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Sun smiles on these graduates



LOOKING AND SPEAKING TO THE FUTURE – Victoria Morales, a class of 2024 La Conner High School graduate, shared her thoughts at the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community's annual Cedar Hat Ceremony last Thursday at Swedebs Park on the reservation. — Photo by Madoc Hiller

Traditional Cedar Hat Ceremony honors La Conner tribal graduates

By Bill Reynolds

It was hats off to La Conner High School's tribal seniors Thursday, May 30.

And hats on, too.

That's because those members of the school's Class of 2024 were honored during the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community's annual Cedar Hat Ceremony at Swedebs Park, an upbeat outdoor evening event featuring tributes from speakers that included four Swinomish senators and departing La Conner School District Superintendent Will Nelson, a member of the Blackfeet Nation.

The grads, donning their finely woven cedar hats and colorful robes, were escorted by the Swinomish Canoe Family and introduced by Swinomish Education Director Michael Vendiola,

the program's master of ceremonies.

Launched prior to the COVID-19 pandemic by the Swinomish Cultural Events Department and since taken on by Vendiola and his staff, the ceremony aligns motivational remarks with the graduates' distinct cultural apparel.

It has proved to be an ideally balanced approach.

The cedar hats symbolize respect, protection and spiritual connection. The sacred cedar tree represents longevity, wisdom and purification.

Tribal elder Bev Peters opened the ceremony with a prayer offering.

She urged the graduates to carry on with gifts provided them by the Great Spirit. Peters prayed that the teens, with support from their families, will have the strength to pursue their dreams.

Swinomish Senator Greg Edwards

likewise encouraged the graduates to take the next step in their life's journey, be it college, trade school, employment or military service.

"These goals are all reachable," Senator and elder Barb James said.

James, who recalled her own graduation in the 1970s, drew upon an incident earlier in the day to share her boundless optimism.

"I was wanting a cup of ice cream," she said. "It just so happened that someone in the social services building had ice cream. So, I was able to have some ice cream. If you wish for something, it can happen."

Senate Vice-Chair Alana Quintasket noted that as a La Conner School Board member she had the privilege of signing the graduates' diplomas.

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Alumni honor Swanson, Class of '24

By Bill Reynolds

An early lesson taught in La Conner schools is that it's far better to give than receive.

It's a value that Dean Swanson not only learned but has lived for much of his life.

June 1, Swanson, a 1975 La Conner High School graduate, found himself on the receiving end for a change when presented with the school's Outstanding Alumnus award in recognition of his remarkably generous spirit.

Swanson's giving nature was highlighted by his grandson, Kenai Zimmerman, Class of 2024, who formally introduced the honoree to a large audience at the middle school gym.

"He believes in the goodness of people," Zimmerman said of his grandfather, "and he puts others ahead of him."

Zimmerman cited several examples of Swanson's generosity, from paying to keep student-athletes entertained at state tournaments to buying meals for those on all-day sports trips to the San Juans.

In his remarks, Swanson said he was merely paying it forward after benefiting from the kindness of others while



THIS MAN IS A GREAT PICK – Dean Swanson, class of 1975, is this year's La Conner High School Outstanding Alumnus. It is an honor he takes back home to his berry farm. He spoke at the alumni banquet last Saturday evening. — Photo by Bill Reynolds

growing up on his family's farm north of town.

"People stepped up big time for Dean Swanson," he said.

Swanson fondly recounted the time during his freshman football season when Waterfront Café owners Tommy and Mildred Potter invited the team to a free spaghetti dinner at their restaurant. He remembered the kindnesses extended to him by the neighboring

Erickson and Nelson families.

"This is a great community," Swanson said. "I've always felt safe, loved and cared for here."

Welcomed with a standing ovation from those attending the 110th annual La Conner High School Alumni Association Banquet and Program, Swanson blended humorous asides

(continued on page 6)

Diplomas for Class of '24 on Thursday

By Bill Reynolds

The countdown is on for La Conner High School seniors.

Having wrapped up four years of classes, some of which were held remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Class of 2024 will participate in the school's 130th annual commencement exercises at 5 p.m. Thursday, June 6, at Whittaker Field.

Nine graduates received National Honor Society recognition for their scholarship, character, leadership and service: Class President Josi Straathof (school board student representative), valedictorian Brogan Masonholder, salutatorian Samuel Williams, Kailey Carlson, Morgan Huizenga, Kiona Kaubin, Natalee Koch, Abigail Udlock and Hallie Walls.

Principal Christine Tripp will formally recognize the Honor Society students midway through the Commencement.

Carlson and Kaubin will receive Associate of Arts degrees with their diplomas, along with Taylor-Rae Kayou. Carlson earned an AA at Skagit Valley College. Kaubin and Cayou earned theirs at Northwest Indian College. Cayou also served as a student school board representative.

Cayou will open the ceremony with a welcome address and lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Swinomish Canoe Family will salute the class with a special honor song.

Masonholder and Williams are tabbed for speaking roles, as are Huizenga and Walls.

La Conner School District Superintendent Will Nelson will present the class, whose members are slated to receive their diplomas from high school counselor Eric Crinklaw and representatives of the school board.

Staff members Ryan Hiller and Josh Hanstad will provide audio/video coverage of the graduation proceedings, with Erica John and Katie Cayou-Lockrem handling still photography.

Thirty-seven seniors from B (Joseph Beebe) to Z (Kenai Zimmerman) are scheduled to walk up to receive their diplomas.

La Conner group tours Burlington solar panel plant

By Bill Reynolds

La Conner leaders saw a shining example of solar power's potential during a two-hour tour of a state-of-the-art production plant in Burlington Thursday morning.

Mayor Marna Hanneman, town councilor Mary Wohleb and resident Terry Nelson, who along with Wohleb is a founding member of the Skagit Valley Clean Energy Cooperative, met with Silfab Solar officials inside the firm's 220,000-square-foot automated facility where residential and commercial solar panels are manufactured for a growing market. It opened four years ago.

Solar generation is expected to increase from 3% to 20% of U.S. electricity between now and 2050.

Silfab Environmental and Social Governance Director Ted Ferguson believes that the Toronto-based company, which employs 250 local workers, is well positioned to serve both the present and next generation's anticipated changing energy demands.

"These are exciting times," Ferguson told the La Conner entourage. "We love to have people like you here to know that we produce these products in Washington state and the U.S."

Wohleb, with no small amount of pride, shared with Ferguson and Silfab Research and Development Programs Manager Josh Williams that "La Conner is one of the first jurisdictions to sponsor solar (energy)."

Williams guided the La Conner group through the modern plant and described the intricate process and precise, specialized tools required to produce solar panels. To protect the company's proprietary rights, no photographs could be taken.

Automation is necessary on several levels, said Williams, singling out the soldering of tiny panel pieces.

"There's not a guy who's going to be able to solder something so small," he said.

(continued on page 6)

From the editor —

What will high school graduates have to say?

Thursday afternoon some 36 La Conner High School seniors will graduate in a ceremony at the football stadium. The weather forecast predicted sun and 71 degrees Sunday afternoon.

