



Judy and Tom Zimmerman: 50 years together • p 5
Championing 4H at Skagit County Fair • p 8

Your Independent Hometown Award-winning Newspaper

LA CONNER WEEKLY NEWS

VOL. 15 • NO. 18

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2022

www.laconnerweeklynews.com

\$1.25

A potential orcas disaster averted



FORTUNATELY, ONLY ONE DISASTER HERE – The 58 foot Aleutian Isle took on water and sank Saturday, Aug. 12. Somehow the endangered southern resident orcas J pod, swimming from Vancouver Island toward San Juan Island, turned away from “heading into a volatile toxic spill.” A second disaster, averted. – Photo courtesy of Scott Durham

58 foot fishing boat sank Sunday in 100 feet of water

Endangered orcas dodge diesel spill off San Juan Island

By John Ryan
 KUOW Puget Sound Public Radio

A fishing boat carrying 2,600 gallons of fuel sank off the western shore of San Juan Island on Saturday, releasing an oily sheen that spread for 2 miles in critical habitat for the Northwest’s endangered orcas.

Researchers called it “incredibly lucky” that the whales and the diesel apparently never crossed paths.

The crew aboard the Aleutian Isle radioed for help Saturday, saying they were taking on water. They abandoned their sinking ship and clambered into the skiff they normally use to maneuver the boat’s purse-like net to capture salmon.

Two other salmon-fishing boats, the Marathon and the Intruder, rescued the five-person crew before the U.S. Coast Guard arrived.

The 58-foot Aleutian Isle sank to the seafloor in more than 100 feet of water about 2 p.m.

How much of the boat’s fuel spilled is unknown.

The vast majority of the fuel on board was diesel – a lightweight petroleum product that spreads into thin sheens on water – with an estimated 100 gallons of heavier motor oil and hydraulic fluid.

“There was an observable two-mile sheen on the surface adjacent to the west side of the island. That sheen, as the night went on, was observed crossing into Canadian waters,” U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer Michael Clark said.

The National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration labels any spill of less than 5,000 gallons of diesel “small.” The agency says diesel spilled in open water will mostly evaporate or disperse naturally within a few days.

A couple hours after the Aleutian Isle went down, whale researchers noticed at least 60 endangered southern resident orcas – the majority of their population – near Victoria, British Columbia, swimming in the direction of San Juan Island, one of their most-favored hunting locations.

“We were all nervous they were going to do what they usually do, which would’ve taken them straight into the diesel,” said Seattle-based oceanographer Scott Veirs.

Before sunset, members of the orcas J Pod were spotted swimming just five miles south of the sunken ship.

In case any orcas neared the sheen, response teams from the Coast Guard and other agencies stood by overnight with “oikomi pipes.” Those 8-foot-long metal pipes are lowered into the water, then struck with a hammer to drive marine mammals away.

“Apparently, this is like nails on a chalkboard,” said Don Novello with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Scott Veirs stayed up all night listening to live audio of two hydrophones that gather otherworldly underwater sounds off San Juan Island’s west coast. He was hoping, for once, not to hear any orcas. Their calls could indicate what he called a worst-case scenario: “our most precious marine mammals heading into a volatile toxic

spill in the middle of the night when it’s most difficult to keep them away.

“I heard harbor seals roar to potential mates,” Veirs said. “But luckily no calls, clicks, or whistles of the southern residents.”

Early Sunday morning, Mark Malleson with the Center for Whale Research was on a ferry crossing the Strait of Juan de Fuca between Port Angeles and Victoria, British Columbia, when he spotted dozens of orcas heading west toward the open Pacific and away from San Juan Island. Researchers were able to confirm that the orcas observed were the endangered southern residents.

“That is really good, f’ing news!!” Veirs commented on Facebook.

Veirs said later he doesn’t usually curse on social media.

He said the Aleutian Isle sank near slack tide – when the often-fearsome currents around the San Juan Islands calm to minor swirls and eddies. For the next six hours, currents pushed the spill to the north, away from the endangered orcas’ last known position.

“That’s incredibly lucky,” Veirs said. “If the tides had been reversed, the whales would probably have swum right into the emerging slick.”

“This is just an incredibly dynamic area that we live in, and it’s both a blessing and a curse,” biologist Deborah Giles with the San Juan-based nonprofit Wild Orca said.

Though diesel is toxic to breathe or ingest, diesel spills are generally considered less disastrous than spills of heavier petroleum products.

(continued on page 5)

Gilday-Shavers will be November’s closest contest

Shavers tops Gilday in District 10 state rep race

By Ken Stern

First time candidate Clyde Shavers has won once, topping State Rep. Greg Gilday (R-Camano Island) for his legislative district 10 position 1 seat in the Aug. 2 primary election. Shavers won convincingly in Skagit County, with 58.5% of the vote. Districtwide, it was close, 51.9-47.9% and an almost 2,000 vote margin. Tuesday the remaining 250 or so votes in the three county district were counted and each county’s totals certified. Not all outstanding ballots were in the 10th district.

This race is competitive. Gilday can win in November, as Dave Paul did in 2020 after losing his August reelection primary.

Lisa Janecki will be glad that La Conner’s Democratic majority will be able to cast ballots for her in November. The two-term Skagit County Commissioner barely won among district 3 voters, by about 225 ballots, 51.1% against Republican challenger Christian Burns. This race will be on the ballot countywide in November.

No other county, regional or statewide contest was close. Shelter Bay resident Danny Hagen maintained a comfortable margin of almost 2,800 votes, eight percentage points, against Karie Storle in his bid for Skagit County Assessor, replacing his boss, Dave Thomas, who is retiring.

State Senator Keith Wagoner placed second in Skagit County, with 23.24% of the vote for secretary of state, behind Steve Hobbs, who holds the office by appointment. Julie Anderson finished second statewide, besting Wagoner by some 12,650 votes. Hobbs won the state with 40% of the vote. For the first time in 56 years a Republican will not be secretary of state in Washington state.

Second Congressional Representative Rick Larsen is headed toward reelection, with 45.8% of the district vote, well ahead of challenger Dan Matthews, a Republican, with 17% of the district vote. Progressive Democrat Jason Call is fourth with 14.5%. He is almost 5,000 votes out of second place. The top two vote getters advance to the November election.

In Skagit County, Larsen has 46% of the vote but Call dropped to fourth, with 9.6%, behind Cody Hart, a MAGA Republican who is third with 14.4% of votes.

State Rep. Dave Paul (D-Oak Harbor) won convincingly in his reelection for legislative district 10 position 2, Paul’s win is by some 4,325 votes and 8.5% districtwide, though challenger Karen Lesetmoe, an Oak Harbor realtor, won in Snohomish County, the district’s Republican stronghold, by some 1,625 votes. Paul won Skagit County by some 1,250 votes, with 61.2% of the vote.

The two Legislative District 10 state representative races had the Democrats increase their leads in both Skagit County and overall in the three county district, which includes southwestern Skagit County, northeastern Snohomish County and Island County.

In Skagit County precincts Clyde Shavers, an Oak Harbor Navy veteran, had 3,0677 votes, 20.5% ahead of first term State Rep Greg Gilday (R-Camano Island) after the first week. Likewise, State Rep. Dave Paul (D-Oak Harbor) was leading challenger Karen Lesetmoe, an Oak Harbor realtor, by over 1,300 votes, with 61% of the vote.

The Democrats had large leads in Island County, with Shavers up by almost 10 percentage points and Paul up by 15 percentage points. The county has almost two-thirds of the district’s population.

(continued on page 6)

Swinomish Days return after three years

By Bill Reynolds

In one of his hit songs, the late entertainer Prince urged fans to party like it was 1999.

At Swinomish last weekend everybody was fine with partying like it was 2019.

For the first time in three years the popular Swinomish Days summer festival, a celebration of Coast Salish history and culture, was back on the calendar.

“We’re grateful to be able to host Swinomish Days 2022,” Swinomish Senator and Tribal Cultural Events Director Aurelia Bailey said beforehand. “It’s been a long three years.”

