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# LA CONNER WEEKLY NEWS

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## Creating a truly affordable home



DIGGING INTO HER FUTURE – Katelyn and her son hope to move into their three-bedroom duplex before Christmas. Skagit Habitat for Humanity CEO Tina Tate, left, was master of ceremonies Saturday at Channel Cove, where Katelyn's home is one of five built by Skagit Habitat.

– Photo by Ken Stern

One of five Skagit Habitat for Humanity homes in Channel Cove

## Family buying a renovated affordable home in La Conner

By Ken Stern

In a ceremony Saturday, Sept. 17, Katelyn was introduced to La Conner's Channel Cove community. By Christmas, Skagit Habitat for Humanity staff and volunteers hope to have the Park Street duplex renovated for her to move in with her two children.

While Katelyn and her young son only symbolically broke ground, turning a shovelful of dirt, Skagit Habitat staff and volunteers started renovating the three bedroom duplex in mid-August. They hope to finish their interior rebuild to allow a Dec. 17 move-in date.

In remarks, Board President Rob Ashby said the project will turn a house into a home, that staff and volunteers are 100% committed to its success. Comparing the project with the value of land he passed driving to the site off Maple Avenue, he called

their efforts a miracle and noted the need for starter homes is absolutely astronomical. "We hope to create this miracle over and over again," he told the group.

"This place will be your new home, a place for birthday parties and slumber parties and a thousand memories," Rev. Scott Rossiter prayed, offering a personal vision for the family's future.

Skagit Habitat is making that future real one structure at a time. Volunteer Carol Boss is excited about construction also starting on a new fourplex in Mount Vernon at Blackburn and LaVenture roads.

Tina Tate, Skagit Habitat CEO, knows the regional and national scale of the lack of housing. Her organization has the ambitious goal of building 15 homes a year for five years. They seek larger parcels of land for larger projects. Channel Cove is their model. Habitat built five homes in the

25 unit complex and controls them separately from Skagit Home Trust, the community land trust that manages the complex.

"Homelessness is a housing issue," she said. "The lack of housing can cause homelessness. People are on the edge of being homeless because of rising rental rates and substandard housing."

People earning 30-60% of the average median income are eligible for Habitat homes. The ceiling for a family of three is \$42,710. Adults seeking a home also provide 500 sweat equity volunteer hours, minimum, including construction.

The Skagit Habitat mission statement is "Putting God's love into action. Skagit Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope." Their vision: "Empowering people to empower themselves."

## Jensons sell Town a south end property

By Bill Reynolds

Christmas has come early for the Town of La Conner.

Town council members at their Sept. 13 meeting gratefully accepted what amounts to a gift – an offer by siblings Tom and Sybil Jenson to sell one-half acre on the southwest side of Channel Cove to the Town at a significantly reduced price on condition the property be used for the benefit of the community.

The Jensons set the price at \$60,000, less than one-third its assessed value.

"It's something that we can afford," Mayor Ramon Hayes said prior to a unanimous council vote. "They mostly want to gift it with the criteria that the Town do something there for the public good."

Hayes said both sides had been discussing the land-locked property since last year. It might be an ideal location to develop a local affordable housing model, he said.

"We've been looking for some time for appropriate land to do that, perhaps by working with the housing trust," he said.

That is just one option.

Center Street resident Debbie Aldrich, participating via Zoom, asked Council members to consider the importance of green space and play areas for children given the loss of Hedlin's ballfield. About 1.5 acres of it is now a housing development.

"If you're going to go ahead with another development," Aldrich said, "I hope it's really affordable housing for people who can't afford a \$600,000 condo."

"The town," she stressed, "needs green spaces."

(continued on page 6)

## Council takes second vote, says yes to memo access

By Bill Reynolds

The La Conner Town Council voted to approve requests making public a privileged memorandum and specific email correspondence from hired outside legal counsel during a special Zoom meeting Tuesday morning, Sept. 20.

The action reversed a 3-0 council vote to block access to the documents during a special session last Friday.

The Weekly News is among parties that filed a public records request for the material, prepared by the Kenyon Disend law firm, in order to quote accurately and more extensively what Town Administrator Scott Thomas had paraphrased during the council's Sept. 13 meeting. The firm assessed the validity of the 1986 contract rezone of a Center Street property.

(continued on page 5)

## Dave Hedlin recognized for over three decades of farmland preservation efforts

By Bill Reynolds

Dave Hedlin dined with friends Saturday night.

And those friends filled St. Joseph's Center in Mount Vernon, where the La Conner farmer, an ag spokesman and former school board member, was feted at the 24th annual Celebrate Skagit Harvest Dinner and Auction.

Hedlin was honored during the four-hour event, a major fundraiser for Skagitians to Preserve Farmland, the group he and his wife, Serena Campbell, helped found more than three decades ago.

The couple was among those families who launched SPF in the late 1980s to thwart growing threats by large commercial entities to develop prime rural areas in Skagit County.

There was genuine fear that Skagit Valley, one of the most productive agricultural areas in the world, could go the way of Kent Valley, where farmland southeast of Seattle was gobbled up by industrial interests following World War II.

Hedlin, dubbed the Will Rogers of Skagit County, got the word out initially with custom mudflaps on his truck

that read: "Farm it. Don't pave it."

People noticed. And they still swear by what La Conner resident Kim Good Rubenstein, vice president of the 12-member SPF Board of Directors, called "Dave-isms."

A favorite Hedlin one-liner, she recalled, is that "some people's idea of long-term planning is buying green bananas."

Rubenstein praised Hedlin for his knowledge, communication skills and willingness to listen to others, then introduced him to a standing ovation from an audience representing a cross-section of Skagit farm, business, political and civic leaders.

"I'm honored, humbled and more than a little embarrassed," Hedlin, alluding to his reserved Scandinavian roots, said of the attention he garnered. "I don't deserve credit for this. Everyone does."

In addition to kudos, Hedlin received a special SPF Founders Jacket commemorating his role in rallying Skagit County to the cause of farmland preservation.

Hedlin gave credit for his career

(continued on page 5)



RAVES FOR DAVE – Friends and admirers of La Conner's Dave Hedlin filled St. Joseph's Center in Mount Vernon Saturday night when he was honored for more than three decades of leadership in the mission to preserve Skagit farmland. They celebrated at Skagitians to Preserve Farmland's 24th annual Celebrate Skagit Harvest Dinner and Auction.

– Photo by Bill Reynolds

From the editor —

## Council deliberations, small and large

How can the La Conner community, residents, businesses and town staff, support the town's council so they act more effectively?

They have met three times in the last week, having special meetings Sept. 16 and 19 after their regular Sept. 13 session. Their meeting this Tuesday was to reverse a poor decision they made Friday.

On a small issue — opening to the public a legal memo they paid for on researching the validity of a 1986 contact refund agreement — they made the wrong decision: they voted no. Council members Rick Dole, Mary Wohleb and Annie Taylor apparently did not understand the issue before them. That in itself is troubling.

The Weekly News and several residents filed public records requests after the Sept. 13 council meeting where Town Administrator Scott Thomas paraphrased the conclusions of the law firm Kenyon Disend. The Seattle firm was hired — and paid — by the Town to analyze the consequences of the 1986 document never being filed in the county auditor's office.

The Weekly News sought the memo to accurately quote what Thomas reported to council. That is a simple thing and the newspaper doing its job: accurately reporting critical issues the community faces. The media and citizens routinely file public records requests.

In Washington state, citizens are fortunate that the legislature has insisted on open government. Legislation requires government at all levels, from the state house to school and library boards, to make most documents available upon request.

The law is very clear. Little is restricted and only for very specific issues. Council did not understand this Friday. They were not helped by Thomas. In his role of town attorney, he did not explain their obligations but merely said they could agree to disclose the documents or vote not to.

Councilmember Dole worried about the attorney part of attorney-client privilege, concerned that attorneys would not work with the town in the future. That is the wrong concern. Council, for the community, is the client. Council owns the information. The question before council was to open the document they paid for so the public can learn the information on which Town of La Conner decisions will be made. That is all.

That is not what Council debated before they decided against making the memo available.

But the bigger mistake council has made this year is in not separating a small legal question — is an agreement valid? — from the larger ethical issue: will this government honor the actions taken in 1986 with the clear intent to change both the zoning definition and offer historic preservation status to the property?

Honoring the decision of the 1986 town council and maintaining the consistency and integrity across 36 years is the issue.

Town staff made a mistake in failing to file the agreement at the end of 1986. That small failing had turned into an epic failure of governmental leadership.

The hearing examiner, a lawyer, remanded the issue back to the Town. Council makes decisions for the Town. It can be an administrative decision to inform council a hired law firm deems the agreement valid. Upholding the integrity and honor of its predecessor's past action is for the town's elected representatives to determine, not staff.

Now at least 35 citizens are organizing against a three story 20 unit building facing a residential neighborhood.

A town council's purpose is to represent its citizens and lead the community into the future they hope to achieve. This council is stuck in the minutiae of legal terms and not interpreting then well for themselves or the community.

