

Local book: Cook, eat, listen to poetry • p 5

Doug Jones champions Rotary at age 95 • p 8

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An unhappy start to the new year



A WEEK'S WORTH OF EFFORT – Multiple law enforcement and search and rescue agencies from around Puget Sound spent the first week of January in La Conner searching Swinomish Channel for a missing 27-year-old woman. This photo was taken Friday afternoon, Jan. 6. Boats and crews were again on the channel Monday. The search is still active.

— Photo by Nancy Crowell

Swinomish Channel searched for missing woman

By Bill Reynolds

The popular La Conner waterfront, usually a place for leisurely boardwalk strolls, outdoor dining and festive selfie photography, became a grim scene last week as a search was undertaken in Swinomish Channel for a missing 27-year-old Kirkland woman.

Several search and rescue agencies from throughout the Puget Sound region, coordinated by the Skagit County Sheriff's Office, descended on La Conner after family members confirmed evidence located in the channel was linked to their relative, missing on Jan. 1.

Sgt. Brad Holmes, who administers the sheriff's office La Conner Detachment, told the Weekly News that a shoe belonging to the subject was found the afternoon of New Year's Day in the channel, about 50 feet from her last known phone location.

But as of Friday, Jan. 5, the subject of the search had not been found, according to a sheriff's office news release.

The sheriff's office had fielded a report early New Year's Day morning from family members concerned about the welfare of the woman. Holmes said she had sent them desponding texts, including goodbye messages stating that she loved them

while indicating she was going to end her life. The Skagit County 911 office took a 5:38 a.m. call of a suicide attempt in La Conner.

"Family was able to use a phone app to locate the subject, who appeared to be driving in the area of La Conner and was eventually pinpointed to the south end of town," said Holmes.

The sheriff's office responded and located the woman's vehicle but was unable to find her, Holmes said.

"At this point," he said, "her phone appeared to be turned off and was no longer providing (her) location through the app or accepting calls and texts.

"Deputies searched the area on foot," said Holmes, "but were unable to locate her."

The missing woman's shoe was found around 3 p.m. on Jan. 1, setting in motion a search operation utilizing

Holiday Closures Martin Luther King Day January 15

Bank: Closed
Buses: Regular service
Library: Closed
Schools: Closed
Town Hall: Closed
County government: Closed
Post Office: Closed
Trash Pick Up: Yes
Seeking justice is part of healing.

(continued on page 6)

Large turnout at Concrete anniversary hoops night

By Bill Reynolds

La Conner High School's annual basketball road trip to Concrete on Friday covered more than the usual hour-long drive time.

This one spanned seven decades.

La Conner fans filled the visitors' bleachers on a night commemorating the 1952 opening of the iconic Concrete High School gymnasium and the century-old hoops rivalry between the two Skagit County schools.

The evening was billed as the "70-Plus Years Celebration" of the Concrete gym. And it was only fitting that the host Lions had La Conner on the schedule.

La Conner and Concrete have competed in basketball since the 1920s. They were paired in the first-ever game at the Concrete gym 72 years ago.

Thus, history repeated itself Friday night.

The La Conner and Concrete boys' teams warmed up to classic '50s music. La Conner High School alumnus David Alvord, who played in the gym's inaugural game in 1952, was introduced as the Braves' honorary coach. Fellow La Conner alumni Gail Thulen and Andy Otis were honored along with Concrete's Tyler Clark as all-time Skagit County scoring leaders.

In the main hallway adjoining the basketball court, banners bearing images of Concrete and La Conner players from 1952 were displayed and proved a popular gathering spot for dozens of fans throughout the evening. All were happy to see photographs of family members and friends from their teen sports years.

(continued on page 4)

Eugene Weekly attracts support following probable embezzlement by staff

By Nathan Wilk
KLCC 89.7 FM

After the Eugene Weekly stopped printing last month, staff say they've seen an outpouring of local and national support.

On Dec. 28, the Weekly announced that it had been the victim of an alleged embezzlement, leaving the publication in debt and forcing it to lay off its entire newsroom. Editor-in-Chief Camilla Mortensen said an employee siphoned funds meant to pay vendors, retirement and the electric bill.

That story drew national attention, including articles in the New York Times and the Washington Post. Mortenson said the Weekly's struggles reflect a greater trend.

"People are starting to come to terms with the losses that have happened in journalism, the losses of community newspapers," she said. "But for what was otherwise a thriving print weekly, that we might be lost because of embezzlement, I think really resonated with people."

