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Grand marshals led a grand parade



WELL CHOSEN GRAND MARSHALS – Not at all impromptu was the choice to honor Barbara and Brad Bradford as grand marshals for last week's Tulip Parade. Brad says the tulip yellow 1949 Jeepster, made by Willys-Overland in Toledo, Ohio, and lent by Vanessa Finch, was the perfect car on a less than perfect Saturday, weatherwise.

– Photo by Bill Reynolds

Kontos Shelter Bay recall vote today

By Ken Stern

Will Judy Kontos be a Shelter Bay Community director tomorrow? Community leasehold members voted through 12:30 p.m. today "whether or not you approve the recall," with "yes" a vote to remove her. Kontos was sanctioned and suspended Feb. 15 based on four code of conduct complaints filed against her in the fall.

A special membership meeting was held April 12, starting at 11 a.m., recessing at 11:45 a.m. and reconvening at 5:30 p.m. The sole agenda item was Kontos recall for "four violations of rules and regulations of the association's code of conduct and rules of order. Kontos and residents were on the agenda to comment.

Voting results were to be announced at 5:30 p.m. The meeting was to then adjourn.

In March residents were mailed a four page packet, yellow ballot, blue secrecy envelope and white mailing envelope with an affidavit to be signed by the member. Failure to follow instructions invalidates mail-in ballots. People voting in person were given a white ballot.

The one page "explanation of ballot issue" stated the board's case that the board acted on seven code of conduct complaints totaling 18 violations between Oct. 26 and Dec. 7. Board President Wendy Poulton appointed an ethics committee, which "held both informal and formal

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Not-So-Impromptu Tulip Parade made day shine

By Bill Reynolds

The 36th annual La Conner Kiwanis Not-So-Impromptu Tulip Festival Parade Saturday did not lay an egg.

That chore was left to the Easter Bunny, who did his usual egg-ceptional job at Pioneer Park a few hours before the downtown serpentine, which many onlookers afterward ranked among the best tulip parades since the late Kiwanian Luke Long first invited his Nile Temple cohorts to march down First Street without a permit in the 1980s.

Parade spectators included some who started in the Park at the La Conner Fire Department's Easter Egg Hunt. They hopped downtown to see an event that featured a little something for everyone.

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office and Skagit Bay Search and Rescue joined an array of emergency vehicles and equipment; several looped the route a second time.

All had the good fortune of being greeted by the firefighters' association's Kelly Silva, who stopped parade traffic to offer choices of free cookies, a La Conner health food Saturday.

"I'll take anything I get," Search



JOINING A LA CONNER TRADITION – Mom Kylee Fortygin holds Sophie while watching dad Kirill baptize daughter Belle at the family's first Pioneer Park Easter coin scramble Saturday.

– Photo by Ken Stern

and Rescue's Gary Ladd, who walked the route, gratefully told Silva. "Are you seriously handing out

cookies?" asked another parade participant with the Ann Washington chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution contingent.

Indeed she was, brightening the day of those who hadn't found enough eggs to fill their Easter baskets.

Brad and Barb Bradford of La Conner were parade grand marshals, honored for eschewing a relaxed retirement to tirelessly champion local civic causes. Barb Bradford has been active in the La Conner chapter of Soroptimist International and both worked in the library thrift shop that raised money for the new La Conner Swinomish Library.

Brad Bradford also donated a vintage truck that was sold to help fund the new facility at Sixth and Morris streets.

Tulip parade attendees also enjoyed seeing 1950s era Chevys, the gleaming white 1941 La Conner fire engine and the always popular Meow Mixmobile – which is in a category unto itself.

The La Conner Civic Garden Club, La Conner Soroptimists and WaFD Bank were each a presence as well.

In keeping with its origin, the Shriners were well represented, which

(continued on page 9)

County sold home prices stay high

By Ken Stern

Fewer homes sold in Skagit County in March, keeping the average median price high, \$556,250 for the 105 homes that closed countywide.

Anacortes remains the most expensive housing market in the county, by far: The 23 homes that closed had an average median price of \$730,000.

Sold home prices in the Burlington and Mount Vernon markets were also high, with \$587,500 the average median price for the 20 homes that closed in the smaller city. The 33 homes that closed in Mount Vernon had an average median price of \$585,000. These three markets kept the weighted average median price up.

By contrast, the three homes that closed in the La Conner school district went for an average median price of \$403,000.

Thirty percent more homes closed countywide in March than in January. The largest supply remains in Anacortes, Burlington and Mount Vernon.

Those trends hold for new and total active listings for March. Here the La Conner market is larger, with 27 total active homes listed in March, four times the seven of 2022 for the same period.

(continued on page 9)

Gov. Jay Inslee orders state to stockpile abortion pill

By Alexandria Osborne, Washington State Journal

Thirty thousand doses of the pregnancy-ending drug mifepristone was purchased by the state under an order by Gov. Jay Inslee.

The abortion-related drug is legal in the state of Washington to end pregnancy up to 10 weeks. The drug was approved for use by the Federal Food and Drug Administration 20 years ago and studies show the drug is safe to use.

But, a federal judge in Texas is presiding over a case that challenges the FDA's approval, and that could impact the ability of women in the state of Washington to have access to the drug, Inslee said.

"We are not sitting idly by while that threat exists," Inslee said. "We recognize in Washington that the price of a woman's freedom of choice is eternal vigilance."

Rep. J.T. Wilcox, R-Yelm, said while people are concerned about a right to an abortion being stripped, the state of Washington is not threatened.

"Abortion in Washington is established via a vote of the people. We don't believe in overturning the will of the people, and we're not making efforts to restrict

access," he said.

Wilcox said even though anti-abortion laws are being put into place, he is not concerned with abortion being restricted in Washington.

Nevertheless, Inslee said he directed the Washington State Department of Corrections to purchase a three-year supply of mifepristone. That amounts to about 30,000 doses, he said. The cost, \$1.3 million, averages \$42.50 per pill.

Inslee said he also asked the University of Washington to purchase a supply of the medication as well, and the university agreed and is now supplied with 10,000 doses, which creates about four years of backup of mifepristone.

If manufacturing of the drug comes to a halt after a court ruling, it will not have an impact on the supply because the decision would be to stop its manufacture, not possession, he said.

"The purchase has been made, the shipment has arrived, it is in our possession and the department is appropriately maintaining that safe supply," he said.

Inslee said the second step of this process is to authorize distribution of the medication to healthcare facilities and providers.

To move the second step forward, Sen.

Karen Keiser, D-Des Moines, filed a bill on April 4 authorizing the Department of Corrections to acquire, sell, deliver, distribute and dispense abortion medication.

The bill, Senate Bill 5768, will be referred to the Ways and Means Committee immediately, Keiser said.

"Abortion rights and reproductive freedom means nothing without access," she said. "If patients don't have access, they might as well not have the legal right."

Rep. Jessica Bateman, D-Olympia, said the Dobbs v. Jackson decision last year changed everything by overturning protections and rights to an abortion at a federal level.

The Supreme Court put the choice to reproductive care in jeopardy across the country, and Washington took action immediately, she said.

There have been multiple bills in the 2023 legislative session that protect individuals seeking abortions and healthcare providers in Washington from legal consequences outside of the state, she said.

"By taking this step today, we will ensure that Washingtonians can continue to access medication for abortion. We know that abortion is healthcare, and we believe that every person has the right to access abortion," she said. "In

Washington, healthcare decisions should be made by a patient and their provider, not by a judge in Texas."

Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson is leading 17 states in a lawsuit against the FDA to expand access to mifepristone.

"Pharmacies have to go through a special certification process in order to dispense it," he said. "It's our view that those restrictions are unlawful and unnecessary."

Ferguson said attacks on reproductive rights will continue, and Washington leaders need to do what they can to ensure people have a full range of reproductive freedom.

"That means adding thousands of this medication, make it accessible, that's important," he said. "If that means filing a lawsuit against the FDA to expand access, that's important, and we'll continue taking these actions to make sure that Washingtonians have the healthcare that they need, that they want and that they deserve."

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From the editor —

The endless war in Ukraine

Peace will come to Ukraine, but how and when? Fourteen months after Russia's invasion and nine years after their occupation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula, the largest European conflict since Hitler's 1939 invasion of Poland is an intractable tragedy destroying two societies. The horrific loss of soldiers on both sides continues. In Ukraine civilians are in danger in war zones and from targeted attacks throughout the country.

Look to AP — Associated Press — or other analyses to learn of the probably over 70,000 Russian-side combat deaths and perhaps 250,000 total casualties—personnel wounded, killed, and missing—during the first year of the war. These casualty estimates include regular Russian soldiers, militia fighters and private contractors from the Wagner Group

Almost certainly, over 10,000 Ukrainian civilians have died and 100,000 of their soldiers.

Over 8 million refugees have fled Ukraine. Another 5.4 million are internally displaced.

Close to 18 million people in Ukraine need humanitarian aid daily.

And the cost of the war? The United States, Europe and institutions have provided or pledged \$150 billion to date.

What is the price of peace? How to end the war?

Both sides are entrenched, not willing to concede territory. A united Ukraine is an impossibility. Russia controlling any of Ukraine is an impossibility. Military victory for either side is also an impossibility. The only certainty of combat and battle plans are death, destruction and a continuing black hole of costs: human treasure, blood draining into the ground, billions of dollars burnt, exploded and up in smoke.

Getting both sides to agree on the truth and reality of this living out the definition of a war of attrition needs to be a top priority of anyone talking to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy or Russian President Vladimir Putin.

North American, European and Asian leaders who have visited Zelenskyy must bond together and speak with a single voice, insisting on peace forged by diplomacy and not won by combat.

The surest way to peace is for Russian President Vladimir Putin to be deposed internally, best by the masses but more likely by fellow oligarchs. That is speculative thinking and not a prayer, much less a plan. Assume the immediate future will be similar to the immediate past. How to get to peace with Putin?

The entire Ukrainian people are united in defense of their country. Every citizen is adversely affected, having lost and seen families and friends die; living it physically and psychologically themselves: displaced; their homes, neighborhoods and entire cities destroyed; the rest of their lives hijacked for healing, rebuilding and reconstructing every aspect of their society.

