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Go Outside and also stop at Raven's Cup Coffee • p 10

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This is what democracy looks like



SHOWING SUPPORT FOR THEIR TEACHERS – Some 60 middle and high school La Conner students left their classrooms Monday morning to protest budget cuts that will cost at least four teachers their jobs next year. They left campus, walking to Gilkey Square. – Photo by Marissa Conklin

Students walk out of class in budget cut protest

By Bill Reynolds

La Conner students stepped up their support for school staff and programs threatened by district budget cuts in a most visible way Monday.

About 60 middle and high school students, many of them chanting and carrying signs, walked out of morning classes and marched downtown to make public their concerns with funding shortfalls that will force layoffs and may ax popular course offerings next year.

The walkout was organized by high school junior Jack Dougliss, who spoke passionately at the April 24 school board meeting on behalf of favorite teachers and classes in peril from a \$1.5 million district spending reduction plan to offset declining enrollment, the main driver of state funding of public education.

“I had a couple students reach out to me after the board meeting and asked if I could plan something,” Dougliss told the Weekly News Monday.

Dougliss said most teachers

expressed support for the walkout and that Superintendent Will Nelson was sympathetic to the cause, if not okay with students missing class time.

“He said he was proud that we were using our voices,” Dougliss said. “He said this is a statewide and nationwide issue and that we can reach out to him with our questions. He said it was very hard for him to let staff go.”

During a series of community public forums, Nelson has said the district has been hurt by falling enrollment – projections are for 490 K-12 students this fall, down from 600 leading up to COVID-19 – a smaller than anticipated allocation of federal impact aid monies and the loss of pandemic-related emergency funds.

School board member John Agen at successive panel meetings this spring has lamented that the state is not funding public education at a greater level.

Those are big picture macroeconomic impacts. For students, the budget crisis is seen

in more personal terms, as in the potential loss of inspiring teachers and engaging classes.

Thus, the walkout. “It was peaceful and respectful,” said student body president Rachel Haley, who, like Dougliss, addressed the board last month. “We wanted to make sure we made the point without going overboard.”

In an email to district personnel, the office of Middle & High School Principal Christine Tripp confirmed that students participating in the walkout were “protesting peacefully and respectfully.”

The email reminded recipients that those taking part in the walkout should be marked with unexcused absences for classes missed. It said that students not present for four classes would not be allowed to participate in Monday’s extracurricular activities.

Tripp was in meetings Monday afternoon and unable to comment.

Students exiting school after the final bell shared their thoughts.

Among them was senior class (continued on page 7)

Tulip Valley Farms seeks dismissal of Tulip Town lawsuit

By Ken Stern

Tulip Valley Farms operator Andrew Miller filed for dismissal of all claims made by Spinach Bus Venture Group, owners of Tulip Town, in Skagit Superior Court April 25. His 15 page memorandum of law filed in support of his motion again cites the 2019 operating agreement the then partners signed: “Any Member or Manager may engage in or possess an interest in other business ventures of every nature and description, independently or with others, including but not limited to, the ownership, financing, or management, employment by, lending to, or otherwise participating in businesses that are similar to the business of the Company, and neither the Company, any Manager, nor the Unit Holders shall have any right by virtue of this Agreement in and to such independent ventures or to the income or profits therefrom.”

Miller’s Bellingham attorney, Mark Lee, refutes in detail each of the six claims made, concluding in each summary a variation of “regardless of the merits of the requested relief, it is not available under the circumstances presented in this case, and it should be stricken.”

Lawyers for Spinach Bus Ventures Group had not filed any documents through May 2. May 5 is the deadline for a response.

Old local fishing journal a catch for Plug Ugly owner

By Bill Reynolds

The late Fred Owens knew he was onto something when he started publishing his quarterly Northwest Fishing Forecast in La Conner four decades ago.

Owens, who died earlier this year in Santa Barbara, California, had enjoyed a loyal readership through his witty and pithy reporting for the Puget Sound Mail and Channel Town Press.

Later, he would earn still more fans as editor-publisher of the on-line Fred’s Almost Weekly.

But in the 1980s, prior to his move to Anahuac, Texas, Owens briefly switched gears and lent his unique wordsmithing style to a locally based specialty journal devoted to fishing and outdoor recreation.

Northwest Fishing Forecast sold for \$2 an issue. Its hometown advertisers included La Conner Drug Store, La Conner Tavern, Moore-Clark, Skagit Bay Books and La Conner Landing – the latter a Texaco fuel station at First and Morris streets that also sold fishing gear and marine supplies.

Through the years, it has retained its value. And then some.

La Conner resident Jon Peterson attests to that. (continued on page 6)

Matika Wilbur launches ‘Project 562’ book at Swinomish last Tuesday

By Ken Stern

Photographer and writer Matika Wilbur, “Tsa-Tsique,” introduced her epic photography book “Project 562: Changing the Way We See Native America” to the world before a full room of over 160 people in the Social Services Building on the Swinomish Reservation last Tuesday night, April 25. Emcee for the evening Michael Vendiola, education director for the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, was absolutely right in exclaiming, “I am really excited to have her here. She could have done this anywhere, in New York.” But Wilbur, a member of the Swinomish and Tulip tribes, had come home to celebrate with her family, friends and community.

Before her near-hour long presentation, summarizing her 10 year journey of traveling the United States – Indian Country – to photograph members of well over 500 tribes, there was ceremonial singing and dancing, with the Swinomish Canoe Family entering the hall, perhaps 40 members, from elders to babes in arms.

Wilbur was really excited, too, and obviously happy to be home.

She recognized and thanked her grandmother and her family members and raised her hands to each and every person in the room. “My heart is so full,” she said, and her presentation showed her love and concern for the people she had met and the experiences she had in her years of journeying and the dream realized that became “Project 562.”

Wilbur shared a bit of her experience in the slides recounting her travels and visits and search. “‘Project 562’ took me to visit over 500 tribes on what we now call the United States of America,” she said. It was obvious that love sustained her. “I love my people. I love my family,” she said. Her photos prove that. She shared brief stories of a few of the people she met in states from coast to coast, from California to the Atlantic and south to north, through the southwest and the great plains and the Great Lakes. She named famous places like Standing Rock, in the Dakotas, and famous groups, like the 1491s, a sketch comedy group of five men.

Traveling in a van for that long brings difficulty and hardship, vehicle accidents and great road shots.

Wilbur and her van are photographed overlooking an ocean. “Traveling in the van was the adventure of my life,” she said.

Meeting others and being on the road was an inward journey, also. There was time to think and reflect, alone and with others. Thinking about and naming truths might be an everyday gift. Opportunities abounded to unpack racism, she said, sharing slide after slide of various tribal members. “The more we look like ourselves. That is what they took from us. The way we look at ourselves. It brings us back to who we are. We are never going to assimilate,” she said.

Wilbur listened to and recorded and recounted hundreds of stories in a variety of environments, from isolated, remote areas to the big cities, for Native peoples live everywhere.

Some of it was heartbreaking, the reality of living in America. She told the story of Leon Grant who grew up in Omaha, Nebraska. He had a dream of going to college. Doing so meant walking to Phoenix, Arizona. He arrived with \$19. He told that to (continued on page 7)



SHARING THE JOY OF SUCCESS – Matika Wilbur unveiled her new photography book, “Project 562: Changing the Way We See Native America” to an overflow crowd on the Swinomish Reservation last Tuesday. She will soon be on the road again for a national bookstore tour. – Photo by Sarah Walls

LETTERS

Schools need business ventures

The circumstances at our schools have me concerned, but that's nothing new, I've seen these budgetary shortcomings coming for several years now. Maybe my farm was small and inconsequential, but it was a viable business for more than a quarter century. My wife and I had to manage a budget that was produced by us, had a small staff and we didn't get a subsidy from anyone. Research projects were funded by profits, not grants and loans.

Now I'm in a quandary; can public schools legally compete and make a profit from student activities? Friday night football competes with a movie at the theatre, or some beer and music at the brew pub. The school charges for the seat, the popcorn, the Pepsi, even the water. We must do what we can to pay the bills, right?

My wife and I had to learn much more than how to grow crops. We had to learn how to add value, so we pickled beets, grew our own popcorn, ground flour for pancakes, educated and entertained, wrote a book, made jams, jellies and the best compost to feed the land. We could have been fearful and sometimes we were, but we were smart and educated and seldom did our risk-taking leave us empty handed.

If the schools can make money, then let's get busy! If they're not supposed to make money, why are we being charged to watch our football and basketball teams? Yeah, I know, I get to look like the bad guy once again. I tried to get a fish program going that would compete with Onalaska's school fish program, but officials here were too afraid some kid may get wet and raise a fit.

The Chehalis Tribe is pulling way ahead: they've been helping the school raise coho for nearly 20 years!! If I'd have been given some benefit of the doubt, the school could have been selling their own salmon for barbecue rather than the Kiwanis selling Alaska salmon.

People are taking their kids out of public schools because these sorts of STEAM curricula are not being offered.

Sorrowfully,
Glen S. Johnson
Skagit Valley

Assault weapons ban passed

I was lucky enough to be a raindrop in the sea of gun reform in Washington state. My husband and I attended one of the later hearings on HB 1240, the assault weapons ban, as representatives of Safe and Sane Skagit, a charter member of The Alliance for Gun Responsibility. SaSS was begun in 2015 after nine people were shot and eight wounded at the Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, OR., by one person's sense of outrage and helplessness in the face of another gun tragedy. She sent a letter to friends saying, "Let us please do SOMETHING, join me."

In the eight and one half years since its inception, there are two major realities: one, that shootings and the subsequent deaths have increased to such a degree that the news of yet another, based on fear, race, mistakes, anger, having a bad day, are so frequent as to seem almost casual in the churning, daily-news feeds; and two, that Washington has become the tenth state in America to pass an assault weapons ban after seven years of work by the Alliance and its supporters.