(continued on page 6)

Bud Moore rowed for champion Husky crew

By Bill Reynolds

During his many years of local public service, both as La Conner's mayor and president of the Chamber of Commerce, Bud Moore often showed a knack for getting people to pull together in support of major projects.

Construction of the public restrooms on First Street and the major renovation of Maple Hall into a multi-event community center are just two examples.

Now an active and energetic nonagenarian, Moore embraced that sense of teamwork while attending the University of Washington, where he was a champion oarsman under famed Husky coach Al Ulbrickson, a key figure in "The Boys in the Boat," the inspiring George Clooney-directed film now playing in theaters across the country.

The Husky crew program under Ulbrickson had brought home a gold medal from the Olympic Games in Berlin in 1936. That triumph was chronicled by author Daniel James Brown in his 2013 New York Times

bestseller "The Boys in the Boat," upon which the Clooney movie is based.

Moore was a member of the UW crew that defeated Navy and seven other entrants at the 1953 Inter-Collegiate Rowing Association Regatta at Syracuse, N.Y., winning the three-mile national title race in a time of 16:30.6.

"Rowing is like a fraternity in itself," Moore, who can still easily slip into his Husky letter sweater, told the Weekly News last Wednesday. "It gets in your blood."

A La Conner native, Moore attended high school in Greece while his father, Milo Moore, was tasked with rebuilding the Mediterranean nation's fisheries industry as an official with the U.S. Economic Cooperation Administration, an arm of the post-World War II Marshall Plan.

Moore had not rowed competitively prior to enrolling at UW.

"I was tall and lean then," Moore said, flashing his trademark grin. "I weighed about 170 pounds. I was going through Rush Week and the freshmen were asked what

extra-curriculars we were interested in doing. I was told I should go down and try out for crew."

Moore proved a quick study.

"My first year they had just opened the new shellhouse, the one that came after the one shown in the movie," he recalled. "It was really special."

To compete at a championship level, Moore said the UW training regimen was beyond rigorous. During the spring season, workouts were held six days a week.

"One of Ulbrickson's big things in the spring was to have the team row out around Mercer Island and back to the shellhouse," said Moore. "That was about 20 miles."

Moore said that in his day there were only two inter-collegiate races per season, one with Cal-Berkeley and the other on the east coast against the U.S. Naval Academy and elite Ivy League crews.

The 1953 trip to Syracuse was memorable on several levels. The UW team traveled two days each way by rail, carrying their George Pocock-

(continued on page 6)



MOORE HUSKY HIGHLIGHTS—University of Washington athletics has been much in the news lately with national coverage of the Husky football team and release of the movie "The Boys in the Boat." La Conner's Bud Moore is part of the school's rich sports tradition, having rowed for a title-winning UW crew in the 1950s.

—Photo by Bill Reynolds

From the editor—

Opportunities for building in the new year

New Town of La Conner Mayor Marna Hanneman chaired her first town council meeting yesterday, Jan. 9. The council packet she received the week before included a memo from Town Administrator Scott Thomas. Its first point summarized for council the town's need to plan for 124 housing units by 2045, required by the state's Growth Management Act. Thomas writes "Of these units, 92 are expected to be occupied by low to moderate income families."

Looking at the data, 82 units, 66%, are to be priced for people making less than 80% of the area median income. Sixty-four units are needed for people making 50% or less of the area median income, which is in the \$50,000 range for a family of four in Skagit County..

Every county, and thus every municipality, in the state has these planning and preparation obligations.

Good that Hanneman was chair of La Conner's planning commission last year and served two terms. She knows state dictates and understands the resources the town has – and does not have – and that a cadre of activists have been insisting their government – elected and professional officials both – prepare for a future that is both equitable and sustainable.

This is not a crisis emergency like the December 2022 flood. But one year after the town formed an Emergency Management Commission, two years after it purchased the half acre Jensen property near Fourth and Sherman streets and three years after it let ownership of the almost two acre Hedlin ballfield property slip from its grasp, the town government again has the opportunity to protectively lead and make progress on the thorniest problem U.S. society faces. No, not racism and not reducing poverty or the scourge of drug addiction, though these most intractable failures are critical components of the national housing shortage.

How is little La Conner, with its very part-time council and mayor and its too small professional staff going to meet the state mandate? Forming another – wait for it – commission may help. For the last year Bill Reynolds has been attending the emergency management commission meetings, first biweekly and now monthly, and reporting on their research, deliberations and decisions to respond to channel flooding and natural disasters of every stripe. They are making real progress.

