian Joyce Johnson, who at 105-years-young was recognized as the oldest person in attendance.

Skagit County Pioneer Association President Peggy Stowe saluted Johnson as a 70-year member of the La Conner Civic Garden Club,

which serves the picnic's trademark salmon luncheon.

Her Garden Club friends and admirers join others elsewhere in marveling at how Johnson has lived not only a wonderful life but has taken the Hollywood movie ideal of a beautiful life a step further.

Johnson's is one complete with gorgeous flowers, published poetry relatable to everyday folk and memories spanning the administrations

(continued on page 2)

Murray sees environmental work of tribe

Senator visits Swinomish leaders at Lone Tree Point

By Bill Reynolds

When she first ran for U.S. Senate in 1992, Patty Murray described herself as a mom in tennis shoes."

Her newest pair of New Balance footwear came in handy when the six-term senator, who serves as Senate president pro tempore, hiked revered Lone Tree Point and the beach area below the Thousand Trails La Conner RV Resort on Monday.

Sen. Murray spent an hour touring and receiving updates on collaborative marine environmental protection projects undertaken locally by the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, Skagit Marine Resources Committee and Northwest Straits Initiative.

Their most recent collaboration was the removal last month of a derelict 65-foot sailboat that had been abandoned and submerged in the Similk Bay tidelands north of Kukutali Preserve on Swinomish Reservation.

Murray, chair of the Appropriations Committee, led the authorization of the Northwest Straits marine conservation group in 1998 and has

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Rain deficit increases as drought grows

By Ken Stern

August started with 100% of Skagit County in drought, the federal government reported. Severe drought hangs over the bulk of the county, 8% , while the borders a slice of southern Fidalgo Island and southwestern Skagit Bay and the Cascade Mountains on the eastern side 14% , is in moderate drought.

Rainfall measured at Washington State University's Memorial Highway Mount Vernon station is 9.9 inches for the year, 7.2 inches or 42% below the January-July century average of 17.1 inches.

Monthly precipitation has been from 16% to 70% below normal until July, when it was only 8% below the century average.

In this continuing dry year, July's 0.57 inch of rain, all of it falling on the 24th, was slightly below the average monthly total of 0.62 inches for this century. It was the 10th driest July and one of 17 with less than an inch of rain. In 2022 it rained 0.3 inches on July 3 for that month's total.

The average daily temperature of 62.6 degrees was about normal for the century, with the average daily low of 50.4 degrees 1.9 below this century's

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Ahead of their time, The Esquires keep rockin' decades later

By Bill Reynolds

A trained classical pianist, La Conner Mayor Ramon Hayes has great appreciation for a variety of musical genres.

He naturally keeps tabs on those playing keyboards. And one of his favorites is La Conner's own Terry Nelson.

"Terry is the epitome, the soul, of La Conner," Hayes told the Weekly News recently. "He's so forward thinking."

A longtime proponent of green energy, having for more than four decades advocated solar heating options, Nelson is also one of a handful of home-grown La Conner musicians who as teenagers were quick to recognize the potential impact of rock-and-roll, then in its infancy.

Longtime locals fondly recall when Nelson, Don Grant, Jeff Hendricks,

Jim Reynolds and brothers Gene and Gerry Robbins performed together as The Esquires at the outset of the rock era, playing countless venues in Northwest Washington and British Columbia.

The La Conner High School products, all friends who grew up here before the town became a popular destination point, once backed up national headliner Jan and Dean, pioneers of the so-called California Sound and vocal surf style, at the legendary Seven Cedars Ballroom in Mount Vernon.

"It's amazing," said Reynolds, "that from a high school of 8 students we were able to put together a six-piece rock-and-roll band."

Now, more than 60 years later, the beat still goes on for The Esquires.

Four of the original band members — Reynolds, Nelson and the Robbins brothers, occasionally joined by

newcomers to the Esquires — continue to play a dozen or more times each month at area senior centers and retirement communities.

"The people we play for," said Gene Robbins, the band's saxophonist and historian, "are really grateful for us to come in and play for them. Many of them are now fairly restricted in their movement."

The group has a hefty playlist of a couple hundred songs loaded with hits from the early rock era.

Reynolds and Nelson were drawn to rock-and-roll after a visit to Seattle's famed Orpheum Theater, whose stage was graced by big-time acts like Chuck Berry, Little Richard, Lavern Baker and Bill Haley and the Comets. It was transformational.

"We'd never seen anybody boogie

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BACK IN THE DAY — The original lineup of The Esquires, from left to right: Gene Robbins, Don Grant, Jeff Hendricks, Gerry Robbins, Jim Reynolds, and Terry Nelson.

From the editor —

Why Richard Nixon resigned

Yesterday, Aug. 8, was the 49th anniversary of Richard Nixon's resignation as president of the United States. Why did Nixon resign?

First for our youth, the ahistorical, those who forgot or cannot remember our 37th president, Nixon's top White House staff worked with a dirty tricks squad. The tricksters first broke into Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist's office in 1971. Then in June 1972 they burglarized the Democratic Party's Watergate office and were caught, arrested by Washington, D.C., police.

For two years, through Senate and House investigations, Nixon denied knowledge. But on Aug. 5, 1974 the smoking gun recording of him wanting an FBI investigation stopped became public.

The top Republican Party leaders, Sen. Hugh Scott and Barry Goldwater, the minority leader and 1964 presidential candidate, and Rep. John Rhodes, House minority leader, met with Nixon Aug. 7, telling him in the face of the evidence, Congressional support had evaporated.

"There's not more than 15 senators for you," Goldwater said.

The evidence of Nixon's criminal involvement was unchallenged and clear. Nixon, a lawyer and a veteran of Congress, understood the rule of law and how Congress worked. And Congressional representatives understood both party loyalty and following the law. Nixon did not admit to wrongdoing, but he did not challenge the evidence.

Now, work this exercise: Nixon pitches he was set up, that it is all a hoax. And create this scenario: Republican leadership agrees to sell the fraud to their rank and file and to the public.

Fast forward to today. In 2023, the evidence federal prosecutors presented to a grand jury is lied about, brushed aside by former President Donald Trump. Republican Party leadership trashes the U.S. Justice Department and bows down to their party leader.

A 2007 article on Goldwater quotes him preparing to confront Nixon by angrily telling his fellow Republican Senators, "There are only so many lies you can take, and now there has been one too many. Nixon should get his ass out of the White House — today!"

Goldwater had personal integrity. He respected the Constitution and put the country over party loyalty.

There is a term for that: character. People of good character are personally honest, respect and admit the truth and hold higher values than party politics and winning the next election.

The political goal for those with high character is to shape the nation into a future that moves the society forward.

In the old day, Republicans championed law and order and throwing the book at law breakers. They used to say let the evidence decide and applaud prosecutors for pursuing wrongdoing.

Today Trump is doing his job — what he has always done — blustering and conning and selling himself as the best thing since sliced bread.

The Republican faithful are higher on Trump than ever before, pollsters report. They have stuck to Trump like they would to a tar baby.

Let the facts decide. Let the chips fall where they may. Nixon lied 49 years ago when he said he was not a crook. The evidence proved otherwise.

We need to follow the evidence in court this year and next.

Let's see how Trump will be judged 49 years from now. He, too, may never go to jail. But will the evidence and history prove him to be a crook?

— Ken Stern

Musings – on the editor's mind

This really happened last week, though instead of it being on a TV or movie screen the set was the office of the Weekly News and the players were the real-life Rhonda, design and layout editor, and Kurt, production manager for the Weekly News. The truer-than-life star coming in was Pamela, her real name, and her 12-year-old daughter, visiting from Seattle.

She walked in the door and without being cued asked, "Do you have a newspaper for sale?" and put a five dollar bill on Kurt's desk and would not take change. "Keep it," she said. "I work at Microsoft." Then, "I stop in small town newspaper offices all the time. I love small town newspapers." So I, owner of a small town newspaper, which is for sale, the business that is, stood up, introduced myself, and said, of course, "This newspaper is for sale. The whole thing."

Turns out Pamela worked for the Seattle Times for 10 years as a reporter and a columnist before taking a job with Microsoft some 11 years ago.

"My daughter loves La Conner," Pamela told us. "I would love to have her grow up here, while I run the newspaper."

"Well," I said, "I just printed my editorial for proofing. It is titled 'Weekly newspaper for sale.' Take it with you. Take all the July issues with you. There is a story on a KUOW radio reporter doing a story on the Weekly News being for sale."

I can't say for sure, but maybe she had tears in her eyes. I did, for sure.

Pamela and her daughter leave. Corny as I am, I say, "This would be a miracle. It is out of a Frank Capra movie if it happens." Kurt and Rhonda offer encouragement: "Maybe she means it. Maybe she will stop back."

Wednesday goes by. Thursday is past. No Pamela.

Friday morning I get this email:

"Ken & team:

"We are wrapping up our summer getaway to Bow. I've spent several enjoyable afternoons lounging on a balcony, reading every July edition of the La Conner Weekly News cover to cover. What a gem you have in Bill Reynolds — he can write anything, and well. And who doesn't love a small town police blotter? The subheads were half the fun.