Washington's new law prohibits the future sale, distribution, manufacture and import of more than 50 types of guns, including AR- and AK-style rifles but does not take away current possession. Going to Olympia to sit in the hearing chamber is to be a body in the Senate committee hearing room, as members look over the audience and see a sea of orange, the color of gun responsibility and reform.

Senators can visibly relate those bodies to a powerful level of public support. This year that small piece of the process seems to have had its affect for two other major pieces of gun reform, HB 1143, requiring a 10-day waiting period and proof of safety training, and SB 5078, allowing access to justice for victims of gun violence passed. Two more raindrops entered the sea of reform toward public safety and common sense in our state and across the country, even as the NRA cries foul.

Sincerely,
Christine Wardenburg-Skinner
Edison

Shelter Bay questions

A majority of the current and recently past volunteer Directors of Shelter Bay (SB) have accomplished the following over the past several years.

- Voted to have the members of SB pay the fine of \$92,500 imposed by the Swinomish Tribe against a now-former director, who denuded Rainbow Park for his sole personal benefit, and further, and has obligated the members of SB to pay for the reforestation and maintenance of Rainbow Park at the cost of an additional \$120,000. They did not legally pursue this former Director to collect the fine and damages imposed. Why?
- Failed to follow the SB Bylaws and Washington state law in approving a budget in 2022-23 without a proper notice and approval of the membership. They have continued to disregard SB Bylaws and Washington state law with respect to subsequent budget approvals. Why?
- Voted to hire Akid'nson LLC to negotiate the 2023 ten-year lease increase with the Swinomish Tribe at a cost of \$390,000 to SB members and executed a contract with Akid'nson, which had been administratively dissolved by the Washington Secretary of State. That amount does not include additional expenses paid of over \$100,000. Akid'nson's proposal, adopted by the five-member majority, is nearly identical to what was proposed by the Swinomish Tribe in 2014 and rejected by the board at that time under pressure from the community. The approved 10-year rental increase will double the rent for each SB member for the next ten years. Why?

- The five-member majority has disseminated misinformation and actual false information about the above issues, and that doesn't include the swimming pool debacle which remains unresolved. Why?
- Then, there is the unwarranted retaliation on two duly elected fellow Board members, who sought only transparency and accountability, but only received suspension and vilification for their efforts. Why?

If you did not know all of this, it is because the majority (five members) of the board choose to conduct all of the above secretly in executive session. Why?

Three of these former and current board members want us to re-elect them. Why should we?

Steve Klein
Shelter Bay

Stop Whatcom Street speeding

I live on Whatcom Street behind Pioneer Market. There are numerous people that walk, ride bikes and use strollers and walkers on the street to and from town. Lately, the traffic has increased and the corners of Talbot and Rainier streets are being used as a shortcut to get to Maple Avenue and to town, in order to avoid the Morris Street corner stop sign congestion.

What I don't appreciate is cars speeding down Whatcom and cutting the corners and/or not bothering to even stop at the stop signs. It is only a matter of time before someone is hurt. Please slow down. This is not a tulip time issue, this happens daily.

It is my hope that the City of La Conner will install a speed bump to slow the traffic and make it safer for everyone.

Julie Jones
La Conner

CORRECTION

Jack Dougliss spells his name this way. The editor regrets the error.

Henrie refiles case against five Shelter Bay board

By Ken Stern

Shelter Bay resident Jan Henrie wants another day in court, continuing her lawsuit to stop the five Shelter Bay Community board of director officers from making financial decisions and to remove them.

Meanwhile, the board approved a lease agreement with the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community April 19.

Henrie's March motion for injunctive relief in Skagit Superior Court was denied April 14. She filed a motion for reconsideration April 24, alleging Judge Laura Riquelme's denial of her motion was "contrary to law, that substantial justice has not been done, and the Court's decision constitutes an abuse of discretion," the filing states.

Defense counsel had not filed responses for executive committee members Wendy Poulton, Elaine Dixon Monte Hicks, Joseph Hurley and Louise Kari

by May 1.

Henry's lawyer, Paul Taylor, calls for the court to block the defendants by granting his motion retroactive to March, thereby reversing the board's approval accepting the rent increase with the Tribe. He asks that injunctive relief be imposed and a court order prohibiting these board members from "any action," specifically amending the Shelter Bay Master Lease with the Swinomish Tribe.

Taylor alleges Riquelme erred April 14, applying the "wrong standard of law," ignoring the law and the facts of his arguments. His new brief is filled with citations of state law specifying the defendants are not acting in good faith, with the care of an ordinarily prudent person or in the best interests of the nonprofit corporation. He asks for injunctive relief under RCW 7.40.020.

Defense lawyers have until May 8 to respond.

A citizen's view —

Swinomish need to support debt service

By Dan O'Donnell

The Swinomish Tax Authority used the same levy rate for 2023, 2022 and 2021: \$11.98 per thousand. But, the assessed value of homes in Shelter Bay and Pull & Be Damned increased from \$196,279,100 to \$206,399,050 over the past year.

The Swinomish government aims to collect \$2,440,832 in taxes from Shelter Bay, Pull & Be Damned and Thousand Trails.

Three taxing districts will receive contributions from the Swinomish. These are: Fire District 13 at \$400,000 for operations and maintenance, plus \$90,000 impact fees from the casino, plus a medical grant from the state via the Tribe. The La Conner Library gets \$50,000. La Conner schools have requested \$415,000 for operations and maintenance, \$60,000 for part time teachers, \$25,000 for cultural assistance, \$50,000 for science education, plus \$100,000 to a sinking fund for a new roof on the gym. This is the last year for the sinking fund. The Tribe has not responded to the request yet. Not in the budget is something called ESA, which is one assistant for each classroom to help with the Lushootseed language.

The Tribe does not contribute to the debt service for the bond that built the middle school. About 34% of the students are Native American, so if the Tribe were to pony up their share of the \$1,300,000 debt service, they would contribute \$442,000. In an election, they voted for the bond.

After deducting the contributions, exemptions, uncollectible taxes and taxes shared with the county, the Tribe will have an estimated \$1,279,538 left.

The three taxing districts that receive a contribution from the Tribe should deduct the amount of the contribution from their levy requests, but there is no evidence that they do so. They receive the tax shift plus the tribal contribution.

The remaining taxing districts are Medic 1, County General, County Roads, Conservation, the Anacortes Port District and the state school levy. All of these districts provide services to Shelter Bay and Pull & Be Damned, but none of them receive any money. Medic 1 should receive \$65,201, but gets nothing. Skagit County accounts for \$548,918. The state levy for schools costs \$531,973. The Anacortes Port District adds \$34,737. The total tax shift is \$1,132,027.

Because of the tax shift, those living in La Conner will see \$251 added to their taxes. Those living in the county will see an additional \$294. The rest of the county taxpayers will see a tax increase of \$15. This has been going on for eight years. I will try again with Representative Shavers in 2024 to make the tax shift go away.

Dan O'Donnell has been the Skagit County Treasurer and a La Conner council member and mayor.

Choices are in the future for consumers buying electricity



By Greg Whiting

Ongoing work towards both energy independence and the transition to energy sources that don't use fossil fuels are going to create choices for energy consumers that we haven't had in decades, or ever. If technologies in the energy field continue on their current course, buying energy is going to involve decisions we haven't had to make before. We're already seeing some of these changes and can expect to see more.

For instance, electric utilities won't offer just one product (now with electricity: it'll probably be on but maybe not, take it or leave it) at one (often mysterious) price. Instead, they'll offer choices.

Do you want energy produced by an array of sources, as traditionally offered and principally chosen by the utility for low cost and reliability? Or, do you want the same reliability, but want your energy to only be produced through the use of a specific generation technology, like solar or wind?

Do you want to continue to buy electricity exclusively from your utility? Or, do you want to generate some of your energy at your home and sell it back to the utility when you're producing more than you're using? Or, do you want to own part of a community power plant built at a low cost in an advantageous location and (in effect) deliver electricity to both yourself and the local utility via the transmission grid?

Offers like these are already available here in Washington.

As utilities become more sophisticated, new generation technologies continue to come down in price and as regulations are changed to keep up with what is now possible, more such offers and more complex variations, are likely to evolve.

Are you willing to trade some reliability for lower prices? For instance, would you sign up for a program in which the utility pays you to turn off your water heater for a few hours a year, so as to shift the utility's need for generation away from high-use times of the day? Utility infrastructure costs can often be reduced significantly by shifting even a little demand away from those few hours a year during which everyone's heaters or air conditioners are running. Rates and technologies that allow utilities to pay customers to turn off just a few appliances for a few hours are already common in the southeast. It seems likely that programs like these will soon be offered here.

Or, do you want extra-high reliability? Are you interested in installing a backup generator, or a whole-house battery or even a system to use the battery in your electric car to power your house?

If you have a whole-house battery or an electric car, would you be willing to sell some energy back to the grid during peak hours? In other words, would you be willing to charge your house or car batteries at low off-peak rates and then be paid more to sell the same electricity back to the utility during peak hours?

Conventional grid electricity will continue to be the preferred option for many customers, but it's no longer the only option. The most successful utilities, in the future, will view technologies and concepts like these as business growth opportunities. Expect them to ask whether you might be interested.

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OBITUARY



Gordon Godfrey

A true original has left us. Gordon Godfrey weighed anchor and headed for the 19th hole in the wee hours of March 28th, 2023. He was surrounded by his family, and we spent his last afternoon sharing with him an imaginary round of golf that was taking place in his head, mostly at the 4th and 5th hole of the Vashon Island golf course. His wit and sense of humor were intact until the last. His wife, Jane, announced that she had just hit a hole-in-one, and he informed her that she hit the ball into the wrong hole. A competitor to the end.

Gordon was born on May the 4th, 1935, in Bremerton, Washington to Tommy and Gert Godfrey. Sometime during Gordon's seventh year the family packed up and relocated to Vashon Island where his parents established a cobbler's shop. Many old-time Island residents still remember this shop with great affection. Meanwhile Gordon occupied himself with various odd jobs, and generally did his best to make the Island a more interesting place for his friends and neighbors. There is little doubt that he succeeded in this endeavor.