Now the Ukrainian people must bear the burden of demanding a just peace, pushing their government to enter negotiations with the Russians.

Neither side will move an inch on giving up or gaining back territory. Both sides must move an inch toward talking. Combat will end when adversaries agree to stop fighting. Agreeing to a stop, a cease fire, is a start to ending fighting.

The very ugly, tragic reality of war is not moving either country to protect their forces by stopping. In the absence of compassion and humanity, how can the conflict cease?

Our billions in tax dollars are funding the war. The United States must be courageous enough to invest billions of dollars over the lengthy decades to fund what will be a slow-to-develop-but-must-make-progress peace.

The war will end one day. That day is not here yet.

— Ken Stern

LETTER

Shelter Bay news coverage

In your editorial (“Free Speech in Shelter Bay,” April 5) you state “Public governments are regulated by the revised Code of Washington, or RCW.” You neglected to mention that Home Owners Associations (HOAs) are also regulated by the RCW, specifically RCW 64.38.

I agree with you that Weekly News coverage of Shelter Bay should be allowed unless restricted by RCW 64.38. I also feel, as stated before, that the Weekly News should be a valuable resource in assisting our three interwoven communities better understand each other — warts and all.

So, before haranguing Shelter Bay anymore, how about an article covering all three communities, explaining how they are alike and how they are different, and then how much leeway you are allowed in covering each — in other words, do you have a level playing field to work with?

Looking forward to your continued coverages, Chuck Norris Shelter Bay

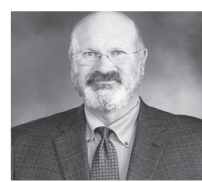
Shelter Bay board in court

By Ken Stern

A Skagit County Superior Court judge will rule Friday on a motion to continue Shelter Bay leaseholder and resident Jan Henrie’s civil complaint accusing five Shelter Bay Community board of directors of violating their statutory fiduciary duty and malfeasance. The lawsuit, filed March 15, Jan Henrie vs. Wendy Poulton, Elaine Dixon Monte Hicks, Joseph Hurley and Louise Kari, is on the April 14 civil motions docket. The case number is 23-2-00221-29.

To participate remotely: zoom.us/my/skagitsuperior2; 253-215-8782; Meeting ID: 667 929 1013; Password: 197202.

A View From The State House



Ron Muzzall
Senator



District 10

Health Care: Why does it cost so much?

The facts about health care in the United States are eye opening. How can a nation that spends nearly twice as much as our economic peers still have so many problems? As the former ranking member of the state Senate Health Care Committee and current assistant ranking member, I spent some considerable time trying to unpack our rising health care cost challenge. Like other complex, human problems, this one won’t be solved with a silver bullet either.

Let’s start with the biggest problem in our state — Medicaid reimbursement. This is the largest driver of cost on consumers. That is because Washington has woefully underfunded the program over the last 20 years, so we are missing out on federal matching dollars. We rank 48th, receiving the lowest federal contribution for Medicaid rates according to analysis from the Kaiser Family Foundation. While other states have raised reimbursement rates over time, Washington has remained flat, shifting costs of underfunding to the privately insured.

From 2000 to 2017, Washington only increased spending in these critical areas by just over 1%. Other states like Louisiana and Mississippi increased their state-level spends by 11.5% and 6.5%, respectively. Think of it like this. Four people go out to eat and one doesn’t pay. Now, the bill is distributed among three people to cover the meal. That’s the reality in Washington, where nearly 25% of the population is on some form of subsidized health care. In some systems it is near 70% and the state’s reimbursement does not come close to meeting the actual cost of care.

In the previous two-year budget, Washington spent \$29 billion on health care. That investment is unfortunately being squandered with an unaccountable bureaucracy, the Health Care Authority, that acts like a black box. Money goes in, but we are not quite sure where or how effectively it is being spent.

Therein lies another major cost problem in our health care system — overly burdensome complexity. To comply with the litany of regulations and laws, health care providers must employ an army of administrative staff to just do the bookkeeping, which drives up costs. Other “high-income” countries spend between 1% and 3% on administrative costs. In the U.S., it is 8%.

Another significant factor that contributes to our systemic health care challenge is the “Silver Tsunami.” Americans are living longer and the costs of care later in life can be staggering. Not only are U.S. health care professionals paid significantly more than in other developed countries, patients expect and deserve high quality care. New technologies and interventions are constantly introduced into the system that other countries just do not have. That comes at a higher price.

Our health care system is not a free market, nor is it totally government controlled. Having a foot in both worlds is bad for consumers when it comes to cost. The state must do better at what it’s already tasked with managing. We have the resources, but making those investments in health care for low-income Washingtonians has not been a priority. A dollar invested today will yield better outcomes and lower costs in the future.

Cannabis test will not be used to deny hiring in proposed law

By Alexandria Osborne,
Washington State Journal

Employers would be prohibited from denying a person a job for their non-work-related cannabis use in a bill passed by the state Senate 28-21 and the House of Representatives 57-41.

There is one difference between the two bills. The House legislation excludes people seeking positions as a first responder, corrections officer, a law enforcement agency or a fire department. Both bills exclude applicants in the aviation and aerospace industries because of federal transportation rules.

Beyond those exemptions, Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5123 would prohibit discrimination from employers in the hiring process based on a person’s cannabis use away from the workplace or if a drug test shows non-psychoactive cannabis in a person.

Sen. Karen Keiser, D-Des Moines, the bill’s sponsor, said legal cannabis use outside can leave metabolites in a person’s body fat for weeks and does not indicate whether a person is impaired or not.

“It simply doesn’t make sense to base an employment decision on that kind of unreliable outcome and test,” she said. “It really comes down to discriminating against people who use cannabis.”

Rep. Suzanne Schmidt, R-Spokane Valley, said ESSB 5123 takes away rights from

employers.

“It is the employer’s responsibility to provide a safe work environment, and we feel that this bill is taking that ability away from the employer,” she said. “It doesn’t allow them to act in that responsible manner.”

Keiser said ESSB 5123 only applies to pre-employment, and not an employer’s on-the-job drug policies.

But, the bill opens a door for people who might not have even applied to a job because they see the requirement for a drug test and would therefore be rejected, Keiser said.

“People don’t like to be rejected, so they don’t even apply,” she said. “The bottom line, currently, in our state is that for people who are using a legal substance, having a pre-employment test like this is really unfair, and we should do away with that.”

Rep. Shelley Kloba, D-Kirkland, said the bill would not impact post-hiring drug policies in the workplace.

“This bill simply says that a person can’t be expected to follow the rules of a workplace where they are not employed,” Kloba said. “I think that this will have a positive impact on broadening the pool of workers available for jobs.”

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Recycling one option for solid waste energy savings



By Greg Whiting

Recycling three typical 12 ounce aluminum beverage cans, to create an aluminum sheet for making a new can, saves about a kilowatt-hour of electricity compared to the electricity it would take to make a sheet from aluminum ore. Glass, steel, plastics, car batteries and paper recycling can also create energy savings. Waste materials that are recycled are not sent to landfills, and thus do not contribute to the use of land for landfills.

Recyclable materials are typically mixed at the initial collection point (recycling bins). It takes capital investment and labor to create and operate a sorting center to separate the materials before sending them to the material production facilities that process materials to make new materials. It takes labor, capital and energy to move waste materials from their point of use to sorting centers and then to raw material production facilities.

In big cities, waste volumes

are high and transportation distances to waste processing and manufacturing facilities tend to be low. Recycling is likely to be profitable, or at least to break even when the total costs of recycling vs. landfilling, including energy savings, are considered.

In smaller population centers, such as towns that are not close to larger communities’ recycling infrastructure, the economics of recycling can be more complicated. Paper and plastic products are heavy and bulky. They have value as raw materials for new paper and plastic, but their value is not as high per unit of weight/volume as metals. In a small, remote community, the cost of shipping paper and plastic wastes to a recycling center might be higher than the value of the material as a feedstock, and the energy required to ship them might be more than the energy saved by recycling them.

A new alternative is small-scale waste-to-energy systems. Use of recyclable waste as an energy source can save more energy than recycling, in situations in which shipping and processing energy requirements are high per unit of waste.

Historically, waste-to-energy systems, like those used in Sweden for large-scale electric generation, have been

dependent on wastes from large populations. Research and development for specialized waste management conditions, such as ships needing to dispose of waste while at sea, temporary military bases that have no ability to develop long-term infrastructure, and countries that don’t regulate surface dumping has produced a new generation of WTE systems that operate on the scale of the waste produced by towns. These systems are starting to be adopted in the markets for which they were designed.

As with any successful new technology, the costs of WTE systems are falling, and their capabilities are improving. In some small communities in the U.S., choosing a new WTE system over recycling may now be desirable for food and wood product wastes that cannot be disposed of without significant shipping and handling costs.

American waste management regulations reflect a preference for recycling over waste-to-energy processing, especially incineration. The possibility that more energy might be saved by using local wastes, locally, than by using fuel for transporting materials requires fresh exploration. Regulation changes might prove both necessary, and justifiable.

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Town tax revenues strong

By Ken Stern

The \$40,187 reported in sales tax revenues to the La Conner Town Council for March by the state's Department of Revenue is the second highest ever, only behind 2022's record \$44,210. It exceeds \$40,000 for only the second time and is 20% above 2021, the third highest March report.

The Special Use Fire Tax Revenues also dipped from 2022, by \$314, 7.4%, below \$4,000, barely, to \$3,924, but still the second highest ever March total.

Tourists still stayed overnight, creating record revenues for the Town's hotel/motel tax, \$8,083, the highest March total by \$384, almost 5% over 2022.

The real estate excise tax to date is \$17,000, 31.8% below last year's 3-month \$43,467 in a very different real estate environment. Similarly, year to date property taxes collected

are \$3,910, a smidgen of the almost \$80,000 for the 2022 first quarter. Don't seek comparisons for these revenue streams until the year is almost over, given the very different economic environment.

Sewer, wastewater and compost operations revenues are between 26% and 28% of the year's budget after the first quarter, signs that they may exceed revenue projections, given future quarter revenue growth. Not enough information is available to track expense trends for these programs

First quarter totals show steady revenue streams against 2023 budget projections.