"You have a great newspaper. I thoroughly enjoyed reading it. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to entertain a daydream of moving to a delightful seaside town to become a small-town newspaper editor, teaching my daughter to be a cub reporter, and upholding the noble profession of independent community journalism! (I posted about this on social media and a dozen ex-journo friends said, 'I'll go in on it with you!' If only.)

"Best of luck in finding a great buyer to keep an independent press alive and thriving in La Conner. I will be thinking positive thoughts for you!

"Sincerely, Pamela."

Hopefully this is not the end of the story of this weekly newspaper or it being for sale.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Truth, Trump and democracy

"Truth is on the march . . . Those who are guilty do not want the truth to come out . . . When truth is buried underground, it grows and builds up so much force that the day it explodes, it blasts everything with it. We shall see whether we have been setting ourselves up for the most resounding disaster yet to come."

So wrote French author Emile Zola in his "J'Accuse" letter of 1898 regarding the antisemitic trial of French military officer, Alfred Dreyfus, of Jewish descent, unlawfully accused of espionage. Now, before us, in a 45-page indictment of former

President Donald Trump by Special Council Jack Smith, we can read how even those elected officials who supported Trump with their votes and efforts toward his reelection, refused to support his illegal claims that the 2020 election was stolen by fraudulent means.

Reading the full indictment one is moved by the commitment to truth by some Trump-supporting lawmakers to defend the Constitution. It offers hope that truth will prevail in the halls of justice, that in spite of the delusion of the many followers who believe the former president's lies, that truth and justice will prevail as the 2024 election cycle moves forward.

The Michigan House Speaker's 2020 public

statement refuting Trump's effort to replace Michigan's legally selected electors with fraudulent ones: "There is not enough support in the House to cast a new slate of electors. This would bring mutually assured destruction for every future election in regards to the Electoral College. And I can't stand for that. I won't." He is a Republican.

May every American voter read this indictment and be grateful for the honest and truthful stance of our elected officials across the seven "contested" states to avoid a "resounding disaster." May we yet remain a democracy.

Respectfully,
Christine Wardenburg-Skinner
Edison

Utilities use batteries to bridge power gaps

By Greg Witing

Lithium-ion batteries have long been in the news because of their role in electric vehicles, but uses for this technology are expanding to the utility industry. Batteries that can be charged and discharged quickly, and re-used for thousands of cycles, open up options for utility-scale energy storage that haven't been economic before.

Now that utility-scale lithium batteries are available at commercial scales and reasonable prices, they are being adopted by the utility industry itself. As advanced batteries are proven on larger and larger scales, more and more utilities will adopt them, and costs will fall further.

Utilities are aware of the value of low-cost batteries. Renewable hydro, solar and wind systems are often capable of producing "surplus" energy when the grid doesn't need it at that instant. These generation systems don't use nuclear or fossil fuels. Their maintenance costs are about the same whether they generate all the energy they're capable of producing or not. Therefore, the cost of producing this "surplus" energy is almost zero. However, there's no point in doing so if it can't be stored.

Storage that can be used to capture "surplus" energy when it's available, and then put it



back onto the grid during period of high demand, is extremely helpful in keeping the cost of electricity down. Stored renewable energy can directly replace new generation from fueled power plants, and can also keep utility capital costs down by reducing the need to build any type of new power plant, whether fueled or renewable.

Washington, unlike most places, has long had large-scale hydroelectric dams. When electricity is available at low cost, water is pumped back to the lakes above Washington's dams. At a wholesale level, energy that costs less than a cent per kilowatt-hour can be used to store energy that can then be sold during times of higher demand for wholesale prices of 3 cents a kilowatt-hour, or even more.

Pumped hydro storage also reduces the need for Washington utilities to turn on little-used backup generators during times of extremely high demand. Such generation is extremely expensive in jurisdictions that don't have large-scale storage, because

the entire cost of the generation plants has to be paid back within the few hours a year that they're used.

For decades, pumped hydro storage has been reducing Washington utilities' net costs. It helps to keep rates low and stable. Other places haven't been able to take advantage of storage opportunities, because pumped hydro storage has been the only form of storage available at a reasonable cost at a utility's scale.

However, as I mentioned last week, the cost of batteries that can be used for thousands of cycles has fallen more than 99% over the last 30 years. As mass production continues to increase, and as battery chemistries are developed to reduce the use of expensive cobalt and nickel, costs will fall further.

These new battery systems are already being used at utility scale to keep costs down and reliability up, both by capturing otherwise-unused renewable energy from afternoon solar and overnight wind, and by addressing some other utility system issues. For instance, fast-reacting large-scale battery storage can bridge small gaps in power supply while large generators are starting up. Batteries will thus reduce the need to use excess fueled power to maintain power quality and supply.

Pioneer Picnic

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

a salmon dinner prepared by the "Good Girls" and friends and served by members of the La Conner Civic Garden Club.

Marble's career and a historical timeline of the achievements of the Benson/Berentson family — the 2023 Skagit County Pioneer Association Family of the Year — were shared on story boards displayed on by Skagit County Historical Museum Director Jo Wolfe and staff.

Many highlights and anecdotes on the Benson/Berentson story board were elaborated upon by family spokesperson Betsy Christianson. She credited her aunt, Laura Matthews, with compiling the stories of family members who have engaged in farming, fishing and logging, publications, visual arts, commercial photography, finance and education.

Joyce Johnson

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

of no fewer than 19 presidents, dating to Woodrow Wilson.

A native of North Dakota,

Considerable space was devoted to the legacy of the late Duane Berentson, a standout student-athlete at Anacortes High School. He was a teacher and coach at Burlington-Edison High School before entering politics, including long service in the Washington State House of Representatives and as the state's secretary of transportation.

The Highway 20 twin-spanned bridge crossing Swinomish Channel is named for him.

Bensons and Berentsons attended in equal numbers. All trace their Norwegian roots to brothers Atlag and Anton Bernsten Dragaland.

Christianson outlined the perseverance of Berent Anton ("Big Ben") Benson. He fished Lake Superior before his arrival in Skagit County. He connected here with John Ball of the La Conner and Whitney areas, then with partners farmed near Edison, logged around Sedro-Woolley and developed a fish

trap off Lummi Island.

"Ben," said Christianson, "was a pioneer in many ways."

Attendees joined in that chorus with a sing-along of patriotic and popular Pioneer Picnic tunes led by vocalist Faye Whitney. Praises were also sung in recognition of work undertaken on behalf of the association by Stowe, past president Dan Royal and past treasurer and former mayor Bud Moore.

Immediate past Pioneer Association President Liza Peth Bott saluted each publicly during her segment of program.

Incoming Pioneer Association President Loren Dahl, Jr. closed the afternoon's business meeting by bringing matters full circle — offering a personal reflection on his connections to the Berentson wing of the family.

"The reason our family is here," Dahl said, "is because of the Berentsons. Without the Berentsons, the Dahls wouldn't be in this area."

Block and radio station KBRC.

At the Garden Club, she is fondly referred to as the queen of its popular butterfly garden on Second Street.

On Thursday, her reign extended to the Pioneer Picnic.

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 Newspaper Publishers Association



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Continuing the tradition of weekly publishing in La Conner since 1878

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

La Conner News Publishing Co., LLC

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

USPS 363-550

360-466-3315 • Fax: 360-466-1195

www.laconnerweeklynews.com

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Town seeks input on short-term rentals

By Bill Reynolds

The status of short-term rentals will get a long look as the La Conner Town Planning Commission seek public input while updating what has become a hot button topic in La Conner.

During their discussion of the issue last week, commissioners endorsed holding a community roundtable in September and collecting comments on the Town's website.

Assistant Planner Ajah Eills suggested the public dialogue after short-term rentals were addressed at the Aug. 1 hybrid meeting at Maple Hall.

Short-term rentals are permitted in La Conner's commercial zone but not in residential areas.

Planning Director Michael Davolio said two schools of thought have emerged.

One supports permitting short-term rentals in residential zones as a private property right. That allows homeowners to rent out their dwellings while away on extended work-related trips or vacations, thus providing more on-premises security and potential customers for local businesses than if those houses were vacant. It offers more income for owners of multiple residences.

The other view is that short-term rentals in residential areas have a negative impact on the fabric of neighborhoods and reduce the number of permanent housing options available in a town that has long dealt with a limited housing stock.

"The planning staff has no dog in this fight," Davolio stressed. "We're seeking input from the public."

Residents attending did just that.

Greg Ellis, planning a tiny house village on his property at Washington and Whatcom streets, said a row of short-term rentals there will serve as a buffer between the grocery store and restaurant on Morris Street and the permanent homes he wants to develop.

"People will put up with (commercial) noise for a night or two," Ellis said, "but wouldn't want to live there permanently."

Davolio said one option would be to limit short-term rentals in high density housing areas as Ellis proposes to within 50 feet of commercial property.

La Conner resident Kathy Shiner cautioned that such a policy could "open a can of worms," leading to further incremental encroachments of short-term rentals into residential areas.

Davolio vowed that won't happen.