He joined the Navy, and somehow, through a series of events involving the draft that are somewhat unclear in the family chronicles, he wound up in the Army. After his service to the country, he became a Union electrician, a career that gave him great satisfaction, and which he enjoyed for as long as he was physically able.

It is no wonder, considering the environment that he grew up in, that Gordon's life was in many ways defined by his love of the waters of the Salish Sea. Fishing, crabbing, or just generally puttering around the Sound were among his greatest joys. Even when indulging in another of his favorite pastimes, golf, he still managed to find the water occasionally. It was a shared love of the water and boating that led him to meet Jane in 1978, and that was the beginning of a wonderfully odd love story that endured for the remainder of his life, and beyond.

When he met Jane, he found in her a kindred spirit. They married in 1981, and they created a home for their conjoined families on Vashon. A few years later they moved north to La Conner and fell in love with the waters of the north Sound and beyond. Through rough waters and calm they shared decades of laughter, adventure, and love with each other and their families on the moderately high seas of Puget Sound. Photos of their many boats are displayed in the home that they shared nearly as prominently as the photos of their children. Make of that what you will.

Trying to untangle Gordy and Jane's interwoven family tree would make an arborist

weep. Two sons, Gordon Jr. and Matthew, preceded him in death. He is survived by his son Tom and his daughters Amy, Marcie, and Carrie. Between them, Gordy and Jane have accumulated a menagerie of 10 children and stepchildren, 22 grandchildren, and a number of great-grandchildren that has never really been accurately tabulated, primarily because they never hold still long enough. To his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, he was known simply as "Bubba", the big man with the big voice and the bigger heart.

Their family always included their pets. A long line of dogs and cats were their constant companions, some of whom were mighty fine sailors and travelers. Gordon liked to talk pretty tough about his pet, but he was putty in their paws. His frequent proclamations that "We ain't getting another damn dog" was invariably followed by the arrival of another damn dog. The latest example of this is Sugar, an appropriately named Golden Retriever who they rescued from a puppy mill. Gordy could often be found, when he thought no one was watching, slipping treats to his assorted pets and talking baby talk to them in a way that was frankly embarrassing to see in a grown man.

If you ever met Gordy, you were probably his friend. If you were to ask how he got on with strangers, I would have to say that I really could not tell you, because as far as we all know, he never met one. Venturing out on a brief errand with Gordy was fraught with peril, because 15 minutes could easily become 45 minutes once he started talking to someone. And he usually started talking to someone.

Gordon loved people, and he loved doing things for people, particularly his wife, Jane. He was never happy without a project in the works for their home, and was a skilled craftsman. Their home today bears little resemblance to the house that they moved into long ago. This is mostly a good thing. His friends and family also reaped the benefits of his many deeds of service. If you needed a hand with any project, large or small, Gordy would be there. This did not necessarily mean that the project would get done any quicker, but you were guaranteed some great conversation and a lot of laughs. If you were planning to make a major purchase, like a vehicle or an NFL team, all you had to do was tell Gordy and sit back. He would research your projected purchase and you would begin to receive a steady stream of emails covering brands, ratings, quality, performance, price, and how many sets of golf clubs it could carry. He would have made a great horse trader.

This could go on and on without capturing the man. He was a rogue and a romantic, and in another time he might have captained a privateer or been a Viking chieftain, provided that Vikings dropped a couple of crab pots prior to raiding an English village, and played a quick nine holes after. Gordon was larger than life. His oversized warm personality, his booming laugh, and his absolutely unique sense of humor were gifts to us all. His love and fierce devotion to his family was a thing from another, simpler, time, and will be greatly missed by those who were within his embrace.

Town Council focuses on parking plans

By Bill Reynolds

A perennial issue topped the agenda of a rare short La Conner Town Council meeting last Tuesday.

As had the town's planning commission a week earlier, most of council's 40-minute April 25 session emphasized downtown parking and traffic congestion.

The parking topic likely would have consumed even more Council time – as it has for springs and summers over decades – were it not that many at the meeting wanted to attend the much-anticipated Matika Wilbur book launch at Swinomish at 7 p.m.

Even longtime La Conner resident Linda Talman, an attendee of countless marathon Town meetings, exited moments after making a brief plea that officials apply for Skagit Council of Governments funding for non-motorized transportation projects. She reminded council of the May 12 deadline to apply for the monies.

"I really wish you would try for it," she said. "They have a really good opportunity for municipalities to improve walking and biking options.

Please take a look at it."

Mayor Ramon Hayes said he planned attending Wilbur's presentation of her acclaimed "Project 562: Changing The Way We See Native America." He provided a quick summary of the history of Shelter Bay and his outlook on the nearby residential community's present litigation, political turmoil and need to renew its 75-year master lease – set to expire in 2044 – with the Swinomish Tribal Community.

"I feel the lawsuits are distractions," Hayes said. "They need to come to terms with the lease. They are our partners. The value they bring to La Conner is great."

Council then speed-shifted gears to parking.

"This has always been an issue," said Hayes. "Our issues in town are primarily spatial issues."

Thomas shared a written report on parking in the council packet. The week before Planning Director Michael Davolio discussed at the planning commission a First Street parking inventory. The commissioners will address parking as part of an update to the Town comprehensive plan's

transportation element.

"As we are all aware," Thomas wrote, "parking on First Street – particularly at this time of year – can be a challenge. The issue of parking is a perennial topic and we have received a substantial number of complaints from residents and visitors alike. The Council and staff have discussed possible methods of addressing this issue and other suggestions have been made by members of the public.

"Unfortunately," noted Thomas, "a consensus around one or more methods has not formed."

Thomas listed a half-dozen downtown traffic and parking proposals that have been considered through the years, including: imposing time restrictions on parking, increasing promotion of existing parking areas north and south of downtown, implementing a paid parking system, transforming First Street into a southbound one-way traffic route each April, permanently limiting First Street to southbound, one-way traffic and closing First Street from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. while providing a shuttle option.

(continued on page 7)

Conway billboard approved

By Ken Stern

The permit for a 300 square foot billboard on Cedardale Road on the east side of I-5 at the Conway exit was approved by the Skagit County Planning and Development Services Department April 18. Staff found the application met all requirements in Skagit County's code and comprehensive plan and the applicant provided "adequate analysis of and mitigation for the specific adverse environmental impacts of the project," planner Kevin Cricchio wrote. The applicant received a SEPA Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance.

Cricchio approved an administrative special use permit application subject to six measures stated in the permit. They address construction issues, including halting work

if archaeological, historic or cultural materials are found, including human remains. The sign must comply with the state's Highway Advertising Control Act/Scenic Vista Act. It will have a vinyl display only, with no electric or moving parts.

The property is located in the Rural Freeway Service Zoning District.

The applicant is Jordan Peterson of Pacific Outdoor Advertising, Seattle. The landowner is Libbie Kaushik, S & K Ventures Inc., 21049 Cedardale Road, Mount Vernon.

Appeals must be received by 4:30 p.m., May 4, 2023 to Kevin Cricchio, Skagit County Planning and Development Services Department, 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA 98273, 360-416-1423.

The File Number: PL23-0007. Cricchio was not available Monday to comment.

Join in Skagit Solar Jam

Skagit Valley Clean Energy Cooperative is hosting Skagit Solar Jam May 13 at 4 p.m. in Maple Hall in partnership with Olympia Community Solar. Learn about the Solarize Skagit 2023 campaign, meet solar installers and network with other organizations supporting the campaign and clean energy.

Hear live entertainment by local musicians. Nick Vigarino plays at 5 p.m. and the A-Town Big Band follows.

If you have been thinking about going solar, now is the time. The Solarize campaign ends July 4. Sign up for a free home assessment.

Sign up to Solarize your home: Olysol.org/solarize.

Learn about the Skagit Valley Clean Energy Cooperative: SkagitVCE.coop.

Source: Skagit Valley Clean Energy Cooperative

Candidate filing week May 15-19

By Ken Stern

It is time to decide to run for mayor or a town council seat in La Conner or for school district director, Fire District 13 commissioner and cemetery district 1 positions. Filing by mail for elected offices has started. File online or in person May 15-19.

Get a Skagit County candidates guide with information on office qualifications and candidate filing instructions at the Skagit County Elections website. Offices without a fixed annual salary have no filing fee.

Voting for the primary election closes at 8 p.m. Aug. 1.

Only races with three or more candidates appear on the primary election ballot.

Information: Skagit County Elections, 360-416-1702, scelections@co.skagit.wa.us.

Ball teams complete two-game season sweeps of Concrete

By Bill Reynolds

La Conner High School softball and baseball teams continued to post football-type scores against Concrete last week.

The Lady Braves (2-14 overall; 2-7 in league) followed up an earlier 35-27 slugfest win at home over Concrete with a 32-27 road victory Thursday to complete a two-game season series sweep of their Skagit County rivals.

The Braves (4-10 in all games; 3-9 in NWIB/2B action) followed suit with a 15-11 victory at Concrete. The boys defeated the Lions 14-4 in the teams' first meeting on April 19 at home.

The second time around was tougher for the Braves, who squandered an early 2-0 lead and found themselves trailing 9-2 at one point.

According to coach Jeremiah LeSourd, it was the bullpen that came to the rescue.

"Logan Burks came in to pitch in relief and held Concrete scoreless for two innings," LeSourd said, "and Brogan Masonholder pitched the last three innings to seal the win."

La Conner rallied with three runs in the third frame and posted a seven spot in the fourth to regain the lead while Burks and Masonholder held Lions hitters at bay.



COMPLETE PITCHER – Kenai Zimmerman tossed a five-hit complete game home win over Orcas Island April 25.

– Photo by Bill Reynolds

CJ. Edwards, Kenai Zimmerman and Brayden Pedroza led the victors with three base hits apiece. Masonholder, Nathan Bailey and David Holt added two safeties each.

"It was a tough game," said LeSourd, "but we didn't give up."

Zimmerman had set the tone for the week by tossing a five-hit complete game 12-6 win over Orcas Island at home on Tuesday.