In every way the ceremony, the parties afterward and through the weekend, the summer and the year and decades ahead ought to be a time of good weather, smooth sailing, enthusiasm and optimism as these students, like graduates from high schools and colleges all over the United States, move forward into adulthood, jobs, schooling, independence, relationships and the zillion decisions they will individually and collectively make in the year and decades ahead.

Perhaps that will be true. Few of their parents and even fewer graduates will read this editorial. Whether they do or not, what are they saying and hoping for their future? Whatever the adults, however closely or distantly related – if at all – are saying and hoping about a bright future for these young people, what is in their young minds on the serious topic of the future of their world, of their lives?

Some concerns will be intensely personal. How many are grappling with alcohol or drugs, pregnancy, their sexuality, abusive parents or family members? Some have, or will, experience racism and sexual harassment. And a few will be in love relationships that are no less complex because they are healthy and mutual.

This is all projection. Better if we were in relationship with these seniors and they trusted speaking intimately with us.

On the larger stage but here at home, how many hope and plan to farm or fish or go into business or teach, as their parents do, in this community?

What are their concerns for salmon, orcas, farmland and forests? What about finding a place to live near here?

How about affording renting anywhere, whether it is while working or at school in the Skagit or in their college community?

No matter where they live or what they do, how are they reflecting on this adult world? What is their bigger concern, that a former president of the United States has been convicted by a jury on 34 felony counts or that millions of people think the trial itself was a political manipulation to take Donald Trump down?

Are they already hopeless and disgusted about the low level and immature civil and political discourse and, without ever having voted, have no interest in ever voting?

How many are wondering why adults of every age are not doing more to save salmon, orcas, forests and mountain and polar glaciers?

When they ask us why we let the glaciers melt, the sea levels rise and the planet get hotter, it will be our turn to answer.

They can fairly ask us about people immigrating here and abroad, seeking sane and safe lives in every region of the world.

Some graduates know that tens of thousands of innocent people have been killed in Ukraine and the Gaza Strip and that these peoples have had their lives and society decimated by invading armies.

And if they ask us about men who preach of a loving God and following the example of Jesus on Sunday and why these same people support the work of people who act like the devil and their actions seem evil the rest of the week, what do we answer?

Will it be more of a wonder if high school graduates have each of these discussions with trusted adults as they find the courage to and the spirit moves them or will it surely be sadder if they hold these questions in their hearts and never have a single conversation with anyone of any age, related or not?

– Ken Stern

Affordable housing needs at ‘critical levels,’ state reports

OLYMPIA — The lack of affordable housing options has reached critical levels in communities throughout Washington, according to the recently released Affordable Housing Advisory Board five-year housing advisory plan. The AHAB report highlights the need for action, detailing that the state must add over 1 million new homes within the next 20 years to meet current need and accommodate population growth.

The housing advisory plan emphasizes that nearly half of the new homes required in the coming decades must be affordable to households earning less than 50% of area median family income. This shortage of affordable housing contributes to homelessness, housing instability, and increasing costs for low- and moderate-income families.

The housing advisory plan provides a path for understanding the affordable housing crisis and

details recommendations for removing barriers to building more affordable homes.

“Washington is among many states that are not producing an adequate and affordable supply of housing for our growing population,” said Paul Trautman, Affordable Housing Advisory Board chair. “The housing challenges highlighted in this report will take local, state and federal action.”

The report includes personal stories from residents who face housing insecurity. These stories were collected through surveys and listening sessions conducted by the Washington Low-Income Housing Alliance. Each story brings a human perspective to the data, illustrating the real-life challenges and struggles of those impacted by the affordable housing crisis.

Source: Washington Department of Commerce

CORRECTIONS

In the Blessing of the Fleet story in the May 22 issue, Jesse Edwards was incorrectly identified as Dave Heenan.

The photo of the Best Road repaving project in the May 22 issue was taken May 15. The editor regrets the errors.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Progress strips beauty from cliff

Just a small rock face in town, not more than four stories high, slate or limestone. I don’t really know my rocks, but it is grey and adorned with flowers clinging to its face, flowers of many colors, Hesperus, California poppy, bachelor button, penstemon, oxeye daisy, moss and licorice fern, resilient plants making the best of it in clefts in the cliff, in pockets of soil blown up from the Skagit flats. Above is a ragged crown of juniper, twisted and gnarly.

A gift, a thing of beauty that simple expanse of rock left unmolested for so many years – and then the eye travels to rock stripped bare of its native grace, scraped and denuded in the name of progress.

Yes, homes are needed, but at what price? Must natural beauty, our connection with the natural world always be sacrificed?

Too late for that place but perhaps we can learn from what is lost.

Jai Boreen
La Conner

Your vote is for love or for hate

A poem by Rabindranath Tagore is the epigraph at the beginning of Georgina Howell’s biography of Gertrude Bell:

We are all the more one because we are many

For we have made ample room for love in the gap where we are sundered.

Our unlikeness reveals its breath of beauty radiant with one common life,

Like mountain peaks in the morning sun.

Bell, an English woman born in 1880, was a linguist, archeologist, author, poet and Arabist. She worked tirelessly on behalf of the Arab cause during World War I and helped establish a

free and independent Iraq at that war’s end.

I compare her efforts toward unity and independence of others with the words of Donald Trump, who tells his followers, “Immigrants are poisoning the blood of our country” and, who, if elected president, plans to deport millions of undocumented immigrants and create detention camps on U.S. soil, activating the military to do so (NBC News).

I think of the words of Tagore’s poem, that “our unlikeness reveals its breath and beauty of us all, radiant with one common life.” Yet instead of radiance and a peaceful and embracing people, rising “like mountain peaks in the morning sun,” there is violence in America, especially by those loyal to Mr. Trump and especially toward “the other.”

ABC News documented over 50 incidents where perpetrators (usually white males from teens to those in their 70s) take action against minorities or individuals who are against Mr. Trump’s agenda and after perpetuating a violent action upon their victims, have been quoted as saying, “I did this for Donald Trump.”

Is this who we want leading America? A man who perpetuates violence, who enshrines fear and hatred of the “other”?

Are we a nation making room for ample hate or one who creates “ample room for love?”

Vote!
Sincerely,
Christine Wardenburg-Skinner
Edison

Trump verdict will ensure win

On May 30 the New York City Criminal Court stepped on a rake with the ensuing pain to be felt the worst in 158 days by the Biden supporters of the nation.

If past history is an indicator of what takes place after a resounding defeat and loss of power, the liberals usually resort to setting

fires or worse. We can only hope the National Guard is strong enough to pinch it in the bud so a reelected President Trump can continue to make America great again.

Denny Sather
Mount Vernon

Trump verdict wasn’t ‘rigged’

Last week Donald Trump was convicted unanimously by 12 jurors, people much like you and me. They were selected by both the prosecution and the defense, each side with equal ability to remove individual prospectives from the jury pool. To tell me that the choosing of jurors and alternates was somehow “rigged” is nonsense. To tell me that you, the diehard Trumper, are certain that all of those chosen jurors were Biden/Dem supporters is more nonsense – because you cannot know that. (And it only takes one to hang a jury.) The jury heard and saw all of the evidence. How much did you see and hear? Perhaps only what your favorite news sources plucked out and edited just for you.