Totals are based on January collections from town businesses and online purchases delivered to La Conner addresses and reported to town council by the state's Department of Revenue.

La Conner has a calendar fiscal year.



ALL ASHORE FOR SURE – No fooling, at the start of April this boat washed ashore. No local knew whose boat it was, said the Washington Department of Ecology staffer who came to drain its fuel and remove its batteries to minimize pollution.

– Photo by Madoc Hillier

Kontos on social media

By Ken Stern

Much worse than metaphorical slings and arrows are being fired on Shelter Bay social media community platforms, including their Next Door community. A handful of residents who have criticized sanctioned Shelter Bay Community Director Judy Kontos for her postings have called on the Weekly News to investigate, alleging she continues to violate association rules and regulations of confidentiality as a board member. They criticize as not true, as she told residents attending the April 2 town hall meeting - and as the Weekly News summarized in its April 5 story- that she has "worked cooperatively with colleagues in the business world her entire career and during her time on the board has refrained from posting views on social media, frequently seen as a contentious venue."

Residents point to her mid- and late-March social media posts as evidence that she has an ongoing, or at least recent, aggressive social media presence. Two have sent the Weekly News screen shots on the condition that they not be identified.

These show Kontos assertively engaged with residents in March, since the board suspended her Feb. 15. Residents aggressively criticize Kontos in general and over specific breaches they allege she has made as a board member. They cite the association's code of conduct rules.

Chapter 40 of the Shelter Bay Community code of conduct requires board members to

"demonstrate obedience through adherence to Washington state law and the Shelter Bay Community, Inc governing documents." Kontos was sanctioned for violating Section 40.020.010 A.4, not "support[ing] the decisions of the board or committee."

These residents cite Section 40.020.020, Dissemination and Confidentiality of Information, "B. Each Board or Committee member who has access to confidential information . . . has the responsibility to safeguard all such information, including all records and documents."

Kontos responded to the Weekly News: "My replies to those posts are after I was suspended 2/15/2023 and the Board launched a one sided campaign of disinformation against me wherein I had no opportunity to rebut that information via the same messaging platform. I will not stand silently while the facts and truth are warped beyond recognition."

Kontos' position is that the recall process was purposefully not followed, that an election within 10 days is mandated with a "mail notice to the entire community and schedule a Special Meeting for the membership to vote."

She has said that documents she cited were already made public, including by staff.

She notes she has supporters advocating for her and views people, five whom she names, as carrying out the board leadership's agenda against her.

Kontos says has always adhered to the code of conduct, but the board has a different interpretation of what violating the code is.

Town eyes restricting adult businesses

By Bill Reynolds

While historic preservation is a major concern of the Town of La Conner Planning Commission and planning staff are intent on fending off any future character-changing developments that may arise.

Adult businesses locating here is one.

Town planner Michael Davolio and Assistant Planner Ajah Eills have repeatedly cited court decisions ruling those businesses can be regulated but only if specific parameters are on the books prior to permits being sought.

Without regulation beforehand, adult business proposals must be treated the same as other enterprises.

Courts have upheld first amendment protections of self-expression, said Eills, and thus outright bans of adult venues are

not an option. Zoning rules can limit where adult businesses can be sited in town.

"Our goal," Eills told the Weekly News following a commission meeting last week, "is to make sure we can protect minors from the adverse effects of adult businesses."

The Town is looking at establishing buffer zones between 300 and 1,000 feet of residential areas and the school campus, which would significantly reduce potential locations for an adult business to open.

"We're lucky," said Eills, "that Michael has a background with this when it comes to zoning and case law."

Eills said the Town, based on state law, will require managers of and entertainers at adult businesses to undergo thorough industry-related training, including how to identify sex

trafficking victims.

"The Town would be able to regulate on top of all that," said Eills, "to make sure everybody who works in town is safe."

The push to put adult business restrictions on the books comes as the commission undertakes the lengthy process of updating the comprehensive plan.

Commissioners are exploring means of further engaging residents and business owners through a public participation program. They discussed that goal last week.

Eills shared a preliminary plan for a town-wide doorbell hanger that will provide information about the comp plan and how to navigate the Town website, plus an invitation to fill out a community priorities survey.

"Public engagement," she insisted, "is definitely something to be encouraged."

Ferry task force has openings

The sailing schedule for the Anacortes/San Juan Islands route needs to be updated to improve on-time performance and reliability. The run's four-season timetables will be revised. They have not been changed in more than a decade.

Apply to be on the schedule update task force by 5 p.m. Friday, April 21. The advisory group will examine sailing schedules, review options and make recommendations on using community input.

The task force will implement a new sailing schedule before the 2024 summer season.

Questions: 206-515-3731; fujiokj@wsdot.wa.gov
Apply: surveymonkey.com/t/2CTNG6S.

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National and state parks free April 22

Get out to park, trail or beach everywhere in Washington on Earth Day, April 22. Day entrance is free on lands managed by Washington State Parks, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and National Park Service parks for first day of National Park Week.

A Discover Pass is not required.

SERVICE

Laverne Schroeder Campbell
Laverne Schroeder Campbell born to Bill and Alice Schroeder on October 8, 1938, in Mount Vernon passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family on April 8, 2023. A graveside service will be held on Saturday, April 15, 2023, at 1:00 PM at Bayview Cemetery, followed by a reception at the La Conner Civic Garden Club, 622 South 2nd. St. at 3:00 PM. You may offer your condolences and share memories of Laverne online at www.kernfuneralhome.com.

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Middle school girls' hoops teams had great season

By Bill Reynolds

Divide and conquer is usually a winning strategy. But it didn't work this past winter for foes of the La Conner Middle School girls' basketball program, which split into two teams and collectively won 18 of 20 contests with one squad going undefeated in its 10 games.

Coaches Joel Hingston and Ryan Pino weren't surprised at that level of success. "This is a very good group," Hingston, who teaches Spanish at La Conner Schools and works summers as a hornet hive remover, told the Weekly News. "They're playing a lot of sports and really competing."

The La Conner teams created quite a buzz with a swarming defense that forced turnovers and led to repeated scores in transition.

The unbeaten team, whose roster featured Reese Bird, Sophia Edwards, Finley

Hancock, Faith Jenkins, Kiana Jenkins, Jacqueline Lam, Nora McCormick, Madison Miller, Abigail Poulton, Kim Williams and Aisley Zimmerman, held opponents to about 15 points per game while scoring more than 40 themselves.

"We have some really good shooters and they move the ball well," Hingston said. "They're very patient and with the other teams playing zone defenses, they eventually got the ball to who was open."

Mount Vernon Christian and Orcas Island were the toughest teams on the schedule.

Defensive pressure was the deciding factor for La Conner in those matchups, with one of the tests with MVC ending up a relatively tight single-digit affair.

"They did a really good job," stressed Hingston, a Washington State University alum and a Tri-Cities native. "It's a very athletic group. We pressed a lot and their transition offense was awesome

to see."

The same can be said of the team that finished with a solid 8-2 mark.

Claire Avery, Maicy Bowles, Kellie Cayou-Lockrem, Olive Clinger, Mia Delage, Helen Joe, Isla Jones, Annika Keith, Jozlynn Lapointe, Julia Nelson and Tori Wilbur combined to sweep three two-game series and split a pair of two-game sets in league play.

Hingston said these players improved throughout the season with their team defense.

"They have great spatial awareness," said Hingston, who anticipates further improvement and player development.

"They are playing a lot of basketball and a lot of other sports, too – volleyball, track and soccer – so they're very active," he said.

And one more thing, Hingston insisted.

"These players," he stressed, "are very coachable."

La Conner Kiwanis Club March Students

Josi Straathof is the Kiwanis Club of La Conner March High School Student of the Month. Josi is a junior. She is the daughter of Brian Straathof and DeAnna Young. She enjoys her science and history classes. She is active in school activities playing soccer and softball. She has a part in the upcoming school play, "The Odd Couple." Outside of school she is involved in art. Josi is not sure what she will study after graduation, however she is interested in animal science.

Kaleb Otis is March's Middle School Student. Kaleb is in eighth grade at La Conner Middle School. His parents are Andy and Kelli Otis. Kaleb plays basketball and baseball at school. His favorite classes are science and PE. Outside of school he enjoys hunting and fishing. After graduation he would like to join the Coast Guard.

Emmitt Alvord is the Elementary Student for March. He is in fifth grade. His parents are Travis and Ashley Alvord. Emmitt enjoys math, band and PE classes. He plays the clarinet. He is active in school sports playing soccer, basketball, baseball and golf. Outside of school he enjoys reading and playing soccer. After graduating he would like to be an orthopedic doctor and work at Children's Hospital.

Game in Atlanta.

"We've had a chance to have six players pitch and begin to get comfortable and build confidence," said LeSourd. "Nate gives us a seventh pitcher and he will also help solidify our infield, which will help us be more consistent."

"Our confidence as a team is beginning to improve," LeSourd added, "and we expect to be a much stronger team going forward from learning from our growing pains."

Both La Conner teams were scheduled at home yesterday opposite league rival Concrete and home against Coupeville Thursday, a 4 p.m. game.



Josi Straathof



Kaleb Otis



Emmitt Alvord

Baseball and softball lose to Island County

By Bill Reynolds

Home or away, it didn't matter. Matching up with Friday Harbor and Orcas were tough tasks last week for the La Conner High School baseball and softball teams.

The Braves (1-6) fell 16-1 at Friday Harbor last Tuesday and were defeated 20-4 by the Wolverines in a rematch at home Friday. The boys dropped a 11-6 decision at Orcas Saturday afternoon.

The Lady Braves (0-9), whose roster features several first-year players, lost 21-1 at Friday Harbor April 4 and came up short 9-4 at Orcas Saturday.

"It was a tough week with some important positives," said Braves coach Jeremiah LeSourd, who has guided La Conner teams into post-season in the past, but this spring is rebuilding with a lineup of underclassmen.

Highlights of the Braves' first meeting with Friday Harbor

included solid starting pitching by Brogan Masonholder and the rare triple play initiated by third baseman Brayden Pedroza.

With runners at first and second, Pedroza fielded a hard-hit grounder and stepped on his bag. He threw a strike to C.J. Edwards at second, who tossed the ball to first baseman Logan Burks.