Zimmerman was effective throughout the seven-inning affair at changing speeds and inducing Orcas hitters into soft pop-ups.

"Kenai kept Orcas off balance,

which gave us a chance to compete," LeSourd said.

Zimmerman also benefitted from clutch defensive plays, most notably a fine running catch by Holt in rightfield that helped thwart a seventh inning Vikings threat.

While Orcas struggled at the plate against Zimmerman, the La Conner attack clicked as every Braves batter recorded a base hit.

The hosts batted around during an eight-run fourth inning explosion that proved the difference.

Zimmerman led off the stanza with a single to center. Bailey then lined a long double to left. Ivory Damien plated a run on a fielder's choice before Edwards delivered two scores on a sharply hit grounder that was misplayed.

With two out, Burks, Kaleb Otis and Masonholder delivered successive singles. Bailey capped the outburst with a three-run double, his second two-bagger of the inning.

Hits were harder to come by when the Braves wrapped up the week at Coupeville Saturday afternoon. The Wolves handed La Conner a 14-1 defeat, the visitors' lone tally coming in the fourth when Burks drew a one-out walk, stole second, advanced to third on a passed ball, and scored on an Otis groundout.

The Lady Braves likewise struggled at Coupeville, falling 16-2.

Murdock captures boys' Skagit County hurdles titles

By Bill Reynolds

Few can run faster and jump higher than La Conner High School junior Tommy Murdock.

Murdock swept the boys' hurdle events at the 115th Skagit County Track and Field Championships at Kirkby Field in Burlington last week, the latest in a string of triumphs this spring for the reigning State 2B titleholder.

Murdock claimed the county 110-meter hurdles crown with a 15.77 finish. He captured the Skagit 300-meter hurdles contest by clocking a winning time of 40.10.

Murdock, who also placed sixth in the 100-meter dash with an 11.60 effort, led the La Conner boys to fifth place, trailing larger enrollment schools Sedro-Woolley, Burlington-Edison, Anacortes and Mount Vernon.

Isaiah Price had a second-place finish in the javelin with a 153-2 toss. In addition, he ran a leg of the sprint relay – he joined Kali Adams, Jacob Pommels and Thomas Kitchen – that clocked a 46.19 to place just outside the top three.

Dual county champion Murdock teamed with Jacob Pommels and Thomas and Brenden Kitchen for a 3:41.57

bronze medal finish in the mile relay.

Isaac Kitchen established a new personal record in the triple jump at 36-2, placing seventh.

On the girls' side of the meet, La Conner ran sixth overall.

The Lady Braves were led by Addison Wigal, who set a new personal best in the javelin with a third place throw of 83-8.

Wigal along with Lydia Grossglass, Morgan Huizenga and Addison Keller was also part of the 4x200 meter relay team that turned in a 1:58.32 sixth place finish.

Grossglass, who placed sixth in the 300-meter hurdles at 54.26, combined with Huizenga, Maeve McCormick, and Keller to place sixth in the 4x100 relay with a time of 55.15.

Huizenga and McCormick added fourth place solo finishes as well. Huizenga cleared 4-6 in the high jump and McCormick went 14-4 in the long jump.

La Conner resumes action today (Wednesday) when they host the NWIB/2B League Championships at Whittaker Field. Events are scheduled to start at 3:30 p.m.

Prior to the meet, at 2 p.m., there will be a special ceremony observing the 50th anniversary of Whittaker Field.

Momentum builds for school native plant garden

By Bill Reynolds

Advocates for a proposed native plant garden on the La Conner Schools campus have given district officials plenty of food for thought.

Several people spoke passionately on behalf of the proposal during a lengthy public comments segment at the April 24 school board meeting.

It was the third time the garden project – promoted by the Swinomish Department of

Environmental Protection – has been addressed.

Board members, in accordance with district policy, did not respond to the comments.

"This isn't a dialogue or question-and-answer session," board president Susie Gardner Deyo explained beforehand. "It's an opportunity for the board to hear from the public."

Deyo and other board members have previously expressed support for the campus garden while seeking additional

project details before taking formal action.

A key detail has been location.

The original plan presented by Jen Willup and Morgan Brown called for the garden to be located behind the Bruce Performing Arts Center. At a subsequent meeting, board member Loran James suggested the garden be sited just north of Whittaker Field.

"This proposal," James said at the time, "is amazing and something all our students will

benefit from. We just have to figure out the location. I'm in favor of it."

Todd Mitchell, director of the Swinomish Department of Environmental Protection and son of late former La Conner Elementary School Principal Ray Mitchell, asked to "have this facility ready for next year."

Mitchell said it would be a logical extension of the Between Two Worlds science and environmental curriculum at the schools.

"It would offer more experiences for students," said Mitchell, "by creating this

botanical garden."

Teacher Alyse Sehlin agreed.

"It would be a phenomenal opportunity," she said. "It's a great possibility. If we allow people to walk their dogs on school fields, we should allow development of this space – an educational space to connect with the land."

Willup and Brown earlier told board members that project funding is available through Swinomish, with water and electricity being the school district's cost share once approved.

The garden would produce plants native to the Pacific Northwest that have proved over generations to be nutritionally and medicinally beneficial, Willup, Brown and other project supporters have said. Tending the garden allows students to extend classroom lessons with practical hands-on learning activities.

"The native plant garden," said La Conner alum Catey Ritchie, a project manager with the Skagit River System Cooperative, "is an opportunity for kids to get their hands in the dirt."

Ritchie recalled that as
(continued on page 6)

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Olga's April account of the war in Ukraine

Summarized by Judy Booth

Olga has continued to provide email updates. She lives in eastern Ukraine. In mid-April no fierce battles were around her. She told me the sirens were less often as Russia concentrated on other areas. "I feel kind of weird because we have regions that suffered way more than we have – mass graves, people tortured and killed house to house, women and children raped, often by groups, animals tortured... . . . children or parents missing and probably never will be found. "In Kharkiv region in the city of Izyum there's a mass grave with over 445 civilians."

Olga is referring to the invasion of Izyum, a major transportation hub in eastern Ukraine – 600 miles from her.

The BBC reported that after Ukraine liberated Izyum from Russian forces, an exhumation took place that found over 400 corpses, many women and children, some tortured. The Regional Prosecutor said there was no doubt that war crimes had been committed. "Some of them were killed, some were tortured, some were killed because of Russian Federation air and artillery strikes."

Olga said she is having "survivor's guilt," in addition to rescuing the many abandoned or bombed animals while watching inflation add to everyone's misery. Olga is no longer working due to the war.

We will continue to hear from Olga from time to time and will share with you. If you would like to help, contact Jan Paul at 206-898-2312.

Jan had prepared a dinner/fundraiser for her a couple months ago. This is Olga's response after

receiving funds.

"Dear All, my name is Olga, I'm Jan's friend from Ukraine.

"We are going through such a period at a time, that no one would have guessed in the nearest past anything even close to this is possible. . . .

"This event has thrown us back in time now for decades. When I look at Ukraine the way it was before war - it gives me heart aches, since it was such a unique country. It was a mix of best experiences from different European cities... We were getting investments from all over the world. We did not need visas to travel to Europe, so you could easily spend weekends in Paris or Vienna, or few days at the seaside in Italy. Life was good. Employment became so much better with so many foreign countries opening offices, workspaces, offering paid working. Great cuisines from all over the world, beautiful nature. Business was growing around like crazy.

"It all changed dramatically. We are now isolated from the rest of the world each day reading obituaries in our Facebook newsfeed. Non stop . . .

"In the middle of this life when I found out there is a group of Jan's friends that care so much about people suffering in different country, that they are willing to help, to support and the fundraiser dinner is being planned to implement these ideas I was just so amazed. So were my parents. I mean we all feel bad for people that are in trouble, or in danger, or became victims of certain circumstances, it's all natural feelings, but it is huge difference to feel bad for someone and actually take actions to change something for these people. It takes, time,

effort, planning, and intension. I was truly shocked. It's hard to believe in something good existing still in this world after what we have seen here.

"It just brings tears when I'm thinking of it and realize what an amazing people you are. I want you all to know that you made a difference in this war for us, not only financially but mentally. Realizing that there are such a great people gives me hope.

"I want to also thank you on behalf of my parents, they could not believe it. They were just speechless, shocked.

"God bless you and let the joy be with you and all your families!"

Speaking Our Truth: LGBTQ+ students poetry reading at Lincoln Theatre

Skagit PFLAG and the Skagit River Poetry Foundation present an evening of LGBTQ+ voices at the Lincoln Theatre 7 p.m. Saturday, May 13. The event is free and open to everyone. Seattle poet Luther Hughes is the featured reader. Hughes has written the BOA prize winning volume "A Shiver in the Leaves" and is recipient of the Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Rosenberg Fellowship, the 92Y Discovery Poetry Prize. He is founder of Shade Literary Arts, a literary organization for queer writers of color.

Students from all over Skagit County will be invited to read

poems they will have written earlier in the day at a poetry workshop with Hughes.

Hosts for the evening include poet Roberto Ascalon and Gina Touche. Amos Miller will provide musical accompaniment. The student poems from the reading will be published in a commemorative volume.

Speaking Our Truth is funded by a generous grant from the Inatai Foundation.

Information: lincoltheatre.org or skagitriverpoetry.org, directorsrpp@gmail.org.

Source: Skagit River Poetry Foundation

'The Healing Heart of Lushootseed' premiere May 12

The Skagit Valley premiere of "The Healing Heart of the First People of this Land," an orchestral work in four movements, by Canadian composer Bruce Ruddell, performed by the Seattle Symphony and mezzo soprano Jenny Knapp, conducted by Maestro Gerard Schwarz. Hilbert believed the symphony should be performed around the world.

Hilbert, an Upper Skagit tribal member, was born and raised by Skagit (Lushootseed) speaking parents in the Skagit River area of Washington state. She was educated from birth to the traditional customs and language of her Indian community. Hilbert began her extensive formal work with Lushootseed in 1967 and later founded her organization in 1983. She started working with linguist Thom Hess, who introduced her to the

written language. Hilbert taught the language at the University of Washington for nearly two decades and was awarded an honorary Ph.D. from Seattle University in 1994.