(continued on page 6)



RACING TO THE FINISH LINE – Paddlers in the 13 and under girls division of the single person canoe race paddled south down the Swinomish Channel on Saturday, Aug. 13 during Swinomish Days.

– Photo by Marissa Conklin

More heat this week

Temperatures in the 80s will return starting today, Aug. 17, with a high near 84 degrees for Burlington, the National Weather Service forecast Monday. Thursday may be hotter, to 87 degrees. The lows both evenings are estimated to be near 60 degrees.

The weekend will not be as hot, with a high of 78 degrees forecast for Friday, a high of 79 degrees Saturday and 80 degrees Sunday. Lows will be in the 56 degrees range.

The cause is upper-level ridging building into the Great Basin Tuesday, allowing temperatures to rise into the mid-to-upper hundreds over interior California, prompting heat advisories and excessive heat warnings to be issued for the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys, as well as the parts of the interior Pacific Northwest, based on the National Weather Service analysis.

From the editor —

The Navy, citizens and institutions

August opened with the news that a federal judge ruled for Whidbey Island resident Paula Spina and the group Citizens of the Ebey's Reserve for a Healthy, Safe and Peaceful Environment in their lawsuit against the U.S. Navy. The Navy's 2019 plans to expand the number of Growler jets at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island needs to be redone.

Why did the Navy lose to these people and the state of Washington, also a plaintiff?

The Navy failed to follow the law in its development of an environmental impact statement.

The judge did not say the Navy cooked the books in its report but Magistrate Richard Creatura wrote, "despite a gargantuan administrative record, covering nearly 200,000 pages of studies, reports, comments and the like, the Navy selected methods of evaluating the data that supported its goal of increasing Growler operations. The Navy did this at the expense of the public and the environment, turning a blind eye to data that would not support this intended result. Or, to borrow the words of noted sports analyst Vin Scully, the Navy appears to have used certain statistics 'much like a drunk uses a lamppost: for support, not illumination.'

Creatura found the Navy assembled its case "at the expense of the public" and turned "a blind eye to data that would not support this intended result."

The Navy, a huge, old and established public institution created to defend the American people, "failed to provide a rational explanation" as it advanced its own agenda.

The Navy refused to go wherever the facts might take them. So, three years later the Navy is back at square one, instructed to negotiate with the citizens and the state.

The citizens and member organizations of the Sound Defense Alliance are ready. In an Aug. 12 guest editorial in The Seattle Times, Board President Anne Harvey shared SDA's "Roadmap to a Remedy," writing "We seek to address this issue in a way restores the balance between military needs and civilian communities."

Harvey summarized four critical points for working together, starting with keeping NAS Whidbey open with an emphasis on innovation and environmental protection. SDA is not after closing the Naval Air Station.

The point here is not to champion SDA's program. Rather it is to hold up their reaching toward their adversary. Harvey's ending sentence: "SDA stands ready to assist in striking a balance between military objectives and the interests of the people and places throughout Northwest Washington."

Dialogue and negotiation among neighbors and institutions is what makes a community strong. Through their advocacy, organizing and persistence, Whidbey citizens created success. They documented their lived experiences with the jets knowing the problems they caused.

Citizens dispute governments for a reason or for many good reasons. Better that governments engage their citizens — their constituents — early and with open ears, minds, and hearts than get drawn into court fights against the people they represent.

Communities bond together in collaboration or tear apart in unrelenting, rigid, line-drawn disputes. All sides need to reach toward the other for collaboration to go forward effectively.

— Ken Stern

Town will hire permit tech

By Bill Reynolds

La Conner Town Council approved a job description for a Town Permit Technician during their August 9 hybrid meeting.

This position will restructure the clerical and administrative assistant position formerly held by Danielle Freiburger, who took a job with the City of Mount Vernon.

The new post's pay scale will bump up to \$48,000 annually and is designed to provide support to the planning department based on job parameters crafted by staff and administrator Scott Thomas.

"The new permit technician would focus more on planning than the hodge-podge we've seen in the past," Thomas explained. "We're looking for someone with something of a planning background. I think it would be more efficient that way."

Thomas projects a great uptick in "planning activity," likely a reference to the current various development projects.

The salary hike, meanwhile, addresses inflation and may limit future loss of personnel, Thomas said.

"It's important to us to retain our

employees," he said. "We spend a lot of time and money replacing employees."

Thomas is hopeful that a candidate selection process will be in place by the end of the month.

In other business, Councilmember Ivan Carlson lamented that speeding traffic continues to plague Maple Avenue despite installation last year of digital signs intended to slow down motorists. He offered use of his Maple Avenue driveway to the sheriff's office traffic patrol.

During public comments, Linda Talman asked how many council members had reviewed her most recent letter pertaining to the Center Street apartment complex issue. Leslie Smith noted that she, too, is paying close attention to the matter.

Dan O'Donnell said he had discovered a significant error in the computation of the sewer rate assigned to the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and asked that it be resolved.

The council did not respond to those comments. Mayor Ramon Hayes invited townspeople to write him and/or staff to receive detailed responses to their questions and concerns.

which will be next to the library.

The 520 Morris Street property, the site of the new library, was purchased by the La Conner Library The Friends of the Library opened their thrift store there. Proceeds from store sales contributed to mortgage payments.

The editor regrets these errors.

A citizen's view —

Put people, values, at center of housing policy

By Elizabeth Jennings

We are all better off when everyone who lives and works in Skagit County has a safe, affordable place to call home.

Healthy neighborhoods need healthy schools. Healthy schools need kids and families. Kids and families need housing they can afford.

Seniors should be able to downsize in the same community where they owned a home and still afford to buy medicine and groceries.

Employers and communities thrive when workers on our waterfronts, art galleries and restaurants can afford to live near where they are employed. From first responders, to teachers, to janitors: Everyone who works here should be able to live here.

These are values Community Action of Skagit County shares with most of our neighbors. For example, the Population Health Trust, an advisory group to the County Board of Health, released a report showing that housing is an essential part of health.

Recently Community Action collaborated with the Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County (EDASC), city and county governments and nonprofit and for-profit housing developers to launch the Skagit Housing Consortium. This group is working collaboratively to find creative solutions to the housing shortage and to encourage local people to support the variety of housing types needed for a healthy housing ecosystem.

These and other partners believe in the creativity of Skagitians to come up with solutions that help us preserve the character and history of the places we live, while also making sure we are welcoming, inclusive and accessible for everyone our communities rely upon to prosper.

The housing crisis is a puzzle, but together we have all the needed pieces. A healthy housing ecosystem includes home ownership for all incomes. We applaud nonprofit friends like Habitat for Humanity and Home

Trust of Skagit for building these important pieces of the puzzle and we need more of it.

Every town and city also needs apartments for singles, workers and young families. Skagit County has the lowest apartment vacancy rate in the state, an indication that we have far too few. Seniors may be on a limited income but have an asset in their home. If they can't afford to downsize, where will those workers and families go when they can afford a larger home to own?

City, county and state government have a role setting policy and funding priorities for homes everyone can afford. Nonprofit and for-profit developers have a role in ensuring a variety of home types are available in every town and city.

For example, Anacortes City Council has a sub-committee devoted to housing and human services. Mount Vernon has made "missing middle" housing for workers easier to develop in their downtown core. La Conner is engaging the community in visioning for the future. Burlington has been a helpful partner in the Cascade Landing Apartment Homes redevelopment, a creative pilot project by Community Action and a private developer/investor. All of this is good work and we need more good people to get involved.

If past policies have not worked or are not enough, we can do more and do differently. Lawmakers can build flexibility in policy and funding to allow new, creative approaches and partnerships, including between nonprofits and private developers and socially minded investors.

Neighbors have a role, too: Put the real people and local values at the center of solutions. Ask workers, families and seniors what they need. Go to where they are. Listen. Come up with solutions that work for all. Saying YES to a variety of home types is saying yes to a healthy community for all of us.

Jennings is Community Action of Skagit County's director of community engagement.

Anacortes wants March Point fire station

By Bill Reynolds

Skagit County Fire District 13 Commissioners have expanded their summer reading list.