La Conner dealt with traffic on the base paths much of the afternoon.

"We allowed the leadoff hitter to get on and score each inning," LeSourd lamented, "and that's what we're focused on improving as well as getting the third out as efficiently as possible."

Edwards led the Braves attack with a single and double. Kaleb Otis added another base hit for La Conner.

When La Conner entertained Friday Harbor three days later, Kenai Zimmerman was on the hill and responded with a crisp

11-pitch third frame.

"Unfortunately," said LeSourd, "we weren't focused on defense."

Offensively, however, the team showed discipline at the plate and drew six walks and one hit batsman. Four of those walks came during a three-run second stanza. Otis and Masonholder each scored on passed balls and Pedroza plated when Burks was hit by a pitch.

Burks and Masonholder shared mound duties at Orcas, where LeSourd said La Conner played well save for "one inning that got away from us."

"But we regrouped," he said, "to finish strong on a very windy day."

Burks helped his cause with a two-run single. Zimmerman also had a base rap for the Braves.

La Conner will be bolstered in the weeks ahead with the addition of pitcher Nate Bailey, who last year was selected for the Native American All-Star

Skagit Pioneers explored April 24

"Pioneers of the Upper Skagit," exploring early characters who eked out a living in the mountains of the North Cascades, will be presented by local historian Dr. Jesse Kennedy III Saturday, April 24, 2-4 p.m. at Skagit City School. It is the second of three presentations he is giving this spring under the theme of "Denizens of the North Cascades and the Salish Sea," histories of unique Skagit characters.

"Living and Dying in the North Cascades" offers stories of survival and death in the mountains where they lived and toiled, May 21.

The talks are sponsored by the Skagit County History Museum.

Cost: \$5 adults, \$4 seniors, members free. Skagit City School is at 17508 Moore Road, Mount Vernon.

Source: History Museum

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The art of learning: Four painters share insights at La Conner gallery

By Bill Reynolds

Four artists, including La Conner's Eve McCauley, painted vivid word pictures describing the career journeys each has taken during a 90-minute discussion at GalleryW on North First Street Thursday night.

McCauley was joined by Susan Cohen Thompson, Heather Martin and gallery co-owner Don Wesley for a briskly paced Q&A session that dealt with the artists' perspectives on creativity, motivation, commercial pressures and means of measuring professional success.

Wesley and Parisa Sadeghi opened the gallery in March 2022. It exhibits the works of a wide range of artists, including home grown talents like McCauley and Jay Bowen, as well as Thompson and Martin, who got their starts on opposite coasts.

Thompson, with artistic roots in New England, is a painter familiar to gallery-goers throughout the Pacific Northwest. She said her best work is often the result of letting go of a project's outcome and instead focusing on the process.

It's not always an easy prospect, though, she confided. "I have an inner critic that is hammering me all the time," Thompson explained. "That's the perfectionist inside me."

"I need a large amount of time," she added. "I work slowly. Getting started with it is the hardest part. But then, I'll think



SHARING VIEWS OF THEIR JOURNEY – Art, and their approach to creating it, changes with the day, the season, their experiences, the happenings of the world, artists Susan Cohen Thompson, gallery co-owner Don Wesley, moderator Clay Thompson, Eve McCauley and Heather Martin, from left, agreed during their April 6 discussion at GalleryW. They are among the 20 artists in the exhibit "Emerge," with its theme of emergence, at the gallery through April.

– Photo by Ken Stern

of devoting an extra 15 minutes to something and end up with a three-hour project."

Martin, who keeps a project journal and holds a finance degree from San Diego State University, said she occasionally finds herself working on several pieces at the same time.

"It's a comparative process," Martin said, noting that she often draws inspiration from the works of others.

Still, it's her own best

judgment that she trusts most.

"When I'm painting, when I start with a concept, it never works," Martin related. "I always have to start intuitively."

Wesley, an avid runner and cyclist who maintains a studio at Day Creek, said he measures success in being able to do art full-time.

"We didn't have a plan for this," he said of GalleryW. "We moved into town after COVID. The premise of the gallery is

connecting through art. Having the gallery has been a learning process. I feel like I've earned a master's in fine arts this year having this gallery."

After growing up in La Conner, a community long recognized for its embrace of the arts, McCauley went on to study at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. Her "Fox Finds the Flame," which she says represents the courage and curiosity to venture into the unknown, is currently on display at GalleryW.

She, too, reflected on several motivational factors, most notably those that span the need to create and express to paying the bills each month.

"Being in the flow and letting go of expectations (fosters ideal results)," she said. "You have to allow yourself to trust and create."

Project deadlines are likewise compelling, said McCauley, especially when juggling life's other demands.

"Time is my No. 1 challenge," she said. "I may not be in the mood to create. I might have five other things on my mind. You need to be in the right head space."

"Producing artwork that has commercial acceptability puts food on the table," McCauley continued, "but it must be something that's relatable and inspiring. Our responsibility as artists is to produce art that impacts our society. Whether that sells, I'm not sure."

Success and income aren't synonymous.

"Success, to me, is ever changing," she stressed. "Right now, I feel successful because I'm committed. Just being prepared to paint and being in a good place is successful."

And for the artists and their audience last Thursday, GalleryW was that good place.

Wilder art exhibit

Maggie Wilder's new work is appearing for the month of April at Perry and Carlson gallery, 508 1st St, Mount Vernon.

Spaghetti fundraiser Friday for McLeod family

By Eileen Engelstad

Let me tell you why I am looking forward to seeing you Friday supporting the McLeod Family at a 5-7 p.m. spaghetti dinner fundraiser at La Conner Elementary School cafeteria.

Thirteen years ago when I stumbled upon what I thought was the ideal house in the perfect neighborhood, my kids were somewhat skeptical. So, they came up to La Conner and Shelter Bay, unbeknownst to me, and checked it out by driving randomly around several streets. They were greeted with smiles and waves everywhere they went and came away convinced that their old, retired Mom had indeed found the perfect place to settle. And so I did.

In addition to meeting many friendly neighbors, all of the merchants I patronized were also welcoming. I could immediately tell that in La Conner a handshake is often enough to settle a deal. (Short a couple of bucks? Drop it by the next time you're in town).

I also witnessed several occasions when the townsfolk pulled together to help fellow La Connerites in crisis. I recall a sad story of a family losing their beloved daughter to cancer and how the community pitched in to help them. There was another similar incident when the husband of a local icon faced a medical crisis and the town was there to help them. A local girl

fought and won the battle with a debilitating disease, thanks to a supportive community. A young man on the Swinomish Reservation became seriously ill and fundraisers helped his family. Citizens donated money to help Ukraine survive the attacks from Russia. These are only a few of the stories that help describe La Conner – it is a town with a big heart.

As a long-time member of the Soroptimists, I have also seen how our club has quietly assisted citizens in need, but mostly women since our motto is "Women helping women." We use the proceeds from the Vintage Store to provide scholarships and also to help individuals experiencing hard times.

Other local organizations like the Kiwanis, Rotary, PEO and Garden Club have similar goals. Recently, all of these local clubs have joined together to form La Conner United, where we join hands for special causes. Thus, I finally come to the purpose of writing this article: La Conner

United is sponsoring a spaghetti dinner to raise funds to assist a family that has experienced a catastrophic setback. Tyrone McCleod, a roofer by trade, had nearly completed building a house for his family when, on Jan. 17, it burned to the ground.

He had spent five years, doing most of the work himself while living in a trailer on-site. The house was uninsured and was a total loss from a fire whose origin is unknown but suspicious. Also lost in the fire were all of Tyrone's tools and equipment. So, as a town with a big heart, we have an opportunity to enjoy a tasty meal with friends and neighbors while donating to help Tyrone and his two children get back on their feet.

The spaghetti dinner will be held at the La Conner Elementary School cafeteria 5-7 p.m. Friday, April 14. We ask for a minimum donation of \$20. Please clear your calendars and open your hearts and wallets to help the McLeod family! Let's show the world what small town living is really about!

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April 15 poetry reading, 7 p.m.

The April 15 poets reading in celebration of National Poetry Month at 7 p.m. at Pelican Bay Books are Claudia Castro Luna, Kathleen Flenniken, former Washington poet laureates, and the wonderful Susan Rich, all coming up from Seattle.

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Olga's firsthand account of the war in Ukraine, part 2

Summarized by Judy Booth

Olga is offering a glimpse into life in Ukraine since the Russian invasion in February 2022. The article last week left Olga at work in Ivano-Frankivsk in West Ukraine. She had just read on social media that Kiev was being bombed. Her dad and brother had left there an hour before to join her 340 miles further west. Olga has asked her family's last name not be printed for security reasons. Twenty years ago Olga had received a scholarship to study in the U.S. There she met Steve and Jan Paul of Shelter Bay. These quotes and summaries are from emails Olga sends when the Internet is available.

Olga, her father, brother, mother and two very ill grandmothers were together briefly in western Ukraine, but as soon as the bombing started, they fled in different directions again and again in trying to escape the bombing. Olga's grandmother stayed with her.

"I woke grandma and told her war had started. I gave her medications and told her to get ready because I did not know what to do. She walks extremely slow. I am 110 pounds and I can't physically carry her." Olga's grandmother could not handle stairs without her help.

"Walking up and down took forever. Helping her use the bathroom was trouble because of other people

— she needs to use it often. She couldn't run and I couldn't leave her if a bomb dropped nearby.

"I took her, brought her to the shelter, which was basically the basement of an apartment building where a friend lived. And that's where we stayed day and night observing news and horrors."

Realizing she could not move her grandma if a bomb landed nearby, she packed again and fled to her mother's location. Her dad and brother headed there as well.

"I assumed further west in the countryside would be safer than in the city. New explosions were happening as I was leaving town. Friends started leaving the country — I couldn't because of family.

"The week I was in the countryside, I started thinking I have to get back to work. No one else in the family could return to work. My Dad's job was in Kiev; they couldn't go back it was too dangerous. They couldn't leave because the other grandmothers needed care.

"I went back to the city and moved in with my boyfriend. It was more scary than in the countryside. In the countryside you can hardly hear sirens but in the city it's so loud.