A Town of La Conner Working Class Housing Commission awaits being formed and charged. It has a role model to emulate and perhaps a better hand to play.

Every two weeks the council has on its agenda the Jensen property. That is not a rote item to check off, waiting for a staff update or a residents opinion. Neither is the mayor's roundtable a place holder. There the mayor can choose to lead, engaging council on topics of substance. Council members can belly up, figuratively, and place on that table weighty items, whether fresh concepts or examples of successful communities around the world that have figured out how to reduce their local inequitable housing shortages.

Here are some underhanded pitches waiting to be hit out of the park:

First, the south parking lot below Town Hall. Second, the Dunlap property abutting the Jensen property and the northeast end of Pioneer Park. Third the Port of Skagit's La Conner Marina's south parking lot east of the Swinomish Yacht Club.

What is the acreage of each? How many apartment units of two if not three stories could be built at each? How many construction jobs would development on just one site create? How much state, federal and foundation funding waits to be tapped because everyone in the country hunts for forward thinking practical leadership wanting to prove that equitable and sustainable futures can be built in small town communities such as La Conner?

The future awaits. Maybe the council and mayor need to declare an emergency and create a commission to manage it before some disaster we did not try to prepare for strikes.

– Ken Stern

LETTER POLICY

Please write!

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

Write a 500 word citizen's view column.

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

Include your name, address and phone number for verification.

Letters are edited for civility, clarity and style.

Send To:
editor@laconnernews.com

I am working on what you told me

How can we listen to each other and find common ground – and solutions that work for our community? I think it starts with listening to each other.

The legislative session began on Jan. 8 and runs for 60 straight days, including weekends.

I'd like to share two things with you this week: (1) comments and ideas from our recent 10th District survey and (2) some common-sense reforms I'm working on this session.

First, your comments and ideas.

Hearing directly from you is incredibly important to me. So, I'm happy to say that hundreds of people in the 10th District took a moment to share their thoughts about the issues they care about and their ideas to address them.

Out of the hundreds of responses, a few issues stood out. These three comments were pretty representative of the survey.

The ferry system is unreliable for residents who depend on ferries for medical appointments, classes and jobs.

Housing is far too expensive. My son is in his late twenties and works full time at a local business but cannot afford to live anywhere nearby. I'm growing increasingly worried about his ability to afford buying a home. For many in our community, apartment rents consume more than 50% of their income. This is not acceptable ...

Housing prices are impossibly out of reach for an entire

A View From The State House



Dave Paul
State Representative



District 10

generation of hard working and educated people.

Education, rural broadband and economic development go hand-in-hand. It's vital for our state to expand access to quality broadband services.

Other key concerns included tackling homelessness, improving public safety, protecting the environment and improving apprenticeship and career training opportunities for young people.

Here are three ideas people shared as possible solutions:

Since I live on Whidbey Island, I wish you could restart the program to bring new ferries online. The current fleet is very old and unreliable.

Legislation that limits short-term rentals such as AirBnB. We need more affordable housing.

Homelessness is the problem that I would focus on, which is also a drug problem in many communities.

I appreciate every person who took the time to share their thoughts and ideas. Thank you!

This session, I'll keep working on ferries, rural broadband, housing and other major issues that are critical to people in the 10th District. We can – and must

– make progress on our common problems.

I'm also working on legislation to help people in specific ways:

Capping the cost of inhalers and epi-pens at \$35 each, matching the cap on insulin costs we passed last year (House Bill 1979).

Increasing access to portable orders for life-sustaining treatment, which would let paramedics and EMTs recognize medical jewelry linked to Do Not Resuscitate orders, along with a database of people who established such orders (House Bill 2166).

Tackling the law enforcement workforce shortage by allowing retired officers to work part time (House Bill 2167).

Things happen fast in the short 60-day session.

I'll keep you updated on issues that affect all our families back home in the 10th District – and I hope you keep me informed with your stories, comments and ideas.

Rep. Dave Paul and his family live in Oak Harbor. He is co-chair of the bipartisan Ferry Caucus.

Recognizing our school board directors

By Will Makoyisaaminaa (Nelson)

We would like to express our gratitude and recognition for the invaluable service of our dedicated school board directors during School Board Recognition Month.

By the proclamation of the governor, January is the time to acknowledge the selfless commitment and hard work of these elected community members. The La Conner School Board plays a vital role in shaping the lives of our community's children, making decisions that impact the trajectory of public education in our district.