The three-member panel will focus in the weeks ahead on details of a proposed cooperative services study with the Anacortes Fire Department regarding future station construction and development in the March Point area.

Anacortes Fire Chief Bill Harris and retired chief Richard Curtis asked commissioners at their hybrid meeting Aug. 11 to jointly develop a study addressing the feasibility of the two departments staffing a shared facility at March Point near the district's present Summit Park station.

Curtis said Anacortes and Fire District 13 have overlapping fire-fighting and emergency medical services in the area and wondered if it would be more efficient if the two departments combined forces there and worked "side-by-side."

"Everything is up in the air," he insisted, "but Anacortes would want to build there regardless."

Curtis estimated the comprehensive study would take six months to complete and feature extensive data collection related to potential shared services. The

study would include examining dispatch process and response times for each department, he said.

If District 13 were to participate, it would pick up 20% of the anticipated \$50,000 study cost.

Commissioners took no action on the proposal.

"It's a lot to digest," said Chair Bruce Shellhamer. "It's a big deal."

Commissioner John Doyle noted that work has only recently been completed on the district's new strategic plan, a project spearheaded by Capt. Ted Taylor, and that it should be referenced prior to reaching a decision.

"We should look at our five-year plan," said Doyle.

Shellhamer agreed, vowing there will be "more discussions to come."

Much of the meeting centered on increased stipends for non-salaried district personnel.

Commissioners approved an increase from \$16 to \$18 per hour for "shifsters" and a \$20 fuel stipend per shift.

The twin moves come at a time when district personnel are being recruited to fill positions at career departments.

"A lot of things are going on with personnel," said Fire Chief Wood Weiss. "We're getting

people dragged off from us at alarming rates."

"Every fire department is hiring like crazy," Jamie Jurdi, an assistant fire chief, confirmed.

Shellhamer said the quality of service provided by its firefighters and emergency medical technicians makes their retention a top priority.

"Our income is up, we're doing well with the budget," he said. "I'd like to keep our people."

He suggested doubling an initial \$10 fuel stipend, mindful that District 13 personnel commute from as far as Ferndale and Kirkland to fill shifts.

"Is \$10 enough?" he asked.

"That's just two gallons of gas."

"Twenty dollars is a big deal," firefighter Andrew Schram added.

In other District 13 news, Weiss said the district fielded 136 service calls in July, 25 of them involving hospital transports.

Jurdi shared a video of District 13 participation in fighting the Williams Lake wildland blaze near Cheney in eastern Washington.

"The firefighters there had to deal with temperatures over 100 degrees during the day," he said.

Jurdi and Weiss praised firefighters Jackson Grande and Tim Wurtz, part of a strike team that logged 14-16 hour days on scene.

\$627,500 median July home sales around La Conner

By Ken Stern

Homeowners selling, and their realtors, had a great July in the La Conner housing market: the \$627,500 median price for the 12 closed sales was almost \$200,000 above June's median sales price, as larger homes sold, according to Northwest Multiple Listing Services data.

The 21 new homes listed in the La Conner area in July is the highest one month total in 2022. Realtors estimate a two month inventory.

The \$800,000 median sold home price for the 23 Anacortes homes sold in July is just below last month's median price, when 36 homes sold. Anacortes continues to lead, by far, Skagit County home prices.

The \$549,950 median sold home price countywide is also just below June's median price. Six of the eight market regions sold homes at at least a \$500,000 median price. Burlington was at \$562,000, Mount Vernon, \$535,000 and Sedro-Woolley, \$500,000.

The La Conner area is roughly the La Conner School District's boundaries.

The 156 homes and condos that sold in the county last month was 34 fewer, 18% below, the 190 that sold in June.

Inventory of homes continues to increase, from under 30 days at the end of May to almost 70 days at July's end. This is the time to sell all homes if no new structures came on the market.

Inventory of single family

homes and condominiums in the 26 counties served by Northwest MLS is estimated at two months for the first time since January 2019, the listing service reports.

While new listings in this region are up by almost 15%, in Skagit County there were 50 fewer, about 17% below June's 301 homes and condominiums

Prices rose despite fewer sales, but at a slower rate across the region. The median price on last month's closed sales of single family homes and condos increased 6.1% from a year ago

Skagit County is one of 13 counties where homes sold at or above the list price.

The median price is the point where half of the home sales are above it and half are below it.

La Conner Weekly News

An adjudicated Skagit County Newspaper. Published every Wednesday in La Conner, WA

Subscriptions

- Skagit County Print & Online: \$60
- Out of County Print & Online: \$75
- Online only: \$60

Member of Washington Newspapers Publisher's Association

Copyright ©2022



Ken Stern, Publisher & Editor

editor@laconnernews.com

Continuing the tradition of weekly publishing in La Conner since 1878

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

La Conner News Publishing Co., LLC

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

USPS 363-550

360-466-3315 • Fax: 360-466-1195

www.laconnerweeklynews.com

Postmaster:

Send change of address to:

La Conner Weekly News

PO Box 1465, La Conner, WA 98257

Michelle Havist, General Manager
michelle@laconnernews.com

Bill Reynolds, News Editor
news@laconnernews.com

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

Marissa Conklin, Production Manager
marissa@laconnernews.com

Kathleen Anderson, Sales Representative
kathleen@laconnernews.com

Eileen Engelstad, Proofreader
Rick Shorten, Special Projects

Contributors:

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

Council honors fallen firefighter, salutes first responders

By Bill Reynolds

The La Conner Town Council joined Mayor Ramon Hayes and fire chief and code enforcement officer Aaron Reinstra in accepting a plaque honoring fallen La Conner firefighter and Town Marshal John Hilsinger during their Aug. 9 meeting.

Hilsinger died by electrocution while fighting a blaze at the old La Conner Shingle Mill north of town in July 1945. He was just 41 years old.

Sgt. Beau Montgomery, Skagit County Sheriff's Office La Conner detachment administrator, made the presentation.

Montgomery said the plaque is part of a project undertaken by Sheriff Don McDermott to honor those who have heroically served the county.

"It turns out," said Montgomery, "that we have a local hero who died here in the line of duty."

Hilsinger, the Town's chief lawman at the time, doubled as a volunteer firefighter and was on scene at the fire.

"Marshal Hilsinger had just taken the nozzle and stepped in a pool of water when a wire fell to the ground electrifying the pool of water he was standing in," Montgomery said.

Efforts to revive Hilsinger using a pullmotor, an early



REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN FIREFIGHTER – Town officials accept plaque honoring fallen firefighter and town marshal John Hilsinger, who died by electrocution fighting a fire here in 1945. Front row: Sgt. Beau Montgomery, Mayor Ramon Hayes, Councilmembers Annie Taylor and Mary Wohleb. Rear: Councilmembers Ivan Carlson, Rick Dole and Fire Chief Aaron Reinstra.

Photo by Bill Reynolds

resuscitation device, were unsuccessful, the Puget Sound Mail reported.

Hilsinger, an employee at the La Conner Cooperative Fish

Company, left behind a wife, daughter, mother, three brothers and two sisters.

The Puget Sound Mail reported that Hilsinger was killed

instantly when he and three other firefighters stepped into the pool of water. The other men were knocked down by the impact of the electric shock.

Don Maloy, then the fire chief, provided the details of the tragedy to the Puget Sound Mail.

"It was first believed that water from the hose had connected with an electric current in some manner," the story read, "causing the hose nozzle to become electrified."

"The fire occurred," the article continued, "when a blaze from the boiler kicked back out into the sawdust. Damage was estimated at about \$5,000, with the complete loss of the mill proper. The dry kiln and shingles were saved."

After accepting the plaque commemorating Hilsinger's service and sacrifice, the council approved a resolution honoring first responders in Skagit County and formally recognizing Oct. 28 as "First Responders Day."

The resolution cites the commitment to public health and safety provided by first responders, including in that group firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians, dispatchers and paramedics.

"First responders deserve recognition today and every day," the resolution states. "They put their lives on the line and sacrifice for the greater good. They commit themselves, heart and soul, to protecting others."