— Ken Stern

## LETTER

### Vets exposed to toxics

The PACT Act is a new law that expands Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide generations of veterans — and their survivors — with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.

The VA's will help answer your questions about what the PACT Act means for you or your loved ones. You can also call 800-698-2411 (TTY: 711). And you can file a claim for PACT Act-related disability compensation or apply for VA health care now.

As for myself, I have been battling stage 4 prostate cancer for nearly 14 years. While I did not go "boots on the ground" in Vietnam, I was in Guam in 1978. Guam, for 1962 to 1980, is one of five new areas added to the "presumptive" exposure to agent orange list. Prostate cancer is one of many afflictions that are attributed to exposure to agent orange. Another one is high blood pressure. These conditions will earn you a 100% VA disability rating, which is currently around \$3,200 per month tax free.

I am also covered for potentially other afflictions from the first Gulf War and burn pit exposure.

If you feel you are covered, please check out the VA contact information above.

You can also contact the Disabled American Veterans group and they will assist you with your claim.

I am a lifetime member of the DAV and I currently have a 50% disability rating.

You can contact the DAV office in Mount Vernon at 360-708-7367

More at: [va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits](http://va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits).  
Rick Dole  
La Conner

### Thanks for the smile

With all the disturbing news in the world, I wanted to thank the La Conner Weekly News for the beautiful picture of Maggie Wilder smiling, with a paint brush in her hand. It made my day.

Tia Kurtz

A citizen's view

## Public art, art commission, needed

By Jean Walker-Wharton

The celebration and dedication of new public art on Sept. 3 demonstrated the behind-the-scenes work of the La Conner Arts Commission. Sheila Johnson, chair, invited my attendance. I asked John Leaver to go for me and to express my gratitude for the commission's dedication; and for people responsible in the inception on my property in 2005, of Tracey Powell's and Stan O'Neil's artisan fence structure as well as those who dismantled its 18 feet and have beautifully brought its components back to life in the last two years. Installation is expected in 2022 in the butterfly garden.

Gratitude expressed publicly has functioned as a life force for good in these pandemic years. The arts commission carries on millennia of advanced societies' promotion of public art. These include native American totem poles that raise the spirits of our own town and region. Such art is timeless. The commission provides mind and heart sustenance for all ages and all financial haves and have-nots. Viewers' imaginations are stimulated far beyond the moments they spend here.

Expressing gratitude, I acknowledge the original artists. Tracy Powell, our local, internationally famous carver. His double-sided Tudor Rose's near aspect will draw numerous visitors to enter the butterfly garden. Its far side will be visible from First Street below and from across the channel. Vital connections.

Stan O'Neil's exact highly accomplished iron work combines antique and new structures, providing accompaniment as if the iron roses are proud to be there.

None of this work would have become a public piece without careful nurturing and fortuitous help. Brian Lease, public works director, arrived promptly camera ready when I called on Jan. 15, 2021 to ask his advice. Within days, I had a call from John Leaver, then a councilmember, telling me to ignore the town administrator's letter sent to my P.O. Box. That letter, a "thanks no thanks" message, I filed, as Mr. Leaver continued to promote the "fence" with the arts commission, with the Civic Garden Club and stayed active on every front to get the 18 feet into public view in the butterfly garden.

Meanwhile, the painstaking dismantling of the fence, avoiding damage to any part, was accomplished by Tony Larrabee. His familial ancestral name is found on our Larabee State Park. And the months-long, gifted restoration of each part, including the recovered lumber beam from the University of Victoria, proceeded in the capable hands of our local Canadian, Henry Gunterman, Tony will re-assemble the structure with Henry's support.

We are mightily blessed to be living on the lands of the Coast Salish peoples, past and present. Our various traditions freely greet us only because the arts commission, civic garden club, parks commission and Town of La Conner officials respond to prompts by residents.

Most recently Mr. Leaver secured Robert Nash as "artistic supervisor" for the installation of the fence. In such good hands and with multiple agencies' blessings, the public is well served. We need art.

Wharton is a decades long La Conner resident.

### LETTER POLICY

Please write! Letters up to 350 words are welcome as are longer analyses and statements.

Write a 450 word guest column.

**Deadline: 5 p.m. Sunday for next issue.**

Include your name, address and phone number for verification.

Letters are edited for civility clarity and style.

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## New federal website provides real-time climate data for predictions

By Courtney Flatt NWPB

Northwest Public Broadcasting

A first-of-its-kind climate resilience website will help communities understand climate-related risks, the Biden administration said. The new website, launched Sept. 8, provides real-time information and predictions for local communities that are more vulnerable to disasters, such as wildfires, heat waves and droughts.

The website, known as Climate Mapping for Resilience and Adaptation, or CMRA, will help community leaders better plan for climate-related hazards, officials said. The website and corresponding maps streamline the federal government's data at the national-level down to the census tract-level. Maps and charts show various climate hazards and potential future conditions under low- and high-emission scenarios for heat-trapping greenhouse gasses.

"It's going to help communities, federal agencies and other levels of government better understand their exposure to climate hazards and strengthen their resilience plans," said Richard Spinrad, administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The website will become a first

line of defense for the federal government to protect people, property and infrastructure from climate risks, Spinrad said.

The website sorts climate risks sortable by different climate hazards. For example, the website and maps show current risks for wildfires. Zoom into the Northwest on the map, and a red zone around Spokane and Washington's Palouse region Sept. 8 showed the air quality is unhealthy.

Wildfires are harder to predict with the assessment tool, said David Hayes, special assistant to the president for White House climate policy.

"Wildfires can't be modeled on a geographic basis with anywhere near the precision or modeling that extreme heat can or flood can," Hayes said.

Therefore, the assessment tool relies heavily on temperature and precipitation predictions, although Hayes said the tool will be updated as new data becomes available.

In Spokane, the assessment tool predicted days reaching above 90 degrees would balloon in the coming years. Lower emissions scenarios predict 29.7 days, and higher emissions scenarios predict 31.5 through 2044.

The hot days increase even more from 2070 to 2099. Under lower

emissions scenarios, there could be 45.1 days above 90 degrees. Under higher emissions scenarios, there could be 67.3 days above 90 degrees.

For coastal flooding, the assessment tool predicts portions of Skagit County could be underwater by 2090 as the sea level rises. By the late 21st century, at least 0.5% of the county could be inundated under lower emissions scenarios, and 0.7% of the county could be inundated under higher emissions scenarios.

That sort of information could help city, regional and state planners, Spinrad said.

"It's the impacts on people's health; the loss of power, for example, when there are rolling blackouts; the isolation of communities when roads are washed away; the rationing of water when there are shortages; and the destruction caused by wildfires that point clearly at why we need to be taking action now," Spinrad said.

For example, Spinrad said, NOAA has tracked extreme weather and climate events since the 1980s. On average, there were three disasters costing around \$20 billion each year in the 1980s. That average went up to 13 disasters in the decade starting in 2010, which cost around \$92 billion each year,

Spinrad said.

Predicting climate hazards would help people and the federal government manage and conserve the natural and built environment, Spinrad said.

To help manage the built environment, the maps show applicable building codes and the percent of people who live in a disadvantaged area, which officials said could help better direct resources.

The scientific information this website provides will help make important decisions about the future to help the most people in each community, said Phoenix Mayor Kate Gallego.

"This tool will help me understand the most effective places to put climate resilience dollars," Gallego said.

In Oregon, state officials withdrew a wildfire risk map released in June after public outcry that it could raise insurance rates and lower property values, according to reporting from Oregon Public Broadcasting.

After the map's release, the Oregon Department of Forestry received at least 750 appeals from property owners who argued their land had been erroneously placed in high-risk fire zones, according to OPB.

"For some people this could be

catastrophic if they can no longer afford their homeowners insurance, and they could lose their home," a southern Oregon resident said at a virtual public information session, OPB reported. "Can anybody tell me how I'm going to be impacted financially? What's going to happen with my insurance? No. ... There's no protection for the homeowners. There was absolutely no consideration for how impactful this could be."

For the new risk assessment tools, federal government officials said they expect industry groups to use the open-sourced data, which could include insurance companies.

"This is data that we thought everyone should see for their own purposes. Our view is that it should be available and open-sourced," Hayes said.

Moreover, that same data could help communities apply for federal disaster relief from FEMA, Hayes said.

"This will be used by communities to help describe their needs and put that in funding requests," Hayes said, of the information the website can provide.

The website: [resilience.climate.gov/](http://resilience.climate.gov/).

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**OBITUARY**



**Stephen William Barden**  
Stephen William (Steve) Barden, age 72, of Camano Island passed away unexpectedly Sunday Sept. 4, 2022, in Rhemes-Notre-Dame, Italy.

Steve grew up in Seattle and later resided many years in La Conner and Camano Island. He received a Nursing degree from BTC and enjoyed working for Warm Beach Senior Community as a nurse before retiring.