These individuals, entrusted with the responsibility of managing an annual budget of \$12,900,000 for the fiscal year 2023-2024, oversee the education of approximately 490 students, 102 employees and nine buildings within our district. Their dedication and tireless efforts are evident in the challenging decisions they make, the information they sift through and the vision they develop for

the future of La Conner School District.

Our school board members are the bridge between our local community and the school district, playing a critical civic role that forms the bedrock of our democracy—public education. Their dedication is instrumental in helping us realize the hopes and dreams we have for the children of La Conner.

As we celebrate School Board Appreciation Month, it is the perfect opportunity to extend our sincere thanks to these committed individuals who contribute to the betterment of our community. The collaborative approach they adopt, working alongside school district staff, showcases their commitment to governance and advocacy, ultimately shaping the educational landscape in Washington state.

Please join us in expressing gratitude to the people who selflessly serve on the La Conner School District Board. Their efforts are commendable and we are fortunate to have such dedicated directors guiding the future

of education in our community.

The men and women serving La Conner School District are:

• District 1 Director Alana Quintasket, took her oath of office on Dec. 11, 2023.

• District 2 Director John Agen, took his first oath of office on Dec. 16, 2019.

• District 3 Vice President Jeremy Wilbur, took his first oath of office on Aug. 10, 2020.

• District 4 Director Kim Pedroza, took her first oath of office on March 27, 2023.

• District 5 President Susie Deyo took her first oath of office on March 25, 2019.

• Student Representative Taylor-Rae Cayou, took her oath of office on June 13, 2022.

• Student Representative Josilynn (Josi) Straathof, took her oath of office on June 26, 2023.

For more information about the La Conner School Board: lcsd.wednet.edu/domain/5

My sincere thanks.

Will Makoyisaaminaa (Nelson) become the La Conner Schools superintendent in July 2021.

A citizen's view —

Artificial intelligence and peace

By Fr. Paul Magnano

In his message for the 57th World Day of Peace this Jan. 1, Pope Francis reflected on the impact of artificial intelligence on world peace and urges the international community to adopt a binding international treaty that regulates its development and use. New technologies must always be directed to "the pursuit of peace and the common good,

in the service of the integral development of individuals and communities." Pope Francis urges world leaders to ensure that progress in developing forms of artificial intelligence "will ultimately serve the cause of human fraternity and peace."

In his message, Pope Francis draws attention to the ethical dimension "of these new technologies which are revolutionizing humanity in all spheres of life,

highlighting the ambivalence inherent in any progress in science and technology." On the one hand, he says, it can lead to the betterment of humanity and the transformation of the world if it "contributes to greater order in human society and greater fraternal communion and freedom."

On the other hand, technological advances, especially in the digital sphere, "are placing in human hands a vast array of options, including some that may pose a risk to our survival and endanger our common home."

No technological innovation is "neutral," he notes.

Hence the need "to establish bodies charged with examining the ethical issues arising in this field and protecting the rights of those who employ forms of artificial intelligence or are affected by them." Technological developments that do not lead to an improvement in the quality of all humanity, but on the contrary aggravate inequalities and conflicts, can never count as true progress," the pope says.

His message goes on to high-

light the many challenges posed by AI which are anthropological, educational, social and political. This, he says, "poses a serious problem when artificial intelligence is deployed in campaigns of disinformation that spread false news and lead to a growing distrust of the media." The misuse of technology can also have other negative consequences, such as discrimination, the rise of a surveillance society and the exacerbation of individualism.

On the positive side, Pope (continued on page 6)

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OBITUARIES



Majel G. Shuler
July 25, 1928-Dec. 22, 2023

Majel G. Shuler, 95, of La Conner, WA passed away peacefully on Dec. 22, 2023, in Burlington, WA. Majel was born on July 25, 1928, in Aberdeen, WA. She graduated from Mount Vernon High School in 1946.

After high school Majel met the love of her life, Dale Shuler, and the two were married on Nov. 20, 1948. They started a family in Concrete, WA and then moved to Snohomish, WA where they raised three children. Dale and Majel moved to Shelter Bay in La Conner, WA in 1987 and became snowbirds spending time in Yuma, AZ.

In her later years Majel developed dementia but she always remained grateful and kind throughout her illness.

Majel had many hobbies and interests. She loved boating, she sang in many choirs and was a wonderful artist. She won many awards and ribbons. Majel began her art career at a young age as a colorist in high school. She also enjoyed playing Bridge with her alumni girlfriends, "the chicks from 46." Majel was a member of the Shelter Bay Yacht Club and sang in the Shelter Bay Choir for over 30 years.