Check trees for invasive insects and diseases

Officials from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Washington State Department of Agriculture and the Washington Invasive Species Council are asking the public to check their trees, water features and other outdoor fixtures this month for invasive pests as part of National Tree Check Month.

August is the ideal time for residents to make a habit of checking for harmful bugs and diseases on their properties and in public spaces, because it is often when the visible impacts of those pests become most obvious.

"We have a forest health crisis in Washington and we know that outbreaks of invasive insects and diseases are one of the leading threats to the long-term health of our forests," said Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz. "Our all lands, all hands approach to forest health means we need everyone pitching in to help protect our forested lands from invasive pests."

Taking a few minutes out of one's day to inspect a backyard or park can help local and state officials limit the tree mortality inflicted across Washington by invasive insects and new diseases. "If you already exercise out-

doors, walk your dog, or take your kids out to play, try adding a quick check of nearby trees for potential pests," said DNR Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager Ben Thompson. "With kids, you can even turn it into a game. Challenge them to see how many different insects they can find. Kids are great observers; insects also fascinate many children. The reporting app makes it easy to help them file a report."

People who suspect they have found an invasive insect or disease should submit a report and detailed photographs to the WISC mobile app or web portal. Scientists review submissions and can help connect those with confirmed pests to resources that can help address the infestation.

Private owners of non-industrial forests in Washington may be eligible for financial assistance administered by DNR for fuels reduction and other forms of forest management.

Keep an especially keen eye out for the following five invasive pests:

• Asian Longhorned Beetle:

This wood-boring beetle attacks many hardwood trees, including maples, birches and willows. It feeds inside trees during its larval

stage and then chews its way out as an adult. There has not been a confirmed sighting in Washington.

• Asian Spongy Moth: Formerly known as the Asian gypsy moth, these insects lay dark brown egg masses on everything from tree trunks to lawn furniture. Many tree species play host to this insect, which can completely defoliate trees during its larval stage.

• Emerald Ash Borer: This small, green, wood-boring beetle is one of the most destructive forest pests in the United States. It attacks and kills true ash trees with alarming efficiency. Adults emerge from infested trees by creating distinctive D-shaped exit holes.

• Sooty Bark Disease: A fungus named for the distinctive sooty fungal structures that grow where bark has flaked off infected trees, this disease also causes branch dieback and leaf wilting. Host trees include bigleaf maple, red maple, sycamore maple and horse chestnut.

• Spotted Lanternfly: When not flying, this insect sports black spots on pinkish wings. It feeds on sap from many tree species, including those that grow fruits such as apples, cherries, grapes and plums. It also feeds on hops.

Source: Washington DNR

La Conner Rotary auction next week

The La Conner Rotary auction themed "Imagine" is Aug. 27 in Maple Hall. Tickets are \$100 per person. Besides the social hour and dinner, the evening's highlights are the silent and live auctions to meet the evening's fundraising goals. The live auction has all kinds of lunches, dinner parties, events and trips away. Get your tickets and make an additional donation at harvestinghopeauction.com or call Audrey Gravelly, 360-466-7403.

Source: Rotary Club of La Conner

Join the Shelter Bay Chorus and sing

Love to sing? The Shelter Bay Chorus is looking for new members. All voices needed. No audition required, just the desire to sing for fun and entertainment. Performances are at the Anacortes Senior Center and Shelter Bay twice a year. Rehearsals are Thursdays from 4:30-6:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 15. Come listen or give it a try! For more information, call Joan 360-941-7507.

Source: Shelter Bay Chorus

Home Loans Made Simple

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

Peoples Bank

Skagit County transfer station temporarily closed

The Skagit County Transfer Station, 14104 Ovenell Road, is closed to self-haulers garbage drop-off until further notice. The station is managing temporary capacity issues for waste storage.

"A piece of essential equipment used by our contractor, Republic, to load containers onto rail cars failed earlier this week. This compounded the issue of garbage already stockpiled at the transfer station," said Margo Gillaspay, Skagit County Solid Waste Division manager Friday.

Commercial haulers are able to bring in waste said Mike See, assistant director of Public Works.

The transfer station is open to

recycling, appliances and household hazardous waste drop-off. Hours are Monday-Sunday, 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. household hazardous waste facility hours are Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Clear Lake compactor site and the Sauk transfer site are open. They only accept household garbage.

Information: skagitcounty.net.
Source: Skagit County

ARNE SVENDSEN TRUCKING

**Rockery Rock • Rip Rap
Dump Trucking
Crush Rock • Grading • Pit Run**

360-424-0258

ARNEST1044BW

Port of Skagit

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

And so much more.....

Good Jobs for the Skagit Valley

www.portofskagit.com | 360-757-0011

Edward Jones®

Worried you'll outlive your retirement savings?

Scott A Price
Financial Advisor
708 E Morris St Ste C
La Conner, WA 98257
360-466-2933

MKT-5894M-A

> edwardjones.com

Let Sadie Girl Warm your Heart and Lap!

Are you ready to be her new forever home?

8 year old, female

Litter box trained & spayed

Sadie loves lap time!

APPLY TODAY AT

www.skagithumane.org

360-757-0445 | info@skagithumane.org
18841 Kelleher Road, Burlington, WA 98233

Shelter is currently doing curbside at the window business due to covid

KERN

FUNERAL HOME

RECEPTION ROOM
MOUNT VERNON CEMETERY
MOUNT VERNON CREMATORY
MOUNT VERNON

360-336-2153

"Since 1913"

Large turnout for Swinomish March Against Addiction



THIS HAS TO STOP – Tribal members from all over the state came together at Swinomish for the annual March Against Addiction. Those with family members that died from substance abuse held framed photos while they marched through the streets.

– Photo by Marissa Conklin

By Bill Reynolds

If it takes one step at a time to end the misery of drug and alcohol addiction, the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community is clearly on the right path in gaining support for that mission.

The tribe's annual March Against Addiction on Aug. 10 drew participants from other reservations who donned green Didgwalic Wellness Center t-shirts as they strode shoulder-to-shoulder with local residents

across Swinomish streets and through its neighborhoods calling for a stop to drug and alcohol abuse.

The event's theme, "This Has to Stop," was clearly stated both on the Didgwalic shirts and by a series of speakers who sought to inspire the marchers

"This is very important to us," main spokesman Eugene "Huge" Edwards, of Swinomish, told the large circle of marchers at John K. Bob Ball Park prior to hitting the streets.

"This has to stop," Edwards stressed. "We've lost a lot of young ones. People need to know that we have to get these drugs off our streets and these drug dealers out of our community."

For Edwards, the campaign is personal. He lost his son, Tyler, to an overdose in 2018.

"I look forward to this day every year," said Edwards. "It's when you see how many people are here to band together and help."

Families mourning the passing

of loved ones were invited to display photos of the deceased on the march.

"We thank the families for sharing these pictures with the people," Edwards said.

Numerous Swinomish tribal senators, including Chairman Steve Edwards, spoke and marched.

"You know how important this is to our community," Edwards said. "We have to stand together and fight this fight together. We have to remind everyone that there's a purpose for their lives. They're here for a reason. They are loved."

Edwards lauded the number of small children in attendance.

"These children," he said, "are the ones for whom we want to break the cycle."

The chairman said the march is important to show a widespread commitment to end addiction.

"We can't let it go unnoticed," he said. "This message has to be out there."

Senate elder Barb James agreed that the message must be wrapped in love.

"I'm thankful for the support each and everyone here has given today," she said. "It's very heartfelt. To each of you, I offer a hug. We hurt together, joined in this circle. We must also heal these wounds together that many of us feel."

"Let's live with faith," James implored. "Let's live with hope. Let's live with care and

compassion."

Care and compassion marked the message offered by Swinomish Senate Vice-Chair J.J. Wilbur, who like Huge Edwards, had a personal story to share.

"I miss my sister, Jennifer, today as much as when she left us," Wilbur said. "I want to thank Huge for starting this. Huge is bringing forward this important awareness."