"We would stick to what's in the code," he said.

Ellis stressed that his "only reason for asking for short-term rentals is because of the commercial noise."

Shiner asked if more teeth could be put in the Town's noise ordinance and whether purchase of reliable sound level meters or similar devices could be pursued.

Davolio, responded to Commissioner Summer Holt that Washington state is mandating communities accommodate housing for moderate and low-income residents.

"Tiny homes," he said, "is a way to do it," while adding that "there are other approaches that can be taken."

Ellis agreed, saying, "Affordable housing for families is such a challenge but there are possibilities."

Linda Talman, a longtime resident, questioned the benefits of planning staff studying the City of Kirkland's approach to high density housing.

"Kirkland," said Talman, "has a population of 92,200. That's 102 times larger than La Conner. Using what they're doing for density is ludicrous. It's just way too big."

Davolio noted that with the Town's comprehensive plan update, "we have to accommodate population projections for growth based on census data."

Given the constraints of the Swinomish Channel and adjoining farmland, high density housing on remaining lots - especially projects with dwellings for moderate and low-income residents - promises to join short-term rentals as a topic that will be frequently revisited.

Also at the meeting:

Holt asked if a blinking light at the intersection of Sixth and Morris streets will resolve motorists failing to stop there. Shiner expressed concern with the Morris Street and Maple Avenue intersection, where out-of-town motorists sometimes fail to recognize the free left turn for vehicles entering town. "It's a complex and dangerous intersection," she said.

Eills said she is working with the school district to encourage student input for the comp plan update. She wrapped up the 75-minute meeting with a brief overview of state legislative action affecting housing.

Planning commission studies Kirkland for strategies on affordable housing

By Bill Reynolds

At first glance, comparing La Conner and Kirkland is akin to apples and oranges.

But when it comes to affordable housing incentives, it is a comparison that might bear fruit.

Planning department staff shared with the La Conner Planning Commission during their July meeting at Maple Hall research into how Kirkland, a Seattle suburb of nearly 100,000 people, has sought to increase its stock of affordable housing.

Assistant Planner Ajah Eills provided a seven-page report on how La Conner might implement some of the measures adopted in Kirkland.

"La Conner," Eills noted, "is in an interesting position when it comes to incentivizing affordable housing."

By that, she meant La Conner has geographic features far different than those in Kirkland.

The report notes that "the majority of the town is in the flood plain, which can make it difficult to receive housing specific federal grant money. The majority of the affordable housing created in La Conner has been through local organizations, such as Skagit Home Trust and local Habitat for Humanity groups. It may be valuable to discuss what meaningful housing incentives would look like to groups such as these, to ensure that the incentives La Conner chooses to implement are effective."

In Kirkland, inclusionary zoning has been adopted. It requires all developments over four units located in certain zones must provide some affordable units.

La Conner has three different residential zone densities. Kirkland defines over 20 zones.

But La Conner could still develop incentives and draft codes encouraging affordable housing, according to the planners' report.

The planners' report outlines incentives and draft codes for encouraging affordable housing.

Working with Skagit County officials on pre-approved building plans for a variety of housing sizes, reducing planning department and infrastructure charges based on the percentage of affordable housing units developed on a property, streamlining the permit process and reducing parking restrictions on a case-by-case basis are options.

Planning Director Davolio acknowledged that incentivizing affordable housing cannot merely reflect what has been done in the King County suburbs.

"Kirkland has a larger planning staff, more land and more people," he told commissioners. "We have a whole different set of challenges."

Commissioner Marna Hanneman, a former Kirkland resident, concurred.

"I know the council and planning commission (in Kirkland) worked real hard on their plan," Hanneman said. "We, as La Connerites, have to be careful to come up with what fits best here. We have to be very diligent as to how we approach this."

Hanneman said the trick is to strike a balance between a wide

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Town panel takes north end flood mitigation walking tour

By Bill Reynolds

Key steps were taken last week - both literally and figuratively - to mitigate saltwater flooding on La Conner's north end.

Public Works Director Brian Lease led members of La Conner's emergency management commission on a one-hour July 25 walking tour of low-lying spots along the north waterfront from the Washington Street-end past Channel Lodge on North First Street.

The six-member advisory panel, chaired by Bill Stokes and established in response to severe saltwater flooding here last December, will soon be making a recommendation to the town council on barrier placement on the waterfront ahead of the king tide season.

Commissioners have also been in contact with officials of the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe about placing barriers on its south end property at the old Puget Sound Freight Lines.

"There's not much of a problem between the Pier 7 Building and Calico Cupboard," said Lease, who displayed an encyclopedic knowledge of which properties are privately owned.

The north end poses distinct challenges and will require communication between Town leaders and private property owners, he noted, providing several examples where flood barriers placed to protect Town rights-of-way could divert water onto private property.

"We'll need to contact the property owners and let them know about the Town flood mitigation plan and how it might impact them," Stokes said. "We would help them, of course."

Mayor Ramon Hayes agreed that property owners should be given the option of having barriers - either sandbags or Ecology Blocks - placed on their lots.

"I think the property owners would be on board with that," said Hayes.

The plan is to place barriers ahead of flood season, leaving gaps for people to walk through. Those gaps would be filled immediately should conditions like the Dec. 27 weather present themselves again.

That flooding, which Lease likened to "a raging river," was the result of a king tide, extremely low barometric pressure, strong westerly winds, rainfall and rapid ice and snow melt-off from a prior winter storm.

Swinomish Community Service Officer Brian Geer described it at the time as a perfect storm bearing imperfect

consequences. Residents and business owners sustained combined property damages nearing \$2 million.

Afterward, the Town authorized an engineering survey to determine elevations along the waterfront and identify areas most at risk of saltwater encroachment.

Until then, the primary focus of flood concerns had been the Skagit River, though a 2017 design charette held at Maple Hall featuring scientists and representatives of environmental protec-

tion groups addressed potential threats from sea level rise and climate change.

"We've talked with the Army Corps of Engineers," Lease noted, "and never went anywhere on the saltwater side. It was all about the river side."

Staff has regularly conferred with U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen on the saltwater flooding issue, Hayes said. "We're definitely involved with Congressman Larsen,"

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Don't Kit Nap Kittens!

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A LITTER OF KITTENS

QUIETLY OBSERVE
Observe from a safe distance to see if mama is present.

ASSESS CONDITION
If kittens are clean and sleeping in a heap, then mama is likely out looking for food and will be back.

If kittens are cold, dirty, thin, making a lot of noise or appear sick or hurt, mama might be MIA and possibly gone for good. If you have observed for 12 to 24 hrs and mama still hasn't returned, she's probably not coming back.

MAKE A GAME PLAN
If kittens are in obvious distress and mama is clearly not coming back, call HSSV at 360-757-0445 to discuss bringing them into us for care.

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OUT OF HERE, FINALLY – A contractor working with the Swinomish Tribe and state agencies used a “demolition in place” method to remove portions of an abandoned sailboat in Similk Bay. A floating curtain was deployed around the sunken vessel to contain any turbid water.

– Photo courtesy of Jason Thompson, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

Tribe, agencies remove abandoned sailboat

By Bill Reynolds

Less is more yet again. In this case, addition by subtraction involves the long-awaited removal of a 65-foot abandoned and partially submerged sailboat from nearby Similk Bay on Swinomish Reservation.

The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, Washington State Department of Natural Resources and Northwest Straits Commission partnered July 20 to remove the Windjammer and another smaller derelict vessel from within tribal boundaries.

The Windjammer was pulled from intertidal waters north of Kukutali Preserve had for more than a decade slowly deteriorated and impacted access to Swinomish tidelands.

The vessel sat in tribal tidelands on top of eelgrass, blocked forage fish spawning habitat and salmon and would have prevented cultivation of the Swinomish clam garden, believed to be the first of its kind in modern times anywhere in the country.

Its presence had likewise heightened significant environmental protection concerns, according to DNR officials.

“Due to the Windjammer’s vintage and size,” a DNR spokesperson said in a press release, “it is presumed that asbestos-containing material, lead paint and PCBs may be present

and pose a risk to marine life and public safety.”

Swinomish Tribal Senate Chairman Steve Edwards is glad to have seen the last of the Windjammer.

“Ensuring a clean, healthy marine environment is critical to preserving traditional practices and protecting the treaty-reserved rights of the Swinomish people,” Edwards said.

Edwards noted that the tidelands north of Kukutali Preserve represent some of the last remaining undeveloped shorelines on Swinomish Reservation. He said the tribe is thankful for having had the opportunity to work with DNR and NWSC to remove the abandoned vessel and restore the tidelands to their prior condition.

Swinomish senior shellfish biologist Julie Barber stressed that the area in which the Windjammer had rested since 2009 is rich in species diversity.

“Swinomish Fisheries has long known that this stretch of beach could serve as an important area for future bio-cultural restoration projects,” she said, “but our ability to move forward on those ideas has been thwarted by the presence of the derelict sailboat. The removal of the sailboat opens up opportunities for future work toward improving fisheries resources for the tribe.”

Efforts to remove the Windjammer were made possible when NWSC received federal

dollars this past January as a funding priority tabbed by U.S. Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA).