Majel is survived by her son Brian (Juanita) Shuler, her brother Jeffrey (Joy) Rice, six grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband Dale Shuler, her parents, two children and two sisters.

Please visit www.hawthornefh.com to share your thoughts and memories and sign the online guest register.

Arrangements are under the care of Hawthorne Funeral Home, Mount Vernon, WA.

Addition

The La Conner Firefighters Association also thanks Caravan Gallery for being a sponsor of its 2023 Annual Golf Tournament.



Kobe Lynn Zavalar
Sept. 5, 2023-Dec. 20, 2023

Our precious baby boy, called back to God too soon

Kobe Lynn Zavala passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in his sleep in the early morning hours of Dec. 30, 2023. In his short time on this earth, Kobe brought joy to all who had the privilege to witness his calm demeanor, and infectious smile. Nowhere was Kobe more content than in the loving arms of his mother Hailey and father Jose.

Kobe was born at 5:03 a.m. on Sept. 5, 2023, at the Special Delivery Birthing Center in Arlington, WA to parents Hailey and Jose Zavala. He arrived without complication, and precisely one day ahead of his due date.

During Kobe's lifetime, he celebrated his father Jose's birthday on Sept. 7 at the ripe old age of two days, joined the festivities for his mom's birthday on Oct. 25, delighted at his first Halloween with older siblings Ellie and Kion, celebrated sister Ellie's birthday on Nov. 1, experienced the bond of family and gratitude during his first Thanksgiving, and marveled at the beautiful white lights and crinkly wrapping paper on his first and only Christmas morning. The highlight of Kobe's short life, however, was undoubtedly his one and only overnight trip to Seattle – just he and his parents – to help them celebrate their one-year wedding anniversary on Dec. 22, 2023.

Kobe's departure leaves a wound that will never fully heal, but his family is comforted in the knowledge that during his brief lifetime the only thing he knew was Love.

Kobe is survived by his parents Hailey and Jose Zavala, older siblings Ellie Zavala and Kion Zavala, grandparents Ofrecina and Eluterio Zavala, all of Anacortes, WA; grandparents Sally and Andrew Azure of LaConner, WA and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, and extended family.

In lieu of flowers, a give-send-go has been created to help with burial expenses. Donations can be made online at:

https://www.givesendgo.com/Kobe_Lynn_Zavala.

Town progressing with disaster planning

By Bill Reynolds

In the event of a disaster, the single most important factor for an effective response will be availability of information, La Conner Emergency Management Commission member Jerry George said last week.

"And that information," he stressed, "has to be accurate."

George and the advisory panel are attentive to communications and information systems well ahead of the next flood, earthquake, windstorm, cold snap or heat wave.

At its Jan. 2 meeting at Maple Hall commissioners heard from Skagit County Emergency Management Coordinator Joan Cromley; Skagit County Fire District 13 Capt. Ted Taylor, who oversees emergency management; and Keri Cleary of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community Department of Emergency Management.

They provided insight into templates from various government entities as La Conner crafts its own Community Emergency Management Plan.

"It needs to be a living document," advised Cromley, a former mayor of Hamilton, a town frequently threatened by Skagit River flooding. "We'll help you with our (Skagit County) template and walk you through it. Part of my job is to help people with their plans."

"Technically," she added, "these plans are living documents. You're constantly

evaluating them."

"We've done a flooding element," noted Town Administrator Scott Thomas, "but we haven't done a comprehensive emergency management plan. It's always better to have one specific to your needs."

George said an initial step will be to identify emergency management resources and determine how to implement them.

Cleary said combining resources will be of great benefit to all communities in the area.

"We're neighbors," she said. "We need to work together."

"There will be a lot of overlapping and helping each other," said Cleary. "We want to support one another as best we can. It's all about partnerships. We're looking at emergency preparedness in the whole area. We'll be leaning on each other."

Cromley said tapping outside resources is likewise a good strategy when drafting a CEMP.

"One of the great things about emergency management," she explained, "is there's no penalty for plagiarism. Ideas and resources are shared all the time."

A major component of any CEMP, said Cromley, is training for responses to emergencies and natural disasters.

"In a large-scale event," she cautioned, "resources will be limited. It's important to know who your neighbors are, what resources they need, what their needs are and what should be

prioritized."

Taylor said Shelter Bay has in its disaster planning emphasized resiliency to emergency events.

"We've taken steps to be resilient," said Taylor. "We promote CERTs (Community Emergency Response Teams), HAMS (amateur radio operators) and auxiliary forces."