You also cannot know that the judge was prejudiced against the defendant if you have not read the entire trial transcript and taken your own notes about the many decisions the judge had to make in the course of the trial. How many of you believers in a “rigged” trial have done that? Bear in mind, the judge made his rulings with meticulous care because he knew his every utterance would be minutely dissected by people everywhere and on all sides; and that Trump’s lawyers, in particular, would rigorously search for grounds for appeal.

So let me ask you: Can you possibly park your strongly held beliefs and search a bit for provable facts? No? I thought not.

Dana Heald
La Conner

The promise of water-source heat pumps

By Greg Whiting



About half to two-thirds of the average Western Washington home’s energy use is for space heating and cooling, and water heating. Normally, temperature management is either accomplished by burning gas or propane, or by using an electric resistance heater or air-source heat pump.

There’s another, more energy-efficient option: Water-source heat pumps. These systems operate on the same basic principles as other heat pumps. They transfer heat from one side of the system to the other. In an air-source heat pump (an air conditioner with a valve that allows it to operate in both directions instead of just one), the outside air acts as the heat source in heating mode, and as the heat sink in cooling mode.

In a WSHP, water from a natural or artificial water body is the heat source or heat sink. WSHPs can produce three to five times as much thermal energy as the electrical energy they consume, by taking advantage of the physics involved in the phase change of a working fluid which is contained within the system. The high efficiency is due to the very good thermal contact between the heat exchange fins and the water,

and the relatively stable temperatures of water bodies. Heat from a WSHP can be used for space heating or for water heating.

In other words, a water-source heat pump can use as little as 20% of the energy of a conventional fuel-burning or electric resistance heating system. In locations where they can be used on a large scale, their use might be the single most effective way to reduce both total home energy use, and the amount of fuel used for home heating and cooling. The technology has been commercially proven in Europe on a large scale. WSHP district heating systems are used in Drammen, Norway (population 100,000), Stockholm and Paris.

The feasibility of WSHPs is dependent on the availability of a large water body with stable temperatures. Here in La Conner, we are adjacent to Puget Sound and the Swinomish Channel. Furthermore, we are in a climate in which we need more heating than cooling. If we used large-

scale WSHPs, we would be taking more heat out of the water during heating season than we would be putting in during cooling season. The total amount of heat required for all buildings in La Conner, Shelter Bay and Swinomish Village would probably be too low to significantly affect water temperatures. However, if the effect was noticeable, it would be in the direction of removing heat from the water, which would be helpful for marine life.

The installation of WSHP systems is capital-intensive, due to the need for heat exchangers, water intake systems and infrastructure for distributing thermal energy. To make the most effective use of a WSHP system, the community would probably need to create a district heating system, by which the heat distribution system could be extended to as many buildings as possible. This might be done, for instance, by creating a district heating/cooling cooperative, which would install and manage the system, and would thus operate as a heating and cooling utility. The capital and operating costs of such a system would be paid through savings on gas, propane, electricity and maintenance of independent heating/cooling systems.

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LETTER POLICY

Please write! Letters up to 350 words are welcome as are longer analyses and statements. Write a 450 word guest column. Deadline: 5 p.m. Sunday for next issue. Include your name, address and phone number for verification. Letters are edited for civility clarity and style. Send to: editor@laconnernews.com

This May was wetter, cooler than years past

By Ken Stern

An inch of rain May 21 led a total of 2.2 inches of precipitation over nine days and pushed the month's total to 2.9 inches. That provided seven of the 10 days of measurable downfall. It is a marked contrast to last year's 0.6 inches of rain. May's rain total is 31% above the century average. This is the seventh wettest May since 2000. The six wetter years were each 3 or more inches, with only

2020's 3 inches in the last 10 years. For the year, the 15.3 inches of rain is half an inch above the average for 2000-2024 and 8.6 inches, 78%, above 2023's rain January-May. Temperatures were a bit cooler than normal, with the average daily average of 54.7 degrees almost 1.5% below the century average. That was the same for the average minimal temperature of 46.2 degrees being 1.6% below that average and the av-

erage daily high of 63.7 degrees being 1.7% below the century average. The highest temperatures were the period May 10-12, all above 70 degrees, with 77.7 degrees May 11 the month's high. After a 70.9 degree day May 15, high temperatures ranged from the mid-50s to the 66.5 degrees on May 31. A record low was set for May 31, when the temperature dipped to 39.8 degrees. Calculations are based on 23

years of data with no records for 2006 or 2009. Monday morning KNKX radio in Seattle reported Sunday's all day rain, with tree limbs down and at least 15,000 customers without electricity, with WSU weather stations in Seattle and Snohomish each listing 0.31 inches of rain Sunday. Another 0.40 inches fell between midnight and 4 a.m. Monday at the Seattle station. Measurements and data are at Washington State University's

May rain report

Rainfall last week,
May 26-June 1: 0.80"
Rainfall in May: 2.89"
Number of rain days: 10
Least rain, one day: 0.01", 16th
Most rain, one day: 1.0", 21st
Year least rain: 0.35", 2018
Year most rain: 4.57", 2010
Avg. rainfall, 2000-2024: 2.2" *
Rainfall, April: 2.6"
* 23 years: no data for 2006 and 2009. WSU Mount Vernon.

Mount Vernon weather station on Memorial Highway.

Council OKs policy to better manage grant awards

By Bill Reynolds

There's no such thing as a free lunch, even when grant monies are in hand. Town officials last week addressed the hidden and incidental costs linked to grant funding by adopting a new policy designed to assess which awards are most feasible to pursue and cost effective to administer.

"Grants take an awful lot of time to apply for and to maintain when we get them," Town Administrator Scott Thomas said.

He told the town council at its May 28 meeting that he wants to develop a policy to determine which potential grant awards best fit La Conner's needs, budget and staff availability.

Future grant funding in some form will be needed as the town faces mandatory upgrades to its wastewater treatment plant and replacement of an aging Skagit Beach water line.

"The idea is to determine what basket to put our marbles into," Thomas said. "This will set out factors to study when deciding whether to go out for a grant."

Councilor MaryLee Chamberlain echoed that sentiment. "I think it's difficult sometimes when applying for a grant to know the amount of time that will be involved," she said. "It can be difficult to determine the management of it."

Thomas said some grant proposals pop up "out of left field," often the result of state legislation. Those can require hasty decision-making for smaller communities with limited resources like La Conner.

The town's new policy is designed to assist in that decision-making process and assure time is spent seeking grants whose required local matches are affordable and work best for La Conner's specific situations.

"We're going to need to keep the grant door open," Chamberlain said.

Public Works Director Brian Lease noted that transporta-

tion-related grants often have very short application deadlines. "A lot of them are short notice, a maximum of two weeks to get things together," he said. Council member Rick Dole termed approval of the policy important "baby steps" going forward.

"It's a good idea to have this in place," Dole said.

Coincidentally, council members at the May 28 meeting discussed a backup plan if the town's current application for grant funds to solarize the La Conner fire station fizzles. They ultimately reached a consensus - with Ivan Carlson dissenting - to apply for another grant that would require a \$40,000 match by the town.