Steve would always do anything for his friends, family, or community and loved spending time with them. He lived life to the fullest and enjoyed watching the Seattle Mariners, taking care of his many bonsai trees, gardening, cooking, hiking, and traveling the world. He was always up for any adventure, climbing Mt Rainier, backpacking the 500-mile Camino de Santiago from France to Spain, paragliding, or just riding the Expedition Everest rollercoaster at Disney world.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Pam; children, Brittany (spouse Scott) and Robert; grandson, Corbin; brothers, Bryce, and Chuff (spouse Carolyn); sister-in-law, Karen (spouse Bill); nieces and nephews, May, Case, Heidi, Maddy, Joseph, and Richard. He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert, and Marilu Barden.

He will be forever loved and forever missed.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Oct. 1 at 10:30 a.m., at Sacred Heart Church of La Conner with a reception to follow. All are welcome to attend and celebrate Steve's life.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Stanwood Food Bank, Tri-Parish Food Bank, or Catholic Community Services.

**This is Banned Books Week**

We are in the middle of Banned Books Week, Sept. 18-24. This year's theme is "Books Unite Us. Censorship Divides Us." Banned Books Week draws national attention to the harms of censorship, focusing on efforts across the country to remove or restrict access to books. Each year this week celebrates the freedom to read and the value of free and open access to information.

Banned Books Week was launched in 1982 in response to a sudden surge in the number of challenges to books in schools, bookstores and libraries.

Five of the Top 10 Challenged Books of 2021 have LGBTQIA+ content and most of the 10 are considered to be sexually explicit.

Banned Books Week brings together the entire book community – librarians, book-sellers, publishers, journalists, teachers, and readers of all types – in shared support of the freedom to seek and to express ideas, even those some consider unorthodox or unpopular.

LGBTQIA+ abbreviates lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, and asexual/aromantic/agender.

Source: [annedbooksweek.org](http://annedbooksweek.org).

**Donate to Tommy Thompson Trail**

The Tommy Thompson Trail at Fidalgo Bay Road in Anacortes has been indefinitely closed since Aug. 30 due to a trestle fire that damaged approximately 50 feet of the bridge across Fidalgo Bay.

The investigation is ongoing, states a recent Anacortes Police Department press release. APD encourages anyone with information to contact police. They seek relevant surveillance footage of the area.

An investigator with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives is investigating, also, the press release states.

The Anacortes Parks Foundation is accepting donations to rebuild the bridge. Donate at [anacortesparksfoundation.org](http://anacortesparksfoundation.org).

Source: *Anacortes Police*



FUTURE SITE OF SNAPDRAGON FLATS – Excavating the base of Snapdragon Hill prepares the site for construction next spring of developer C.J. Ebert's Snapdragon Hill triplex apartment building. It will be followed by Snapdragon Park on the south side, another triplex. Story next week. – Photo by Ken Stern

**Aleutian Isle raised, moved to Mitchell Bay**

By Ken Stern

When you read this the fishing vessel Aleutian Isle will be in Mitchell Bay. Plans were to move it there Monday afternoon. The vessel was successfully lifted to the surface Saturday, Sept. 17. Crews worked through that evening to dewater the vessel. Their first efforts removed 250 gallons of waste oil. They next removed any diesel fuel remaining onboard.

Throughout the raising process some fuel escaped. The U.S. Coast Guard reported that pollution mitigation strategies were effective. Responders were

able to boom sheening that was containable.

Crews continued dewatering the vessel, removing approximately 775 gallons of oily-water mixture. Monday, additional dewatering lightened the weight of the vessel and it was moved onto the recovery barge.

Dewatering, removing fuel and de-rigging was a multi-day, multi-stage process to reduce the vessel's weight so it could be brought to the surface.

In Mitchell Bay divers are able to work longer and safer in its shallower depths and crews will be able to completely defuel,

dewater and re-rig the Aleutian Isle in preparation to be lifted onto a barge.

The 49 foot Aleutian Isle sank Aug. 13 on the west side of San Juan Island near Sunset Point and settled into about 200 feet of water.

Throughout the salvage process response crews contained the sheen and recovered fuel and oil whenever possible. No whales were in the vicinity during the lift Saturday, and there were no reported impacts to wildlife from the sheening.

Source: *Washington Department of Ecology*

**Amtrak resumes service from Seattle to Vancouver, BC**

The Amtrak Cascades service to Vancouver, British Columbia will resume Sept. 26.

The first Cascades train to Vancouver will depart Seattle at 7:45 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 26, stop at five cities along the way and arrive in Vancouver at 11:45 a.m. Traveling southbound, Amtrak Cascades will depart Vancouver at 5:45 p.m. and arrive in Seattle at 10:10 p.m. A second daily trip will be added later.

The route also offers three daily round trips between Portland and Seattle, four daily buses between Seattle and Vancouver, BC and two daily buses between Seattle and Bellingham. Service between Vancouver,

BC, and Seattle was suspended in 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

All passengers must use the ArriveCAN app before travel and wear a mask in Canadian stations and on-board trains while traveling through Canada. Non-Canadian citizens must be fully vaccinated and carry the vaccination record that was uploaded into ArriveCAN.

Purchase tickets at Amtrak.com, the Amtrak app, or 1-800-USA-RAIL.

Source: *Amtrak*

**State Parks free Saturday**

OLYMPIA – State parks and lands have free entrance Saturday, Sept. 24, in recognition of National and Washington Public Lands Day. A Discover Pass will not be needed to park. Discover Pass free days apply to all visitor parking on Department of Natural Resources and Department of Fish and Wildlife lands and in day-use areas at Washington state parks.

Source: *Washington State Parks*

**Fall arrives Thursday**

Falls comes our way at 9:04 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 22. This is the autumnal equinox, from the Latin words, aequus, equal, and nox, night. This names the day when night and day are of almost equal length in all parts of the earth, roughly 12 hours each.

Fall ends with winter's start Dec. 21. The solstice is the shortest day and longest night of the year.

Meteorological fall started Sept. 1 and ends Nov. 30. Meteorological winter starts Dec. 1.

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By Jessica Gigot  
about Skagit Valley!

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## Soroptimists honor Lea Diacos' life with award

By Bill Reynolds

The late Lea McMillan Diacos was truly a gem in her hometown of La Conner.

How fitting, then, that her memory is honored here as a posthumous recipient of the Soroptimist International of La Conner Ruby Award in recognition of her steadfast support of local youth.

The ruby, after all, is associated with wisdom, importance, vitality, strength, power and love.

Diacos, a 1938 La Conner High School graduate, checked all those boxes prior to her passing in 2008.

Her love for her community is tangibly reflected by her bequeathing \$1.6 million in cash and property to the La Conner Community Scholarship Foundation. Diacos' generosity established a major annual scholarship named for her parents, George and Lillian McMillan, whose pea cannery was a fixture on the south end waterfront.

"I still marvel that this happened in our little town," Soroptimist and retired school district administrator Maureen Harlan said of the seven-figure Diacos bequest.

The McMillan Scholarship each spring provides four-year funding support to a graduating senior planning to enroll in a state college or university.

During her lifetime, Diacos provided money anonymously for students.

"She would come in and either say that she'd heard we had students in need or ask if there were any students who we knew needed some help," Harlan recalled. "Then she'd hand over an envelope with money and say it was something for whoever needed help."

Diacos' philanthropy went under the radar.

But La Conner Soroptimists, including Pam Johnson – her parents, Ed and Ruth Dalan, were friends of the McMillans – agreed that Diacos' many contributions merit attention in perpetuity.

The Ruby Award, they decided,



**HONORING A GEM** – La Conner Soroptimists Barb Endrody (left) and Ruth Braun present to Superintendent Will Nelson a plaque and pictorial Ruby Award tribute created by artist Mary Ennes Davis posthumously honoring Lea McMillan Diacos. – Photo by Bill Reynolds

was just the vehicle to do so.

Named for Ruby Lee Minar, a prominent advocate for women's rights and the first president of the Washington, D.C. Soroptimist Club, the award recognizes women who have through their personal or professional lives worked to improve the lives of others.

After her high school graduation, Diacos enrolled in Western Washington University's College of Education. From there, teaching certificate in hand, she began her career as a classroom instructor with Anacortes schools. She married U.S. Navy veteran Christopher Diacos, an Anacortes business owner.

Still, her devotion to La Conner didn't waver. Nor did a deeply held value for community service.

Those traits are spelled out in a Ruby Award plaque and pictorial tribute to Diacos created for La Conner Soroptimists by Bellingham artist Mary Ennes Davis, who six years ago developed the 60-foot by nine-foot history wall at the middle school.

Davis used photographs provided by Linda Reynolds-Gravely and Catey Ritchie and favorite anecdotes offered by multiple sources – Johnson and Gail Bruce, among them – in crafting the plaque.

"It was quite a bit of work," said Harlan. "She listened to all our stories and did a great job of highlighting Lea's interest in giving back to the town and school she loved."