She encouraged and assisted many of the local tribes in developing their own language programs. Her many awards for her dedication including being named a Washington State Living Treasure, a U.S. National Heritage Fellow and receiving the Ken Hale Prize for lifelong achievement. Seattle University has named a new ten-story building on campus in her honor.

A panel discussion with Jill La Pointe, Ryan Dudenbostel, Bruce Ruddell and moderator John La Pointe follows the film.

This event is free and open to all.

Source: Lincoln Theatre

Forum on Journalism's importance to democracy

The League of Women Voters of Skagit County invites the public to a meeting to discuss the future of local journalism and its importance to our democracy Monday, May 15, 6:30-8 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School auditorium, 1075 Fulton Street.

The Mount Vernon High School debate team, who will argue the proposition "A thriving democracy is dependent on a local news source." This will be followed by a panel discussion featuring journalists Brier Dudley, Seattle Times Free Press Initiative; Jason Miller, Concrete Herald publisher; Ron Judd, Cascadia Daily News executive editor; and Ken Stern, La Conner Weekly News publisher.

The evening's goal is to reflect on how local journalism is evolving and the impact those changes have on community participation in governing ourselves. The League of Women Voters of Skagit County invites all those interested in staying informed about our community in the Skagit Valley to attend.

Information, Skagit League: wende.sanderson@gmail.com; 360 708-3147.

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Cantwell and Larsen secure funding for local ecosystem and climate change projects

By Bill Reynolds

Swinomish Tribal Community lands are in line for salmon habitat restoration and coastal resilience grant funds, U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen (D-Everett) and U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA.) announced last week.

The federal funding support has been recommended by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as part of infrastructure and inflation reduction legislation passed to combat climate change and create green jobs.

One of 14 NOAA-endorsed conservation projects is an \$11.6 million Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife salmon and ecosystem recovery effort in the North Whidbey basin of the Skagit River.

“The scale of restoration of estuary marshes and floodplains will result in better habitat for salmon,” a Cantwell spokesperson said. “The work is expected to reduce flooding on county roadways and tribal lands. Two of the sites are located on Swinomish Indian Tribal Community land with coordination and support of the Swinomish and Sauk-Suiattle Tribes.”

Larsen toured the Smokehouse Ditch and Similk Bay estuarine areas last year, meeting with Skagit River System Cooperative and Swinomish officials, includ-

ing Tribal Senate Chair Steve Edwards and Senator Eric Day.

Larsen had written a letter of support for SRSC’s application for a NOAA grant to fund work designed to restore salmon habitat and address climate change issues.

At Smokehouse Ditch, north of La Conner near the twin-spanned Duane Berentson Bridge, the plan is to restore about 120 acres of salmon habitat by setting back a 1930s era dike along the Swinomish Channel. That will reestablish saltwater vegetation and tidal processes to a portion of just over 900 acres of rural tribal land.

NOAA has additionally recommended a nearly \$650,000 grant to SRSC, which provides fisheries and environmental services for the Swinomish and Sauk-Suiattle tribes, for Chinook salmon recovery in the Skagit River watershed.

The Washington State Department of Ecology’s Padilla Bay Samish Conservation Area Protection Project will also get \$2.3 million from NOAA.

“These funds,” the Cantwell representative said, “will allow Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve to protect and restore 74.5 acres of former and current tidal marsh as part of a larger overall effort to restore up to 105 acres of tidal marsh to Padilla Bay. The project will increase climate resilience

by reducing flood risk for the only road and utility corridor that services the Samish Island community. The project will also restore tribal cultural connections with the site, which is near an important historical longhouse location.”

Larsen, the lead Democrat on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, said the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act will provide funding and resources Northwest Washington coastal communities need to boost climate resilience, restore habitat, reduce flooding and protect against invasive species.

“I will continue to work with local leaders and stakeholders and the administration,” Larsen said, “to fully implement these historic laws to combat climate change and build cleaner, greener, safer and more accessible communities in the Pacific Northwest and across the country.”

Garden

■ ■ ■ (from page 4)

a student she was able to experience the nearby Breazeale Interpretive Center, which offers a “hands, ears and eyes-on” way to learn about the ecology and wildlife of Padilla Bay and local area.

Swinomish Tribal Senator Alana Quintasket, like Ritchie a La Conner alum, said the garden is envisioned as a place to “foster and grow native plants.” She and fellow Swinomish senator Eric Day, another former La Conner student, said they were speaking on behalf of the present generation of students here.

“I spent a lot of time learning in these halls,” said Day, who appreciated learning tactile skills such as automotive care and woodworking.

“It’s important to learn from books,” Day insisted, “but it’s also important to get your hands involved.”

Mitchell, a graduate of Dartmouth College and Washington State University and



MARCHING FOR MAY DAY – Sunday’s annual farmworkers march in Mount Vernon brought laborers, activists and those in sympathy with working people together in solidarity. International Workers’ Day is May 1. Now, in Paris there is a really big workers’ parade. – Photo, Ken Stern

Journal

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

The longtime owner of Plug Ugly, a La Conner fishing gear, sporting goods and collectibles store, recently came across a copy of the October 1984 edition of Northwest Fishing Forecast at a trade show in Portland.

The lone copy was priced at \$5, more than double its original sales price.

Having known Owens, Peterson could not resist buying the nearly 40-year-old tabloid-sized paper, which is in perfect condition.

“I was at a tackle show in Oregon,” Peterson told the Weekly News, “and one of the guys who knew I was from La Conner showed it to me and said: ‘You want this?’”

There was no hesitation on Peterson’s part.

part of the team that launched the Between Two Worlds program, said garden space could also be devoted to a barbecue area where students would learn time-honored ways of preparing fish.

Sehlin said the garden is a project whose time has come.

“I think it’s time,” she stressed. “We should have checked the boxes. We should have moved forward. I hate to think we could lose this opportunity because we drug our feet.”

“They know I gravitate toward La Conner-related stuff,” he explained.

Northwest Fishing Forecast was certainly that – from Owens columns on smelt jigging along the town’s waterfront to an essay on the 1937 construction by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers of the rock jetty between McGlenn Island and Goat Island to photographs taken by the late Art Hupy, founder of the Valley Museum of Northwest Art, forerunner of today’s Museum of Northwest Art.

Peterson’s issue includes a verse submitted by legendary poet, self-proclaimed “River Rat” and one-time La Conner mayoral candidate Robert Sund. There is also a photo of Tracy Powell’s famed 24-foot carving of “The Maiden Of Deception Pass” at Rosario Beach.

To attract younger readers, Owens invited children to send in their drawings of fish and boats for publication.

In the issue before the 1984 presidential election, Owens couldn’t help but poke fun at national politicians guided by public opinion. Instead of analyzing polls, Owens suggested reading Northwest Fishing Forecast to “find out which way the wind is blowing.”

Now, almost 40 years later – thanks in great part to Peterson – Owens’ fishing journal is still being read.



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Wilbur

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

the right college administrator. Grant was given a job and worked his way through school.

Sharing photo after photo, each one a memory and a story, Wilbur said, “The road really taught me everything. I didn’t know what I needed to know. The road taught me listening.

She knows enough not to be afraid of love. “Your people have to love themselves,” she said. “We deserve to trust our selves with all the love.”

Reflecting on a trip to a northern California tribe, Wilbur recalled, “I realized if you give us time we will rise. We will resurrect our dreams and will come together. We will rise. It is one thing to talk about hope, another to hope.”

Considering her 10 years on the road, she found she was most moved by the people she met. “It was the people, their kindness. I learned about the great big love. It was the great big love that carried me through. Why did they share with me? I realized Indian Country was ready to indigenize.”

Speaking to her people, she offered: “If we want to, we have the opportunity to embrace indigenous intelligence. That is what I offer in my book. What does it mean to be a native person? Try to be a human being in our own language.”

Her reading advice: “When you read this book take a step back and acknowledge Indigenous people in our life. When you see these photos you are not looking at one person. There are 1,000 people behind them.”

She was more than philosophical and reflective. It struck me her time and travels were a pilgrimage. The dictionary defines pilgrimage: “a search, a journey, especially a long one, made to some sacred place as an act of religious devotion.”

Wilbur will be taking another cross-country trip to launch her book traveling with her family in their RV.

She will be at Seaport Books in La Conner’s Gilkey Square July 6. The store is taking book orders.

Protest

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

member and Weekly News photographer Madoc Hiller, who created several of the slogans that appeared on signs carried by the student marchers.

Hiller said Dougliss implored students to contact state lawmakers about funding issues that are affecting districts throughout the state. He said students marched through town chanting “fund it, don’t cut it” and “fund our schools.”

While at Gilkey Square, he and Haley said, students used sidewalk chalk they were given to write the slogans that appeared on their signs.

Hiller said students then returned to campus, stopping outside the administration building before resuming their classes.

Council

■ ■ ■ (from page 3)

“One of the drawbacks (to paid parking),” said Thomas, “is that it is not certain that parking fees will cover the cost of staffing to enforce time limits.”

Former council member Bill Stokes said the parking pressures would be reduced if First Street south of Commercial Street was more accessible.

“I’m disappointed at how long it’s taking to do something with the Moore-Clark property,” said Stokes, again stressing that the former fish feed production company’s dilapidated warehouse extends seven feet onto the right-of-way.

“We could have one-way (traffic) from Commercial to Caledonia if the Moore-Clark Building is addressed,” Stokes said.

Stokes, a participant in prior Town parking studies, advocated for metered parking on First Street, predicting it would be a net revenue producer.

Metered parking accessed by a PayByPhone mobile app is employed in Fairhaven and downtown Bellingham, several

“I was proud of you guys because of the turnout,” Haley told Dougliss and Hiller. “Most everyone was chanting and active.”

La Conner Schools is no stranger to student marches. In the early 1990s, students – fondly dubbed “the children of flower children” – marched downtown to protest the Persian Gulf War. Following the 2018 mass shooting at Parkland High School in Florida, students marched against gun violence.