Some of those funds are being directed toward derelict vessel removals by a collaborative working group made up of the seven county-based Marine Resources Committees and tribal partners – including Swinomish – within the Northwest Straits region.

An industrial claw was employed to break apart the Windjammer in order to remove it from Similk Bay.

The sailboat had become adrift off Port Townsend before resurfacing north of Kukutali, a 93 acre preserve across Fidalgo and Kiket islands and Flagstaff Point that is co-owned and managed by Swinomish and Washington State Parks.

The Windjammer was near the top of the list for derelict vessel removal, according to Northwest Straits Commission Marine Program Manager Dana Oster.

State Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz praised the team approach applied to at long last rid local waters of the Windjammer.

“We all share Washington’s waterways,” Franz noted, “so we also need to share experience and expertise in keeping these vital habitats safe and clean. I’m proud to lend my agency’s expertise in removing derelict vessels to this great project and thankful to the Northwest Straits Commission for this innovative solution.”



Swinomish Tribal Senate Chair Steve Edwards, left, and Swinomish Tribal Senate Vice-Chair Alana Quintasket, center, welcome U.S. Sen. Patty Murray at Lone Tree Point Monday morning on the Swinomish Reservation.

– Photo by Bill Reynolds

Patty Murray

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

repeatedly secured vital funding for it since.

Murray was introduced to the Skagit MRC Kids on the Beach, Salish Sea Stewards, Swinomish Clam Gardens and Olympia Oysters restoration projects, among other ongoing programs designed to protect and enhance local waters.

She also learned about the historic significance of Lone Tree Point to Swinomish tribal members.

“We can’t thank you enough for being here,” Swinomish Tribal Senate Chairman Steve Edwards told Murray. “We’re blessed and honored to have you here at this sacred place.”

“To have her visit such a sacred site,” Edwards said afterward, “we’re honored and blessed to have her see these relationships in place and how we’re able to work together.”

Moments before, Murray walked down from Lone Tree Point to the shoreline to watch Swinomish youth collect data and test water quality on Skagit Bay.

Jen Willup, who teaches the Between Two Worlds indigenous science curriculum at La Conner Schools, said students benefit immeasurably from such “hands-on activities on their traditional homelands.”

Swinomish Senator and Vice-

Chair Alana Quintasket outlined for Murray progress being made on the clam gardens, which are adaptable to sea-level rise, and the Olympia oyster project.

“The clam gardens work is an incredible project that I’m very passionate about,” Quintasket said. “We have a responsibility to sustain the clams. I’m really proud of that project. It’s looking beautiful. The beach is taking to it well. It’s part of carrying on our culture for many years to come.”

She said Swinomish is working closely with MRC on the Olympia oyster restoration.

“Oysters,” she said, “are a significant part of our diet.”

Edwards told Murray that the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community is committed to both short-term and long-range marine environmental protection programs.

“We have to prepare to protect the next seven generations,” Edwards said.

Todd Mitchell, director of the Swinomish Environmental Protection Department, echoed Edwards in referring to Lone Tree Point as a “sacred monument,” a cherished gathering place where one can see where the land meets the sea.

“The question is how do we best monitor and protect this area,” Mitchell said. “All the work we can do at Swinomish with our partners at MRC is where restoration can happen.”

Murray, who listened intently and rarely spoke during the tour, did get the last word, however, before departing for her next scheduled stop.

“It’s really great to see what’s happening on this beach,” she said, “and that it’s going to be here for well into the future.”

“Washington’s waterways and coastline are absolutely vital to our state’s economy, culture and way of life,” she said, “and places like Lone Tree Point carry special significance to tribes, including the Swinomish people.”

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50TH ANNIVERSARY

SWEET SUMMER SAVINGS

'Small Mercies' offer a little hope

By Tony Harrah

Over his long career Dennis Lehane has authored a dozen books and produced an impressive body of work for films and television. I believe that his latest novel, "Small Mercies," is his best effort yet. Like most of his other work, "Small Mercies" is set in his native Boston – not in the exclusive enclaves of Back Bay or Beacon Hill, but the gritty housing projects of South Boston, or Southie" as it's known to its mostly Irish, working-class inhabitants. The book's action unfolds over a few days in the summer of 1974, as the Irish of Southie are mobilizing against the court-ordered integration of their all-white neighborhood high school.

Against this backdrop Lehane introduces us to 42-year-old Mary Pat Fennessy, a lifelong Southie resident. Mary Pat's first husband, a petty criminal, was murdered by a local crime boss. Her second, fed up with the bigoted, isolated world of Southie, left her and Southie for greener pastures. Mary Pat's son Noel survived a tour of in Vietnam, only to die of a heroin overdose back in the old neighborhood. As the book opens, her only remaining child Julie, or

"Jules," leaves for an evening out with friends. Jules never returns home, and Mary Pat quickly discovers that Jules' disappearance may be linked to the suspicious death that same night of a young Black man stranded in Southie by car trouble.

Her frantic search for Jules over the next few days leads Mary Pat to question all the values of Southie's insular working-class Irish culture, the ones she inherited at birth – its racism, its disdain for outsiders, its acceptance of casual violence both within families and on the streets and, above all, its code of silence. In Southie no one talks to the police or challenges the authority of its criminal overlords – those who violate that code can expect to receive quick, violent retribution.

Mary Pat has reached her breaking point, however. She drinks too much, works at a dead-end job, has no real friends and no expectation that her life will ever change for the better. Jules has been her last authentic human connection, and in order to discover what has happened to her daughter she's willing to break Southie's unbreakable rules, all the while knowing the inevitable consequences of her actions. With no real hope of

seeing Jules again she's beyond caring about her future. Violence has always been a presence in her life, and now she's required to use violence to discover what she absolutely needs to know. She is up to the task.

On its surface "Small Mercies" is a conventional thriller, but Lehane's talent and his peerless ability to draw compelling characters with a few keystrokes is for me the heart and soul of "Small Mercies." The book contains few sympathetic characters in the conventional sense, and the ugliness and bigotry at the heart of Southie are depicted unsparingly. Yet Lehane is also able to take the reader into the minds of folks who see themselves as victims of forces beyond their control, whose fear of change and loss of identity only make them double down on their worst qualities. That's a theme that resonates in today's United States. Finally, in Mary Pat Fennessy, with all her flaws, her hard-won courage and ultimately her righteous rage against the only world she's ever known, Lehane has created a character that I, for one, will find hard to forget.

Harrah, an Irish Catholic, lived briefly in Boston in the 1970s.

Ramon Hayes earns honor at Rotary Club auction

By Ken Stern

Anyone can be a part of the La Conner Rotary Club 2023 Harvesting Hope annual auction and dinner at Maple Hall Aug. 26, 5:30 p.m. The theme this year is "Hope Springs Eternal." Community participation is invited to support literacy and education programs. This is the club's biggest fundraiser of the year.

La Conner Mayor Ramon Hayes will be honored as recipient of the Paul Harris Award to acknowledge his commitment to the community and the strong working relationship with town leaders the club has enjoyed during his tenure. Hayes stood out among nominees for his enacting the Rotary standard of "Service Above Self."

Hayes is retiring after four terms and 16 years as mayor. He is the longest serving mayor in town history. The club notes "he has demonstrated this in his tireless efforts to improve our town and the lives of its citizens while serving as mayor. We enthusiastically thank him for his service!" Hayes has served on numerous boards and chaired the Skagit Council of Governments from 2010-2014. As mayor he has assisted in securing almost \$2.5 million toward the construction of the La Conner Swinomish Library, the doubling of the intake and revenue of the wastewater treatment plant, funding and implementation of the La Conner boardwalk and installation of lights on the Rainbow Bridge.

Hayes married Heidi in 1993. Their daughter Victoria is a second year microbiology student at



Mayor Ramon Hayes

the University of Washington. A professional pianist, in La Conner he started a jewelry business, selling it last October after 25 years.

With Heidi, Hayes has travelled extensively throughout the world, including Africa, where they helped to fund the digging of wells in bush communities.

The La Connor Rotary Club honors Hayes with the Paul Harris Fellow recognition, a \$1,000 contribution to the national Rotary Foundation in Hayes' name.

The annual auction and dinner will fill Maple Hall with fellowship, refreshments, food and a variety of silent and live auction items, including getaway travel as close as Fidalgo and Guemes islands and as far as you want to cash in on a week in a Hilton Grand Vacations Luxury Suite Condominium that includes international location options.

People and businesses can sponsor the auction at the levels of platinum, gold and silver.

For tickets, information and to start bidding online: laconnerrotary.org/.

Food Co-op to celebrate 50 years

Today's the party: The Skagit Valley Food Co-op's Golden Jubilee at Skagit Riverwalk. Bring friends and family, lawn chairs and umbrellas. The Co-op provides local food, drinks, live music, amazing prizes and family-friendly fun: tie-dying with Tri-Dee Arts and face painting by Contours FX. They promise jolly good times.

Music starts with the Nematonas at 4 p.m. and ends with Yogoman Burning Band at 7 p.m. An open mic for Co-op Memories is at 6 p.m.