Senator Aurelia Bailey, Swinomish cultural events director, said she is often the first person contacted by law enforcement when a tribal member is lost to addiction. It is always a painful conversation.

She said the march is intended to literally set in motion a holistic approach to end the scourge of drug and alcohol abuse.

"We're not here to condemn anyone," she said. "We're here to pray for them."

"If we don't get this word out," she insisted, "we'll face the same losses we've faced through the years."

Beverly Keyes, CEO of Didgwalic, the tribe's out-patient treatment center on March Point Road – where non-natives also receive services – praised her staff's devotion to the cause in helping close the program's speaking portion. "Our goal," Keyes said, "is to work ourselves out of a job."

It was then left to James to get the march off on the right foot.

"Each and every step," she reminded marchers, "is so important."

La Conner's westside channel bird family

OUR LOCAL SEAHAWKS (aka ospreys) return annually to nest on this pole on the westside of the Swinomish Channel near the Swinomish offices and raise their young. Once endangered due to the impact of pesticides, ospreys are a comeback success story and have rebounded enough since their population plummeted in the '70s to now be a bird of low concern for conservation. Their nests are usually found near shallow water with abundant fish as they eat fish almost exclusively. In addition to the ospreys on the Swinomish Channel, there are nests visible in Anacortes, Wiley Slough and on the Samish flats. These migratory birds will be heading south in the fall, so get a look now or you will have to wait until they return next spring.

– Text courtesy of Nancy Crowell





Wholesome bread, cookies and more made from locally sourced ingredients.

Can also be found at:
 Valley Made Market
 Skagit Valley Farmers Market
 Island Hospital Farmstand
 Waxwing Farmstand
 Viva Farms CSA
 Dear Table Farm CSA
 Gordon Skagit Farms
 Beaver Tales Coffee

Please check website for details.
www.watertankbakery.com

360.757.2253

Previously found at Gilkey Square, now located at:
 11777 Water Tank Road, Unit C
 Burlington, WA 98233



PAC NOR WESTY
 APPAREL | HOME GOODS | GIFTS

REPRESENTING OUR
PACIFIC NORTHWEST LIFE



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

Moving?

Email your address change to info@laconnernews.com



ONLINE GO TO:
www.laconnerweeklynews.com

NELL THORN
 WATERFRONT BISTRO & BAR

WE ARE NOW OPEN ON MONDAYS!

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

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

DINNER 7 NIGHTS A WEEK
 4:00 PM TO CLOSE

360 466 4261





THE REX BAR & GRILL

Featuring gourmet sandwiches, local beer and homemade treats!

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

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

SWINOMISH SHELLFISH COMPANY

FRESH, LIVE LOCALLY GROWN OYSTERS

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

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

www.swinomishshellfishcompany.com



WATERFRONT DECK SEATING Kitchen OPEN Sun. thru Thurs., until 9 PM / Fri. & Sat. until 10 PM

INDOOR AIR CONDITIONING

EST. 1972 - Family Operated Customer preferred Fish and Chips and Chowder



La Conner Pub



& EATERY, Inc.



SWEET SUMMER SAVINGS
 New Fresh Deals Every Week

Open Daily to Everyone! • Downtown Mount Vernon • skagitfoodcoop.com

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



LOOKS SUPER TO ME – The full Sturgeon Moon setting Friday morning behind the Rainbow Bridge, looking down the Swinomish Channel, about 5:30 a.m. Aug. 11. Not at all early for our intrepid photographer. – Photo by Sarah Walls

Tom and Judy Zimmerman celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary

By Bill Reynolds

A lot has changed in 50 years. But some of the best things in life have not.

Tom and Judy Zimmerman celebrated their 50th anniversary on Aug. 13 during an open house hosted by their daughter and son-in-law Kelsey and Lance Stevens.

The Zimmermans have been community leaders in La Conner over the past five decades – he as a fire chief and Dunlap Towing skipper and she as a council member and La Conner Elementary School teacher.

Those attending the festivities were treated to good food and good memories in equal measure.

Many of those memories were shared by the Zimmermans' four children, with Kelsey Stevens doing so poetically.

"When something special is going on," she explained, "I

write a poem."

Her verses brought both laughter and tears as she alluded to the time-honored values her parents have modeled.

"They've taught us all the right things in life," she said, "and none of them were things."

Chad Zimmerman, oldest of the siblings, praised their parents for having a generous spirit and choosing to focus on others rather than themselves.

"This is a great milestone in their journey," Chad said, "and there's so much ahead."

Chad's brother, Tyler, said he felt "glad to give something back" to their parents for all their many sacrifices.

"I remember when I was in high school and all my friends would come over to the house and graze through the food, sometimes breaking the furniture," he said, partly in jest.

"They're celebrities in La Conner," Tyler said, "with all

they've done with the town council and at the fire hall."

Molly Warlaumont echoed her brothers' and sister's sentiments, noting how their parents' skills and talents have complemented one another to the family's benefit.

"Their relationship is like a well-oiled machine," she said. "Each has their own role, and they make it work."

The result, Judy Zimmerman said, has been a blessed life ever since she and Tom met while students at La Conner High School. In addition to their four children, they now have 11 grandchildren, she said.

"There are so many blessings in our lives," she said.

Tom Zimmerman seconded that.

"I knew when I was 16," said Tom, now 70, "that she was the one. And she's still the one."

Boat

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

"Diesel is going to evaporate. Having a warm day helps with that," Giles said Sunday. "But it's still coming out of the vessel as far as we know."

San Juan residents reported pungent diesel fumes at various locations on the island's west side, including Lime Kiln Point State Park, on Saturday and Sunday.

"I had gone to Lime Kiln and wasn't there but a few minutes when I realized I was smelling the fumes, and then my eyes began to sting," resident Jeanne Hyde said by email on Sunday.

Giles said orcas would not know to avoid a diesel sheen. "They don't have a sense of

smell like other mammals do," she said.

She said toxic substances in the diesel sheen could reach deep into orcas' lungs and flesh when they surface to take deep breaths between dives.

Orcas, of course, are not the only sea life that can be affected by toxic pollution.

Noviello said the fish and wildlife department has not received any reports of birds behaving strangely.

A unified command of federal, local, and tribal agencies said Sunday night they planned to begin dive operations Monday

morning to plug the sunken boat's vents and begin pumping out fuel that remains.

Veirs said underwater audio of the Aleutian Isle sinking includes lots of motor noises, but no implosions. He said that suggests the boat's fuel tanks survived their descent to the pressured depths without rupturing – a promising sign for efforts to keep the boat's remaining pollutants out of the Salish Sea.

First published Aug. 14, 2022. kuow.org/stories/incredibly-lucky-endangered-orcas-dodge-diesel-spill-off-san-juan-island.

Book review —

Live in 'Moment' during the years of memory loss

By Terri Schlichenmeyer
The Bookworm

Dad used to pride himself on being handy.

He could make anything, imagine anything, fix anything. He was handy, from tools to toys and kitchens to kids. But last week, Dad got lost on his way home from the grocery store, a trip he's made once a week for thirty years and it scared you both. You might imagine what is coming; be better prepared for it by finding and reading "Living in the Moment" by Elizabeth Landsverk, MD with Heather Millar.

So you noticed some memory or cognitive issues and Dad is not himself lately. How do you know if this new behavior is eccentricity or early dementia? Is this a normal sign of aging, or is it outside of normal? What kind of dementia might he suffer from and to what degree? You will want to get an official diagnosis, so you know what to do in the future and why.

The first thing to know about what Dad is going through is that dementia doesn't mean "It's all over." There's still plenty of life ahead for you both, perhaps for many years to come.

Next, remember that your loved one is not "trying to be difficult." Their wild out-of-the-ordinary behavior can't be helped and the disease is "so uncertain, so uneven." There are many possible ways to deal with forgetfulness, frustration, anger and acting out and there are things to avoid. Says Landsverk, solutions can sometimes be pleasant, even delightful.