"We, in Shelter Bay, have to integrate with La Conner and the tribe," Taylor added. "That's the direction we're going."

Taylor said that earthquakes and wildland fires pose perpetual threats here.

Cleary said she and Swinomish Emergency Management Coordinator Brian Geer are focused on public participation and education.

Anticipated impacts of climate change also factor into emergency management planning, said Cromley.

Training for emergency responses can help rekindle interactions curbed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Cromley indicated.

"The more you train," she explained, "the more you can get various neighbors used to it."

Thomas said the next step for La Conner is to reference the state emergency management plan template.

And, of course, to keep open lines of communication.

"We are a resource for you," Cromley said. "By all means, keep in contact with us and we'll keep in contact with you."

Snow and cold forecast for Thursday

By Ken Stern

You might have woken to rain today, Wednesday. Cold temperatures and snow will follow, the National Weather Service predicts. Snow is likely Thursday, with up to half an inch accumulating at the Burlington

airport after a possible low of 31 degrees Wednesday night.

Thursday may reach 38 degrees but it may drop to 15 degrees overnight. If it snows, the forecast is for less than one-half inch. Friday the high may reach 26 degrees. It may be partly sunny and snow.

It may snow early Saturday morning and turn to rain. The high will be around 32. Overnight the low is predicted to be 24.

The high might reach 36 degrees Sunday with a chance of rain and snow.

Sen. Cantwell has COVID-19

Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wa) tested positive for COVID-19 Jan. 8. She posted "Today I tested positive for COVID. I am up to date with vaccinations and have mild symptoms. I will be following CDC isolation guidelines and working from home in the Pacific Northwest" on the X media platform.

SR 534 open 2-way near leak

By Ken Stern

CONWAY — SR 534 opened to two-way traffic Monday morning, making it easier for parents to take their children to Conway Elementary School. Traffic had been restricted since the Olympic Pipeline vault gasoline leak Dec. 10. Cleanup crews have been at work at nearby Bulson Creek (Hill Ditch) and in the vicinity.

Temporary closures may occur as flaggers facilitate truck movement in and out of the response area. Conway Hill Road has returned to one-way westerly traffic the unified command coordinating the spill response

reported Jan. 7.

Approximately 25,326 gallons of gasoline leaked and some 8,325 gallons were recovered through Dec. 29.

The unified command consists of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Washington Department of Ecology, Skagit County Department of Emergency Management, bp and the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.

Status updates are posted on the Department of Ecology's website: ecology.wa.gov/OlympicPipelineSpill.

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Boys basketball

Braves win two in weekend hoops action

By Bill Reynolds

The La Conner Braves slayed Lions twice in hoops action last weekend.

La Conner defeated the NW2B/1B rival Concrete Lions 59-31 on the road Friday, then returned home to Landy James Gym Saturday for a 67-52 non-league win over the Sound Christian Academy Lions.

With the wins, the Braves improved to 8-4 overall and 2-0 in league play.

Ivory Damien (24) and Brayden Pedroza (23) combined for 47 points at Concrete, which was celebrating the 72nd anniversary of the opening of its storied gymnasium.

There was little about the game itself, however, that Concrete could celebrate.

The Braves recorded a dozen steals on the night and used their fast-paced transition game to open an early 23-7 lead.

From there, the team never looked back.

When the Braves weren't converting layups off steals, the visitors proved deadly from long distance.

Damien drained a game-high four three-pointers and Pedroza knocked down three perimeter treys.

Corran Eisen added eight points, twice delivering from three-point range.

Logan Burks and C.J. Edwards contributed two points each. In addition, Burks grabbed four rebounds and dished an assist. Edwards finished with two rebounds and orchestrated the half-court attack.

Trevor Howard led Concrete with eight points.

Beats Sound Christian Soundly

The script was much the same Saturday when La Conner hosted Sound Christian, formerly known



GOOD LUCK — La Conner High School basketball player Tyler Cicotte receives a fist bump from honorary Braves' coach David Alvord before tipoff of last Friday's game at Concrete. The league contest, won by the Braves, was part of the "70-Plus Years Celebration" of the opening of Concrete's gymnasium. La Conner played Concrete in the very first game at the gym. The teams have competed for a century.

—Photo by Bill Reynolds

as Tacoma Baptist, a perennial small-school power.

Damien and Pedroza again supplied scoring punch, each able to find the hoop from both inside and beyond the trey arc.

Pedroza had a game-high 27 points, including eight of nine free throw attempts. Damien meshed two three-pointers enroute to a 21-point effort.