When conferred to a living person, the Ruby Award includes a \$1,000 check. This time, La Conner Soroptimists used those funds to reimburse Davis for her yeoman efforts.

Barb Endrody and Ruth Braun, co-chairs of the La Conner Soroptimist service and awards committee, presented Davis' work to Superintendent Will Nelson last week.

An appreciative Nelson said the Diacos Ruby Award plaque and pictorial would be placed in a high visibility area, most likely inside the main entrance to the connected middle school and high

## Fall sports kick off busy schedules

By Bill Reynolds

After suffering successive losses to open the season, the La Conner High School girls' soccer team got on the board in a 10-2 non-conference home loss to Oak Harbor Sept. 9.

Still, an asterisk is in order.

The two La Conner goals were scored by Oak Harbor players on loan to the short-handed Lady Braves, who are still without their full roster due to eligibility and injury issues.

Head coach Christian Warman said some players need to complete the required 10 pre-season practices to participate in matches.

The clash with the Lady Wildcats was essentially a scrimmage with a third big school foe following prior setbacks to Kamiak and East Valley of Yakima.

Warman was pleased with the effort his players – many of them underclassmen – put forth.

"We had some good things happen," he said, "but we had some adversity in the second half. We kind of lost our focus there. It was a tough week, playing against larger schools, but we still need to find a way to keep our focus."

The Lady Braves (0-4) resumed home action Sept. 14 with a hard-fought 3-0 defeat to another bigger

school, Sedro-Woolley.

Warman is hoping his club can be at full strength when it hosts Friday Harbor tomorrow (Thursday) at 4 p.m. The Lady Braves visit Mount Vernon Christian Saturday at 2 p.m.

The La Conner boys' team, meanwhile, debuted two weeks ago with a pair of tight setbacks. The Braves fell 2-1 to Rainier Christian and 3-1 to Riverside Christian. La Conner got a win with a 3-0 shutout victory at home over Concordia Christian Academy of Tacoma Sept. 17.

The Braves entertained NW2B/1B rival Coupeville yesterday. They play Grace Academy in a 4:30 p.m. home match Sept. 27.

The defending state 2B champion high school volleyball team, idle since a straight-sets season debut triumph over 2A Anacortes, returned to action late Monday, at home opposite Sehome. Coach Suzanne Marble's chargers sail to Friday Harbor tomorrow for a 3:30 p.m. match with the Lady Wolverines.

The La Conner football team, whose first two scheduled games were canceled – one due to poor air quality from wildfires – fell 52-0 at Friday Harbor Sept. 16. The Braves look to regroup at home this Friday (7 p.m.) in a conference clash with Coupeville.

school buildings.

Chartered in 1996, La Conner Soroptimists have a well-established reputation for support of local schools and students, Endrody and Braun noted.

The club, which operates the popular Vintage La Conner store at Third and Morris streets, has awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships to La Conner graduates over the years, including \$3,000 each to six seniors last spring.

"We want to make a difference," Braun stressed.

Endrody said the Soroptimists provide scholarship aid to graduates working toward advanced degrees and with the Dixie Otis Memorial Award

support La Conner teachers working toward master's degrees and national board certification.

Endrody and Braun said such support along with Ruby Award recognition are the result of the community's embrace – through cash and merchandise donations to Vintage La Conner – of the Soroptimist mission.

"We really thank the community for being so supportive of everything we do," Endrody said. "Without those donations we couldn't do what we do."

Launched in 1921, in Oakland, California, at a time when women weren't permitted to join service organizations, Soroptimist International now boasts more than 1,300 clubs invested in bettering their communities and taking steps to assure the economic empowerment of women and girls.

Diacos provided a perfect model for La Conner Soroptimists to emulate.

"Everything we take in," said Harlan, "we give back."

As did Diacos, whose sharing and caring nature is now memorialized via the Ruby Award.

"There's no other way to thank her," Harlan said, "but to honor her."




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# Another successful Skagit Valley Giant Pumpkin Festival



FAN FAVORITE – Third place winner Cindy Tobeck poses next to her 1,277.5 pound giant pumpkin at the Skagit Valley Giant Pumpkin Festival at Christianson’s Nursery Sept. 17.

– Photo by Marissa Conklin

By Marissa Conklin

The Skagit Valley Pumpkin Festival Sept. 17 was a success for both host Christianson’s Nursery and farmers across the state. From 9 a.m.-4 p.m. visitors attending enjoyed family-friendly carnival games, face painting and tractor rides while the adults enjoyed a Farmstrong Brewing beer garden. Pumpkin festival entries competed to finish among the top ten for the heaviest pumpkins. Two bonus awards included the “Howard Dill Prettiest Pumpkin” and the “Ugliest Pumpkin.” Winners received cash prizes ranging from \$25 to \$1,500. There were 11 entries and each pumpkin had to be carried to the scale by a forklift. The heaviest pumpkin weighed in at 1,614 pounds and was grown in Sumner, Washington by master pumpkin grower Joel Holland. Christianson’s social media reports that Holland has taken first place at the festival several times. A fan favorite was Cindy Tobeck’s pumpkin, which took third place at 1,277.5 pounds She came from Olympia. Many families crowded around the orange gourd and took pictures of their children climbing all over it. The pumpkins are available to view through next week.

## Hedlin. . .

(from page 1) in agriculture and mission to preserve farmland to his family and those mentors who took him under their wings and provided encouragement at an early age. The latter included the late Bob Hulbert, whose granddaughter, Bryn Hulbert, serves alongside Hedlin on the SPF board. “Bob saw something in me that I didn’t see myself,” said Hedlin. “He had a profound effect on my life.” His voice occasionally cracking with emotion, Hedlin noted the arrival here more than a century ago from Denmark – via North Dakota – of his grandfather Rasmus Koudal. In a video presentation Saturday, Hedlin said Koudal at one point went atop the hill in town where the historical museum is now located and admiringly looked out upon Dodge Valley and the La Conner Flats.

“He said it reminded him of Denmark,” Hedlin recounted, “and that it was the best of the best.” For that reason, he said, the Hedlin family remains firmly committed to maintaining its nearly 500-acre La Conner area farm, which produces about 40 different crops, well into the future. It’s a vision he endorses for all Skagit County farm families. “When we all work together,” insisted Hedlin, “we all win.” A host of Skagit farmers paid tribute to Hedlin’s 33-year commitment to SPF in the video. John Roozen, with whom Hedlin often lunches in La Conner, was one. “Thank you, Dave Hedlin,” Roozen said, “for being my

friend.” On that score, as evidenced by the attendance, Roozen has plenty of company. I Christianson’s Nursery & Greenhouse, Dunlap Towing and Calico Cupboard were among official sponsors of the Celebrate Skagit Harvest Dinner and Auction. Hedlin’s Family Farm and Tillinghast Postal & Business Center served as in-kind supporters and producers. Swinomish master carver Kevin Paul donated “Big Love,” a pair of hummingbirds fashioned from yellow cedar, to the live auction. It fetched \$1,600. The carving represents healing with the hummingbird beaks coming together to form a heart.

# Sweet deal for Poetry Festival volunteers

By Anne Basye

A million details make the Skagit River Poetry Festival happen – and they are all coming together. Before the Festival takes place in La Conner Oct. 6-9, there are 34 poets to match to housing, pick up at the airport shuttle and feed. There are half a dozen school buses to arrange so Skagit and Whatcom County high school students can attend for free on Friday, October 7. Not to mention 220 chairs to distribute to Festival venues for a four-day whirlwind of setting up, taking down, setting up and taking down again. This is the Poetry Festival number 11. For each of the previous ten, “my goal has been to be able to turn on the switch the first day and have everything run smoothly,” said Molly McNulty, executive director of the Skagit River Poetry Foundation, “but something always throws in a monkey wrench.” So far, there’s not a monkey wrench to be seen. McNulty says all poets have someone to greet

them at the shuttle and housing is largely lined up, thanks to residents like Maureen Harlan, former principal, counselor and teacher at La Conner High School. Harlan loves housing poets for the Festival and SRPF’s Poets in the Schools program. This year she and her husband Mit are opening their home to Illinois poet Austin Smith. “I saw him on C-SPAN a couple of years ago and was totally charmed,” she said. “I told Molly that if she could get Austin Smith out here I’d pay for his flight. Now he’s coming and I’m really looking forward to meeting him.” While many volunteers have been recruited, Festival volunteer coordinator Britta Eschete still needs folks to do what McNulty calls “the dirty jobs.” That includes setting up and taking down venues and helping serve and clean up after the Thursday night meal. People are needed to sell merchandise and tickets in Maple Hall and host venues where individual poets read and discuss their work. Volunteers will be paid in

poetry. Anyone who volunteers for 12 hours over the four days has free access to all Festival events except the Thursday night soiree. For those with less time to commit, a half day of volunteering can be exchanged for free admission to the rest of the day’s program. McNulty says there is lots of excitement around the festival, along with some unknown variables. This is the first time the Festival has taken place in the fall, although Skagit county school superintendents prefer October over May. It is also the first full year of in-person schooling since the pandemic. Slowly, schools are signing on and people are purchasing tickets. “All the big cities have poetry festivals, but we are unique in that we bring nationally renowned poets to ours,” said McNulty. “So we always say that ours is the best.” Whether they buy a ticket or sign up to volunteer, La Conner Weekly News readers can put SRPF’s claim to the test in a little over two weeks.