"Forty thousand dollars is a lot of money," said Carlson. "If we put solar panels on all our buildings it wouldn't have much of an impact on climate change. I'd like to see us spend the money on something having more

impact." Chamberlain and council member Mary Wohleb took different views. Chamberlain pointed to future energy cost savings to be realized from solarization. Wohleb reminded the audience that solarizing the fire station would enable it to be used as a command center in case of an emergency or natural disaster here.

"It's an investment in the town," Wohleb said. Mayor Marna Hanneman expressed hope that the current grant application will be approved, making moot the prospect of applying for back-up funding support.

The council also wrestled with the issue of delivery trucks clipping low-hanging utility wires in town. Longtime resident Linda Talman, whose internet service had been knocked out the week before the meeting, asked the council to seek a solution to the problem.

Park pavilion dedication set for June 14

The La Conner Parks Commission will dedicate, and Kevin Paul bless, the wonderful new pavilion at Conner Waterfront Park Friday June 14 at 2 p.m. It was built these last several months by staff of the town's public works department.

There are so many people, families, businesses and service clubs who helped fund this project and they will all be thanked. Mayor Marna Hanneman and Parks Commissioner Ollie Iversen will speak.

See you there to dedicate this new building and thank you for being involved.

Source: La Conner Parks Commission

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 Please complete this survey to help us determine whether or not there is a need for this program in our community.
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 "Since 1913"

Tommy Murdock hurdles to a lasting legacy

By Bill Reynolds

Tommy Murdock was feeling a bit run-down at the recent Washington State 2B Track-and-Field Championships.

But, in the end, it was his challenges in two hurdles title heats who felt run down.

Murdock overcame illness to capture the 110- and 300-meter hurdles crowns in Yakima, repeating the success he had enjoyed at state trials the year before.

“He got pushed at state this year,” La Conner head coach Peter Voorhees said of Murdock, “but he was in control.”

Which has been the case since 2022, when as a sophomore Murdock won the first of his five gold medals, placing first in the 300s. He might well have won the 110s that year if not for a false start.

“Tommy never false started again,” Voorhees said.

Murdock, even when under the weather, has been a model of consistency for the La Conner track program, joining alums Jamal James and Matty

Lagerwey as elite performers during Voorhees’ tenure.

“Jamal, Matty and Tommy are the three who have racked up the (state) championships,” Voorhees said.

Murdock did so with incredible technique.

“He’s super smooth,” Voorhees said. “People in the know recognize that he has great form.”

This year, with the help of assistant coach Rob Lawson, Murdock fine-tuned his starts and sprints. That helped him establish a new school mark in the 110s at 14.6 seconds.

Murdock also placed at state in the 100- and 200-meter dashes. He was seventh in the 100 and placed third in the 200.

“We held Tommy out of the 4x400 relay this season,” Voorhees said, “and I think by concentrating on the sprints that it translated to the 110 hurdles.”

Neither illness nor a strong field of opponents could stop Murdock from finishing his senior campaign on a winning note.

“It speaks to the kind of competitor he is,” Voorhees said.

“He’s always going to find a way

(to win).”

Murdock was mentally as well as physically strong for the Braves, especially in his biggest races. He wasn’t fazed when other hurdlers false started or fell, said Voorhees.

During his junior year, one of Murdock’s state races was delayed several minutes as trainers tended to someone who had broken a leg on the track.

“Waiting like that, in the blocks, is hard to do,” Voorhees said. “But Tommy was able to maintain his focus. He has this great ability to stay focused when things are happening around him.”

Voorhees praised assistant

Emily Souders’ work with Murdock and the other La Conner hurdlers, including Murdock’s likely 2025 successors Simon Bouwens (110) and Marlin Bralens (300).

When Bouwens and Bralens begin workouts at Whittaker Field next spring, Murdock anticipates moving to the next level, perhaps at Spokane Falls Community College, where Voorhees competed before transferring to the University of Alabama.

The La Conner mentor still has connections with the Spokane Falls staff, which in turn appears eager to welcome an incoming freshman with multiple state championships on his resume.

Ex-Brave Tyler Dubuque wins coach honor

By Bill Reynolds

A La Conner High School alum has been a key factor in unlocking doors leading to the successful rebuild and recent state championship run by the Anacortes football program.

Tyler Dubuque, a 2004 La Conner graduate, is the offensive coordinator and primary play caller for the 2A Seahawks, who set a state-title-round scoring mark with their 60-30 championship game victory over Tumwater last December.

Dubuque’s peers noticed. The Washington State Football Coaches Association has named Dubuque the District 1 Assistant Football Coach of the Year.

“I had no idea I was even in the running for the award,” Dubuque said. “I think the true reason I was selected is that our playoff run was historic offensively and concluded with a 60-point performance against a team that barely got scored on all year.”

As a result, Dubuque will serve as an offensive coordinator at the Earl Barden East-West All-Star Classic later this month.

Dubuque played quarterback and linebacker for some strong Braves teams in the early 2000s.

“We had a run of a few really great teams and I was blessed to have had some amazing teammates,” Dubuque said. “I played with the likes of Zach Johns, Brandon Young, John Dan, Jake Roth and Ryan Coonc, five All-State running backs in a row.”

Dubuque switched to coaching after playing at College of the Redwoods in Eureka, Calif., and at the semi-pro level.

“My role in Anacortes started as a volunteer who wanted to help a rebuilding program,” he said.

Dubuque worked his way up the Seahawks staff under head coach Travis Anderson. Within five years, which spanned the pandemic, Anacortes morphed into a state 2A powerhouse.

“It started with one or two kids showing up in the weight room and at off-season workouts,” Dubuque said. “We started winning a few games and then something magical started happening. The kids got a taste for that success. They started holding each other accountable.”

That cohesion revealed another positive trait. The players and coaches like each other.

“After the state championship

(continued on page 6)



END OF A BANNER YEAR — La Conner Little Braves Preschool graduates broke through a tribute sign on the way to their outdoor graduation ceremony May 31. Each graduate received a diploma, gift bag and award certificate. The program is closing due to national Head Start budget cuts, perhaps to be replaced with a district transitional kindergarten next year. — Photo by Bill Reynolds



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Film review

'Civil War' has no winners

By Ken Stern

Does director Alex Garland's provocatively titled film "Civil War," depicting exactly that in a near-future United States needlessly throw gasoline onto flames in a 2024 America that need no fanning?

A newsreel playing in the background mentions the president (Nick Offerman) is in his third term. The U.S. Constitution limits presidents to two terms. Something is wrong enough that the nation is at war with itself.

There is purposefully no background, no explanation. An improbable California-Texas secessionist alliance is battling the federal government. The audience will ride along as four journalists leave New York in an SUV to interview the president in Washington, D.C.

It is hard to imagine a road trip through a devastated land – the interstate littered with burnt out and abandoned vehicles, a downed military helicopter in a J.C. Penney parking lot – without tons of hand wringing, philosophizing or at least rehashing the conditions that brought the characters to this moment. But no. These three weary journalists don't reflect, don't compare notes, don't discuss the reasons or causes that have torn the nation apart. There is no character

development and little backstory. They never interview anyone and they never file a story.