"We ran outside, then to hallways near elevators, spending hours there, sleeping next to the wall. Later we would spend siren hours in the bathroom sitting on the floor where it was safer than by a window.

"There are more chances to survive if something hits the first wall then goes through another one and if you are behind the third wall more chances.

"If a bomb falls from above nothing will help. If siren would go on during work, we would text that we have alert and leave for the shelter.

"Then blackouts were added. It became impossible to work.

"People who worked for large companies kept their jobs, because larger companies could buy power generators.

"There was very little electricity all winter which included Internet service.

"During the few hours that there was electricity everyone tried to clean, cook, work, and do laundry.

"An alert woke us up between 3 and 4 a.m. We went to the shelter.

"The alert lasted two hours. As soon as I undressed and thought finally I will get some sleep. I sat on a bed and next moment there was huge explosion and we saw smoke in the sky, so we ran out of the buildings again.

"We just sat there for hours in the middle of the night, dressed, packed and ready to run ... no light, no heat and no hot water. And it goes on and on for hours ... all winter was like that. It was exhausting."

To be continued.

Women hold up sky at all four corners of Morris and Sixth streets

By Kylee Fortyng

At the corners of Morris and Sixth streets you will find three booming businesses and a library that are owned or operated by women: Beaver Tales Coffee, Stompin Ground Coffee Co., Tillinghast Postal & Business Center and the La Conner Swinomish Library. All serve the community in unique ways.

Library Director Jean Markert started in September 2022 after serving as chair of La Conner Regional Library board of directors, where she had a key role in the process of building the new library, a project that had been in the works for ten years. Because of her relevant background, Markert was appointed director when the former library director resigned last August. At Skagit Valley College she taught high school completion courses and then became that program's director.

Markert gravitated to the library director position because it was a "great opportunity to contribute to the community" and she has always loved libraries and books. In fact, she dreamt of being a librarian as a child. She originally decided to become a teacher since it seemed like a safer bet, but found herself in the right place at the right time last summer. As Markert puts it, "When you have a passion, follow your passion and you'll find your path." Now Markert is able to focus her time on the two things she's passionate about: Libraries and helping people.

Across the street Michelle Calvin owns Beaver Tales Coffee with her partner Tony Cladoosby. Calvin noted she has "always been in business and helping people" with her past career in health care administration, and as a University of Alaska business professor. While in Alaska Calvin became an adopted Tlingit.

She recognized there were not many indigenous owned businesses on the eastside of the Swinomish Channel, and opened her doors in 2021 after selling her roasted coffee online for a few years. Her partner is a Swinomish member and helped expand their base to Coast Salish people. "Coffee is the conduit, and people are the glue" says Calvin. Her coffee shop decor is meant to draw attention and get customers to ask questions about indigenous culture. This ultimately leads to fruitful conversations that can help educate people and dispel negative stereotypes. Calvin is also helping people learn more about culture, history and current events through the "Tales of the Magic Skagit" podcast.

In addition to providing a recipe for great dialogue and coffee, Calvin is using her teaching skills to develop business curriculums that support people entering the workforce. The educational materials cover core skills of launching a business, including management, manufacturing, logistics, community outreach, marketing and more. This is the focus of her second shop, opening in Oak Harbor in conjunction with the Skagit Valley College Whidbey Island campus.

Across Sixth Street is another purveyor of great coffee, Stompin Ground Coffee Co., owned by Kim Broadhead. "I wanted to do coffee since [my kids] were little," she recalls. Despite being discouraged from her dream at the time, she finally made it happen in 2017, once her three sons were grown.

After graduating from high school, Broadhead went straight into the workforce and discovered she wasn't the office desk type. "If I'm dealing with the public, I am happy." She went to great lengths to keep her local customer base after needing to relocate across the street, where Beaver Tales sits, even if it meant getting into a building that required lots of tender loving care. Luckily, one of her sons helped with renovations and turned it into the cozy place that it is today.

When you visit the coffee shop you will notice more improvements are underway, which is part of her grand vision to better serve the community. "There are more opportunities brewing" at Stompin Grounds, she says. Looking back on her path to entrepreneurship, Broadhead notes, "get out there and do what you want to do. Manifest it. You'll have your roadblocks, but stay clear on what you want in life."

The final corner of this women owned square is Tillinghast Postal & Business Center, run by Christina and Robyn Burdick-Good-Rubenstein. Christina and her partner, Robyn, bought Tillinghast Postal in May 2022 after their neighbor presented the enticing opportunity. "We've loved being such a vital business.

(continued on page 9)

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Swinomish students spring into action during four-day youth conference

By Bill Reynolds

Spring break was no vacation for a cross-section of Swinomish youth.

Pre-teen and high school-aged tribal students sacrificed sleeping in and lounging in front of the TV to take part in a four-day conference at the Swinomish Gym designed to build self-esteem and develop lifelong leadership skills. It was hosted by Swinomish Health Programs.

By all accounts it was time well spent for the large percentage attending all four days. They were introduced to the Gathering of Native Americans (GONA) curriculum that focuses on identifying personal and community strengths, daily and long-term challenges, solutions to pressing issues and opportunities to share and show gratitude.

"It's a very adaptable curriculum," event facilitator Seprieono Locario, a technical assistant with Tribal Tech, LLC., told the Weekly News. "Every tribe has its own story, its own unique history that's reflective of the past."

Swinomish keynote speakers were enlisted by Julia Ortiz, the tribe's behavioral health coordinator and her staff, as coordinator storytellers.

The roster included Eugene "Huge" Edwards, Dean Dan, Jr., Joe Williams, Holle Edwards, Aurelia Bailey and Brian Porter. Janie Beasley, a former La Conner school board member, opened the Thursday morning session in Lushootseed, the traditional Coast Salish language of tribes of the Puget Sound region.

In another local connection, attendees sported stylish t-shirts and hooded sweatshirts bearing a logo designed by La Conner High alum Kesha Edwards, program manager for Swinomish Circles of Care and who honed her talents at the Institute of American Indian Art



Janie Beasley opens the youth conference on Thursday, April 6 for tribal students at the Swinomish Gym.

— Photo by Bill Reynolds

in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Each conference day dealt with a major theme. The first day addressed "Belonging" and encouraged students to list and illustrate strengths that define Swinomish, with community being their top choice.

Mastery, interdependence and generosity were other key daily topics.

"Everyone," noted Locario, pointing to posters and flow charts created by the students, "was encouraged to write something positive about others."

Positive reinforcement, with an emphasis on recognizing each person's self-worth, was emphasized daily. That was especially true when students stepped forward to speak to the entire group.

"Public speaking," Locario reminded them, "is one of the most feared things to do," Doing so takes courage and it's important to remember that when you share something, it's awesome."

The students didn't have far to look to see the effect of the GONA format, whose culture-

based planning process and interactive approach reflects native traditions, cultural values and spiritual practices.

Tribal Tech co-facilitator Maegan Ray once stood in their shoes. She grew up on the Round Valley Reservation in California and as a youth attended a GONA conference. She was immediately drawn to the work undertaken by conference leaders.

"That's when I decided this is what I wanted to do," she said.

Ray, like Locario, relishes how her role makes it possible to have a meaningful impact in the lives of young people.

"GONA," she said, "makes everyone feel valued. It shows that everyone has a strength."

The conferences also reinforce the importance of making personal commitments that are not only self-beneficial but are of benefit to one's family and community.

"On the last day," Ray explained, "we have a commitment circle. The students can make a commitment to do well in school, learn a song, attend Culture Night."

"It takes work to learn commitment," Locario acknowledged to the students. "It takes work to contribute to the community."

He said Swinomish youth are fortunate in having adults around them who have built a sense of community and regularly model values of human growth, community leadership and responsibility found in native culture.

"You are lucky," Locario said, "because you have your songs, you have your language, you have Canoe Journey, you have a gym with your logo in the center of the court."

"The question for you," he asked, "is who is going to step up for Swinomish?"

Hearing Locario's charge each participant immediately pledged to put his or her best foot forward on behalf of the cause.

School staff hear strategies for tribal student success

By Bill Reynolds

For decades the odds were stacked against Native American students succeeding in the U.S. educational system.

Statistics bear that out. La Conner Schools faculty and staff reviewed the data during a special program featuring Dennis Eller in late March. Eller is a member of the Cherokee Nations, an administrator at Thomas Jefferson High School in Federal Way and a doctoral candidate.

"I had better odds of becoming a starter in the National Football League," Eller said at one point of his 75-minute presentation, "than I did of earning a doctorate."

Eller showed the chances of making a pro football team's starting lineup and a Native American student being conferred with a doctorate degree are each well below one per cent.

But there are ways of improving those odds for tribal youth, said Eller, also a military veteran. He provided research-driven strategies proven to engage Native American students and improve their prospects for academic achievement.

Several of those – including opening school programs with tribal drum songs, offering courses in Lushootseed and forging mutually beneficial partnerships with Native American communities – are already being employed, noted Andy Wheeler, director of special program. He helped coordinate Eller's appearance.

"We're doing things well," Wheeler told his colleagues after Eller had lauded the district for its collaborative ventures with the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and learning that graduation rates here for Native American students far surpasses the national average.

Eller said that at its inception, at the outset of the industrial revolution, public education in the U.S. was marred by a

disconnect between Native American students and the objectives and goals of the schools they were attending.

"The practice of assimilation," he said, "led to the boarding school crisis," the trauma inflicted upon Native American students at parochial and government schools in the U.S. and Canada in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Eller said teachers can enhance student achievement – especially that of tribal youth – by doing their own homework. "You have to know the struggles and challenges that Native American students face when they come into your school," he said.

Eller's research shows Native American students have long gauged their academic success not upon earning diplomas and degrees but by how well they learned to navigate the white culture.

It is crucial to establish a campus climate that acknowledges Native culture and history and erases false narratives and beliefs.

Other priorities, Eller noted, include incorporating Native American art and literature in the school curriculum, providing opportunities for students to participate in cultural activities and inviting tribal partners to participate in school programs.

Hiring Native American staff, scheduling language acquisition classes and taking tribal students on field trips to college campuses are likewise effective, he said.

"At Thomas Jefferson," Eller said, "we used these practices and our graduation rate increased and our discipline referrals were reduced."