Eisen (7), Tyler Cicotte (5), Edwards (4), Jimbo Bobb (2) and Kamein Lopez (1) also landed in the scoring column.

Sound Christian's 6-4 post A.J. Alexeev topped these Lions with 17 points. Makai Resseau chipped in another 13.

La Conner trailed 15-13 early in the second quarter before taking control of the game, forcing the taller Sound Christian team to play at an uptempo pace. The hosts closed with a 20-10 run to go in front 33-25 at intermission.

Poulton, added four points on two-of-three shooting.

Lily Dougliss, Izzy Villard and Shaniquah Casey chipped in two points each.

Villard reeled in a team-best eight rebounds and Casey led La Conner with seven steals, which jump-started the team's decisive transition game.

Maeve McCormick was the prime beneficiary of backcourt turnovers defensive pressure forced. She converted seven of 12 shot attempts, many of them layups off Concrete miscues.

The hosts likewise relied on transition for much of their offense, often releasing guards early on La Conner shot attempts in hopes of scoring on runouts after securing defensive

rebounds.

"This was a game we felt like had to grind through," coach Joe Harper told the Weekly News afterward. "Concrete is very scrappy and fast and they kept leaking out for easy shots in transition."

Even so, La Conner held Concrete to just 10 points in the first half, enjoying a comfortable 22-point margin at the break after Jenkins beat the buzzer with a 12-foot jumper.

The Lady Braves opened the second half with an 11-0 spurt capped by Villard's 15-footer.

La Conner enjoyed its largest lead of the game at 51-16 when Lam scored on an inbounds play two minutes into the fourth period.

Hoops

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

In addition, La Conner graduate Dean Swanson, who also attended Concrete Schools, was a sponsor of the community dinner hosted by Concrete's booster club that preceded tip-off of the La Conner-Concrete girls' varsity contest.

Concrete boys' team assistant coach Paul Bianchini, who helped organize the anniversary festivities, welcomed the large crowd and cited the historical significance.

"A century-old rivalry led to tonight's ball games," Bianchini said. "We're here to celebrate 72 years of basketball in this magnificent gym and all the people who have played here."

Leading up to the Jan. 5 program, Bianchini conducted exhaustive research into the history of the Concrete gym and the enduring La Conner-Concrete basketball competition by poring through the archives of the Concrete Herald newspaper and consulting with sources in both Concrete and La Conner.

Bianchini said he had learned 800 or more spectators attended the Jan. 4, 1952 matchup in what was then the Lions' brand-new gym.

Alvord and the Braves were led on that night by their legendary one-armed head coach Jack Whittaker, for whom La Conner High's lighted athletics venue is named.

"I hope," said Bianchini, "that we have close to 800 or more people here tonight. Because tonight we honor those of you who have played on this floor. And we celebrate the thousands more who will walk through these doors and follow in the footsteps of the 1952 class."

Alvord and Bill Newby, who served as Concrete's honorary coach, received loud applause as did others representing members of the 1952 Lions team.

At halftime of the boys' game, Thulen, Otis and Clark were



feted for their respective scoring marks.

Thulen, a 1956 La Conner graduate, scored 1,712 points for the Braves, including 41 in a state tourney game. His total led all Skagit County players for nearly 45 years. Otis set a new county standard in the late 1990s when he graduated, having scored 1,914 points. Clark, who scored 50 points or more in three games, established the current county scoring record of 2,081 points in 2012.

First-year Braves head coach Lance Lopez realized the importance of the ceremony. He made sure his team was at courtside and not in the locker room when the trio of honorees was recognized.

"We wanted to be involved with everything that was going on," Lopez said, "because the father of one of our players (Kaleb Otis) was being honored."

Bianchini stressed that last week's celebration at Concrete was one in which all who attended could share in the accolades.

"This night," he insisted, "is for all of us."

Girls basketball

Lady Braves grind out win at Concrete; fall to 1B power Neah Bay

By Bill Reynolds

They were in a foul mood throughout, but the La Conner High School Lady Braves were able to smile after grinding out a 57-29 NW2B/1B for a smashing hoops win at Concrete Friday night.

La Conner (7-4 overall, 2-0 in league) won by double digits despite being assessed 21 fouls.

Maeve McCormick led nine La Conner scorers with 15 points, including the team's lone three-pointer.

Jacqui Lam, Nora McCormick, Kim Williams and Kiana Jenkins — all eighth graders — finished with eight points apiece for the victors.