This latest march dealt with subjects closer to home.

“We’re just trying to stand up for our town, our school, our siblings and cousins,” said Haley, who plans to attend Central Washington University this fall. “The main goal is to maintain a stable and well-prepared generation, to help our youth and by doing so, to help our future.”

meeting attendees said.

Traffic on Maple Avenue also drew Council’s attention. Hayes said he recently had to help a child cross the heavily traveled avenue.

“We have a real problem there,” said Hayes. “People speed on that street. There are kids who live there, so it’s an issue.”

Consideration will be given to re-installation of a flashing traffic light at the intersection of Maple Avenue and Caledonia Street, he said.

Councilmember Rick Dole reported that the Town Emergency Management Commission will meet at 4:30 p.m. on second and fourth Tuesdays, prior to Council. “We’re trying to get more younger working people to meetings where 9:30 a.m. doesn’t work,” said Dole.

The panel accepted a \$162,903 Puget Sound Nutrient Reduction planning grant for improving water quality by reducing nutrients discharged into state waters. “This is a long-standing grant for nutrients,” Thomas said, “that we hope to pull into design work for the wastewater treatment plant.”



By Patricia Aqiumuk Paul, Esq., Food Editor.

Asparagus and Garlic

We are blessed to have family members who fish, hunt and gather. Yes, springtime! Love the flowering trees, shrubs and fields. Springtime foods available include asparagus. The robust asparagus, thicker than a school pencil. Sold by the bunch. I prepare by soaking in cold water. Swish it around a bit. Then hold under cold running water. Hold each asparagus spear in both hands and snap. Use the tops in this recipe. Save the bottoms for another recipe.

Ingredients

- Asparagus, one bunch
- Garlic, 1 clove, minced
- Olive oil, 1 tbsp
- Water, 1/3 cup

Preparation

Prepare the asparagus, as described above. Use a small sauté pan. Add the olive oil and turn on moderate heat. Add the asparagus and the garlic over them. Use tongs to move the asparagus to coat with the olive oil and garlic. Cook for five minutes. Add the water and again use the tongs to gently mix. Put on a lid. Gently cook for another five to 10 minutes. They will be tender enough to cut each bite with a dinner fork.



AqiumuksKitchen@outlook.com

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Opportunity For Positive Change in Shelter Bay:

Get to know your candidates for the upcoming elections to the Board of Directors (May 5-20). Know who they are, what they represent and how they will work for you. The first opportunity to meet your candidates is this Thursday, May 4, at 4:30 — Cinco de Mayo celebration at the BBQ area by the clubhouse.

CONSIDERATIONS BEFORE YOU VOTE:

- Is your candidate trustworthy? Is there mutual respect?
- Does your candidate communicate well? Are your concerns heard?
- Does your candidate accept responsibility versus blame other people or situations?
- Ask questions to get fully informed.
- Ask about their background, skills, and experiences.
- Do they have any conflicts of interest?

An email has been selectively sent to a special list of Shelter Bay Residents by a member of the Finance Committee. This person is married to the Chair of Communications for Shelter Bay and has access to a list of all emails and addresses in Shelter Bay. This email was forwarded to numerous concerned residents for information because they did not like the secretive and unethical spreading of this kind of message.

CONCERNS:

Excerpts of concern from the email:

- A “Statement of Strategic Intent” that “provides a list of values that should guide our behavior and how we make our decisions, and includes things like “practicing transparency, exhibiting respect, and effectively partnering and leveraging community expertise and talent.” This email was sent out the afternoon before an open Meet The Candidates event where the community could meet the new candidates for the upcoming election to the Board and get to know their skills, expertise and experiences as they could apply to the Board.
- The writer lists personal opinions which include a slate of three preferred candidates who represent the status quo or the culture and fracturing of the board and community as they currently exist.
- The writer goes on to give personal opinions on the other four candidates criticizing two of them for supporting activities of recent SB events. The writer criticizes all four saying **“All were vocal opponents to the marina and rent adjustment. Given the close ties these and others (Paul) have to Judy Kontos, I am concerned about them getting elected to our Board”**

ASK YOURSELF:

1. The email reference to “practicing transparency”

- Is it transparent or ethical to be sending secret emails to a privileged list of recipients that not all candidates have access to?
- Is it transparent to privately be judging four candidates due to actual or alleged association to another person?
- Is it transparent to be stating “All were vocal opponents to the marina and rent adjustment” when that simply isn’t true? And even if true, do we as residents not have a right to voice opinions or ask questions? No opposition to the marina was ever voiced by any of the candidates.

2. The email reference to “exhibiting respect”

- Is it respectful to judge candidates by their alleged associations versus their skills, experience and competencies?
- Is it respectful to send secret emails out before the Meet the Candidates meeting where competencies, skills, and experience can be evaluated?
- Is the author to be respected or trusted when sending this kind of secret message out? Some people on the author’s list took offense and sent the message to others for their information.
- How does “leveraging community expertise and talent” get an honest review when the author has “poisoned the well” about the reputations, the skills and expertise these four candidates offer to the community?
- This secret email before the meeting continues to fracture our community rather than show any attempt to unite our community.

CAN I MAKE A DIFFERENCE? DO I HAVE ANY POWER?

We will make a difference and change the status quo of increasing rents, deteriorating Shelter Bay grounds and reduced amenities such as no pool, yet securing a state-of-the-art Marina. Through your vote everybody’s voice will be heard. Get to know your candidates at upcoming neighborhood gatherings and VOTE for the three candidates that most closely fit your needs before May 20.

Signed, Concerned Residents of Shelter Bay

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of La Conner, Washington, passed Ordinance No. 1228 at the April 25, 2023, Town Council meeting.

An Ordinance amending the 2023 Budget.

Complete copies of Ordinance No. 1228 are available at La Conner Town Hall, P.O. Box 400, La Conner, WA 98257

Dated this 26th Day of April 2023

Maria DeGoede, Town Clerk Published in the La Conner Weekly News May 3, 2023.

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

In re: the Estate of Ray Frank BRYSON, Deceased, Amanda LEWELLEN, Petitioner.

NO. 23-4-00181-29 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 this Estate.

Address for Mailing or Service: 114 Second Ave. S., Suite 101, Edmonds, WA 98020

Court of probate proceedings and case number: King County, WA

Published in the La Conner Weekly News May 3, 10, 17, 2023.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR KING COUNTY In Re The Estate of: NORMAN PAUL CULBERT, Deceased.

NO. 23-4-03004-1 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030) (NTRD)

The person named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this Estate.

Address for Mailing or Service: JOSEPH D. BOWEN ATTORNEY AT LAW 401 South Second Street Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Published in the La Conner Weekly News May 3, 10, 17, 2023.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KING In re the Estate of DELORES ANN HICINBOTHOM, Deceased.

Case No.: 23-4-02795-4 SEA PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.40.030

The personal representative named below has been appointed as personal representative of this estate.

Date of First Publication: May 3, 2023.

Personal Representative: Staci Lee Bottles

Attorney for the Personal Representative: Michael Biesheuvel

Address for Mailing or Service: 114 Second Ave. S., Suite 101, Edmonds, WA 98020

Court of probate proceedings and case number: King County, WA

Published in the La Conner Weekly News May 3, 10, 17, 2023.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR KING COUNTY In Re The Estate of: NORMAN PAUL CULBERT, Deceased.

NO. 23-4-03004-1 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030) (NTRD)

The person named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this Estate.

Address for Mailing or Service: JOSEPH D. BOWEN ATTORNEY AT LAW 401 South Second Street Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Published in the La Conner Weekly News May 3, 10, 17, 2023.

time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060.

Date of First Publication: May 3, 2023.

Attorney for Personal Representative Print Name and Bar#: Carrie Ulrich, 58871

Address for Mailing or Service: CARRIE ULRICH ORCHID LAW PLLC 12537 15th Ave NE Ste 210 Seattle Wa 98125 (206) 594-5881

Court of probate proceedings and cause number: King County Superior Court 23-4-03004-1

Published in the La Conner Weekly News May 3, 10, 17, 2023.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY Estate of PAUL RICHARD GINGERICH, Deceased. NO. 23-4-00174-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE The above Court has appointed me as Personal Representative of the Decedent's estate.

Any person having a claim against the Decedent must present the claim: (a) Before the time when the claim would be barred by any applicable statute of limitations, and (b) In the manner provided in RCW 11.40.070: (i) By filing the original of the claim with the foregoing Court, and (ii) By serving on or mailing to me at the address below a copy of the claim.

Date of First Publication: April 19, 2023

Personal Representative: Heidi Gingerich, Personal Representative

c/o Jayne Marsh Gilbert, WSBA #24656

Attorney for Personal Representative 314 Pine St., Ste 211 Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Published in the La Conner Weekly News April 19, 26, May 3, 2023.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY Estate of FREDERICK MESMAN, Deceased. NO. 23-4-00141-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE The above Court has appointed us as Co-Personal Representatives of Decedent's estate.

Any person having a claim against the Decedent must present the claim: (a) Before the time when the claim would be barred by any applicable statute of limitations, and (b) In the manner provided in RCW 11.40.070: (i) By filing the original of the claim

with the foregoing Court, and (ii) By serving on or mailing to us at the address below a copy of the claim.

Date of First Publication of this Notice: April 19, 2023

Robert Paul Mesman c/o Gilbert & Gilbert Lawyers, Inc.

Jayne Marsh Gilbert Attorney for Co-Personal Representatives

314 Pine Street, Suite 211 Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Published in the La Conner Weekly News April 19, 26, May 3, 2023.