La Conner educators are proposing working with Swinomish on implementing an "Adopt an Elder" program for various classes and home rooms.

Eller gave than idea an "A." "I'm impressed with the relationship you have with your tribal partners," he said. "You're doing a lot of great things here."

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THERE'S GOLD, OR COINS AT LEAST, IN THAT STRAW – Just like the old days, before pandemics, even back to when these parents were kids, the annual La Conner Fire Association organized Easter egg hunt and coin scramble, tiered for two age groups, took place in Pioneer Park Saturday. *– Photo by Bill Reynolds*

Women

■ ■ ■ (from page 7)

Not everybody has a printer and we're the only other shipping option besides the post office in town" said Christina.

Burdick-Good-Rubenstein's sold their artwork and printed stickers, prior to this, so the entrepreneurial spirit has always been a part of their story.

Christina's roots run deep in Skagit Valley, as the Goods were one of the region's pioneer families. That community connection has only strengthened at Tillinghast Postal. "We get to know everyone in La Conner that walks in the door. I love it. You know

your neighbors. We're all on the same team".

In addition to the printing venture, Christina opened a baking business with her mom and sister in 2021 called "Good Eats, Sweet Treats." The idea emerged out of the COVID-19 pandemic when her sister, who has Down Syndrome, lost her job. Since her sister loves to bake, this was a creative way to have sustainable employment for her. These treats are now sold all around town.

It is amazing what good can come from women who are called to serve the community in unique ways. As Calvin puts it, "we all bring something special to this town."

Vote

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

investigations" and found four of the complaints had merit, the summary stated.

The mailer summarized the association's investigation process and the board's Feb. 6, 2023 acceptance of the ethics committee's findings having merit.

Kontos appealed. The board supported the committee's findings and on Feb. 15 sanctioned

Kontos "by suspension pending a recall vote of the community membership."

The mailed materials did not cite "Regulation 40.030.030 Findings of Investigation / Judgment." "E" that following suspension the board "immediately call(s) for a Special Meeting/ Election of the membership to remove the board member."

The Weekly News will continue to follow this story.

Larsen invites students to participate in 2023 Congressional Art Competition

Rep. Rick Larsen (WA-02) is inviting high school-aged students who live or attend school in Washington's Second Congressional District to showcase their artistic talents in the 2023 Congressional Art Competition.

Art submissions and forms are

due at Larsen's office no later than Monday, May 1, at 5 p.m. All art entries must be original in concept, design and execution. Students can find details and a full list of contest rules larsen.house.gov/helping-you/2023-art-competition.htm

Source: Office of Rick Larsen

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SURPLUS. Pursuant to RCW 28A.335.180 the La Conner School District is announcing the availability of a number of outdated library books. A list of the items to be surplus can be found on the district website: <https://www.lcsd.wednet.edu/Page/1621>

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Parade

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

Long would have greatly appreciated.

Another popular entry – probably including the young man enlisted as a pooper scooper – was the Skagit Latin Horses, whose steeds strode beautifully through the business district guided by riders wearing ceremonial sombreros.

There were clowns, jugglers, a stilt walker and unicyclist, all maintaining a festive atmosphere despite overcast, cool and breezy less-than-ideal spring weather conditions.

It did not rain on this parade. Instead, a sunny disposition carried the day, as passionately promoted by the Shriners' parade theme of "Smile with Nile."

Homes


■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

Inventory is estimated at 45 days countywide but is a whopping nine months in the La Conner market. Home availability is highest in Anacortes, at over 50 days supply. It is about five weeks in Mount Vernon and three weeks in Burlington. That projects the length of time to sell all homes if no additional ones were added.

Data are from the Northwest Multiple Listing Service.

Daryl Walls recalls Guy Anderson at i.e.

Daryl Walls discusses the life and work of his friend, Guy Anderson, the Northwest Mystic artist, at i.e. gallery, 5:30 p.m. April 15, 5800 Cairns Court, Edison. The April exhibit has works from Anderson's estate.



Aqimuk's Kitchen

By Patricia Aqimuk Paul, Esq., Food Editor.

Savory Topping

You can make this recipe and add to rice, pasta, gnocchi (featured in pic), scrambled eggs or vegetables. You can adjust the flavors by the type of spices or herbs you add. Always make it fresh. We used the milder scallions but green onion or other onion varieties are excellent choices. Fresh garlic is a must. This is a gentle, slow cook, so do not overheat your pan. Thank you to the kind people, in Safeway recently, who said they enjoy reading my column!


Ingredients

- Plump scallion, ½ mince (¼ cup)
- Garlic, 3 cloves, minced
- Olive oil, 2 tbsp
- Dried sage, 2 tsp

Preparation

Over moderate heat, add oil to sauté pan. Add the scallion and garlic. Gently mix. As it softens, crumble dried sage between your hands. Toss in or crumble over the pan. When the scallions become translucent, remove from heat. Add over your chosen main ingredient and mix in.

AqimuksKitchen@outlook.com



Neighbors Night at Tulip Valley Farms

Helping Hands Food Bank invites you to Neighbors Night at Tulip Valley Farms April 20, in partnership together to connect the community with resources while enjoying the magic that Skagit Valley has to offer: Tulips and community fellowship.

For this free evening, Helping Hands will be providing a baked potato bar, with potatoes generously donated by Skagit's Best Produce, and the chance to engage in the fellowship that spring brings to the Valley.

This is a great way to see

tulips while avoiding traffic.

Join them 4:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at Tulip Valley Farms, 15245 Bradshaw Road, Mount Vernon 98273.

Register at helpinghandsfoodbank.org/tulips/. Questions: 360-856-2211.

Helping Hands is a no-barrier food bank. Anyone may access services and programs at any of its distribution locations. There are no eligibility requirements.

Source: Helping Hands Food Bank



Helping Hands invites you to join us on **Thursday, April 20th, from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm at Tulip Valley Farms** for Neighbors Night, a FREE community event presented by Banner Bank, Rouw Insurance Services, Soroptimist International of Sedro-Woolley, Susie & Geoff DeVries, & Skagit Valley's Best Produce to benefit Helping Hands.

Let's come together to tiptoe through the tulips, eat at the baked potato bar with potatoes generously donated by Skagit Valley's Best Produce, and engage in the fellowship that Spring brings to our great Valley. Also, the best way to see tulips while avoiding traffic!

Event Details:

Thursday, April 20th, 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Tulip Valley Farms

15245 Bradshaw Rd., Mount Vernon, WA 98273



Learn more and register at

www.HelpingHandsFoodBank.org/tulips

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Helping Hands Food Bank

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www.HelpingHandsFoodBank.org

P.O. Box 632, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

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LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Public Hearing of the La Conner School Board of Directors: Title VI Grant Through the Office of Indian Education

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the La Conner School District Board of Directors will hold a public hearing to review our application for the Indian Education Grant Proposal (Title VI) 2023-2024. This program is designed to address the unique cultural, language, and educationally related academic needs of American Indian and Alaska Native students, and ensure that all students meet the challenging State academic standards. The informative hearing will be held in conjunction with the Board's April meeting at 5:00 pm on Monday, April 24, 2023, in the District Office Board Room, 305 N 6th Street, and via Zoom to provide an opportunity for the public, including parents, and students, to become more familiar with the Title VI program.

Questions about the Title VI program - Contact Andy Wheeler, Director of Special Programs and Project Director at 360-466-3295 or awheeler@lc.k12.wa.us The meeting is open to the public and comments will be taken during the public hearing. Any person may appear and be heard for or against any part of the policies and procedures.

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

Written testimony must be submitted by 2:00 pm on Monday, April 24, 2023.

Dated this 7th day of April 2023.

Published in the La Conner Weekly News April 12, 19, 2023.

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY In the Matter of the Estate of Brian R. Boyd, Deceased. Cause No. 23-4-00192-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

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

Date of First Publication: April 12, 2023

Personal Representative: Di-ana L. Boyd

Attorney for Personal Representative: Aaron M. Rasmussen, WSBA #29496

Address for Mailing or Service: North Sound Law Group, PLLC, 300 N. Commercial St., Bellingham, WA 98225; Phone: 360-733-0212

Published in the La Conner Weekly News April 12, 19, 2023.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SKAGIT IN PROBATE No. 23-4-00158-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.40.030 In the Matter of the Estate of DANA RAE PEARSON, Deceased.

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

Date of filing copy of NOTICE TO CREDITORS with Clerk of Court: 4/3/2023.

Date of first publication: April 12, 2023.

Troy Pearson

Personal Representative

LAW OFFICE OF COLE & GILDAY, P.C.

By Gregory L. Gilday WSBA #36608 Attorney for Personal Representative 10101 270th St NW Stanwood, WA 98292 Office: 360-629-2900 or FAX: 360-629-0220 Published in the La Conner Weekly News April 12, 19, 26, 2023.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY No. 23-4-00165-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

In the Matter of the Estate of Gordon R. Sjogren, 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: April 12, 2023

Personal Representative: Di-ana L. Boyd

Attorney for Personal Representative: Aaron M. Rasmussen, WSBA #29496

Address for Mailing or Service: North Sound Law Group, PLLC, 300 N. Commercial St., Bellingham, WA 98225; Phone: 360-733-0212

Published in the La Conner Weekly News April 12, 19, 2023.

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: April 5, 2023

David L. Sjogren

Personal Representative

SKAGIT LAW GROUP, PLLC MEGAN OTIS MASONHOLDER, 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 April 5, 12, 19, 2023.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY Nonprobate Estate of JANET L. KAISER, Deceased. NO. 23-4-00176-29 NONPROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.42.030)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

As Notice Agent, I have elected to give notice to Decedent's creditors.

On the date of filing of this Nonprobate Notice to Creditors with the Court:

• I had no knowledge of:

• Any other person acting as Notice Agent, or

The appointment of a Personal Representative for Decedent's probate estate in the state of Washington.

• According to the records of the Court that were then available:

No cause number regarding Decedent had been issued to any other Notice Agent, and

No Personal Representative of Decedent's probate estate had been appointed.

Any person having a claim against Decedent must present the claim:

• Before the time when the claim would be barred by any applicable statute of limitations, and

• In the manner provided in RCW 11.42.070:

By filing with the Court the original of the signed Creditor's Claim, and

By serving upon or mailing by first class mail to me at the address provided below a copy of the signed Creditor's Claim.