Two photojournalists, the veteran Lee (Kirsten Dunst), battle-hardened and matter of fact, and Jessie (Cailee Spaeny) raw and untrained, take lots of photos. Their close-up snapshots of soldiers in battle are shown, often in black and white.

The film excels at portraying battles and their aftermath. Cities are on fire, forests are on fire. There is smoke, explosions, noise, gun battles, soldiers, civilians and journalists getting shot and dying. There is blood on the street, on the floor and sponged and wrung out of the SUV where their colleague bled to death.

The soldiers on both sides are monotonously boring and brutish butchers, fighting for unknown reasons on each side, either to protect the president or to defeat the president and win each battle.

Early on, stopped at a countryside gas station, Jessie wanders out back to find two bloodied and blackened bodies, strung up, the men still moaning. A young local follows her, rifle in hand. He tells her he knew one; they were in

high school together. Was is not hell for any of those fighting?

When the journalists get challenged by a soldier sprinkling lime on bodies he dumped into a mass grave, Joel (Wagner Moura) shows his press pass, saying "Press, I am with Reuters."

The news service is a foreign name to the soldier. Joel replies, "We're Americans." The soldier asks, "What kind of Americans?" The women name their home states, Colorado and Missouri. Being from the heartland saves them.

Garland's script beats a one-note drum: that war is hell, as Civil War Gen. William T. Sherman, supposedly said. In this "Civil War," nothing has value and everything – from the Lincoln Memorial to the White House – is shot up and destroyed. If the film's message is that war is senseless, dehumanizes everyone into killing machines, then the message is bluntly and bloodily delivered.

If the point is that civil war creates chaos, is a waste, to no purpose, makes everyone a barbarian and destroys life, liberty, property, the pursuit of happiness and people's souls, then the film squarely hits its target.

"Civil War" played at the Lincoln Theatre last weekend.

A&E BRIEFS

Mark your calendars for some upcoming fun activities.

June 5 fun fundraiser for La Conner Fire Association:

The La Conner Fire Association invites everyone to "take over the La Conner Pub & Eatery" from 4-9 p.m. Wednesday, June 5, 702 S. First St. Come out, enjoy a delicious meal with family and friends, and help make a difference in the community. Fifty percent of food and beverage sales and 100% of gratuities will go directly to support the La Conner Fire Department.

32nd annual MoNA art auction is now live: Visit the Museum of Northwest Art to see more than 300 works from Northwest artists and support local art. The auction takes place from 4-7 p.m. Saturday, June 8

at the museum, 121 S. First St. Enjoy a dazzling evening with artists, oysters, martinis and art. Register to bid or buy tickets at MoNA2024.givesmart.com.

La Conner Live 2024 Summer Concert Series takes over Gilkey Square every Sunday from 1-4 p.m. through Sept. 8 at First and Morris streets. The lineup features Adrian Xavier & Ska Island, June 9; Chris Eger Band June 16; BrohamM, June 23; Full Spectrum, June 30; Joan Penney & Herding Kats Jazz Nonet, July 7; The Fabulous Murphtones, July 14; Lost at Last, July 21; Mojo Cannon, July 28; Billy Appleton Band, Aug. 4; Midlife Crisis and the Alimony Horns, Aug. 11; The Walrus, Aug. 18; Cascadia Groove, Aug. 25; Pacific Twang, Sept. 1; Chris Eger – Richard Williams Invitational Jam, Sept. 8.

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Chamber choir concert June 8

Cantabile Chamber Choir will perform "The Drop That Contained the Sea" at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 8, at McIntyre Hall.

They will share the stage with the Kulshan Chorus of Bellingham, Sno-King Chorale of Edmonds, singers from Mount Vernon High School and a 53-person orchestra.

Christopher Tin is the composer. His work captures a Sufi concept: just as a single drop of water contains the essence of the entire ocean, inside every human being is the essence of all humanity.

Tin says, "Each movement is inspired by water in a different form, arranged in the order that water flows through the world: melting snow, mountain streams, rivers, the ocean."

Tickets: mcintyrehall.org/event/ or 360-416-7727.

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POLICE BLOTTER

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sunday, May 26

5:29 p.m.: Swerve and run – Report of a van swerving that almost hit the caller. A deputy checked the area but did not locate the van. Best / Valentine roads, greater La Conner.

Tuesday, May 28

11:39 a.m.: Wealth assumes privilege – A 40-some-foot sailboat was tied to a private dock and the dock owner wanted them to move on. The boat had also been there a few weeks prior but did not pay the moorage fee before leaving. An occupant was contacted and she said the

boat would be moved when the owner returned. S. First St., La Conner.

Wednesday, May 29

2:49 p.m.: Wealth without shame – Same sailboat, different dock. The owner of Channel Lodge called to report a sailboat tied to the dock that was not a guest and had not paid. Deputy contacted a female occupant and gave her options for public moorage. She again said they'd move when the owner returned. N. First St., La Conner.

7:44 p.m.: Driving way too fast – Female driver hit a power pole doing

damage to the pole and her car. Deputies arrived to investigate and arrested the driver on suspicion of DUI. Calhoun / Penn roads, greater La Conner.

8:02 p.m.: Sight to behold – Multiple sport bikes racing at high speeds on McLean Road. The bikes left quickly and were not located. McLean / Bradshaw roads, greater La Conner.

Friday, May 31

12:51 p.m.: Scratched, dented and ran – Caller parked her car at the marina overnight and returned to find someone hit it. The rear bumper had

a large scratch and a panel was dented. The unknown perpetrator left no note. N. Second St., La Conner.

Sunday, June 2

12:04 p.m.: Close to home – Caller reported a dead deer on his property. The information was forwarded to code enforcement for removal. Whatcom St., La Conner.

3:32 p.m.: Strip-n-dump – Two subjects dumped a stripped vehicle on the side of the road and fled in another vehicle. Deputies found the abandoned car but not those who dumped it. Fir Island Rd., Conway

Cedar hats

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

“There are so many opportunities ahead for you,” she said. “Let the love and encouragement of this day carry you forward. You’ve overcome so much, like the pandemic. It was a struggle. You needed to be social, and you were in lockdown.”

Quintasket said members of La Conner’s current graduating class are now positioned as role models for younger students.

“I see beautiful times ahead for you,” she said. “Find your gift and learn what your passion is. Don’t give up. Keep moving forward.”

Senator and Tribal Cultural Events Director Aurelia Bailey challenged graduates to devote their lives to doing great things, motivated always by having a good heart and mind.

“I know your family members are proud of you and where you are today,” she said.

Bailey said the Cedar Hat Ceremony affirms the graduates’ cultural values.

“I hope all your dreams come true,” she said. “And with your hard work and believing in yourself, you’ll go a long way.”

Todd Mitchell, director of Swinomish environmental protection and a graduate of prestigious Dartmouth College, said graduates can count on support from the tribal

community no matter how far they venture in the years ahead.

“You’re going on to the next step in your lives and it’s a big change,” Mitchell said. “Remember, your community is always here for you. I went a long way away to college in New Hampshire and it was difficult sometimes, but I was grateful for the support and scholarships that I received.”