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE OF COMMERCIAL LOAN Grantor/Trustee: Bryce H. Dille, Successor Trustee

Grantee/Trustor: Clarion Holdings LLC, a Washington limited liability company

Legal Description (abbreviated): Lot 22, Sedro-Woolley BSP, AP 9406100051

Complete Legal is on Page 1 of Document Assessor's Tax Parcel No.: 8003-000-022-0001

Beneficiary: Champ Systems Inc., Profit Sharing Plan

WE ARE A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS COMMUNICATION IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Bryce H. Dille, as Trustee or Successor Trustee under the terms of the Trust Deed described below and at the direction of the Beneficiary, will at the time and place set forth below, sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder, payable in cash or certified funds at the time of sale, the real property with the assessor's Property Tax Parcel No. 8003-000-022-0001 described as follows:

Parcel A: Lot 22, Binding Site Plan, No. SW-01-93, (Sunset Industrial Park) recorded in Volume 11 of Short Plats, pages 83 and 84, under Auditor's File No. 9406100051, records of Skagit County, Washington, being a portion of the Southwest 1/4 of the Southeast 1/4 of Section 23, Township 35 North, Range 4 East, W.M., and Tracts 14 and 15 "SEDRO ACERAG", as per plat recorded in Volume 3 of Plats, page 35, records of Skagit County, Washington.

Situate in the City of Sedro-Woolley, County of Skagit, State of Washington.

Parcel B: A non-exclusive easement for ingress, egress and utilities over, under and across Sunset Park Drive, as shown on the face of Binding Site Plan No. SW-01-93, (Sunset Industrial Park) recorded in Volume 11 if Short Plats, pages 83 and 84, under Auditor's File No. 9406100051, records of Skagit County, Washington.

Situate in the City of Sedro-Woolley, County of Skagit, State of Washington.

Said property commonly known as: 624 Sunset Park Sedro Woolley, WA 98284

A. TIME AND PLACE OF SALE: TIME AND DATE: June 9, 2023 10:00 AM

PLACE: Skagit County Courthouse, 205 W. Kincaid St. Mount Vernon, WA 98273

B. PARTIES IN THE TRUST DEED: TRUSTOR: Clarion Holdings LLC, a Washington limited liability company

SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE: Dille Law, PLLC

BENEFICIARY: Champ Systems Inc. Profit Sharing Plan

C. TRUST DEED INFORMATION: DATED: Dec. 6, 2019

RECORDING DATE: Dec. 16, 2019

RECORDING NO.: 201912160154

RECORDING PLACE: Official Records of the County of Skagit

No action commenced by the Beneficiary of the Deed of Trust or the Beneficiary's successor is now pending to seek satisfaction of the obligation in any court by reason of the Debtor's default on the obligation secured by the Deed of Trust.

The Beneficiary alleges default of the Deed of Trust for the failure to pay the following amounts now in arrears and/or other defaults, to wit:

A. Principal Amount plus Interest Due as of June 30, 2022: \$1,074,855.00

B. Interest to Feb. 1st 2023 \$57,233.00

C. Late Charges: \$7,758.72

TOTAL AMOUNT CURRENTLY IN ARREARS & DELINQUENT \$1,139,846.72

D. Default(s) other than payment of money: None

The sum owing on the obligation secured by the Deed of Trust is: THE PRINCIPAL BALANCE OF \$825,000, together with interest as provided in the Note or other instrument secured from Deed of Trust and such other costs and fees as are due under the Note or other instrument secured, and as are provided by statute.

The above-described real property will be sold to satisfy the expense of sale and the obligation secured by the Deed of Trust as provided by statute.

The sale will be made without warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances as set forth above. The default(s) referred to in paragraph III must be cured by the FINAL REINSTATEMENT DATE set forth below which is eleven (11) days before the sale, to cause a discontinuance of the sale. The sale will be discontinued and terminated if at any time on or before the FINAL REINSTATEMENT DATE (11 days before the sale date) and before the sale by the Grantor or by the Grantor's successor in interest or by the holder of any recorded junior lien or encumbrance by paying the entire principal and interest secured by the Deed of Trust plus costs, fees, and advances, if any, made pursuant to the terms of the obligation and/or Deed of Trust, plus the Trustee's fees and costs including

the Trustee's reasonable attorney's fees, and curing all other defaults.

FINAL REINSTATEMENT DATE: May 29, 2023

A written Notice of Default was transmitted by the Beneficiary or Trustee to the Debtor or the Debtor's successor in interest by both first class and certified mail as set forth below, proof of which is in the possession of the Trustee; and the Grantor or the Grantor's successor in interest was personally served with said written Notice of Default, or the written Notice of Default was posted in a conspicuous place on the real property described herein, as set forth below, and the Trustee has possession of proof of such service or posting.

Date of mailing Notice of Default: Jan. 11, 2023

Date of posting real property: Jan. 14, 2023

After receiving a request for a statement of all costs and fees due at any time prior to the sale from any person entitled to notice under RCW 61.24.040 (1) (b) the Trustee whose name and address are set forth below will provide the requested statement in writing to such person.

The effect of the sale will be to deprive the Debtor and all those who hold by, through, or under the Debtor of all their interest in the above-described property.

Anyone having any objection to the sale on any grounds whatsoever will be afforded an opportunity to be heard as to those objections if they bring a lawsuit to restrain the sale pursuant to RCW 61.24.130. Failure to bring such lawsuit may result in a waiver of any proper grounds for invalidating the Trustee's sale.

NOTICE TO OCCUPANTS OR TENANTS

The foreclosure process has begun on this property, which may affect your right to continue to live in this property. Ninety (90) days or more after the date of this notice, this property may be sold at foreclosure. If you are renting this property, the new property owner may either give you a new rental agreement or provide you with a sixty (60) day notice to vacate the property. You may wish to contact a lawyer or your local legal aid or housing counseling agency to discuss any rights that you may have.

For further information, please contact: Bryce H. Dille Dille Law, PLLC 2010 Caton Way SW Ste. 101 Olympia, WA 98502 (360) 350.0270

Bryce H. Dille, Successor Trustee

Address: 2010 Caton Way SW Ste. 101 Olympia, WA 98502 Telephone: (360) 360.0270

STATE OF WASHINGTON COUNTY OF THURSTON

On this day personally appeared before me Bryce H. Dille, to me known to be the person who executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that he signed the same as his free and voluntary act and deed, for the uses and purposes therein mentioned.

GIVEN under my hand and official seal this day of February, 2023.

Published in the La Conner Weekly News May 3, 31, 2023.

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LEGAL NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY Estate of TORREY M. KYLE, Deceased. NO. 23-4 00235 29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030) PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

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

Date of First Publication of this Notice: May 3, 2023.

Rebecca Hargreaves, Personal Representative
2309 12th St. Anacortes, WA 98221

Published in the La Conner Weekly News May 3, 10, 17, 2023.

AGENDA

La Conner Park Commission Agenda For May 10, 2023 9:30 a.m. Maple Hall Fireside Room, 104 Commercial St, La Conner And By Zoom Information Below and on the Town Website
Public comments
Old Business
A. Kiosk Repair Update
B. Pavilion Permit Update
C. Fish Slide Update
D. Trees on Morris Street Update
E. Jordan Street Park Update New Business
Meeting ID: 851 2269 0821
Passcode: 384757

Town Of La Conner Emergency Management Commission Tuesday, May 9, 4:30 p.m. Location: Fireside Room 104 Commercial St. And by Zoom Information below and on the Town website (Zoom TBD)
A. Introductions
B. Consent Agenda
1. Minutes
C. Old Business
1. Temporary Flood Measures - Swinomish Channel
2. Temporary Flood Measures - WWTP
D. Long Term Planning
1. Flood height for Skagit River design.
2. Trigger(s) for a Skagit River Flood watch for La Conner.
3. Flood height for coastal flooding.
4. Trigger(s) for a Coastal Flood watch for La Conner.
5. What level of flood protection?
a. 100 year flood event (1%),
b. 500 year flood event (0.2%),
c. 1000 year flood event?

Town Council Agenda May 9, 6 p.m. 104 Commercial St, Upper Maple Center and Zoom. Information is below and on the Town Website
I. Call to Order
II. Pledge of Allegiance
III. Public Comments (Limit: 3 minutes per person)
IV. Presentations:
V. Consent Agenda
A. Consent Agenda (Approved without objection 5/0)
1. Approval of the Minutes: Council Meeting April 25
2. Finance: Approval of Accounts Payable.
Approval Payroll
B. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda
VI. Reports
1. Chamber Report
2. Revenue /Expenditure Report
3. Department Head Reports
4. Mayor's Report
5. Council Committee Reports
VII. Unfinished Business:
1. Center Street Project - Discussion
2. Jenson Property - Discussion
VIII. New Business:
1. Resolution - Appointing of Hallie Walls to the Art's Commission
IX. Mayor Roundtable:
X. Executive Session:
Meeting ID: 831 7045 7459
Passcode: 623176

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Complete Events Calendar on laconnerweeklynews.com

NOT TO BE MISSED

Opening Day Boat Parade. May 6, 3 p.m. on the Swinomish Channel. Boats will depart from La Conner Marina.
Skagit County Master Gardeners. skagitmg.org, 360-395-2367.
29th Annual Plant Fair. May 13, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Skagit County Fairgrounds. Free admission.

ART & THEATRE

Allied Arts of Whatcom County. alliedarts.org, 360-676-8548.
Annual Children's Art Walk. May 5, 5-8 p.m. in downtown Bellingham. On this night there will be activities for kids and adults, music, and more to celebrate the arts in schools.
Anacortes Community Theatre. 918 M Ave, Anacortes. actheatre.com, 360-293-6829.
Live Theatre: Singin' In The Rain. May 5-27. Thurs-Sat 7:30 p.m. and Sun 2 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased online or at door.
Museum of Northwest Art. monamuseum.org, 360-466-4446.
Teen Art Club. Fridays twice a month, 3-5 p.m. Free for grades 6-12. Pizza, snacks and art supplies are provided. Find schedule online.

LIBRARIES

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

a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday.
Storytime. Every Friday at 11 a.m.
Anacortes Public Library. 360-299-8067. CityofAnacortes.org. 1220 10th St, Anacortes.
Tech Help. Every weekday at library front desk. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Drop-in for hands-on help.
Mount Vernon Public Library. 360-336-6209. mountvernonwa.gov. 315 Snoqualmie St, Mount Vernon.
Virtual Reality. Every Saturday 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Must be 18 or older.
Baby Storytime. Every Friday 10:30-11 a.m.