The Creditor's Claim must be presented by the later to occur of:

• Thirty (30) days after I served or mailed this Notice to you, as provided in RCW 11.42.020(2)(c), or

• Four (4) months after the date of first publication of this Notice.

If the Creditor's Claim is not presented within the foregoing time period, the claim will be forever barred except as provided in RCW 11.42.050 and 11.42.060. This bar is effective for claims against both the Decedent's probate and non-probate assets.

In accordance with RCW 9A.72.085, I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

SIGNED this 27th day of March, 2023 at La Conner, Washington.

Martha L. Ekvall, Notice Agent. Address for Mailing or Service: 118 Lummi Drive, La Conner, WA 98257

Published in the La Conner Weekly News April 5, 12, 19, 2023.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR KING COUNTY Estate of: WILLIAM E. BENSON, Deceased. NO. 23-4-00899-2 SEA PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.40.030

THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE NAMED BELOW has been appointed as personal representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner 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 section 11 of this act and RCW 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.

Date of First Publication: April 5, 2023

JULIE D. MACKENZIE, Personal Representative

Attorney for Personal Representative: Catherine E. Janicki Address for Mailing or Service: 5806 A - 119th AVE SE, # 143 Bellevue, WA 98006

Published in the La Conner Weekly News April 5, 12, 19, 2023.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SKAGIT IN PROBATE No. 23-4-00147-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.40.030 In the Matter of the Estate of VERA E. MEEKHOF, Deceased.

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

Date of filing copy of NOTICE TO CREDITORS with

Clerk of Court: 3/27/2023.

Date of first publication: April 5, 2023

Daniel Erlendson

Personal Representative

LAW OFFICE OF COLE & GILDAY, P.C.

By Gregory L. Gilday WSBA #36608 Attorney for Personal Representative 10101 270th St NW Stanwood, WA 98292 Office: 360-629-2900 or FAX: 360-629-0220

Published in the La Conner Weekly News April 5, 12, 19, 2023.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SNOHOMISH In re the Estate of: MARGRIT EBNER, Deceased. NO. 23-4-00479-31 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: March 29, 2023

MARK EDGAR EBNER, Personal Representative

c/o Sarah Duncan, Attorney 3128 Colby Avenue Everett, WA 98201 425-339-8556

Published in the La Conner Weekly News March 29, April 5, 12, 2023.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY In the Matter of the Estate of Nancy S. Juneby, Deceased. Cause No. 23-4-00132-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as personal representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the personal representative or the personal representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to

the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(3); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets.

Date of First Publication: March 29, 2023

Personal Representative: Felicia R. Value

Address for Mailing or Service: c/o Attorney for Personal Representative:

Graham Buchanan, WSBA #52603, North Sound Law Group, PLLC, 300 N. Commercial St., Bellingham, WA 98225; Phone: 360-733-0212

Published in the La Conner Weekly News March 29, April 5, 12, 2023.

Notice of Trustee's Sale

I. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Gary Krohn, the undersigned successor Trustee, will on Friday, April 21, 2023, at the hour of 10:00 o'clock, a.m., at the front entrance of the Skagit County Superior Courthouse, 205 West Kincaid, Mount Vernon, Washington 98273 State of Washington, sell at public auction to the highest and best bidder, payable at the time of sale, the following described real property, situated in the County of Skagit, State of Washington, to-wit: Lot 13, Plat of Lonestar's Addition to the City of Concrete, as per plat recorded in volume 15 of plats, pages 163 through 166, inclusive, records of Skagit County, Washington. Situate in the Town of Concrete, County of Skagit, State of Washington which is subject to that certain Deed of Trust dated August 25, 2010, recorded September 10, 2010, under Auditor's/Recorder's No. 201009100038, records of Skagit County, Washington, from Nickolas J. Pine-Nelson and Shayne E. Wilkins-Haigh, as Grantors, to Land Title and Escrow, as Trustee, to secure an obligation in favor of Charlie Ripple and Marinette Ripple, as Beneficiary.

II. No action commenced by the Beneficiary of the Deed of Trust is now pending to seek satisfaction of the obligation in any Court by reason of the Borrower's or Grantor's default on the obligation secured by the Deed of Trust.

III. The defaults for which this foreclosure is made are as follows: Failure to pay when due the following amounts, which are now in arrears: Principal balance of \$95,000.00, which is due and owing; interest of \$55,005.60. Defaults other than failure to make monthly payments:

IV. The sum owing on the obligation secured by the Deed of Trust is: Principal \$95,000.00, together with interest as provided in the note or other instrument secured from August 25, 2010 and such other costs and fees as are due under the note or other instrument secured, and as are provided by statute.

V. The above-described real property will be sold to satisfy the expense of sale and the obligation secured by the Deed of Trust as provided by statute. The sale will be made without

Continued on page 9

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Answers

S	E	L	E	N	A	R	E	P	O	S	M	A	T	U	R	E	S	T		
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T	I	R	E	R	I	M	S	S	A	S	S	Y	G	E	Y	S	E	R		

Answers to April 12 puzzles

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LEGAL NOTICE

warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances on April 21, 2023. The defaults referred to in paragraph III must be cured prior to the sale to cause a discontinuance of the sale. The sale will be discontinued and terminated if at any time prior to the sale, the defaults as set forth in paragraph III is/are cured and the Trustee's fees and costs are paid. The sale may be terminated any time before the sale by the Borrower, Grantor or the Guarantor, or the holder of any recorded junior lien or encumbrance paying the entire principal and interest secured by the Deed of Trust, plus costs, fees, and advances, if any, made pursuant to the terms of the obligation and/or Deed of Trust, and curing all other defaults. The debt secured by the Deed of Trust is now fully due and owing, so there is no right to reinstate the obligation.

VI. A written notice of default was transmitted by the Beneficiary or Trustee to the Borrower and Grantor at the following addresses: Nickolas Pine-Nelson, P.O. Box 1142, Concrete, WA 98237; Nickolas Pine-Nelson, 45362 Lime-stone Street, Concrete, WA 98237; Shayne E. Wilkins-Haigh, 32122 E. Entwistle Street, Carnation, WA 98014; Shayne E. Wilkins-Haigh, P.O. Box 1058, Carnation, WA 98014, by both first class and certified mail on November 15, 2022, proof of which is in the possession of the Trustee; and the Borrower and Grantor were personally served on November 21, 2022, with said written notice of default or the written notice of default was posted in a conspicuous place on the real property described in paragraph I above, and the Trustee has possession of proof of such service or posting.

VII. The Trustee whose name and address are set forth below will provide in writing to anyone requesting it, a statement of all costs and fees due at any time prior to the sale.

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

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

X. NOTICE TO OCCUPANTS OR TENANTS. The purchaser at the trustee's sale is entitled to possession of the property on the 20th day following the sale, as against the grantor under the deed of trust (the owner) and anyone having an interest junior to the deed of trust, including occupants who are not tenants. After the 20th day following the sale the purchaser has the right to evict occupants who are not tenants by summary proceedings under chapter 59.12

AGENDAS

Meeting Notice
Town Of La Conner Planning Commission
Tuesday, April 18, 6 p.m.
Location: Lower Maple Center, 104 Commercial St, La Conner, WA And by Zoom
Information below and on the Town website
1. Convene
2. Public Comment (Topics not otherwise on the Agenda) – Time Limit 3 Minutes
3. Minutes
Approve minutes from the April 4th, 2023 meeting
4. Old Business
Status Report: 306 Center Street
Status Report: Public Participation Program
Status Report: Limesdock Building
5. New Business
Development Code Updates: Adult Businesses
Comprehensive Plan Update: Discussion of Transportation Element
6. Closing Comments
Meeting ID: 892 0465 5067
Passcode: fm4KWg

Meeting Notice
Town Of La Conner Emergency Management Commission
Wednesday, April 19th, 2023 9:30 a.m. Location: Fireside Room, 104 Commercial St, La Conner And by Zoom
Information below and on the Town website (Zoom TBD)
A. Introductions
B. Monthly meeting time/dates.
C. Meeting location.
D. Public Meeting Training (OPMA).
E. Chair selection
F. Role and Function of the Emergency Management Commission.
G. Emergency Management Commission goals.
H. Flood map introduction
Zoom Information will be added at a later date due to technical difficulties.



RCW. For tenant-occupied property, the purchaser shall provide a tenant with written notice in accordance with RCW 61.24.060.

XI. NOTICE TO GUARANTOR(S) If you are a guarantor of the obligation(s) secured by the deed of then, then you are hereby notified, pursuant to RCW 61.24.042, of the following: (1) The Guarantor may be liable for a deficiency judgment to the extent the sale price obtained at the trustee's sale is less than the debt secured by the deed of trust; (2) the Guarantor has the same rights to reinstate the debt, cure the default, or repay the debt as is given to the grantor in order to avoid the trustee's sale; (3) the Guarantor will have no right to redeem the property after the trustee's sale; (4) subject to such longer periods as are provided in the Washington deed of trust act, chapter 61.24 RCW, any action brought to enforce a guaranty must be commenced within one year after the trustee's sale, or the last trustee's sale under any deed of trust granted to secure the same debt; and (5) in any action for a deficiency, the Guarantor will have the right to establish the fair value of the property as of the date of the trustee's sale, less prior liens and encumbrances, and to limit its liability for a deficiency to the difference between the debt and the greater of such fair value or the sale price paid at the trustee's sale, plus interest and costs.

Dated December 27, 2022.
Gary Krohn, Successor Trustee 144 Railroad Avenue, Suite 236 Edmonds, WA 98020-4100 Telephone: (206) 525-1925 Fax: (206) 525-8314 Email: GaryKrohn@aol.com
Published in the La Conner Weekly News March 22, April 12, 2023.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Complete Events Calendar on laconnerweeklynews.com

NOT TO BE MISSED

Rexville Grange Art Show.
Through April 16, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Rexville Grange, 19299 Rexville Grange Rd, Mount Vernon.
Heritage Flight Museum.
15053 Crosswind Dr, Burlington. 360-424-5151. heritageflight.org.
April Fly Day. April 15, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission: \$12 Adults, \$10 Seniors, \$5 Military and Kids 5-17, Free for members and kids under 5.
Anacortes Arts Festival.
Nautical Treasure Hunt. April 14-23. 200 nautical prizes hidden in downtown Anacortes. Visit anacortes.org/treasure for more information.
Skagit Valley Tulip Festival.
Street Fair. April 21-23, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. in downtown Mount Vernon.
Kiwanis Club of Mount Vernon.
Salmon BBQ. Friday-Sunday through April 30. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at Hillcrest Park Lodge, 1717 S 13th St, Mount Vernon.