There will be prizes to win. Be there.

Source: Food Co-op

'Holler' with music, poetry, picnic Sunday

The Skagit River Poetry Foundation invites anyone who wants to howl to "Make Me Wanna Holler" a free event Sunday in Pioneer Park, 2-7 p.m. at the amphitheater near the Rainbow Bridge in La Conner.

Music will be provided by the acoustic blues band Delta Promenade and indie originals band the Erik Christensen Band.

Featured Northwest poets will read their work and an open mic is available for audience members who want to read a poem. Food, snacks, beer, wine, ice cream and soft drinks will be available for sale.

Information: skagitriverpoetry.org [facebook.com/deltapromenadeblueserikchristensen.com](https://www.facebook.com/deltapromenadeblueserikchristensen.com)

Source: Poetry Foundation

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Photo by Eric Creitz

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Keeping history alive at Northern State Hospital

By Adam M.Sowa ds

To keep history alive, it must be tended like a garden. On Saturday, July 29, community members gathered at Northern State Hospital in Sedro-Woolley to nurture memories of family members of patients and staff. About 300 people came to Public History Day at the grounds to share artifacts and stories and learn from experts about the hospital, which closed 50 years ago.

"Personal stories are the most powerful," said Sharon Howe, the research librarian at the Sedro-Woolley Museum, one of the sponsors of the event.

So Public History Day's purpose was to collect materials and memories for local historical museums and to be a venue for stories.

Several years ago, the museum staff at both the Skagit Valley Historical Museum and the Sedro-Woolley Museum realized that their collections did not include many Northern State materials, despite public interest and inquiries. Jo Wolfe, the director of the Skagit County Historical Museum, another sponsor, realized, they needed "to find a way to capture that information so we can share it."

Last year, the first Public History Day was "a great success," said Wolfe.

Volunteers recorded oral histories from those willing to share. In the last two years, about 30 new oral histories have been recorded.

Donated artifacts, as well as scanned photos and letters, will also be added to museum archives. Some of the artifacts given included a patient-made end table and a woven rug. Someone shared their great-grandfather's pocket notebook that included a list of tools used to clear the land, a process that began in 1910.

These historical materials become seeds for understanding the varied meanings of this landmark.

Northern State Hospital "was just a human place," said Amy Muia, a writer and Northern State researcher who served as



SPANISH REVIVAL — Most of the buildings on the Northern State Hospital campus feature Spanish Revival architecture. Some buildings, such as this one, have been maintained. Many other buildings have sustained vandalism and weather damage since the facility closed in 1973.



"A HUMAN PLACE" — Dozens of people came to the Northern State Hospital campus in Sedro-Woolley to learn the history of the hospital and its treatment of patients between 1910 and 1973.

the day's master of ceremonies. "It was a place where flawed human beings cared for other flawed human beings with the knowledge that they had at the time."

For 60 years, Northern State treated mental illness with various therapies, pharmaceuticals and procedures, including

lobotomies and sterilizations.

One of the day's speakers, John Horne, is an expert on all things Northern State, especially the cemetery. "The cemetery is a huge passion of mine, because at the time people were kind of disposed of back then," said Horne.

When he started investigating the cemetery, Horne found two



HISTORY UNCOVERED — John Horne explained how he located 600 grave sites in the hospital's abandoned cemetery and has made 205 headstones visible.

dozen visible grave markers. Since then, he has located about 600 and made 205 visible. "I feel like that even if there's just a chunk of concrete that's all that's left of someone's life is a number and initials, [we] should at least be able to see it," he said.

A team of journalists from the Seattle Times recently produced a series of stories, including a documentary, about Northern

State that has helped revive interest. They shared how they worked and noted how timely its story is, given current crises in mental health care.

Carrie Davidson, who, along with Horne, was featured in the Times' project, joined them. Her great-grandmother spent almost a decade at Northern State and died there. Davidson's quest to find family helped her feel connected, but she knows she will continue to search. Materials gathered at Public History Day may help someone like Davidson in the future.

Saturday's event started with overcast skies, but as speakers shared, the sun appeared. The chairs remained full all day with dozens standing nearby and wandering the beautiful grounds, peeking through broken windows to see inside the historic buildings.

Representatives from the Port of Skagit, the final sponsor, shared updates about potential developments of the property it owns. Protecting the historical significance is a priority, and not just the old Spanish Colonial Revival buildings.

"Some of the stories are sad, some of them are inspiring," said Linda Tyler, communications director for the port. Events like this are special because, "we get to capture those stories from folks before we lose them."

Public History Day affirmed the significance of Northern State to Skagit County history and demonstrated how many people are eager to cultivate its memory.

The Sedro-Woolley Museum contains a permanent exhibit of Northern State Hospital. The Skagit County Historical Museum currently has a temporary exhibit on the hospital that will remain up until October after which there will be a portion as part of their permanent displays.

Sowards retired as a history professor at the University of Idaho in 2011. She is a freelance writer for Skagitians to Preserve Farmland. Her stories have appeared in Smithsonian Magazine and the Everett Herald.



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The Esquires

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

before,” recalled Nelson.

It helped inspire a series of La Conner-based bands that ultimately morphed into The Esquires.

“Our first band,” said Gene Robbins, “started in the late 1950s.”

That was soon after Reynolds had seen Elvis Presley perform on television. Nelson, meanwhile, found inspiration in Ray Charles. Berry, universally considered rock-and-roll’s most important early architect, was likewise influential.

“Whenever Chuck Berry came out with something,” Gene Robbins said, “we’d go buy it.”

Like their idols, the Esquires blended showmanship with musicianship. They brought choreography to their sets and often wore either matching suits and ties or sweaters for publicity photos and gigs.

The shows they played at the Seven Cedars, which was razed by fire in 1963, drew upwards of 300 kids on Friday nights.

Looking back, The Esquires remember having benefited from a strong band program at La Conner Schools. Music was also part of their home life.

Reynolds, who glides seamlessly from guitar to keyboards to drums, grew up in a musical household. His mother, Norma, was an accomplished musician. Same with Nelson. His dad, Louie, played accordion, piano



THE BAND PLAYS ON – The Esquires of 2023, from left: Gene Robbins, Jim Reynolds, Terry Nelson and Gerry Robbins.

– Photo by Bill Reynolds

and violin.

Gene Robbins chose the saxophone because he found the fingering required to master it similar to the flute he had played. For Gerry Robbins, the drums seemed a natural extension of athletics.

“Timing is important in all sports,” he explained. “And playing the drums is about timing and control.”

Nelson, the pianist, agreed.

“I’ve always maintained that the drums are the most important part,” he said.

While the band gained much notoriety for its music, Gene Robbins also did so with a run for mayor here shortly after turning 21, the legal voting age in the early 1960s.

“Nobody was running for mayor at the time,” he said. “I said to my mom: ‘I’m going to run for mayor.’”

The youngest mayoral candidate in the state, his campaign

attracted newspaper coverage.

“I knocked on five or six doors, including Louie’s,” he remembered, “and said: ‘Hi, I’m running for mayor. I’d like you to vote for me.’”

But it wasn’t meant to be, and Gene Robbins’ concession speech remains a classic part of La Conner lore.

Eventually, The Esquires hit the pause button. Gene Robbins and Reynolds went into the Army. Gerry Robbins served in the Air Force. Nelson enrolled at the University of Washington.

“After a long period of each going our separate ways,” Gene Robbins said, “we’re now back together playing music.”

The group continues to practice weekly at Reynolds’ La Conner home.

“It’s nice to be playing music and having fun doing it,” said Reynolds, now 80. “I hope we can keep doing this for a few more years.”

Town

■ ■ ■ (from page 3)

Councilmember Rick Dole, who championed a commission to address a wide range of emergencies – earthquakes, tsunamis and severe weather, in addition to flooding – often lingered behind the tour to explain why the group was engaged in serious conversation while milling about the boardwalk and sidewalks.

“I could’ve collected money from everyone who asked what was going on,” Dole quipped. “I could’ve said we were conducting La Conner’s underwater tour.”

Dole afterward termed the tour “excellent.” Council approval will lay the groundwork for purchase of necessary flood mitigation materials this year.

Commissioners will meet Aug. 22, at 4:30 p.m. in Maple Hall.

Housing

■ ■ ■ (from page 3)

range of community needs – from affordable housing to open space to public parks.

Davolio told commissioners that the Town has received a state grant to hire a consultant to develop a plan for utilizing La Conner’s south end waterfront area, including the former Moore-Clark property and the iconic “Old Blue” building that has stood vacant for decades since British Petroleum closed the local fish feed plant and moved operations to Vancouver, B.C.

Some seven feet of the dilapidated warehouse is on the Town’s south First Street right-of-way. The building has been cordoned off with fencing for public safety.

Longtime resident Marilyn Thostenson suggested that commissioners review the history of the Moore-Clark property, specifically proposals submitted a generation ago by Vaughn Jolly and Larry Wilman for multi-use development on the site.

“It was really exciting at the time,” she recalled. “It was controversial. You had naysayers and those in favor. It really has an interesting history.”