Because Alzheimer's and dementia cannot be cured, have

a plan in place for your loved one's care but review it often. Things will change as time and the disease progresses, so be willing to look at "the bigger picture." That includes thinking about end-of-life issues, power of attorney papers and legal and financial protections for the long-term.

Watch for scams; there are too many people who prey on our vulnerable seniors. Encourage physical activity, a good diet and as much autonomy as currently possible. Learn how to craft a work-around for the easier-to-deal-with issues. And remember that "it takes a village to care for an elder with dementia" and "you are not alone."

The sand is not your friend. It's certainly not where you want stick your head when a loved one shows signs of dementia, because that life is not a beach. No, it is manageable and "Living in the Moment" can help.

Though it's perhaps not as thorough or comprehensible as you may want later, Landsverk (with Millar) says in her introduction that she wanted this book to be easy to use. She succeeded, with a broad overview of the basics, things to know now, medicines that will and will not work, problems to watch out for and what to ready yourself for in the future. The case studies inside this book are strong and are scary enough to spur quick action and they're balanced with quiet paragraphs of comfort.

This book is great for caregivers, but it's also an essential read for anyone who's any way related to a dementia patient. Find "Living in the Moment" and keep it handy.

Street fair on Saturday

The La Conner Street Fair will be held Saturday, Aug. 20, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. in the Crescent Moon parking lot. Planter boxes made from the La Conner Swinomish Library's engineered cedar siding are for sale, another library fundraiser. There are only a limited number of boxes, so come early to choose your favorite color. This event is sponsored by La Conner United and La Conner Kiwanis.

Source: La Conner Kiwanis

La Conner Street Fair



Saturday, August 20
11 a.m to 4 p.m.

Crescent Moon parking lot
606 Morris Street, La Conner

Sponsored by:

La Conner United & La Conner Kiwanis

The 2022 Rotary Club of La Conner

IMAGINE
Harvesting Hope

Annual Auction & Dinner
Supporting
Literacy & Education

Saturday, August 27, 2022
5:30 PM to 9 PM
Maple Hall ♦ 104 Commercial, La Conner

For La Conner Students ♦ For Local Families
♦ For Local Communities ♦ For Projects Abroad

Platinum \$1,000

La Conner Dental
La Conner Seafood & Prime Rib
Port of Skagit
Sierra Pacific Foundation
Skagit Crest Vineyard & Winery
Skagit Tradition Realty

Gold \$500

Guardian Northwest
Jerry Smith Chevrolet
Swinomish Casino & Lodge
Tillinghast Postal and Business Center

Silver \$250

Blade Chevrolet
Christianson's Nursery & Greenhouse
La Conner Weekly
Lisser & Associates, PLLC
Pioneer Market
Skagit Publishing

Purchase Tickets Now!

Rotary Club of La Conner

Annual Harvesting Hope Auction
www.Harvestinghopeauction.com

Open daily 10 to 6
Fruits, vegetables, local cheeses, eggs, Breadfarm bread, local flour.
12052 Chilberg - at the roundabout
Hedlin Farms veggies all in a row.

FAMILY FARM
Grown while you watch by people you know.

Skagit Valley Farmers Market

Sundays 10-2
May 29th - October 2nd

The Vinery

at
Christianson's Nursery

15806 Best Road, Mount Vernon, WA
ChristiansonsNursery.com

Save Time, Save Money
Save the Environment
with digital invoicing

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

LINCOLN THEATRE

► August 19-22 Film: **Nope**
FRI, SAT, MON 7:30 PM / SUN 5:30 PM

► August 26-29 Film: **Marcel the Shell With Shoes On**
FRI, SAT, MON 7:30 PM / SUN 5:30 PM

► September 2 Film: **14000 Miles**
ONE SHOW ONLY! FRI 7:30

WASHINGTON STATE
POET LAUREATE
Rena Priest

POETRY READING &
GENERATIVE WORKSHOP
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3
7:30 PM - FREE EVENT

TICKETS ON SALE NOW:
David & Ken - September 9
Dudestock - September 17
Iona Fyfe - September 23

712 S. 1st St - Mount Vernon
360.336.8955
lincolntheatre.org

Swinomish . . . (from page 1)

The four-day gathering, Aug. 11-14, which drew participants and visitors from throughout the Pacific Northwest, kicked off Thursday with dinner, music and dancing at the tribal smokehouse.

Starting Friday, there were canoe races, three-on-three outdoor basketball, stick games, arts and crafts booths and selection of tribal youth royalty.

One missing ingredient was the traditional powwow. Given uncertainty earlier this year over what the status of COVID-19 would be this summer, it wasn't possible to line up head dancers and a host drum in time.

On Saturday, spectators on both sides of Swinomish Channel enjoyed canoe races. During the 10-and-under division race, a team tipped its canoe after rounding the south buoy in front of the Swinomish dock. A harbor patrol on duty, comprised of two boats and a jet-ski, was able to quickly pull all paddlers out of the water.

Jerome Toby and Alethia Edwards coordinated the double-elimination basketball brackets, which provided competition for players 12-and-under, 15-and-under, 18-and-under and 19-and-older.

The stick games, played under the large white tents at John K. Bob Ball Park, continued through Sunday evening, the accompanying drumming and singing clearly audible on the town side of the channel.

Always popular, stick games have a long history and involve strategic guessing. The object is for one team to successfully hide sticks, often called bones, from the guessers of another team. The team holding sticks will sing, drum and shake rattles to distract and confuse their rivals, causing them to lose sticks with wrong guesses.

Luckily, as far as the big picture is concerned, perfect weather and declining COVID-19 numbers took the guess work out of whether Swinomish Days would be held as scheduled this year.

District 10

(from page 1)

Gilday took 57.6% and Lesetmoe 56% of Snohomish County votes. The county is almost 30% of the district's population.

All county races were between two candidates or had officeholders unopposed. Incumbents were winning handily in every contest, save for Janecki's seat. Auditor Sandy Perkins' lead has dropped to 56.8% of the vote, ahead by some 4,950 votes against challenger

Eric Hull. Sheriff Don McDermott will win with 67.4% of the vote.

Skagit County voter turnout was 44%, fourth highest in the region that includes Congressional District 2 and state legislative district 10 counties. Highest voter turnout was in Island County at 51.6%; San Juan County voters turned out at 49.6; Whatcom County had 48.05% turnout, while Snohomish County, voter turnout was 37.3%.

The secretary of state's office certifies all elections Aug. 19.

Public Notice for Lodging Tax Funding

The Town of La Conner is accepting requests for Hotel/Motel tax distributions for budget year 2023. The 2023 Lodging Tax Fund Request for Proposal may be found on the Town website under the Finance Department at www.townoflaconner.org. All requests must be received (no postmarks) at La Conner Town Hall, 204 Douglas, PO Box 400, La Conner, WA 98257 by 3:30 p.m. on September 8, 2022. Please address any questions to Maria DeGoede, Finance Director, at financedirector@townoflaconner.org or call 360.466-3125. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Published in the La Conner Weekly News August 17, 24, 2022.

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

In Re the Adoption of: SYMON KEITH MILAN MARTIN, A Minor (DOB: 7/12/2006) NO. 22-5-00031-29 SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF PETITION FOR TERMINATION OF PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP AND NOTICE OF HEARING TO: Unknown/Non-consenting Father/Alleged/Presume Father

AND TO: Any person claiming a parental interest in the above-named child

1. You have been named as the father or possible father of the above-named child. A Petition for Termination of Parent-Child Relationship has been filed in the Court named above. The Petitioner is asking the court for an order which would permanently terminate the parent-child relationship between you and the child. He also asks the court to grant him a Decree of Adoption, declaring the Petitioner to be the legal guardian of the child.

2. CHILD. The child was born on February 12, 2006, in the city of Calapan City, Country of Philippines. The name of the child's birth mother is Estinnely Bautista Milan Martin.