## Vote. . . (from page 1)

Thomas and Hayes sought a second special council meeting this week following the Friday council vote. Hayes called for it Monday morning. “That was not the decision that Scott and I expected,” Hayes said in a phone call after the meeting. Thomas agreed. “We think the document should be out in the public,” he said. Both said the Town administration is committed to transparency. On Friday council members expressed reservations about releasing details of communication labeled confidential. “I’m uncomfortable going against that,” councilman Rick Dole explained prior to the initial vote. “This would put La Conner in a very negative position with other attorneys we might work with in the future. And that’s something I don’t want to be part

of.” Council members Annie Taylor and Mary Wohleb were also able to attend. Members Ivan Carlson and MaryLee Chamberlain were absent. Dole’s concerns were alleviated Tuesday. Council was assured that its action would be limited to this one issue and not have a bearing on future attorney-client privilege situations. Only council, as the client in this scenario, can waive the attorney-client privilege, Thomas said. Dole, Taylor, Wohleb and Carlson voted in unison on Tuesday. MaryLee Chamberlain was unable to attend the special meeting the next morning. The 36-year-old contract rezoning agreement, which for reasons no one is certain, was never codified in ordinance form nor recorded at the Skagit County auditor’s office. It was misfiled under an incorrect address at town hall. The rezoning terms had required then-property owners Jerry and Donna Blades to submit to an historic design review process for development of the site in exchange for it being re-designated from residential to commercial use. The site is behind a former full-service fuel station in the heart of a single-family residential neighborhood. The contract rezoning is at the heart of a bid by owners Kate and Brandon Atkinson to build a three-story 20-unit residential building. Their conditional use permit

was approved by Hearing Examiner David Lowell. In an appeal, or reconsideration, the contract rezoning agreement was entered into the record by longtime resident Linda Talman. Lowell remanded the agreement back to the Town to determine the validity of the contract rezoning. Seattle attorney David Bricklin, retained by two La Conner residents, has opined that the contract rezoning is valid, and that the Town is obliged to honor its commitment. Thomas said Kenyon Disend “are saying the agreement isn’t enforceable.” Their assessment is that the contract rezoning was voided when its conditions were not revealed to those who had subsequently purchased the property following the Blades’ ownership. **Assistant planner job Ok’d** At its Friday session, the council approved creation of a full-time assistant municipal planner position. The Town has been unsuccessful in recruiting applicants for a new permit technician post. “So,” said Thomas, “we decided to go in a slightly different direction and try to hire an assistant planner. We’re looking at a younger, talented planner just out of school. “The responsibilities have been somewhat enhanced,” Thomas said. “We’re hopeful we can find someone to fill this position who can help reduce the workload on our planner and so we can have someone available whenever Town Hall is open.”

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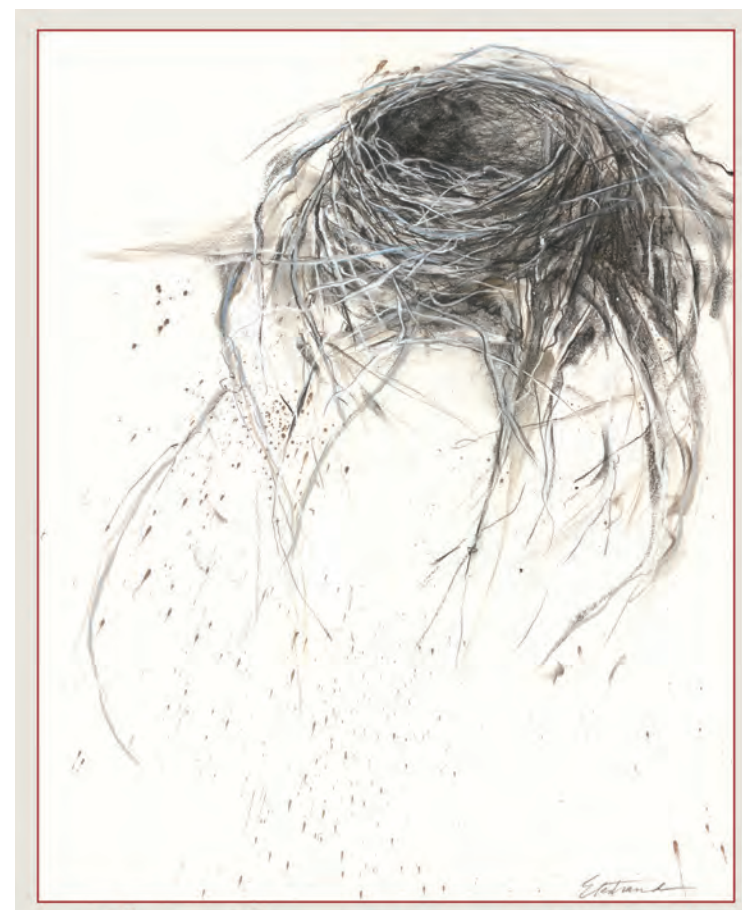
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**Jensons.** . . (from page 1)

Councilmember MaryLee Chamberlain, in the discussion before the vote, said she favored purchasing the Jenson property and involving the public in how best to use the land.

"I think involving the community is an important thing to plan for," Chamberlain insisted. She suggested crafting a citizens' survey to gather public input, akin to the process undertaken for the new Maple Avenue park.

**The rest of the council meeting**

Councilmember Mary Wohleb brought up that the Town's application for a state Recreation Conservation Opportunity grant to develop the park was unsuccessful.

"It was very competitive, but we'll continue to pursue funding," vowed Wohleb, liaison to the town parks commission.

The La Conner Rotary Club has committed \$5,000 to the Maple Avenue park project, she noted.

"We've been chasing grants," said Wohleb. "It was a lot of work (on the RCO grant) and for it to just die on the vine was sad. But at least we still have open space there."

Town planner Michael Davolio said requests for changes to the municipal code or comprehensive plan submitted through January will be considered in 2023. He said that due to state mandated deadlines requiring submission of materials, items proposed now cannot be considered in 2022.

The annual 60-day window for submitting ideas for code and comp plan changes is Dec. 1-Jan. 31. He, Chamberlain, and Hayes agreed it is confusing, with the two-month period straddling calendar years.

Davolio said he is open to a longer public input period if the Town deadline remains the end of January.

Town Administrator Scott Thomas said the window can be modified for improved clarity.

Davolio said developing a short-term rental policy will be deferred.

The Port of Skagit, whose representatives are scheduled to attend the Sept. 20 planning commission public hearing, was the lone applicant to propose changes for this year, said Davolio.

Resident Amy McFeely addressed concerns about La Conner's susceptibility to costly property crimes and issued a plea for Town leaders to draft and implement cost-effective strategies that enhance public safety.

Councilmember Rick Dole similarly relayed to Sgt. Beau Montgomery, the Skagit County Sheriff's Office La Conner Detachment administrator, that two local merchants have asked if officers on street patrol can occasionally stop inside stores.

"Definitely," said Montgomery, "I'll put the word out."

Montgomery said the sheriff's office also will meet with residents and merchants to provide assessments on how they can best protect their properties against crime.

"I'm an advocate for a citizens' patrol," said Hayes, "but it hasn't gone anywhere."

Hayes brought up residents' concerns about speeding traffic all over town. Center Street property owner Georgia Johnson offered testimony, saying she has been passed on Maple Avenue by vehicles traveling up to 40 mph.

Roadway speed cushions are an option, Hayes said.

Hayes announced some business owners are discussing a Dickens Era Christmas Festival in December. The group is self-funded.

"That will give us a greater opportunity to have a broader public discussion," he said.

La Conner artist Maggie Wilder and her corps of volunteers were thanked for restoring the murals beneath Rainbow Bridge.

Lastly, resident Gary Nelson implored council members to focus on sections in the Comprehensive Plan addressing affordability of local housing.

**AGENDA**

**TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA September 27, 2022.** 104 Commercial Street Upper Maple Center And by Zoom Information is below and on the Town Website.

**I. Call to Order**  
**II. Pledge of Allegiance**  
**III. Public Comments** (Limit: 3 minutes per person)  
**IV. Presentations:**  
**V. CONSENT AGENDA**  
**A. Consent Agenda** (Approved without objection 5/0)  
 1. Approval of the Minutes: Council Meeting September 13, 2022  
**Finance:** Approval of Accounts Payable  
 Approval of Payroll  
**VI. REPORTS**  
 1. Administrator's Report  
 2. Mayor's Report  
 3. Council Committee Reports  
**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**  
 1. PUBLIC HEARING – Parks & Fire Impact Fees  
 2. Ordinance – Parks and Fire Impact Fees  
 3. Ordinance – Resident Request  
 4. Center Street - Discussion  
**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**  
 1. Agreement – Community Action Vender Agreement (Utility Billing Assistant)  
 2. 2023 Hotel Motel Distribution  
**IX. MAYOR ROUNDTABLE**  
**X. EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
 There may be an executive session immediately preceding or following the meeting as allowed by RCW 42.30.110 and as announced by the presiding officer.