Davolio said he had spoken with the developer of the 306 Center Street project and has been told that an architect is in the process of drafting a plan for the proposed three-story multi-residential building. Town council earlier this month approved the Talmon Project infrastructure plan.

In addition, Eills said she plans to meet with La Conner High School students in September to gather their input for the ongoing comprehensive plan update.

Rain Report

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

average and the average daily high of 73.5 degrees also 1.9 degrees above the century average.

The two record lows for their dates were 45.2 degrees on July 13 followed by 48.1 degrees the next morning, July 14.

Similarly, the two record highs for their dates were 84 degrees July 5 and 85 degrees the next afternoon, July 6.

The Aug. 1 U.S. Drought Monitor shows most of Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish and King counties in severe drought, as are parts of the counties in the state’s north- and southeast corners. Fifty-two-point-seven percent of

Washington is in moderate or severe drought. Another 35.2% is abnormally dry. Only a section of the Cascade Mountains are exempt in the entire state.

Data measured at the WSU Memorial Highway weather station.

Rain Report: July 2022

Rain last week: July 30 - Aug. 5: 0.0
 Rainfall for month: 0.57
 Average rainfall 2000-2021: 0.62 *
 No rain: 0.0: 2003, 2013, 2021
 Most rain: 1.4, 2011
 Rainfall last month, June: 0.74 *
 * No data 2004
 Measurements in inches
 Data from WSU on Memorial Highway

County to start Best Road chip seal project on Monday

Skagit County Public Works road crews expect to begin work on Monday to chip-seal Best Road between Calhoun Road and the Skagit River Bridge.

The work will be done in phases. Travelers can expect some traffic delays when the base

layer and gravel are placed.

Weather permitting, the road crew will place a second layer of chip seal within two weeks.

The speed limit will be reduced from 35 or 50 mph to 25 mph through the construction zone.



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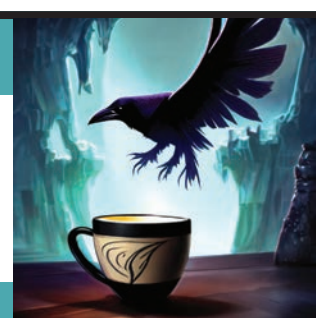
And tea!

Caffeine-free Earl Grey? How do we do it? Visit Raven's Cup and try a drink from our new, larger tea selection. We still have favorites like organic Darjeeling, English Breakfast, Earl Grey, peppermint cardamom, purple jasmine, and green tea. Now, we also have a selection of South African rooibos teas, Thai assam tea, and some new and delicious loose-leaf teas like blue butterfly peaflower, white lavender jasmine...and more!

All tea is available fresh-brewed, hot or iced. Also new: Matcha and golden milk lattes!

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LEGAL NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY
No. 23-4-0038- 29
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS
(RCW 11.40.030)

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

Date of first publication: July 26, 2023
Rune O. Pedersen
Personal Representative
SKAGIT LAW GROUP, PLLC
KATE SZUREK, WSBA #6723
Attorneys for Personal Representative
P.O. Box 336/227 Freeway

Drive, Suite B, Mount Vernon, WA 9873
Published in the La Conner Weekly News July 26, Aug. 2, 9, 2023.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY LISTED BELOW

The Plaintiffs Kevin Paul and Patricia Paul are initiating a Quiet Title action on the building located at the following address: 17544 Pioneer Parkway, La Conner, WA 9857.

Quiet Title actions are used to determine the ownership interests in homes and other buildings. The Quiet Title action has been filed in the Swinomish Tribal Court. The matter has been set for hearing on September 12, 2023, at 3:00 p.m., at the location below. Any person wishing to assert a right, title, or interest in any of the buildings at the address listed above, should contact the Swinomish Tribal Court to obtain the necessary paperwork to file a claim.

QUIET TITLE HEARING LOCATION

Swinomish Tribal Court Social Services Building, 17337 Reservation Road, La Conner, WA, 9857
CONTACT FOR QUIET TITLE HEARING SCHEDULE
Blair Page, Swinomish Tribal Court Clerk
Phone: (360) 466.7217
Email: bpage@swinomish.nsn.us

Date of first publication of this notice: July 26, 2023.
Published in the La Conner Weekly News July 26, and Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2023.

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

In Re: the Estate of Buddy Fritz PARTRIDGE, Deceased, Amber SORIA, Petitioner.
NO. 23-4-00344-29

NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO ALL CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT

YOU AND EACH OF YOU TAKE NOTE that the Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

this Estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the Court. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the Personal Representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(3); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.

QUIET TITLE HEARING LOCATION

Swinomish Tribal Court Social Services Building, 17337 Reservation Road, La Conner, WA, 9857
CONTACT FOR QUIET TITLE HEARING SCHEDULE
Blair Page, Swinomish Tribal Court Clerk
Phone: (360) 466.7217
Email: bpage@swinomish.nsn.us

Date of first publication of this notice: July 26, 2023.
Published in the La Conner Weekly News July 26, and Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2023.

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY
In the Matter of the Estate of Joseph P. Souza, Deceased.
Cause No. 23-4-00392-29
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(3); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets.

Date of First Publication: July 26, 2023
Personal Representative: Michael E. Souza
Attorney for Personal Representative: Aaron M. Rasmussen, WSBA #9496
Address for Mailing or Service: North Sound Law Group, PLLC, 300 N. Commercial St., Bellingham, WA 9825; Phone: 360-671-7700
Published in the La Conner Weekly News July 26, Aug. 2, 9, 2023.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY
CHRISTINA EGERER, as Successor Trustee of the Wilson Family Trust dated June 19th, 1997
Plaintiff
vs.
THE HEIRS & DEVISEES OF JOHN JOHNSON & WILHEMINA JOHNSON,

h/w; AND, ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN CLAIMING ANY INTEREST IN OR TO THE SUBJECT REAL PROPERTY

Defendants
No. 23-2-00565-29
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 26th day of July, 2023, 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 Northeast ¼ of the Northwest ¼ of Section 14, Township 35 North, Range 3 East, W.M., lying East of the Pacific Highway; EXCEPT one acre, also showing as one acre square, also showing as the North 2087 feet of the East 2087 feet thereof.
DATED: July 26, 2023.
CRAIG SJOSTROM #21149
Attorney for Plaintiff
1204 Cleveland Ave.
Mount Vernon, WA 9873
(360) 888 0339
Published in the La Conner Weekly News July 26, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

Drive, Suite B
Mount Vernon, WA 9873
Published in the La Conner Weekly News, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 2023.

TOWN OF LA CONNER NOTICE OF APPLICATION
The Town of La Conner is processing a permit application that may be of interest to you. You are invited to comment on the following proposal.
Date: August 8/2023
Application File # LU23-26V-II
Applicant: Snapdragon Hill LLC // c/o C.J. Ebert
Owner: SAME
Project Location: Snapdragon Flats; La Conner, WA 9857; P135466
Project Description: The applicant is applying for a variance to create a driveway off of Hill Street to allow residents of the proposed triplex to access the triplex. The site includes steep slopes and difficult topography. Project plans are available for review at Town Hall.

Environmental Review: Not required, project site received a conditional use permit with accompanying SEPA checklist and review in 2022

Date of Permit Application: July 31, 2023

Date of Determination of Completeness: August 1, 2023

Consistency Overview: This property is located within the Residential zone. The applicant intends to use the property for the construction of a triplex. This use is allowed in Residential zone.

Public Meeting - Planning Commission
n/a
Public Hearing - Hearing Examiner
n/a

Comments: Comments on this application must be submitted, in writing to Michael Davolio, AICP, Planning Director, P.O. Box 400, La Conner, WA 9857, no later than 4:00 PM on August 23, 2023. Anyone submitting comments will automatically become a party of record and will be notified of any decision on the project.

If you have any questions concerning this project, contact Town Hall at (360) 466-3125 or email planner@townoflaconner.org.
Issued: August 3, 2023
Posted: August 9, 2023
Published in the La Conner Weekly News Aug. 9, 2023.

PORT OF SKAGIT COUNTY DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

Description of Proposal: The proposed project includes removal of a 20,000-gallon double-walled underground storage tank (UST) from 617 N 1st Street in La Conner, Washington. The UST is a regulated tank with the WA State Department of Ecology (UST Site ID 4296) and was previously used to hold diesel fuel for marine fueling services on the adjacent dock. Following removal of the tank, the excavation will be filled, and the area will be returned to current grade.

Proponent: Port of Skagit County
Location of proposal: 617 North 1st St in La Conner, WA on Skagit County parcel P135754; Lot 27 of the Port of Skagit La Conner Marina Binding Site Plan. Section 36, Township 34 North, Range 2 East, Willamette Meridian.

Lead Agency: Port of Skagit County

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that the proposal does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact

statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

This DNS is issued under 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 15 days from the date of publication. Comments must be submitted by August 23, 2023 at 5:00 PM. There is no administrative appeal for this decision.