3. IN ORDER TO DEFEND against this petition if you oppose it, you must respond to the Petition by stating your defense in writing and by serving a copy of the Response upon the Attorney for Petitioner at the address shown below. The written response must be filed with the Court and a copy served upon Petitioner's attorney within thirty (30) days after August 10, 2022, the date of first publication of this summons and notice. If you do not file and serve a response, an order which permanently terminates your parent-child relationship with the child will be entered by the court by default. A default order is one in which the Court grants the Petitioner the relief he or she requested, because you have not responded. If you file a notice of appearance with the above-named Superior Court and serve a copy to the Petitioner's attorney within thirty (30) days after the date of first publication of his summons and notice, you will be entitled to notice before the default order can be entered.

4. HOW TO SERVE YOUR RESPONSE. One way you may serve your response by

is to send it by certified mail, return receipt requested to the Clerk of the Court, with a copy sent by certified mail (return receipt requested) to Petitioner's attorney. If you send it by mail, service shall be deemed complete on the third day following the day upon which the response is placed in the mail, unless the third day falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. In that event, service shall be deemed complete on the first court day following the Saturday, Sunday and/or legal holiday.

5. STATEMENT OF RIGHTS. You have the right to be represented by an attorney. If you are indigent and request an attorney, an attorney will be appointed for you. You have a right to file a claim of parentage (paternity) under Chapter 26.26 of the Revised Code of Washington. Your failure to file a claim of paternity under RCW 26.26 or to respond to the petition for termination of parent-child relationship filed in this proceeding within thirty (30) days of the first publication of this Summons and Notice is grounds to terminate your parent-child relationship with respect to the child.

6. INDIAN CHILD WELFARE ACT. If the child is an Indian child, as defined by the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978, 25 U.S. Code Section 1901 et. seq., and if you acknowledge paternity of the child or your paternity is established prior to the termination of the parent-child relationship, your parent rights may not be terminated unless you give valid consent to termination, or your parent-child relationship is terminated involuntarily by the court pursuant to RCW 26.33 or RCW 13.34.

7. DATE AND TIME OF HEARING. The court hearing on the Petition for Termination of the Parent-Child Relationship shall be on Friday, September 9, 2022, at 9 am at the Skagit County Courthouse, 205 W. Kincaid, Mt. Vernon, Washington 98273. YOUR FAILURE TO APPEAR AT THIS HEARING MAY RESULT IN A DEFAULT ORDER WHICH PERMANENTLY TERMINATES ALL OF YOUR RIGHTS TO THE ABOVE-NAMED CHILD.

Dated: July 27, 2022. JELSING TRI WEST & ANDRUS PLLC

FILE RESPONSE WITH Clerk of the Superior Court Skagit County Superior Court, 205 W. Kincaid Street, Mt. Vernon, WA 98273

SERVE A COPY OF YOUR RESPONSE TO: Peter J. Andrus Attorney at Law 2926 Colby Avenue Everett, WA 98201

Published in the La Conner Weekly News August 10, 17, 24, 2022.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS SUPERIOR COURT of Washington for Snohomish County

Estate of Gregory Frank Leonard, Deceased. Cause No. 22-4-01499-31. Probate Notice to Creditors (RCW 11.40.030).

Please take notice that the above Court has appointed the Administrator named below as the Administrator of the Decedent's estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in

RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Administrator or the Administrator's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the Court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of (1) Thirty days after the Administrator served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets.

DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION: August 10, 2022.

Administrator: Dustin Leonard.

Attorney for Administrator: Dubs A. T. Herschlip, WSBA# 31652

Address for mailing or service:

DATH PLLC 627-5th Street, Suite 203 Mukilteo, WA 98275 (425) 903-3505

Published in the La Conner Weekly News August 10, 17, 24, 2022.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SKAGIT In the Matter of the Estate of: HARLEY GUSTAVE WALDEN, Deceased. PROBATE NO. 22-400356-29 NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The personal representative named below has been appointed as personal representative of the estate of Harley Gustave Walden. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the personal representative 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 (08/13/2022). If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets. Date of first publication: August 13, 2022. Personal Representative Mechel A. Bell, 3339 Butler Creek Road, Sedro Woolley WA. 98284

Published in the La Conner Weekly News August 17, 24, 31, 2022.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR SKAGIT COUNTY In re the Estate of: CAROLE WENTZ, Deceased. Cause No. 21-4-00608-29 NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.40.030

The Administrator named below has been appointed and has qualified as Administrator

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

Date of First Publication: August 4, 2022

Name of Administrator: IRIS KINGSTON of SENIOR SUPPORT SERVICES, INC.

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

Todd L. Sliva, WSBA #54298

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

Published in the La Conner Weekly News August 3, 10, 17, 2022.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY WILDERNESS VILLAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, a Washington nonprofit corporation, Plaintiff vs. CHARLES R. STAHL, or his heirs and devisees if deceased, Defendant. No. 22-2-00492-29 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

THE STATE OF WASHINGTON TO: CHARLES R. STAHL, OR HIS HEIRS AND DEVISEES IF DECEASED, Defendants: You are hereby summoned to appear within sixty days after the date of the first publication of this summons, to wit, within sixty days after the 27th day of July, 2022, and defend the above entitled action in the above entitled court, and answer the complaint of the plaintiffs, and serve a copy of your answer upon the undersigned attorney for plaintiffs at his office below stated; and in case of your failure so to do, judgment will be rendered against you according to the demand of the complaint, which has been filed with the clerk of said court.

The object of this action is to foreclose liens for unpaid community assessments against certain real property, located in Skagit County, Washington, and described as follows: Lot 1, "WILDERNESS VILLAGE DIV. 1", as per the plat recorded in Volume 10 of Plats, pages 48-50 inclusive, records of Skagit County, Washington. CRAIG SJOSTROM #21149 Attorney for Plaintiff 1204 Cleveland Ave. Mount Vernon, WA 98273 (360) 848-0339

Published in the La Conner Weekly News July 27, August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 2022.

AGENDA

TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA August 23, 2022

104 Commercial Street, Upper Maple Center And by 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 August 9, 2022

Finance: Approval of Accounts Payable Approval of Payroll VI. Reports

- 1. Administrator's Report
- 2. Mayor's Report
- 3. Council Committee Reports

VII. Unfinished Business: VIII. New Business IX. Mayor's Roundtable X. Executive Session

There may be an executive session immediately preceding or following the meeting as allowed by RCW 42.30.110 and as announced by the presiding officer.

Meeting ID: 825 7045 3312 Passcode: 5Q5kDd

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF CORPORATION

AHMR, Inc., a Washington corporation, has filed its Articles of Dissolution which was effective on August 8, 2022. Any persons or entities believing they have a claim against AHMR, Inc. shall present them to the corporate officers in care of Skagit Law Group, PLLC at 227 Freeway Drive, Suite B, Mount Vernon, WA 98273. Any claims must indicate the claimant, date the claim was incurred, the amount of the claim, and the reason for the claim. Any claims not filed may be barred in accordance with the provisions of Title 23B RCW. Claims must be filed within one hundred twenty (120) days of the first publication of this Notice. This notice is published pursuant to RCW 23B.14.030. Date of first publication August 10, 2022.

Published in the La Conner Weekly News August 10, 17, 24, 2022.

LEGAL NOTICES

Super Crossword

Answers

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

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Moving?

Email your address change to info@laconnernews.com

AT YOUR SERVICE DIRECTORY

JP Automotive
336-3496
7384 Memorial Hwy Mount Vernon, WA 98273

LA CONNER MARINA
Permanent & Guest Moorage
Dry Boat Storage • Launching Facilities
Public Laundry • RV Park
Office: 613 N. 2nd St. • 360-466-3118

FELICIA VALUE ATTORNEY AT LAW
PRACTICING EMPHASIZING WILLS, TRUSTS & PROBATE
360-466-2088
413 B MORRIS ST. • LA CONNER

\$175 Place Your Ad Here!
New service ad package coming soon!

POLICE BLOTTER

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sunday, August 7

11:31 a.m.: Shirtless wanderer – Report of an approximately 20-year-old shirtless male walking through a backyard and then a neighbor's backyard. The male then walked eastbound on McLean Road. The area was checked by a deputy, but the male was not located. McLean Rd., Greater La Conner.