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR THE COUNTY OF SKAGIT** In the Matter of the Estate of BARBARA JOAN BISSELL, Deceased. Case No. 22-4-00458-29  
**PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS**  
 RCW 11.40.020, 11.40.030  
 The Personal Representative named below has been appointed and has qualified 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 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 RCW 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate assets and non-probate assets of the decedent.  
 Date of First Publication: September 21, 2022.  
 Personal Representative: Lexie Lamborn  
 Attorney for Personal Representative: BARRON SMITH DAUGERT PLLC  
 Felicia Value, WSBA No. 27635  
 PO Box 578  
 La Conner, WA 98257  
 (360) 466-2088  
 Published in the La Conner Weekly News September 21, 28, October 5, 2022.

within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.  
 Date of First Publication: September 7, 2022.  
 Personal Representative: Michael Hillson  
 Attorney for the Personal Representative: JOSEPH D. BOWEN, #17631  
 Address for Mailing or Service: JOSEPH D. BOWEN ATTORNEY AT LAW, P.S. 401 South Second Street Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
 Published in the La Conner Weekly News September 7, 14, 21, 2022.

**SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY** No. 22-4-00456-29  
**PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS** (RCW 11.40.030)  
 In the Matter of the Estate of Marjorie M. Bickel, 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 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.  
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 Felicia Value, WSBA No. 27635  
 PO Box 578  
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 (360) 466-2088  
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 Date of first publication: September 21, 2022  
 Roger Mark Hurd  
 Personal Representative SKAGIT LAW GROUP, PLLC  
 MEGAN OTIS MASON-HOLDER, WSBA #29495  
 Attorneys for Personal Representative  
 P.O. Box 336/227 Freeway Drive, Suite B  
 Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
 Published in the La Conner Weekly News September 21, 28, October 5, 2022.

**SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY** No. 22-4-00473-29  
**PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS** (RCW 11.40.030)  
 In the Matter of the Estate of Gene Sargent, 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: September 21, 2022  
 Michael L. Sargent  
 Personal Representative SKAGIT LAW GROUP, PLLC  
 MEGAN OTIS MASON-HOLDER, WSBA #29495  
 Attorneys for Personal Representative  
 P.O. Box 336/227 Freeway Drive, Suite B  
 Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
 Published in the La Conner Weekly News September 21, 28, October 5, 2022.



• On **Oct. 6, 1866**, the Reno gang carries out the first robbery of a moving train, making off with \$13,000 from a train in Indiana. This new method of sticking up moving trains in remote locations that were low on law enforcement, instead of trains sitting in depots, soon became popular in the American West.

• On **Oct. 4, 1927**, sculpting begins on the granite images of presidents Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Roosevelt at Mount Rushmore. Jefferson's image was originally fashioned to the right of Washington. Within two years, the face was badly cracked, and workers blasted the sculpture off the mountain. Sculpting began again with Jefferson on the left side of Washington.

• On **Oct. 5, 1947**, President Harry Truman makes the first televised presidential address, asking Americans to cut back on food to help starving Europeans. He requested that the public voluntarily forgo meat on Tuesdays, eggs and poultry on Thursdays and to save a slice of bread each day.

• On **Oct. 8, 1956**, New York Yankees right-hander Don Larsen pitches the first no-hitter in the history of the World Series. It was a perfect game that no one matched until Philadelphia Phillies pitcher Roy Halladay in 2010.

• On **Oct. 9, 1967**, socialist revolutionary and guerrilla leader Che Guevara, age 39, is captured and executed by the Bolivian army. In 1997, Guevara's remains were found and sent back to Cuba, where they were reburied in a ceremony attended by President Fidel Castro and thousands of Cubans.

• On **Oct. 7, 1983**, Sean Connery stars in "Never Say Never Again" as the British secret service agent James Bond, a role he last played in 1971. The film's title referenced the fact that the Scottish-born actor had previously remarked that he would never play Agent 007 again.

• On **Oct. 3, 1995**, Heisman Trophy winner O.J. Simpson is acquitted of the double murder of his estranged wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman, despite a DNA match, a wound on Simpson's hand, the recent purchase of a Stiletto knife and matching shoeprints at the scene.

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**THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SKAGIT**  
 Estate of Christopher HILLSON, Deceased, Michael HILLSON, Petitioner. Case No. 22-4-00346-29  
**NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO: ALL CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT.**  
**YOU AND EACH OF YOU TAKE NOTE** that the Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this Estate. 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 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

**SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY** No. 22-4-00474-29  
**PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS** (RCW 11.40.030)  
 In the Matter of the Estate of Roger D. Hurd, 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

**SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY** No. 22-4-00472-29  
**PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS** (RCW 11.40.030)  
 In the Matter of the Estate of Roger D. Hurd, 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

**Super Crossword**

**Answers**

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

**Weekly SUDOKU**

Answer

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

Place an **AT YOUR SERVICE AD**  
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**Answers to September 21 puzzles**

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336-3496

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 Mount Vernon, WA  
 98273

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**ATTORNEY AT LAW**

PRACTICING EMPHASIZING  
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**\$175**

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Complete Events Calendar on [laconnerweeklynews.com](http://laconnerweeklynews.com)

## ASSISTANCE

**La Conner Sunrise Food Bank.** Food distribution every Monday from 2:30-5 p.m. 602 S. 3rd St., La Conner. 360-488-3878. [laconnerfoodbank.com](http://laconnerfoodbank.com).

## LIBRARIES

**La Conner Library.** 614 Morris St, La Conner. 360-466-3352. [lclib.wa.us](http://lclib.wa.us). Closed indefinitely to start the move process to new building.

**Anacortes Public Library.** 360-299-8067. [CityofAnacortes.org](http://CityofAnacortes.org). 1220 10th St, Anacortes.

**Teen Acting Workshop.** Every Friday. 3-4:30 p.m. at library community room. Free. Performance Sept. 30, 5 p.m.

**Tech Help.** Every weekday at library front desk. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Drop-in for hands-on help.

**Mount Vernon Public Library.** 360-336-6209, [mountvernonwa.gov](http://mountvernonwa.gov). 315 Snoqualmie St, Mount Vernon.

**Virtual Reality.** Every Saturday 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Must be 18 or older.

**Baby Storytime.** Every Friday 10:30-11 a.m.

## NOT TO BE MISSED

**Skagit County Fall Garage Sale.** Sept. 23-24, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Skagit County Fairgrounds. Admission \$4 per person. Over 160 vendors and live music!

**B-Town Fall Fest.** Sept. 24-25, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Skagit River Park. Free family fun.

**Skagit Land Trust**  
*Barr Creek Volunteer Event.* Sept. 23, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Conrad Rd. near Rockport. RSVP at [skagitlandtrust.org](http://skagitlandtrust.org).

**Cub Scout Adventure Day.** Oct. 1, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Fire Mountain Scout Camp in Mount Vernon. All Cub Scouts, parents and siblings are invited.

**Washington Brant Foundation.**  
*Bird decoy carving and painting.* Oct. 5, 4-6 p.m. at Maiben House in Burlington. 8-week series is \$70 for adults and \$50 for youth.

## MUSIC

**Ukelele Fun & Song Circle.**  
*Meet every Wednesday.* 1-2 p.m., Burlington Senior Center. Beginners and all ages are welcome. Loaner ukes available. For more info, email [yogaheartspace0@gmail.com](mailto:yogaheartspace0@gmail.com).

## ART & THEATRE

**Cassera Galleries.** 106 1st St, La Conner. [casseraartspremiers.com](http://casseraartspremiers.com).

*The Art of Furniture by Stuart Welch.* Through Oct. 20.

**Whidbey Playhouse.** 730 SE Midway Blvd, Oak Harbor. 360-679-2237. [whidbeyplayhouse.com](http://whidbeyplayhouse.com)

*Show: "Grease"* through Oct. 2. Fri-Sat 7:30 p.m., Sunday 2:30 p.m.

**Lincoln Theatre.** 712 S 1st St, Mount Vernon. 360-336-8955. [lincoltheatre.org](http://lincoltheatre.org).

*Auditions: Frozen Jr.* Sept. 20-21, 6 p.m. Theatre Arts Guild (TAG) production.

**Camano Island Quilters.**  
*Harvest Festival Quilt Sale.* Sept. 24-25, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Christianson's Nursery. Quilts for sale, quilts on display, vendors, quilters boutique and more. Admission \$6, kids 12 and under free.