MUSEUM EXHIBITS

Museum of Northwest Art. Open daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m. monamuseum.org, 360-466-4446.
Exhibit: *Permanent Immigrant, Italo Scanga in the Dale and Leslie Chihuly Collection.* Through May 14.
Exhibit: *Geppetto's Children, Italo Scanga at Pilchuck Glass School.* Through May 14.
Pacific Northwest Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum. Wednesday, Sun, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. qfamuseum.org, 360-466-4288. 703 S Second St, La Conner.
Exhibit: *Bedtime Stitches.* Through April 30.
Skagit County Historical Museum. 360-466-3365 or skagitcounty.net/museum. Hours: Thurs-Sun 11 a.m-4 p.m.
Exhibit: *Quilt Until You Wilt.* Through June 2023. Design your own paper quilts.

ART & THEATRE

Lincoln Theatre. 712 S 1st St, Mount Vernon. 360-336-8955. lincolntheatre.org.
Live Theatre: *Something Rotten.* Fri-Sat 7:30 p.m. and Sun 3 p.m. April 14-23.

MEETINGS

Town of La Conner
204 Douglas St, La Conner. 360-466-3125. Zoom info @ Townoflaconner.org/calendar.
Arts Commission. April 13, 10:30 a.m. at Maple Hall.
Planning Commission. April 18, 6 p.m. at Maple Hall.
Emergency Management Commission. April 19, 9:30 a.m. at Maple Hall.
Town Council. April 25, 6 p.m. at Maple Hall.
La Conner School District
305 N 6th St, La Conner. 360-466-4113. lcsd.wednet.edu.
School board meeting. April 24, 5 p.m. at District Office Board Room.
Rotary Club of La Conner. laconnerrotary.org. Meetings Monday, 6-7 p.m. at Shawn O'Donnell's Farmhouse restaurant - optional dinner at 5:30 p.m.
Skagit Cemetery District One.
Regular meetings. Every second Thursday, 5 p.m. at Lori Buher's home, 17604 Valentine Rd., Mount Vernon.

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The Garden Bug Candytuft
This showy beauty usually has white flowers, but sometimes pink or lilac varieties are available. It can grow up to 18 inches tall. The candytuft likes very well-drained, alkaline soil, lots of sun and does well in most zones in the US. It likes stony or gravelly areas, making it a great plant for a rock garden or along a rock wall. It blooms early spring through summer, and sometimes will bloom again in autumn. - *Brooks Waiser*

See our new online puzzle page
laconnerweeklynews.com/puzzles

Super Crossword **RECORD PLAYING**

ACROSS
1 "Same Old Love" singer Gomez
7 Taken-back autos, e.g.
12 Most adultlike
20 Sanctuary
21 Novelist Jong
22 Undeveloped expanse
23 Carole King album hanging as a decoration?
25 Surpass
26 Drags to court
27 Endures
28 Big primate
30 San — (Texas city, informally)
31 Nixon veep Spiro
32 Taylor Swift album signed for a Catholic dignitary?
34 Title ship in a 1997 Spielberg epic
38 Hullabaloo
40 Hoodwink
41 John Lennon album sitting there all by itself?
43 Shoe parts
45 "Attack, dog!"
48 Portions out
49 In the style of
50 Closest buds, in brief
51 Savoir- —
53 Get as profit
54 Historic start?
55 Write preliminary lyrics to a Patti Smith album?
57 Healing sign
59 Cello's ancestor
60 Pop's Grande
61 Michael Jackson album that plays mind games?
68 Pope before Stephen IV
69 Having no depth, in brief
70 Spellbound
71 Bob Marley album that's very popular in big cities?
74 Granola bit
75 Dearth
79 Works by painter Joan
80 Small bouquet
81 Polymer used in piping, for short
82 U.S. Navy builder
84 Major Calif. airport code
85 General — chicken
86 Looking to buy a Beatles album?
88 Only OK
90 Frequently
92 Least distant
93 Badly damaged Fleetwood Mac album?
97 Assessed
99 Mad magazine's Alfred E. —
100 Dryly funny
101 Peeling knife
102 Smartphone extras
106 Mark up with comments
108 Joni Mitchell album upon being hit by lightning?
111 Billy Joel hit
112 Stones
113 Celestial dust cloud
114 Parts of car wheels
115 Cheeky
116 Old Faithful is a famous one

DOWN
1 Toothed tools
2 Jacob's twin
3 Actor Waggoner
4 Edifice extensions
5 Granola bit
6 Mixtures
7 Della of song
8 Of times past
9 Fruit stones
10 Scanner of bar codes, for short
11 Doc's throat-checking request
12 Copied a cow
13 Clerk on "The Simpsons"
14 The "T" of the DPT vaccine
15 Detach, as a jacket fastener
16 Toy in a crib
17 Mistake
18 River by the Louvre
19 Affixed, as gift wrap
24 Bamboo-eating bear
29 Comical tumble in slapstick
31 Very busy
32 Sebastian of England
33 That is, to Tiberius
34 Not closed all the way
35 Stubborn sort
36 Land in el agua
37 Go no further
39 Go — diet
42 Greta of the silver screen
44 Part of OTB
45 Cordage fiber
46 Dunne of the silver screen
47 Labor leader Chávez
50 Extensive
51 Supporting the idea
52 Seed casing
54 Compadre
55 Chopped into small cubes
56 Lyre relative
57 Tibias' places
58 Spiral shape
59 Title cousin in a 1992 film
61 Purple fruits
62 Letter flourish
63 "Hey, dude!"
64 Turin "Ta-ta!"
65 Turns rancid
66 Part of OTB
67 Chapeau
72 — salts
73 Slimy stuff
74 Bakers get their mitts on them
75 Oz lion player Bert
76 Busy as —
77 Cartoon pics
78 Retained
81 — -wee Herman
82 Smiling evilly
83 "Yikes!"
85 Huge wave
86 Rds.
87 Bury
88 Actress Raven- —
89 Speechifier
91 Fast-food cookers
93 Not inclined
94 Spirits in lamps
95 Of the moon
96 "Hee Haw" co-host Buck
98 Bohemian
101 Delts' neighbors
102 "Dear" advice columnist
103 In addition to
104 Cry feebly
105 Blacken, as a steak
107 Scot's cap
109 Mauna —
110 Mediocore grade

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Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆
◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Puzzle Answers Page 8

POLICE BLOTTER

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sunday, April 2

12:32 a.m.: Flashlight suspicion – Caller saw someone outside their house with a flashlight in the middle of the night. Law enforcement responded and checked around the house, but no one was located. Beaver Marsh Rd., Greater La Conner.

11:25 a.m.: Trespassing for daffodils – A commercial vehicle with a driver and passenger stopped in the roadway and the passenger walked into a daffodil field and picked four flowers. Law enforcement contacted the driver and passenger and warned them about parking in the roadway and trespassing in the field. Beaver Marsh Rd., Greater La Conner.

Wednesday, April 5

6:11 a.m.: Vehicle prowl – A vehicle parked in a driveway was entered by a suspect and items were taken from inside. Stolen was a North Face backpack, iPad, vehicle registration and insurance information. The suspect has not yet been identified. Maple Ave., La Conner.

5:25 p.m.: Attempted break-in – A

business owner found the store's front door locking mechanism was tampered with and damaged. It appeared someone attempted to gain entry to the building but was not successful. 1st St., La Conner.

Thursday, April 6

5:34 p.m.: Abandoned car – The owner of an abandoned vehicle was contacted and advised they were waiting on parts for the vehicle and would have it fixed and moved shortly. Best Rd., Greater La Conner.

Friday, April 7

6:19 a.m.: Thieves arrested – Two male suspects were arrested for attempting to steal bicycles from a driveway. The suspects will be charged for theft. Myrtle St., La Conner.

3:21 p.m.: Caught on camera – Packages containing Easter decorations were taken from the front porch of a house. Video of the suspects was caught on Ring Doorbell footage. Law enforcement is working on identifying the suspects from the video footage. Maple Ave., La Conner.

Firefighter Clemons Mitchel is doctor in training

By Max Drews

As of Wednesday, March 29 at just before noon the man known as Clemons Mitchel does not go by "doctor." The fact that makes this detail notable is that if he wanted to, he could.

Clemons Mitchel, raised in Woodinville, departed in 2015 to Krakow, Poland, where for six years he studied medicine, funded by American scholarships at Jagiellonian University. In the course of that time his parents moved to La Conner.

When Clemons Mitchel graduated and returned from school in June, 2021 he found himself moving here too. That same month he took up work at the La Conner Retirement Inn, where he held the most remarkable part-time schedule since the definition of the term: times eighty hours per week. In his words he doesn't do well with free time.

In December of the same year Clemons Mitchel joined the La Conner Fire Department. Since then his job has been responding to calls, the large majority of which are medical in nature. The work, he says, is humbling.

Clemons Mitchel's next stage of life is set to play out in Oklahoma City. There he will stay the duration of a three-year medical residency at the University of Oklahoma, which begins in July and for which he will move in June. He says he will remain at the fire department until then.

As perfectly as it could have, his interview ended with an emergency call. The best of luck to Clemons Mitchel, for whom right now all the firemen are knocking on wood. Perhaps after three more years he will finally be going by "doctor."



SERVICE IS HIS CALLING – For Clemons Mitchel, graduating from medical school and working at the La Conner Retirement Inn is not helping enough, so he volunteers with the La Conner Fire Department, where this photo was taken. – Photo courtesy of Stephanie Banaszak



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This gloriously wacky musical played for 708 performances on Broadway.

Tickets and times information: lincolntheatre.org/.



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