Former La Conner school board member Marlys Baker whose son, Ray, is a 2024 graduate, struck a positive note when it was her turn to speak.

“Follow your dreams,” she said. “You can do anything. Keep it going. It’s so good to see so many

tribal graduates this year.”

Nelson said he has enjoyed his three years leading the school district and is grateful for connections made at Swinomish, which was a focus of his doctoral work.

“It’s been a wonderful time,” he said. “Everybody has been so welcoming. There’s a wonderful sense of community here. You have a responsibility to pursue your dreams. And then if you come back to serve your community, that would be awesome.”

Myk Heidt, the retiring Swinomish Environmental Health Coordinator, got in the last word.

“There are many roads to travel,” she said, “and I’m sure you’ll choose the one that’s best.”

Alumni

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

with sage advice for this year’s graduates.

At one point he channeled his inner Austin Swanson – a revered late uncle renowned for his clever wit, always expressed with a Scandinavian accent – even past his 100th birthday.

Shifting to a more serious tone, Swanson asked the graduating class to join him on a virtual bus ride on the “road of life.”

He told the class that at various stages of their metaphorical road trips they will face important choices over which routes to take.

“Go out and make a good life,” Swanson said. He envied the Class of ’24 for having a long road ahead.

“For my classmates and me, as we enter retirement, we’re looking at going down the road at about 25 miles per hour,” he said.

“And when we look in the rearview mirror, we see the road behind us getting longer. And when we look ahead through the windshield the road is getting shorter.”

Twenty-seven members of the class attended the event, which included a dinner catered by La Conner Seafood & Prime Rib House. Alums afterward praised the class response delivered by Josi Straathof as well as Sammy Williams’ invocation and Brogan Masonholder’s benediction.

Several speakers were called upon to represent their respective reunion classes ending with the digit 4.

“Seventy years ago,” said Joe McGrath of the Class of 1954, “we lived with the hopes and dreams that the present graduating class has. I can tell them that exciting times are ahead, and we wish them all the very best of luck.”

Herb Cram, representing

the Class of 1964, similarly extended well-wishes to the new graduates.

John Agen, a La Conner School Board member and 1974 graduate, shared the positive impact teachers Miriam Nelson, Dixie Maloy Otis, Arnold Torseth, Marianne Hedlund, Ralph Dalseg, Steve Crawford and Landy James had on his class.

“La Conner was a fabulous place to grow up and a great place to go to school,” Agen said.

It wasn’t just reunion class members who were acknowledged. Roger and Dorothy Dalan and Sybil Jensen, all 1953 graduates, received accolades for being the most senior alums in attendance.

La Conner Alumni Association President Jim Hernandez announced that the organization – the oldest active entity of its kind in the state – has awarded scholarships to graduating seniors Logan Burks, Kailey Carlson,

Morgan Huizenga, Abigail Udlock, Zimmerman and Masonholder, and to post-graduates Hadley Shears (Western Washington University) and Rachel Cram (Whitworth University).

In addition, Hernandez said the association had donated \$1,000 toward the senior class trip to Southern California.

“This year’s senior class wasn’t able to raise as much money (as usual) because of Covid,” Hernandez said.

As the program wound down, association board member Patsy Good offered a bittersweet ode about aging, entitled “We Suffer Silently.” The verses alluded to inevitable bouts with aches, pains, stiffness and soreness.

Master of Ceremonies Gary Eldore, Class of 1979, confirmed Good’s assessment.

“Class of 2024,” he said, “you don’t know how true that is.”

Solar panels

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

Williams, who is involved with a half-dozen cutting-edge research projects at any one time, said that the Burlington plant has a maximum production capability of 1,000 to 1,200 panels per day.

The facility’s technology, he and Ferguson said, is geared toward production of silicon panels that can efficiently convert sunlight into electrical energy (400-450 watts each), are environmentally sound,

aesthetically pleasing, affordable for consumers and pass exacting quality control tests.

Williams noted that the U.S. was first to invest its innovative muscle into solar energy, then backed away for a time while China began directing more of its resources into the sector.

“Now we’re playing catch-up after a decade of doing nothing,” Williams said.

Silfab aims to narrow the gap. The company has plans in the near future to open a solar cell

production plant in South Carolina.

Ferguson said South Carolina, like western Washington, makes sense as a facility site.

“The two things we look for are water and power,” said Ferguson. South Carolina is also an ideal base to serve East Coast markets.

Ferguson praised Washington state for taking a lead role in helping revitalize solar energy. Locally, the Solarize Skagit program is conducting a major campaign now through July 4 that secures for home and business owners

discounted prices for solar system installations.

Hanneman spoke glowingly of the tour afterward. “I was struck by how clean and quiet it was in there,” she said.

Nelson, who has actively promoted solar power since the 1970s, often asked knowledgeable and technical questions as the group toured the plant, some 40,000 square feet larger than the average Walmart Supercenter.

Wohleb put the day in its most succinct terms.

“That was fabulous,” she said.

Dubuque

■ ■ ■ (from page 4)

game, we had nothing left to do so we didn’t meet and watch game film like we normally would have,” Dubuque said. “That next morning, we started messaging each other and the players asked if we could meet anyway. Pretty soon, we had the entire team in the locker room simply because we wanted to be together.”

the positive vibes high school football offers.

“I love how it can bring a community together,” Dubuque said.

He attended a winter meeting at Swinomish addressing the future of La Conner football as student enrollment declines.

“It brings young people together and shows them so many life lessons,” Dubuque said of football. “It brings and injects emotion into people.”

Dubuque cites among his most fond memories

the Friday Night Lights experience at Whittaker Field during his playing days.

“It’s something everyone gets to enjoy,” he said, “and I’ll never forget it.”

Dubuque said he was greatly influenced by former Braves’ head football coach Patrick Brown.

“He certainly gave me the original push to get into coaching,” Dubuque said.

As far as his work ethic is concerned, Dubuque credits his dad, Paul Dubuque.

“He has really instilled in me that you do what you say you’re going to do,” Dubuque said. “I grew up watching him always come running (to help) when people needed him. That’s how I view myself for the younger generation. I want to help them achieve their goals. Nothing is a greater reward than the feeling you get after helping somebody.”

Dubuque owns a small construction business. He and wife Sarah enroll their children, Landry and Paisley, in La Conner schools.

LEGAL NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY
No. 24-4-00281-29
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS
(RCW 11.40.030)
In the Matter of the Estate of James E. Monroe, Deceased

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

Date of first publication: May 29, 2024
Robert “Skip” Pass
Personal Representative
SKAGIT LAW GROUP, PLLC
MEGAN OTIS MASON-HOLDER, WSBA #29495
Attorneys for Personal Representative
P.O. Box 336/227 Freeway Drive, Suite B
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
Published in the La Conner Weekly News, May 29, June 5, and June 12, 2024.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SNOHOMISH
In re the Estate of: JERRY R. PARKER, JR., Deceased.
NO. 24-4-01086-31
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
(RCW 11.40.030)

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

Date of first publication: May 29, 2024
DEVAN C. ROUSH, Personal Representative
c/o Maren Benedetti, Attorney
3128 Colby Avenue
Everett, WA 98201
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Published in the La Conner Weekly News, May 29, June 5, and June 12, 2024.