CONTACT PERSON: Laura Schumacher, Environmental and Planning Manager
Responsible Official: Sara Young, Executive Director
Address: 15400 Airport Drive, Burlington, WA 98333
PHONE: (360) 757-0011
ISSUED: August 3, 2023
Signature: Sara Young, Executive Director

CC: Department of Ecology, US Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Natural Resources, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, NW Clean Air Agency, Skagit County Planning and Development Services, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, Samish Indian Nation, Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, Skagit River Systems Cooperative, Town of LaConner.

Published in the La Conner Weekly News, Aug. 9, 2023

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY

In the Matter of the Estate of Hazel Cherry Monahan, Deceased.

PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(3); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets.

Date of First Publication: August 9, 2023

Personal Representative: Martin William Monahan
Attorney for Personal Representative: Aaron M. Rasmussen, WSBA #9496
Address for Mailing or Service: North Sound Law Group, PLLC, 300 N. Commercial St., Bellingham, WA 9825; Phone: 360-671-7700
Published in the La Conner Weekly News, Aug. 9, 16, 23, 2023.

TOWN OF LA CONNER NOTICE OF MEETING CANCELLATION

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 15, 2023, is cancelled. The next scheduled meeting is on September 5, 2023.



On Aug. 21, 1888, American inventor and former bank clerk William Seward Burroughs patented the adding machine. Two years earlier, Burroughs had co-founded the American Arithmometer Company to produce and sell the device, but the early models had to be recalled since he was the only person who could actually operate them.

On Aug. 22, 1849, the first-ever air raid took place when Austria launched 200 unpiloted hot-air balloons carrying timed-release bombs against enemy defenses in Venice, Italy. Few casualties resulted, however, due to the unpredictable wind currents.

On Aug. 23, 1990, Chancellor Helmut Kohl decided to prosecute women seeking abortions in East Germany. While the procedure was only carried out if the mother's life was endangered in West Germany, it had been considered a reproductive right in East Germany and could be performed on anyone after the 12th week of pregnancy.

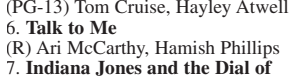
On Aug. 24, 2013, Broadway actress Julie Harris died at age 87. The winner of several Emmy Awards, Harris was also one of the record-holders for most Tony Awards and was known for her roles in movie and television productions, including "East of Eden" and the series "Knot's Landing."

On Aug. 25, 1985, 13-year-old Samantha Smith, dubbed an "ambassador" to the Soviet Union, died in a plane crash. Samantha had achieved notoriety by penning a letter to Soviet leader Yuri Andropov in 1982 expressing her worry about the possibility of nuclear war between his country and the U.S., and by visiting the Soviet Union as his guest the following year.

On Aug. 26, 1794, President George Washington decided it was necessary to subdue the Whiskey Rebellion, an insurrection of 6,000 men in a field near Pittsburgh that originated from the resentment of grain farmers after a federal tax was attached to their distillery products. While he originally led the responding procession of 13,000-plus soldiers, mastermind Alexander Hamilton took over early on.

On Aug. 27, 1934, thousands of Chicago teachers finally received their back pay after working with no wages for long periods because the city did not have the funds to compensate them. Many lined up outside the bank well before it opened, with most teachers receiving more than \$1,000.

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1. Barbie (PG-13) Margot Robbie, Ryan Gosling
2. Oppenheimer (R) Cillian Murphy, Emily Blunt
3. Haunted Mansion (PG13) LaKeith Stanfield, Rosario Dawson
4. Sound of Freedom (PG13) Jim Caviezel, Mira Sorvino
5. Mission: Impossible — Dead Reckoning Part One (PG-13) Tom Cruise, Hayley Atwell
6. Talk to Me (R) Ari McCarthy, Hamish Phillips
7. Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny (PG-13) Harrison Ford, Phoebe Waller-Bridge
8. Elemental (PG) Leah Lewis, Mamoudou Athie
9. Insidious: The Red Door (PG-13) Ty Simpkins, Patrick Wilson
10. Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse (PG) Shameik Moore, Hailee Steinfeld

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Super Crossword

Answers

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Answers to Aug. 9 puzzles

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Complete Events Calendar on laconnerweeklynews.com



By Patricia Aqimuk Paul, Esq., Food Editor.

Pan Fried Salmon



I learned about frying food coated with cornmeal from visiting my sister, Mary Jane, in Arkansas. Eating out in Arkansas and Missouri, we ordered catfish. I enjoyed the crunchy coating of commel on the catfish. There are many ways to coat fish. Flour, egg and bread crumbs. Baking fish is also an option. Baking fish means you can set the timer and walk away from the kitchen for a few minutes. Frying fish means you stay in the kitchen and watch the pan. Looking for the right moment to flip the fish. For this recipe I used a side of salmon that was cut in half. Just enough for two people. It was also the meatiest part of the fish, not the tail end.

Ingredients

- Salmon, ½ fillet
- Cornmeal, 1 cup
- Dried parsley, 1 teaspoon
- Black pepper, fresh ground peppercorns, ¼ teaspoon
- Olive oil, 2 tablespoons
- Lemon, 1 fresh

Preparation

Rinse and pat dry the salmon with a paper towel. In a shallow dish, add the cornmeal and parsley. Add 1 tablespoon of oil to the fry pan. Heat to medium. Dredge the salmon in the cornmeal. Place skin side up in the hot oiled fry pan. Slice lemon and place around the salmon. Cook for two minutes and flip over. Use a peppercorn grinder to add the pepper. Cook another four minutes. Adding the second tablespoon of oil and swirl the oil around the salmon, by tilting the pan. Test for doneness. If you like your salmon well done, add an extra minute per side.

Aqimuk'sKitchen@outlook.com

NOT TO BE MISSED

The Skagit County Fair runs Aug. 9-12, at the fairgrounds in Mount Vernon. See farm animals and pets, visit the carnival, check out entertainment on several stages. Info: skagitcounty.net/fair.

The Lincoln Theatre presents BrewFest on the Skagit, 2-7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 12, at Edgewater Park in Mount Vernon. Come for the dozens of craft beers and food, stay for the dancing. Info: lincolnthatre.org.

The Skagit River Poetry Foundation presents "You Make Me Wanna Holler," a festival of poetry and music, 2-7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 13, at Pioneer Park. Musicians include Delta Promenade and the Erik Christensen Band, plus open mic stages for poetry readings. Free admission.

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.
 - Tech Help. Every Monday, 4-6 p.m. One-on-one technical support.
 - Dungeons & Dragons Club. Every Tuesday, 3-5 p.m. No previous gaming experience necessary.

Mount Vernon Public Library. 315 Snoqualmie St., Mount Vernon. 360-336-6209, mountvernonwa.gov.

- Virtual Reality. Every Saturday, 1-3 p.m. Must be 12 or older.

Anacortes Public Library. 1220 10th St., Anacortes. 360-299-8067, CityofAnacortes.org.

Burlington Public Library. 820 E. Washington Ave., Burlington. 360-755-0760, burlingtonwa.gov/library.

- Knitting Club. All ages, Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

MUSIC

Ukelele Fun & Song Circle. Meets 1-2 p.m. every Wednesday, Burlington Senior Center. For more info, email yogaheartspace0@gmail.com.

Shelter Bay Chorus. Meets 4:30-6:30 p.m. every Thursday, Shelter Bay Clubhouse. No auditions required. Questions, call Dian at 360-941-7507.

La Conner Live Concert Series. Live music 1-4 p.m. every Sunday in Gilkey Square.

Burlington Summer Nights. Live music from 6-8 p.m. every Friday at the Burlington Visitor Center Amphitheater, 520 E. Fairhaven Ave., Burlington.

Port of Anacortes. Free Summer Concert Series. Live music from 6-8 p.m. every Wednesday and Friday at Seafarers' Memorial Park, 601 Seafarers Way, Anacortes.

MUSEUMS

Pacific Northwest Quilt

& Fiber Arts Museum. 703 S. Second St., La Conner. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. qfamuseum.org, 360-466-4288. An artists' reception with light refreshments from 3-4:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5, is free and open to all. See two new exhibits and meet the artists.

- Bojagi & Urney 2023; curated by Patti King. July 26 - Oct. 8
- David Owen Hastings: Paper + Stitch. Aug. 2 - Oct. 29

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

- Exhibit: "I Do, the History of Weddings," through Sept. 24.