9:59 p.m.: Vehicle prowler – A Predator suitcase style generator was taken out of the back of a pickup truck in the parking lot. Currently there is no suspect information. Maple Ave., La Conner.

Tuesday, August 9

3:26 p.m.: Hitching a ride – A male subject was attempting to walk home but was having difficulty getting there. He was given a ride to his house. Pearle Jensen Way, La Conner.

5:44 p.m.: Stuck behind gate – Report of a vehicle stuck behind a locked gate at the Pioneer Point Marina. Swinomish Police were able to open the gate and let the driver out. Conner Way, La Conner.

Friday, August 12

10:18 a.m.: Attempted boat motor theft – A suspect attempted to take an outboard motor off a boat. The owner found the outboard halfway off the boat and the engine cover open. The boat appeared to have been gone through by the suspect. Currently a suspect has not been identified. Maple Ave., La Conner.

11:33 a.m.: Lost blue purse – A blue purse was reported lost the day before. It has not been turned in. Douglas St., La Conner.

2:50 p.m.: Vehicle accident – Two vehicle collision at this intersection. Maple Ave/Morris St., La Conner.

10:13 p.m.: Late night howlers – Report of strange noises heard in the area similar to people howling and guitar noises. The location of where the noises came from was not located. 5th St., La Conner.

Saturday, August 13

2:47 p.m.: Lost keys – Keys on a square mermaid key chain were lost. They have not been recovered. 5th St., La Conner.



BACK IN ACTION – The Skagit County Fair had a big turnout this year. Bright lights from the Ferris wheel illuminated the long lines of people waiting to buy tickets and cotton candy Saturday, Aug. 13.

– Photo by Marissa Conklin

La Conner residents win ribbons at county fair

By Anne Basye

After a vigorous week at the Skagit County fair, two leaders with La Conner roots are taking it easy.

As 4H dairy supervisor for the whole fair, Chelsy Mesman of Mesman Farms helped 18 young people between the ages of nine and 18 prepare and show their cows.

"It's a lot of responsibility and a lot of kids," she said.

Valley Green Acres 4H Horse Club supervisor Lauren Hedlin of Hedlin Family Farms worked with 10 young riders who performed in the arena.

All county 4H clubs arrived two days early to set up their barns and bring their washed and groomed animals in. The day before the fair, veterinarians made sure each animal's vaccines were up to date and that none were carrying easily transmittable diseases like ringworm or pink eye. Animals that did not pass the vet check were sent home.

This year, concerns about avian flu were so high that chickens did not even get checked. All of them were told to stay home.

Once the fair opened last Wednesday, Mesman supervised dairy demonstrations and competitions and Hedlin and her fellow leaders "put on a great big horse show," she said.

Young riders competed in obstacle races and to demonstrate their skills and posture in different kinds of saddles. In costume contests, 4H-ers dressed up their horses as dragons and beachgoers or sprinkled them with glitter.

Over in the dairy barn, you could see one cow dressed as a fly and swatter and another dressed as a

Snapchat filter (whatever that is!).

Behind the scenes, volunteers covered the hundreds of tasks needed to make the horse show run, said Hedlin, a Valley Green Acres 4H member when she was growing up in La Conner. In the arena, some parents "tack checked" to make sure reins were safe and helmets secure. Others set up and took down events or raked the arena between events to make sure it was level and safe for the next set of riders.

Few helpers were needed in the dairy barn, but La Conner High School teacher Peter Voorhees volunteered to judge the dairy food demonstrations, in which 4Hers make ice cream, a smoothie, or a similar item using a dairy product. Professional paid judges evaluated the cows. A cow starts with 100 points – what "the ideal cow" would win, says Mesman – and points are subtracted as the various parts of the cow are judged.

"It all adds up to a cow that milks well," said Mesman. "Everybody has their own opinion about it, which makes the show fun and different every time."

For the kids, it's all about the prizes and about qualifying for the State Fair in September. Riding her horse Kiwi, Valley Green Acres 4H member and recent La Conner High School graduate Mia Carlton racked up a number of awards for her equestrian skills and earned a spot on state teams in three different divisions. No 4H dairy participant came from La Conner.

A Wisconsin native and 4Her until she aged out, Mesman met her husband Ben Mesman at the National 4H Dairy Conference in Madison, Wisconsin about 12 years ago. Soon she'll be

supervising their son John, a first grader at La Conner Elementary, when he begins showing cows in 3rd grade.

Now that all the sawdust has been swept out of the show barns, Hedlin and Mesman can relax until January, when they will start finding judges, awards and donations and urging club members to commit to the process of showing an animal.

Other La Conner participants in this year's fair were the Rexville Grange, with a display depicting the Tulip Festival, and Clayton Meyer, whose blue ribbon Best of Class Quad Berry Jam included strawberries, raspberries, blueberries and tayberries.

How did the fair feel? Hedlin says 4H participant numbers are down a bit. Whether that's due to COVID-19 or the changing nature of the county is hard to tell.

Once there were so many riders that Valley Green Acres kids split into two fair shifts. One shift showed for the first two days of the fair and then hauled out their horses so that the other half could come in and show. That was not necessary this year.

"Our county is getting less rural over time, and horses are a really big investment these days," she said. "It's more of a commitment that it used to be."

She's still a big fan of 4H animal projects and what they teach young people.

"It's not about cows or horses, it's about learning by doing," she said. "You learn how to be a leader by running a 4H meeting and making presentations, and you learn how to be confident, calm and kind while handling a thousand-pound animal by getting out there and trying it."

MARINA MOORINGS

Port of Skagit

August is prime boating season! There are cars full of boaters coming in to the marina in a steady stream each weekend, and the guest moorage on F and G docks is also very busy. We saw over 300 boat nights in addition to the yacht club vessels which visited last weekend. Our inside dock space has been booked very tightly, but we still have space on the outside. For boaters to enjoy outside moorage, we need everyone to adhere to the no-wake rule through town and past the marina.

As I walked the dock this week, I was struck by just how many of the boats I see in a week are built within our community. This week saw the Blue Peter, a gorgeous 96' gorgeous (yes, I'm saying it twice!) vessel built in 1928 at Lake Union Drydock in Seattle. We also had representative vessels from C-Dory in Bellingham, Nordic Tug at the Port of Skagit, a Meridian, a Ranger Tug, and several Bayliners from Arlington, and a couple of Aspens, with their distinctive different-sized hulls, also made at the Port of Skagit business park up by the airport. We also had several American Tugs, made right here at the Port of Skagit La Conner Marina. It's great to see the boat building tradition in this area still going strong.

On the other hand, we also saw some boats that reflect the international character of the industry. Sharing dock space with a local Aspen and a Bayliner were two Beneteaus, one a power boat and one a sailboat all the way from France, and an Axopar, designed in Finland and built in Poland. It's just another symbol of how the world is all connected around the water.

– Chris Omdal, harbormaster



Instagram
@laconnerweeklynews



Facebook
@laconnerweeklynews

Toss It

Junk removal

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

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

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



Owner, Rudy Cavanaugh
Burlington, WA 98233

facebook.com/Tossit360
www.Tossit360.com

Summer Heather

Hardy blooming plants in a variety of colors

20% Off
and



Water Plants

Water lilies, floating plants, iris and more.

30% Off

Now through August 31st

www.christiansonsnursery.com

15806 Best Road, Mount Vernon • 466-3821

Hours:
9-6 Daily

CHRISTIANSONS
Nursery & Greenhouse

"People's Choice"
Award-Winning
Nursery

Farmstand Fresh!



From Tote to Table, make the most of Skagit flavors this season!

Genuine Skagit Valley has teamed up with farm stores and chefs to offer some virtual kitchen inspiration! Greet the growers and taste the bounty at a participating stand to sign up. Visit genuineskagitvalley.com.



VINTAGE LaCONNER THRIFT SHOP

ART & POTTERY
Décor and More
and
50% OFF
MEN'S WEAR

Our non-profit thrift and consignment store has bargains galore!

Donations accepted each Monday from 1pm to 3pm

www.Facebook.com/VintageLaConner

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