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

H	A	S	B	E	E	N	M	I	S	H	A	U	R	G	I	N	G	S		
A	L	L	E	G	R	O	A	S	C	O	T	T	A	R	R	I	E	S		
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By Patricia Aqimuk Paul, Esq., Food Editor

Chives in white wine vinegar



This simple recipe creates an extra special vinegar to sprinkle on your salads. Many home cooks grow chives in their gardens. Chive flowers will keep in the refrigerator for two days prior to making this recipe.

Ingredients

- Chive flowers, 1 cup
- White wine vinegar, 1 cup
- Canning jar
- Glass weight to fit inside jar opening

- Jar lid

Preparation

Rinse and cut stems off flowers. Place chive flowers in a small canning jar. Pour white wine vinegar into jar to cover flowers. Carefully place a glass weight over the flowers to hold them in vinegar. Place lid on jar. Refrigerate for three days. Drain vinegar, separating chive flowers. Chive vinegar ready to use and will keep for one month.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Complete Events Calendar on laconnerweeklynews.com

NOT TO BE MISSED

Book sale by Friends of the Central Skagit Library, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., June 7-9, at the library, 110 W. State St., Sedro-Woolley (during "Blast from the Past" celebration). Something for everyone!

Cantabile Chamber Choir will perform "The Drop That Contained the Sea" at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 8, at McIntyre Hall. Tickets: mcintyrehall.org/event/ or 360-416-7727.

Pacific Northwest Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum Porch Sale.

Fabric, notions, yarns, threads, roving, patterns, books and lots more for quilters and fiber artists at really low prices! 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, June 14, and Saturday, June 15; 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday, June 16. 703 S. Second St., La Conner.

LIBRARIES

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

- Storytime for Children. 11 a.m. Fridays.
- Tech Help. 3-5 p.m. Mondays.
- Dungeons & Dragons Club. 3-5 p.m. Tuesdays. No experience necessary.

Submit an event

Want to get more eyes on your event before the next Weekly News hits the street? Go to laconnerweeklynews.com/page/community-events-calendar/105 and submit your event!

Mount Vernon Public Library.

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

- Seedling Storytime: 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays. For young ones who may be shy.
- Board Games: 1-5:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Classic board games for a variety of ages.

Anacortes Public Library.

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

- Family Storytime: 10-11:30 a.m. Fridays. For ages birth to 5, siblings welcome.
- LEGO at the Library: 3:30-5:30 p.m. Mondays.

Burlington Public Library.

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

- Bilingual Storytime: 10:30-11:30 a.m. Saturdays. For ages 6 and under and their caregivers. Enjoy stories and songs in English and Spanish.

MUSEUMS

Pacific Northwest Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum.

703 S. Second St., La Conner. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. qfamuseum.org. 360-466-4288.

- Current exhibits:
- New Meditation: Silks & Weavings from Melissa Scherrer Paré and Audrey Ducas, through July 7.
 - Word Quilts, Janine Holzman, through July 28.

Skagit County Historical Museum.

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

- Current exhibit:
- Signs, Signs, Everywhere Signs: The Art of Bob Mortenson features the life and work of local sign maker, graphic artist and painter Bob Mortenson of Mortenson Signs of Mount Vernon. His signs are all over the county. Through Sept. 29.

Museum of Northwest Art.

121 N. First St., La Conner. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, noon-5 p.m. Sunday and Monday. monamuseum.org. 360-466-4446. Free program:

- Teen Art Club, 3-5 p.m. Fridays for grades 6-12. Bring your friends to make art together. Pizza, snacks, and art supplies provided.

SERVICE & VOLUNTEER

La Conner Sunrise Food Bank.

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

Swinomish Helping Hands Food Bank.

Food distribution

from 2-5 p.m. every Thursday. Non-essentials every first Thursday. 17444 Sneeh Oosh Road, La Conner. 360-856-2211. helpinghandsfoodbank.org.

Skagit Valley Humane Society.

18841 Kelleher Road, Burlington. 360-757-0445. Find volunteer and donation opportunities online at skagithumane.org.

MUSIC

Ukelele Fun & Song Circle.

1-2 p.m. Wednesdays, Burlington Senior Center. Info, email yogaheartspace0@gmail.com.

MEETINGS

Skagit Men's Garden Club.

Not just for men, everyone welcome. Meets 6-8 p.m. first Thursdays monthly at Christianson's Nursery, 15806 Best Road, Mount Vernon. SMGC promotes interest in recreational gardening.

Town of La Conner Council Meeting.

6 p.m. Tuesday, June 11, Upper Maple Center. Agenda at www.townoflaconner.org. Click "Notify Me" for town information.

La Conner Swinomish Regional Library.

Library board of trustees meets at 5 p.m. second Tuesdays in the library, 520 Morris St., La Conner.

Skagit Cemetery District 1.

Regular meetings at 5 p.m. every second Thursday, at Lori Buher's home, 17604 Valentine Road, Mount Vernon.

Skagit Conservation District.

Regular board meeting at 7:30 a.m. every fourth Wednesday at 2021 E. College Way, Suite 205, Mount Vernon. 360-428-4313.