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Super Crossword

UNTHEMED

ACROSS

- Upside-down-sleeping mammal
- Economizes to a fault
- Untrustworthy sort
- One way to serve apple pie
- Very solitary sort
- Monkey (with)
- Frigid-weather readings
- Military missions, in brief
- Old Ford div.
- Tennis great Chris
- Classic Coca-Cola slogan
- "Son of," in Arabic names
- Thurman of "Kill Bill" films
- Volcanic flow
- Watershed draining dozens of U.S. states
- Busy crawler
- Make sport of
- Cocktail party spread
- School in England's East Midlands

- The Emerald Isle
- Play — in (contribute to)
- Heap
- Graduate student's position that might include conducting experiments
- "Give — ring"
- Plantain lily, familiarly
- Actress Ward of "Sisters"
- Polite cut-in words
- Drains of color
- Heaps
- Tulsa-to-Topeka dir.
- Metropolises, e.g.
- Climb
- pro nobis
- Flight guess, in brief
- "In time the reason shall be made clear"
- Furnish with new weapons
- Mean Roman emperor
- Kung — chicken
- "The Magic Flute" composer

- Stylish filmmaker
 - Made giggle sites
 - Active, as a law
 - Out of sight
 - San Fran football team
 - Music scorer
- DOWN**
- Explorer John or Sebastian
 - Letter before beth
 - Triple-time dance, in France
 - Broody rock subgenre
 - Bend at a curtain call
 - Woodworking tool
 - Swarms (with)
 - Not at all tall
 - Mustard alternative
 - Choler
 - "Delicious!"
 - One of 11 in a Christmas song
 - Carell of "The Office"
 - Knighted Ringo
 - Cappuccino alternative
 - Ostrich relative

- Mo. in spring
- Final letter
- Hosp. triage sites
- Riddle-me- —
- KO counter
- Some sorority letters
- Grab — (eat quickly)
- AI who won four Indy 500s
- French buddy
- Driveway-topping goo
- Stinging hits
- Lays into
- Something to RSVP to online
- More stable
- Longtime Twins catcher Joe
- Navel type
- Swizzles
- Airline to Oslo
- Basketballer — Thomas
- 2014 Wimbledon winner
- Stayed home for a meal
- Washer cycle
- Gave two pills to, say
- Cool, in jive talk
- That, in Peru

- Military mission, in brief
- Spiner of "Star Trek" films
- Neckline shape
- Dinosaur in Nintendo games
- Actress Kaitlin
- Singer with the 2007 hit "1234"
- Whac- — (reflex-testing game)
- Of kidneys
- Slyly spiteful
- Engraved stone pillar
- Divining card
- Old JFK jet
- "Die Lorelei" poet Heinrich
- Actress Massey
- Window segments
- Baseballer Martinez
- Stayed home for a meal
- Washer cycle
- Gave two pills to, say
- Cool, in jive talk
- That, in Peru

- Singer Carly — Jepsen
- A cow milker tugs on it
- H.S. juniors' exams
- Campaigning pro
- Net address
- Wash clothes
- Untrustworthy sort
- Have a spat
- Pine (for)
- "— Can Cook" (old culinary show)
- Brain, for one
- Food taste associated with MSG
- Must have
- Actress Joanne
- Red lab dye
- Divided
- Drug dealer
- Overly fond sort
- Baby's cry
- Yes, to Gigi
- British "Inc."
- Govt. agent
- Of city govt.
- Enzyme suffix
- L-P center
- Frequently, to poets
- Suffix meaning "animals"

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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!

Answers on page 8

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POLICE BLOTTER

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sunday, July 30

3:47 p.m. Stuck in town – Subject called to report that he had lost his rental car keys and wanted to know if they had been turned in. No reports of found keys and still missing with Enterprise Rental tag on them. Douglas St., La Conner.

4:43 p.m. Yelling off – Swinomish PD requested assistance with a subject on the bridge who was in the road and yelling at passing cars. When Deputies arrived the situation was under control and Swinomish PD had calmed the subject down. Rainbow Bridge, La Conner.

Monday, July 31

11:49 a.m. City tourists, again – More complaints about horses near La Conner Whitney Road and McLean Road not having water or shelter. These horses have been checked many times and are in good health and are well taken care of. They are fed in the SW corner of the pasture but have lots of water and shelter in the NE corner. McLean / La Conner Whitney Rds., Greater La Conner.

Tuesday, Aug. 1

9:11 a.m. Ghost boat – Report of a partially submerged

boat floating down the channel. Appeared to be a derelict vessel that may have come from shore. Boat was pulled from the channel, and it did not appear anyone was involved or missing. N. 1st / Morris Sts., La Conner.

5:29 p.m. 2-car crash – Two vehicle MVA at Best Rd and Young Rd. No serious injuries but some damage to a power pole and both vehicles needing to be towed from the area. Best / Young Rds., Greater La Conner.

Thursday, Aug. 3

1:58 p.m. More tows needed – Two vehicle MVA at Mclean Road and La Conner Whitney Road. Car vs. truck with trailer. Non injury but severe damage to the car that needed to be towed from the scene. Mclean / La Conner Whitney Rds., Greater La Conner.

Saturday, Aug. 5

7:22 a.m. Don't do drugs – Subject climbed on the roof of a house and was convinced people were after him. Law and fire were able to get him down and learned that he had smoked more than his usual amount of meth and was hallucinating. Subject was treated for any immediate medical issues but no criminal charges were filed. 404 Spencer Ln, La Conner.



COOL, BABY — Whether it was an old Volvo PV544, a classic hot rod or a first-generation Ford Mustang, there were plenty of shiny cars and a few boats for crowds to admire. — Photo by Mel Damski

Classic Car and Boat Show draws crowds

La Conner Chamber of Commerce's 23rd annual Classic Boat and Car Show on Aug. 5 at the Port of Skagit Marina attracted about 125 automobiles of all makes, models and eras, along with nine boats on the water or on trailers.

Chamber of Commerce Director Mark Hulst said show participants started lining up to secure their display spots as early as 5:45 a.m. and came from as far away as Anchorage, Alaska. Spectators marveled over the variety of automobiles

and boats. "We saw folks from all over the state at the show today, a large number that came for the show made a weekend out of the event," Hulst said. "Many of the merchants said they had a busy day."

Velomobile makes street parking a breeze

By Bill Reynolds

Over the years, many ideas have been floated to solve La Conner's parking problem.

An Anacortes man may have the best solution yet. At least it works for him.

Michael Rudd rarely if ever has trouble parking his vehicle when in town. That's because his wheels are somewhat non-traditional – a small bright orange European-built velomobile in which he has cruised Skagit Valley roadways since 2017.

Rudd was here in July to make a quick pit stop at One Moore Out-house before returning to the La Conner Flats for a scenic ride on a beautiful sunny summer morning.

Before departing, Rudd took time to extoll to the Weekly News the virtues of velomobiles, which essentially are enclosed recumbent bicycles or trikes, some fitted with electric motors.

Rudd said a standard aerodynamically designed velomobile is a viable option for commuting and touring and is generally faster than an upright bicycle. Its shell provides comfort, weather protection and even luggage space.

Rudd said most velomobiles are manufactured in Romania and the Netherlands. He was surprised – and relieved – when his was shipped hassle free to Seattle. Rudd only had to fill out some



NO PARKING HASSLES — Michael Rudd cruises around Skagit Valley in his orange Velomobile and never worries about parking. — Photo by Bill Reynolds

paperwork and write a check for \$120 and that was that.

"You always hear about problems with shipping and customs," he said, "but that wasn't the case at all for me."

While often considered novelties, velomobiles have been around for quite a while. Charles Mochet is credited with their invention, dating to the 1930s.

Frequently described as "bicycle-cars," velomobiles vary in cost. Rudd declined to say how much he paid for his, but the Trisled Rotovelo model, billed as the "ultimate local utility vehicle," runs around \$6,500.

In the Netherlands, it's not uncommon to see velomobiles used for racing. Their design allows them to require less power than a racing bike for the same speed.

The jury is split on electric assisted velomobiles. The motors add weight, which can impact speed, but make commuting easier during cold weather months.

The affable and enthusiastic Rudd would have consented to a longer interview had it not been for his sense of fair play.

"I've got to get out of this space," he said while pulling away from the First Street curb, "so a car can park here."

MARINA MOORINGS

Port of Skagit

The guest docks are full most nights this week. We have seen visitors from all over the area and up and down the west coast. We had three larger vessels that came up from Portland and they reported the ocean journey was really nice, with mild weather and relatively calm seas. This, while one of our other regular visitors is held up in southern California due to storms through Oregon and northern California! Hard to believe sometimes how varied the ocean can be.

We have had four nights this summer with every spot in the RV park full. This is something to see! It is a great, laid-back atmosphere over there. Everyone is generally in a good mood and does their best to be positive with their neighbors, which makes it fun to host. We have had several guests extend their stays to avoid forest fires and we are hopeful this is very short term.

Safety and Maintenance: Sacrificial anodes – these are important pieces of equipment that frequently need more attention than they get. They are often referred to as "zincs," even though there are several metals that can be used. They are designed to be used up, so replacing them should be an expected part of any vessel's maintenance routine.

The issue is that any two different metals in a conductive environment make a battery and one will give up electrons to the other. Salt water is a good conductor and all boats have some exposed metal parts made up of stainless and regular steel, bronze and aluminum (for example, a bronze propeller on a stainless steel prop shaft). Zinc will give up electrons more readily than any of the rest, so the zinc is sacrificed to keep the rest of the metal parts intact. If zincs are compromised, the rest of the boat's metal parts will start to give up electrons and this can eat away at metal parts until they fail.

Needless to say, this can be really bad. Make sure your vessel is getting zincs checked at least every year and replaced as needed.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Car and Boat Show! We were very pleased with how the show turned out. It is great to have the marina be such a core part of the La Conner community.

See you on the Channel!

— Chris Omdal, harbormaster

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