MUSIC

Ukelele Fun & Song Circle. Meet every Wednesday. 1-2 p.m., Burlington Senior Center. For more info, email yoga-heartspace0@gmail.com.
Shelter Bay Chorus. Meet every Thursday. 4:30-6:30 p.m., Shelter Bay Clubhouse. No auditions required, just a joy for singing. Questions, call Joan 360-941-7507.
Lincoln Theatre. 712 S 1st St, Mount Vernon. 360-336-8955. lincolntheatre.org.
Live Music: Cinco De Mayo Mariachi Show. May 5, 7 p.m. Free admission.
Skagit Valley Chorale. Celebrating in Song. May 6, 7:30 p.m. and May 7, 2 p.m. at McIntyre Hall. More information at skagitvalleychorale.org.
Skagit Symphony. *Eyes on the Horizon.* May 13, 7:30 p.m. at McIntyre Hall. Purchase tickets online. More information at skagitsymphony.com.

MUSEUM EXHIBITS

Museum of Northwest Art. Open daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m. monamuseum.org, 360-466-4446.
Exhibit: Permanent Immigrant, Italo Scanga in the Dale and Leslie Chihuly Collection. Through May 14.
Exhibit: Geppetto's Children, Italo Scanga at Pilchuck Glass School. Through May 14.
Exhibit: Learning the Language of Art, MoNA Link Student Art Exhibition. Through May 14.
Pacific Northwest Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum. Wed-Sun, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. qfamuseum.org, 360-466-4288. 703 S Second St, La Conner.
Exhibit: On the Grid, Structure as Visual Aesthetic. Through May 28.
Skagit County Historical Museum. 360-466-3365 or skagitcounty.net/museum. Hours: Thurs-Sun 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Exhibit: Quilt Until You Wilt. Through June 2023. Design your own paper quilts.

SERVICE & VOLUNTEER

La Conner Sunrise Food Bank. Food distribution every Monday from 2:30-5 p.m. 602 S. 3rd St., La Conner. 360-488-3878. laconnerfoodbank.com.
Swinomish Helping Hands Food Bank. Food distribution every Thursday from 2-5 p.m. Non-essentials every first Thursday. 17444 Sneeh Oosh Rd, La Conner. 360-856-2211. helpinghandsfoodbank.org.
Skagit Valley Humane Society. 18841 Kelleher Rd, Burlington. 360-757-0445. skagithumane.org. Find

volunteer/donation opportunities online.
Skagit Land Trust. *Samish Miles Work Party.* May 6, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Samish Miles Conservation Area on Halloran Rd. Sign up at skagitlandtrust.org.

MEETINGS

Town of La Conner 204 Douglas St, La Conner. 360-466-3125. Zoom info @ Townoflaconner.org/calendar.
Emergency Management Commission. May 9, 4:30 p.m. at Maple Hall.
Town Council. May 9, 6 p.m. at Maple Hall.
Parks Commission. May 10, 9:30 a.m. at Maple Hall.
Arts Commission. May 11, 10:30 a.m. at Maple Hall.
Skagit Conservation District 2021 E. College Way #203, Mt. Vernon. 360-428-4313. Zoom info @ skagitcd.org.
Board meetings. Every fourth Wednesday 7:30-9 a.m.
Rotary Club of La Conner. laconnerrotary.org. Meetings Monday, 6-7 p.m. at Shawn O'Donnell's Farmhouse restaurant - optional dinner at 5:30 p.m.
Skagit Cemetery District One. *Regular meetings.* Every second Thursday, 5 p.m. at Lori Buher's home, 17604 Valentine Rd., Mount Vernon.
Little Mountain Gamblers. *Gamblers Anonymous.* Every Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. at Senior Center in Mount Vernon. 1401 Cleveland Ave. Any questions, call Washington State Gamblers Anonymous hotline at 855-222-5542.

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Super Crossword "OH GEEZ!"

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
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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!

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POLICE BLOTTER

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sunday, April 23

3:17 p.m.: Up in flames – Two vehicle collision that left one vehicle fully engulfed in flames. A driver of one vehicle was pulled out of the car by citizens. One of the vehicles was traveling southbound on the road and entered the curve in the roadway failing to negotiate the curve and driving straight through it into the northbound lane. The vehicle was believed to be attempting to pass. The vehicle crashed head on into a vehicle traveling the opposite direction. Fir Island Rd., Greater La Conner. (Story in April 26 Weekly News)

Tuesday, April 25

6:11 p.m.: Vehicle prowl – A sus-

pect entered an unlocked truck and stole approximately \$1,500 worth of tools from inside. 3rd St., La Conner.

Wednesday, April 26

10:22 a.m.: Another prowl – A vehicle was broken into and rifled through by the suspect. Nothing was reported missing from inside the vehicle. 4th St., La Conner.

Friday, April 28

10:44 p.m.: Teens host bonfire – A group of juveniles were around a fire in a pullout near a farm field. The juveniles were advised if they did not have permission from the property owner to put the fire out and leave. The juveniles put the fire out and left. Beaver Marsh Rd., Greater La Conner.

MARINA MOORINGS

Port of Skagit

Spring is in the air! Birds are flying through, tulips are blooming and boaters are waking up from their winter slumbers. We are seeing more and more people every day down on the docks. We have a pretty robust crew of boat mechanics down here. While they stay busy all winter, things really ramp up for them in spring and you can see them all bustling. Boats are getting cleaned off, engines getting prepared for the coming season and things are finally starting to warm up.

The winter moorage people are all gone, freeing up F dock for the Swinomish Yacht Club's annual spring parade the first Saturday of May. They are a very active club and we are lucky to have them here with the marina. Check out the events they have posted on their website, swinomishyachtclub.org. An active club like this is a great way to get the most out of your boating experience and get the most experience out of your boating!

The marina is busy. Our last 30' slip was taken last week and we now have a waiting list for all slip sizes. I know there are some apparent gaps, but I assure you every slip on A dock (the one you see when walking down 3rd Street) is spoken for.

And what a community we have here! You have to love a group that can just sail off seeking adventure like Andrew and Tammy on MV Patience (mvpatience.com), who are documenting their trip up to Alaska this spring. While their trip is current, many of our marina members have trips like this under their belts. It's always a rewarding experience to hear some of their highlights. When you meet a boater, be sure to ask about their travels.

Our longtime camp host in the RV park, Steve, is taking a leave and so we have Joe and Denise and their Australian shepherd standing in for him. If you walk or ride by, be sure to say hello.

We are looking forward to making this summer the best it can be. Put the 4th of July extravaganza on your calendar now – we have Chris Eger booked and the Town has the fireworks lined up, so it should be a great time.

See you on the Channel!

— Chris Omdal, harbormaster

Local shops have new local owners



WAITING TO GREET YOU AT THE DOOR – Early in 2023 Greg Whiting and Jenelle Whitton gave the space that was Reclamation Candle a new name and a new look. Their Raven's Cup coffee shop – and more – is a whole new business. Karli Pickett came more recently to Go Outside, buying it from her godfather, Mark Epstein. She, too, is transforming the store to make it reflect her distinct style.

– Photos by Marissa Conklin

By Anne Basye

Two La Conner institutions have new owners – and one of them a new name.

Purchasing the Reclamation Candle Company and Coffee Bar from Barney and Tammy Richard was a no-brainer for Greg Whiting and Jenelle Whitton. “We loved La Conner and we loved coffee and we wanted to do something together,” said Whitton.

Specifically, they loved La Colombe coffee, which Reclamation served. They continue to sell the ethically sourced coffee at the 106 South First Street store. The shop is now called Ravens Cup Coffee and Art Gallery, inspired by the couple's collection of raven art.

Whitton and Whiting also use the same precise Italian espresso machine that the Richards used. “We can calibrate it to make a perfect shot,” says Whitton, a former Starbucks shift supervisor.

Candles made by Tammy Richard are also still available. So is sipping chocolate – which was a specialty of Barney's.

Whitton and Whiting have sourced new gift items and coffee-related merchandise from six continents. They also created a kid's corner and space for an art gallery with rotating displays and live music.

Whitton's son Jaden has been offering music the last few Saturdays and monthly open mic events are planned.

“We are really excited about people sharing their art, music, comedy, poetry and spoken word,” said Whitton.

Another goal: creating a peaceful, welcoming atmosphere with good friendly service.

“We want to spread a little joy,” Whitton said.

Go Outside stays in family

Go Outside's new owner has known the Morris Street store all her life.

“Mark Epstein is my godfather,” said Karli Pickett.

“We first talked about my buying the store five years ago. When I moved back to Mount Vernon, I called him, we hashed it out and it happened quickly.”

Pickett grew up in retail. Her family started Cascade Sports and Gretchen's Kitchen Store, which operated for many years in Mount Vernon. Her sister owns the Chuckanut Manor restaurant.

No big changes will happen soon. “The store will evolve naturally, because I'll be doing the buying,” she says.

The name will stay and so will the focus on unique, high-quality items that cannot be found in other stores. Planter pots and other garden items will soon appear on the recently repaired deck. Other ideas “are still percolating.”

An online presence will come, but for now, she is focusing on the place and the people.

“This is a very special business and I am very excited to respect its history and evolve in the future.”

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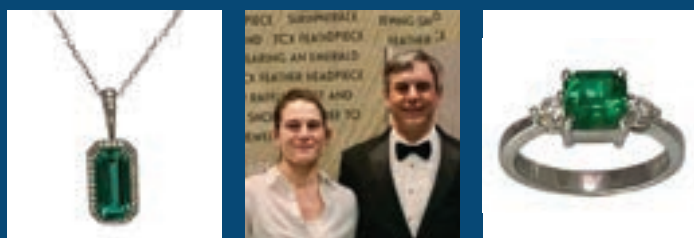


Photo above: at the 20th Annual Island Hospital Gala, Holly and Phil Burton donated a \$4000 shopping spree at Burton Jewelers!

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