Super Crossword

DOWNFALL

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | DOWN | DOWN | DOWN | DOWN |
| 1 Washed-up star | 52 Euro divs. | 93 Mauna — | 4 Software test version | 39 Will topic | 83 Dismiss as foolish |
| 8 Baryshnikov's nickname | 53 Feats | 94 Ward off | 5 "By Jove!" | 40 Artful | 84 From the capital |
| 13 Exhortations | 54 "Gotta run!" | 95 Peat source | 6 Novelist | 45 In the know | 85 Roseanne of "Roseanne" |
| 20 Fast, in music scores | 55 Logger's chopper | 96 "— Complaint" (Philip Roth novel) | 7 Tacit assent | 46 Luxury brand of Toyota | 86 Year's 365 |
| 21 Foppish scarf | 56 China's Mao — -tung | 98 Altimas and Maximas | 8 Language of New Zealand | 48 Lock opener | 87 Actor Billy of "Titanic" |
| 22 Hangs around | 57 Mary — cosmetics | 100 Gift lists for expectant mothers' parties | 9 Honshu, e.g. | 50 Toils away | 88 Barbie's guy |
| 23 Punctilious attention to neatness | 58 Stimulate | 104 Car identifier | 10 — -fi movie | 51 Hertz car, say | 89 Hosp. areas |
| 25 Contrary to | 60 Neighbor of Rwanda | 105 Letters after lambdas | 11 Horse farm attendant | 53 Info | 91 "Fist City" singer Lynn |
| 26 Perfumed hair dressing | 63 Family dog, e.g. | 106 Quaker grain | 12 Oakland ball team | 56 Cravat clasp | 92 Foul-smelling |
| 27 Time of note | 64 Env. contents | 107 Some narrow strips of land | 13 Tony winner | 57 Dog refuge | 93 Daintily little |
| 28 Special attention, in brief | 67 1984 Erythmics hit that's apt for six related words in this puzzle | 113 Revises jointly | 14 Seasoned stews | 58 With 72-Across, "Actually, I do!" | 94 Packed away |
| 30 Beginning | 72 See 58-Down | 115 Use lots of flattery, say | 15 Farm with its buildings | 59 "— -haw!" | 95 Enjoys a lot |
| 31 Krispy Kreme offering topped with colorful bits | 73 French painter Jean | 118 Egypt's — Stone | 16 From Galway, say | 61 Ref's cousin | 101 Slogged in water |
| 36 Enlarged | 74 Egg white | 119 Latin for "everything" | 17 "Brooklyn —" (sitcom) | 62 FedEx rival | 102 Gorbachev's wife |
| 41 Classic no-calorie soda brand | 75 Tach stats | 120 Metallic shooting marble | 18 Made a hand motion | 63 Pizzeria order | 103 Addams family cousin |
| 42 Deep anger | 76 Gore and Unser | 121 Jerry Garcia's band, informally | 19 Old booming jet, for short | 64 Port in east Argentina | 104 Cherry holder |
| 43 Stimulate | 77 Everybody | 122 "I — drink!" | 24 For each | 65 Apple's Cook | 105 Duke Ellington's "Take — Train" |
| 44 Missy | 79 Atty.'s org. | 123 Its capital is Mogadishu | 29 Stat on a bank sign | 66 Hosp. staffers | 106 Small peak |
| 47 Court events | 80 & others | | 32 Bouncy stick | 68 Advanced math, in brief | 107 1,102, to Livy |
| 48 Arthroscopic surgery site | 82 Sight-related | | 33 DIYers' sets | 69 Puzzle cube creator Erno | 108 Retail giant in furniture |
| 49 Garden plants with heads of clear blue blooms | 85 Pay money for | | 34 Lubricants | 70 Astound | 109 Old PC screen |
| | 86 Spongy, glazed dessert | | 35 Leisure shirts | 71 Confers honor on | 110 In the dumps |
| | 90 Hotel offering | | 36 Pitcher's asset | 72 "The Wizard of Oz" lady | 111 French article |
| | 91 Weather phenomenon with a more famous "brother" | | 37 "Where — sign?" | 73 Resting atop | 112 Old spy gp. |
| | | | 38 Tools for light cleaning | 74 "Bill & — Bogus Journey" | |
| | | | | 75 Spheres | |

CLASSIFIEDS

To run an ad, please stop by the office (119 N. Third), call 360-466-3315, or email: production@laconnernews.com
BEFORE NOON ON FRIDAYS

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER FOR SALE: Make the La Conner Weekly News your job and your future. Your dreams can come true in the incredible Pacific Northwest. Mine did. Take the reins of a vibrant, financially successful 1,100 print run, community focused subscription newspaper. Buy your next job and retire in it. 360-202-4660.

NEED SOME FILL-IN PLANTS? Check out LaFountain's right behind the Post Office, 125 Washington St. Open 24-7. Cash or checks only.

FOR SALE: 2009 Honda 50 Metropolitan scooter. Lightly used, 3000 miles, great condition. Blue book \$1345. Joan 360-708-1516

STOP OVERPAYING FOR HEALTH INSURANCE! A recent study shows that a majority of people struggle to pay for health coverage. Let us show you how much you can save. Call Now for a no-obligation quote: 1-877-765-1117. You will need your ZIP code to reach the right provider.

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

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

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

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

FIND PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 6

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

		9		8			1	
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	4		3			2		
		1		7		6		
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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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Congratulations Class of 2024



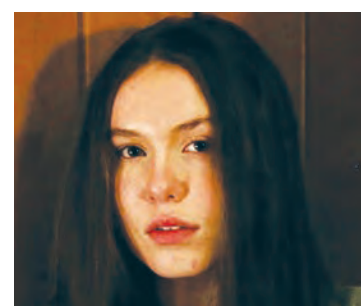
Joseph Beebe



Socorra Bowen



Logan Burks



Kailey Carlson



Taylor-Rae Cayou



Savanna Edwards



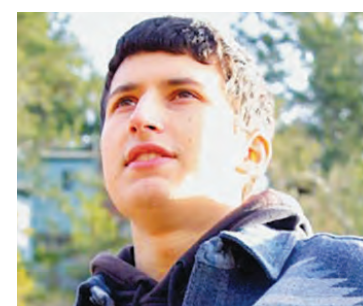
Gavin Fry



Mason Groesbeck



Reuben Hall



David Holt



Morgan Huizenga



Joyce Jack



Kiona Kaubin



Natalee Koch



Alexander Martin



Brogan Masonholder



Isaiah Miller



Victoria Morales



Tommy Murdock



Cameron Neal



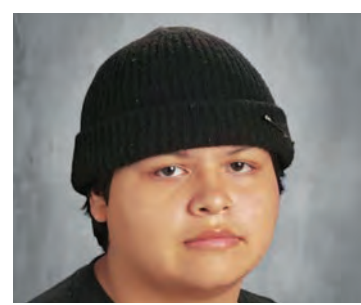
Tai Nelson



Jacob Nielsen



Jack Rose



Alfonso Sampson



Shawn Sampson



Ella Simpson



Nizhoni Slowman



Oscar Soto



Ivory Souryavong



Josilynn Straathof



Abigail Udlock



Hallie Walls



Daniel Waltner



Bradley Williams



Steven Willcutt

- Amaryllis**
- American Tug**
- Balance Point Physical Therapy**
- Calico Cupboard**
- Caravan Gallery**
- Cattails and Dragonflies**
- Christianson's Nursery**
- Clever Kathy Designs**
- ERTH**
- Fine Feathered Friends**
- Firehall Kitchen & Taphouse**
- Go Outside**
- Hedlin's Family Farm**
- Hellams Vineyard**
- Jennings Yarn**



Samuel Williams

- & Needlecrafts**
- Kirmse Antiques**
- La Conner Barber Shop**
- La Conner Brewing Co.**
- La Conner Chamber of Commerce**
- La Conner Electric Co.**
- La Conner Hair Design**

- La Conner Ice Cream Tower**
- La Conner Post Office**
- La Conner Pub & Eatery**
- La Conner Retirement Inn**
- La Conner Seaside Gallery**
- La Conner Swinomish Library**
- Morris Street Station**
- Museum of Northwest Art**
- Mystic Art Supply**
- Nell Thorn Restaurant & Pub**
- Raven's Cup Coffee & Art Gallery**
- Red Door**



Kenai Zimmerman

- Rowdy Dog Antique Lighting**
- Sacred Cedar Co.**
- Santo Coyote**
- Seaport Books**
- Skagit Cellars**
- Sliders**
- Soroptimist International of La Conner**
- Step Outside**
- The Fork at Skagit Bay**

- The Heron Inn and Day Spa**
- The La Conner Inn**
- The Olive Shoppe & Ginger Grater**
- The Stall**
- The Wayfinder Café**
- The Wood Merchant**
- Tillinghast Postal & Business Center**
- Town of La Conner**
- Trumpeter Jewelry**
- Two Moons**
- Vintage La Conner Non-Profit Thrift Shop**
- WaFd Bank**
- Walking Mod**
- Waterfall Gallery**

*We are all very proud of our La Conner Braves.
Best wishes and continued success. Job well done!*