## MEETINGS

**Town of La Conner**  
204 Douglas St, La Conner. 360-466-3125. Zoom info @Townoflaconner.org/calendar.

*Town Council.* Sept. 27, 6 p.m. at Maple Hall and Zoom.

**La Conner School District**  
305 N 6th St, La Conner. 360-466-4113. [lcsd.wednet.edu](http://lcsd.wednet.edu).

*Staff Meeting to discuss phone policy.* Sept. 26, 4 p.m. at district office board room and Zoom.

*Board Meeting.* Sept. 26, 5 p.m. at district office board room and Zoom.

*Financial Aid Night.* Sept. 27, at high school library.

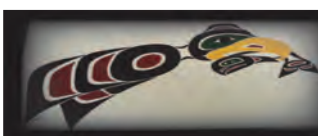
**Skagit Conservation District 2021**  
E. College Way #203, Mt. Vernon. 360-428-4313. Zoom info @ skagitcd.org.

*Board meetings.* Every fourth Wednesday 7:30-9 a.m. Next meeting September 27.

**Rotary Club of La Conner.**  
[laconnerrotary.org](http://laconnerrotary.org). Meetings Monday, 6-7 p.m. at the Farmhouse restaurant - optional dinner at 5:30 p.m.

**Skagit Cemetery District One.**  
*Regular meetings.* Every second Thursday, 5 p.m. at Lori Buhers home, 17604 Valentine Rd., Mount Vernon.

**Little Mountain Gamblers.**  
*Gamblers Anonymous.* Every Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. at Senior Center in Mount Vernon. 1401 Cleveland Ave. Any questions, call Washington State Gamblers Anonymous hotline at 855-222-5542.



## Aqimuk's Kitchen

By Patricia Aqimuk Paul, Esq., Food Editor.

### Baked Salmon Steaks

*Salmon steaks, ideally, are from a firm fish. There's a wild taste because it's baked with the bones in and the skin is on. I tried a cajun Louisiana fish fry mix. Baking on parchment paper makes clean-up easy.*

#### Ingredients

- Salmon steaks, 1 per serving
- Fish fry mix, 1 cup
- Butter, 5 tbsp
- Parchment paper, to fit the baking sheet



#### Preparation

Pat the salmon dry. Sprinkle on the fish fry mix, coating both sides, patting into the salmon. Set the coated salmon steaks onto the parchment lined baking sheet. Lay the butter pats around the salmon. Bake 350 F for 30 minutes.

[AqimuksKitchen@outlook.com](mailto:AqimuksKitchen@outlook.com)

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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## CLASSIFIEDS

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**REPORTER WANTED** Like to write? Want to see your name in print? Part-time writer needed for: Freelance, contract work. Some weekends. Send letter of interest and writing samples to: Ken Stern, publisher: [editor@laconnernews.com](mailto:editor@laconnernews.com)

**LOOKING FOR** 1-4 Acres of land in Whatcom, Sedro Woolley, La Conner, Marblemount, Stanwood, Anacortes, Coupeville, etc. for off-grid homestead for my small family. Must have trees and year around access. Have \$40-75K cash in hand for whole payment, with minimal building restrictions preferred. Please call 425-772-1096

**FOR SALE** sofa, china display cabinet, dining table/4 chairs, kitchen hutch, small desk, 3 drawer chest, 2 drawer lateral file, 2 pole lamps, 2 rattan chairs, 2 small occasional tables, decorative mirror, 6ft. x-mas tree. Located in Shelter Bay. Call Tiina at 714-803-5877

**OFFICE ASSISTANT.** This is a Part-time position of 20 hours a week with an hourly wage of \$19.43 per hour.

**No Benefits. Duties include** answering phones, greeting customers, daily posting of all payments, and other duties assigned. For an employment application and full job description, please refer to the Town of La Conner website [www.townoflaconner.org](http://www.townoflaconner.org) under Employment. Applications are due no later than 3:30 pm on September 30, 2022. Late submissions will not be accepted.

**STAY IN YOUR HOME ON YOUR OWN TERMS.** I am a healthy retired teacher and former veteran offering homestay, caregiving and housekeeper solutions for seniors. I would prefer a live-in situation, renting a room from the employer. Call Nick at 206-422-1179 or email [earboneman@hotmail.com](mailto:earboneman@hotmail.com).

**JO'S HEALING HANDS.** When is the last time you got a massage? Call and make an appt. Today - Jo's Healing Hands LMT 360-708-2022.

**LOOKING FOR A LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP.** Hello, my name is Scott, and I know how to spoil and treat a lady right. I'm a marine chef, 51, a Christian, 5'10", 250 lbs., have black

hair, blue eyes, and a muscular build. Please call me at 832-805-8088.

**FIND YOUR CHURCH CONNECTION** at Skagit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Our welcoming and loving congregation promotes spiritual growth, justice and cares for the planet. Sunday services at 10:30 a.m. in person and online. Please request a link to the service: [skagituu@gmail.com](mailto:skagituu@gmail.com). Address: 500 W Section St, Mount Vernon.

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

**ARE YOU BEHIND \$10k OR MORE ON YOUR TAXES?** Stop wage & bank levies, liens & audits, unfiled tax returns, payroll issues & resolve tax debt FAST. Call 866-973-1302 (Hours: Mon-Fri 7am-5pm).

**ATTENTION: OXYGEN USERS.** Gain freedom with a Portable Oxygen Concentrator! No more heavy tanks & refills! **Guaranteed lowest prices.** Call the Oxygen Concentrator store: 844-495-7230.

**BEAUTIFY YOUR HOME** with energy efficient new windows! They will increase your home's value & decrease your energy bills. Replace all or a few! Call now to get your free, no-obligation quote. 866-944-4248.

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

**ELIMINATE GUTTER CLEANING FOREVER!** LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-888-360-1582.

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

## Super Crossword

## BREAKFAST STACKS

### ACROSS

- 1 Like ludicrous comedies
- 9 Ballpark stat
- 12 Yak it up
- 15 Dad
- 19 For all time to come
- 20 One, in Bonn
- 21 "Jumbo shrimp," e.g.
- 23 Classic morning combo
- 25 Trial software phase
- 26 Donned
- 27 1969 film featuring two hippies
- 29 Downed
- 30 — mignons (beef tidbits)
- 33 "Fighting" NCAA team
- 34 Beattle buddy Sutcliffe
- 36 "If you ask me," in texts
- 37 Rough- (unrefined)
- 39 Group of 20
- 42 Irritated states
- 46 Things often dyed and hidden
- 50 Word often ending in "-ly": Abbr.
- 52 Food carton abbr.

- 53 Mascara mistake
- 54 "I don't find it that simple!"
- 59 Republic of China's capital
- 61 Southern Wyoming city
- 62 Actress Kazan of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding"
- 63 Charade
- 64 Roman Cath., e.g.
- 66 Summer Games gp.
- 67 Incites
- 68 Pulls off a difficult feat effortlessly
- 73 Tick away
- 75 Main character in "Despicable Me"
- 76 Bank acct. buildup
- 77 — -jongg
- 80 Recording room
- 81 Be exultant about
- 84 Madrid's land, in Madrid
- 87 They're boiled for 180 seconds
- 90 Zesty flavors
- 91 Afresh

- 92 That, in 84-Across
- 93 Sitting duck
- 95 Parks and Ponselle
- 97 Patrol for prey
- 101 Army division
- 102 Jai alai cheer
- 103 Genetic inits.
- 105 Henchman of Daddy Warbucks
- 108 Goes aboard
- 110 Large antelope
- 113 Dish topped with hollandaise sauce, informally
- 116 Funny Johnson
- 117 Be worry-free
- 119 Food that's literally represented five times in this puzzle
- 124 Strengthen from below
- 125 Bit of mail: Abbr.
- 126 Be similar to
- 127 Chili tidbit
- 128 Common PC file extension
- 129 Demure
- 130 One doing property appraisal

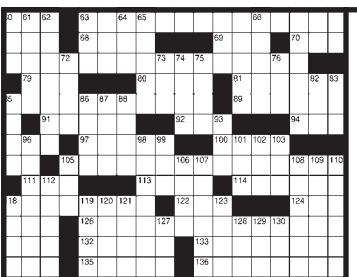
### DOWN

- 1 Second mo.
- 2 Actress Gardner
- 3 Fun, for short
- 4 Actor Russell Finn
- 5 Answering machine notification
- 6 Less civilized
- 7 Duncan of Obama's cabinet
- 8 Steered
- 9 Queenly
- 10 Older female sib
- 11 Working harmoniously
- 12 Mongolian desert
- 13 Fired
- 14 Gig billionths
- 15 Poker take
- 16 Locale
- 17 Mile marker
- 18 Poker stake
- 22 Shops
- 24 Moray, e.g.
- 28 — Grande
- 30 Baja party
- 31 Greeting in Apple ads
- 32 Go nuts
- 33 "Little House on the Prairie" surname
- 35 Quiet
- 38 Teeny

- 40 Funny Martha
- 41 Old Tokyo
- 43 "— big deal"
- 44 Mark who created Huck Finn
- 45 Eyelid woe
- 47 Strike lightly
- 48 Govt. office supplier
- 49 Isr. neighbor
- 51 Latin Bible
- 55 Lack of success
- 56 Melville novel
- 57 Puerto —
- 58 Gift add-ons
- 60 Irritating
- 65 Wide shoe spec
- 67 Poetic dusk
- 68 Began a big battle
- 69 "... blackbirds baked in —"
- 70 Ice house: Var.
- 71 Brisk gait
- 72 Good two-pair hand, in poker lingo
- 73 Prefix with biology
- 74 Tempts
- 77 Chutney fruits
- 78 San —, Texas
- 79 Expedite
- 80 Polaris, e.g.
- 81 Growl like a dog

- 82 "— -haw!"
- 83 Grocery chain inits.
- 85 Douglas fir, for Oregon
- 86 Birdie + 1
- 88 MSN, e.g.
- 89 Wd. in a thesaurus
- 94 Striped female stalker
- 96 Smile evilly
- 98 Gambling parlor, for short
- 99 Tricycle parts
- 100 Duration
- 104 Slack-jawed
- 106 Mad
- 107 — admin
- 109 Abounds
- 110 Chow
- 111 Maui goose
- 112 Meat-stamping org.
- 114 E.U. body comprising half a dozen nations
- 115 "Auld Lang —"
- 116 Birds' class
- 118 Decade count
- 120 Man-mouse link
- 121 Sit-ups work them
- 122 — Poke (candy)
- 123 "— out!"

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127							128							129						



## Love Puzzles!

See our new online puzzle page

[laconnerweeklynews.com/puzzles](http://laconnerweeklynews.com/puzzles)

# POLICE BLOTTER

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**Sunday, September 11**  
**6:11 p.m.: Returned dog** – A dog that was reported lost was found by its owner and returned home. Birch Ln., La Conner.

**Monday, September 12**  
**10:15 a.m.: Email error** – A subject received an email from a company that alerts credit card users of possible fraud. The company sent the email in error and confirmed his credit card was not used at the business. Morris St., La Conner.

**Tuesday, September 13**  
**11:53 a.m.: Healthy horses** – A passerby was concerned about the welfare of horses in a pasture. The horses were found to be in good health and being taken care of. Pioneer Pkwy., La Conner.

**5:14 p.m.: Found clothing** – Two bags of abandoned clothing that appeared to have been dug out of the ground were in the roundabout. The clothes were in poor condition. Best/McLean Rds., Greater La Conner.

**Wednesday, September 14**  
**2:34 p.m.: Hit and run** – A vehicle backed into a parked vehicle in the parking lot. The driver of the backing vehicle left the scene prior to reporting the damage. The driver and fleeing vehicle have not been identified. Morris St., La Conner.

**Thursday, September 15**  
**7:40 a.m.: Attempted bike theft**

– A male suspect attempted to grab a bicycle from a backyard and then ran off northbound. Law enforcement was in the area and did not locate him. Myrtle St., La Conner.

**8:43 a.m.: Market thief** – A male suspect stole two tall boy cans of Mike's Hard Lemonade and a gallon of water from the store. The suspect has been identified by witnesses and security video. The male is charged with theft and will be permanently banned from the store. Morris St., La Conner.

**Friday, September 16**  
**1:40 p.m.: Camping not allowed** – Report of a subject camping in the park. The subject was contacted and advised camping is not allowed in the town park. 4th St., La Conner.

**Saturday, September 17**  
**10:44 a.m.: Stolen golf cart** – Sometime in the last week a blue motorized golf cart with gold colored salmon decals on the front and back was taken from the owner's house. The cart has a canvas soft top and a motorcycle style license plate with "LCMIT" on it. 1st St., La Conner.

**7:09 p.m.: Loud music** – Loud music heard in the area. The neighborhood was checked and the music was no longer playing. McLean Rd., Greater La Conner.

## Hikers organize to improve mountain trails



**TAKING A BREATH** – Longtime trail volunteers Duane and Joan Melcher take it easy on the commemorative bench to be installed on Blanchard Mountain in recognition of their decades of volunteering.

– Photo by Anne Basye

**By Anne Basye**

When Bill Hayton and Laurence McCulloch moved to Pleasant Ridge, they wanted to explore hiking trails in the region.

Joan Melcher made that happen.

Melcher, 85, is the point person of the Skagit Audubon hiking group. For almost 30 years, she has planned 52 hikes a year and accompanied hikers of all skill levels to the trailhead and beyond. Whether it's a walk around Mt. Erie or a 2,000-foot climb to Maple Pass, Melcher makes sure everyone returns safe and sound.

Almost every week, Melcher can be found in a grocery store parking lot with a clipboard, helping Hayton, McCulloch, this reporter and other hikers from greater La Conner, Mount Vernon, Anacortes and Camano Island sign in and carpool to the week's destination.

"No matter what, she is in the parking lot every Wednesday, handing out maps and directions," said McCulloch. "She makes it happen. I'm really grateful for all her devotion to us."

Melcher began hiking with Skagit Audubon in the early 1990s and was organizing hikes by 1993. Looking for new itineraries, she went to a meeting of the Pacific Northwest Trail Association, which seeks to improve the experience for hikers of the 1,200-mile trail that starts in the Chuckanut

Mountains and ends on the Continental Divide in Montana.

The PNT is not as well known as the Pacific Crest Trail. It initially used existing trails and roads in the U.S. Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, on lands administered by state departments of natural resources and on private land where permission is given.

Melcher and her husband Duane threw themselves into the work of the PNTA, which co-manages the trail with the Forest Service. Volunteers maintain trails and work with the USFS and federal agencies to secure permits for new sections of trail.

Joan and Duane each served a six-year term as PNTA president. They also helped found the Skagit Whatcom Island Trail Maintenance Organization, which invests hundreds of hours each year maintaining trails on Blanchard and Anderson Mountains and along the PNT.

SWITMO volunteers repair puncheons and turnpikes, smooth trail "toe stubbers," clear away brush and repair water damage. SWITMO volunteers have been preparing a more scenic PNT route around Mount Baker for six years. Once environmental reviews and permits are in place, they hope to link two abandoned Forest Service fire roads and construct a mile or two of new trail.

"Many trails people in this area love wouldn't exist without SWITMO," said Eric Wollberg of the PNTA.

Adds Duane Melcher, 91, "it

takes serious-minded people to volunteer for something like this."

Over the years, the Melchers' home in Avon has become SWITMO's base of operation. That's where SWITMO stores its equipment and vehicles and holds meetings and the annual fundraiser plant sale.

Both Melchers were honored for their decades of service at a SWITMO meeting on Friday, Sept. 9. Two dozen SWITMO and PNTA members and Skagit Audubon hikers applauded as the Melchers unveiled a commemorative bench. This fall it will be packed up the North Butte of Blanchard Mountain and installed about halfway between Lily Lake and Lizard Lake.

The Melchers were pleased by the recognition but acknowledged the many others involved in SWITMO and the PNTA. "We wouldn't have been able to do anything without the help of other people," said Joan Melcher.

SWITMO hosts trail work days on the first and third Saturday from April to October. The Skagit Audubon hiking group is wrapping up its high-elevation mountain pass hikes and segueing into lower-elevation hikes that are closer to home. One e-address can link you to information on volunteering for SWITMO or hiking with Skagit Audubon. It's Joan Melcher's, of course: jdmelcher@comcast.net.

## MARINA MOORINGS

Port of Skagit

Fall is in the air, and with it the last guest boaters trying to squeeze everything they can out of the summer. It's bittersweet that our guest docks are full but at least five of the boats tied up here are waiting to be pulled out for the winter to be stored on the hard. The guest docks are a steady stream of customers for our local repair teams, like when my parents came in this summer and needed over two full days of a mechanic's time to diagnose their fuel problem and another full day to repair it. It is a huge comfort to me as a marina operator to have the world-class maintenance operations we have here in La Conner.

Several of the guest dock visitors this week have told me about their weeks or months of cruising this summer. Some had some real adventures! One couple sailed to the Broughton Archipelago, on the North East side of Vancouver Island. They reported that it was as fantastic and beautiful as the travel magazines report. Another couple told me about the fantastic hike they took on an inlet north of Vancouver Island, which was spectacularly beautiful but so hot they thought they'd melt – not what they expected at 55 degrees north latitude.

At the marina, however, as the summer rush slows down we turn to some of the deferred maintenance we meant to do all summer. Cleaning the gutters and replacing the brackets that hold the water lines in place on the docks are two. We also have to repair the life ring stand, since someone managed to hit it hard enough to snap off the welds at the base. It's 18 inches in from the edge of the dock, it's not like whoever hit it was just a little bit off. Finally, we have to say goodbye to our summer hires, who were a super friendly and enthusiastic bunch this summer. We wish them well as they go off to college (most of them, anyway). It was a busy summer!

– Chris Omdal, Harbormaster

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