Another eighth grader, Abi

No safe harbor at Neah Bay

Harper spread playing time around since his charges had to turn around Saturday for early travel to Neah Bay and a key non-league road test with the defending State 1B champions.

"I think it was a good experience for us to take the long road trip there," Harper said despite a 65-23 loss, "and let me tell you, the trip is long."

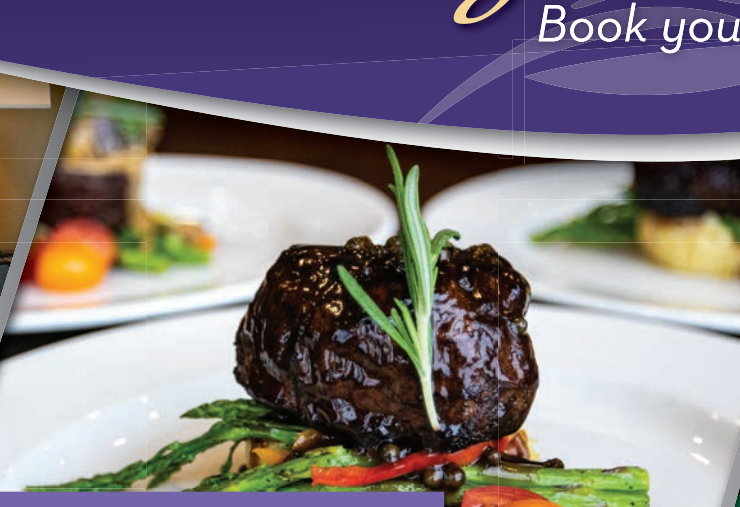
"They are exactly what we want to be in the future," Harper said, "and we're taking a similar road to get there by pulling up eighth graders early. They know where to be and are precise in their offense. They're not easily rattled and are a great example to our girls of what we can be."

The Lady Reds improved to 7-2 with the win.

Despite loading its varsity roster with eighth graders, Harper said the school's junior varsity — coached by Scottie Miller and Sheena Jones — continues to make strides, sporting a 6-4 record after having gone 3-11 a year ago.

"Armena Joe and Kat Edwards have really become more involved and are both making an impact on the floor," said Harper. "Newcomers (and eighth graders Maddy Miller and Finley Hancock have settled in and really established themselves as players who can handle the ball and score."

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Bounty of poems, art, recipes in book

By Anne Basye

Poets are people. They get hungry, make shopping lists, cook. You can find their hankerings and appetites in “The Empty Bowl Cookbook,” a new anthology published by the Madrona Project.

The celebration rollout of the “Cookbook” takes place 7 p.m. Jan. 20 at the Pelican Bay Bookstore in Anacortes. Twelve writers will read their work along with other favorites from the book. La Conner poet and chef Georgia Johnson, who co-curates these monthly poetry readings, helped assemble this poetry/recipe collection.

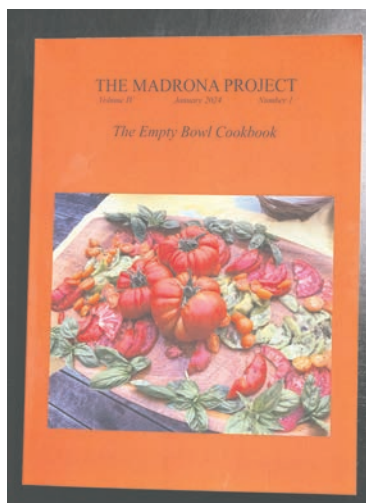
Johnson divided the 150 or so pieces into seven piles “(each) based on an emotion,” she said. “Then I decided how I wanted the emotions to flow.” The resulting interpolation of images, words and recipes features several writers and artists who live and labor in and around La Conner.

The late Robert Sund’s ode to the lemon cucumbers in his garden opens the book. Former La Conner High School teacher Melanie Graham muses on the food culture of first peoples. This reporter shares her mother’s pointers for being a good hostess. Poet/farmer Jessica Gigot of Bow picks blackberries with her daughters and enjoys a late-season tomato. Three Maggie Wilder paintings capture mouth-watering favorite dishes and ingredients. And the late strawberry farmer Donald Kruse offers a poetic sampling of his crops in “Locavore’s Guide to Skagit Valley Strawberries.”

Some poems and prose poems are recipes. Bellingham poet Chuck Luckmann’s “Granola Spirit” chronicles his introduction to granola on a 1969 road trip and includes a recipe “for enough granola to feed four men on a month-long trek,” Johnson says. “Go out between Sucia and Patos islands, can’t tell you exactly where, but you’ll need a depth of over 300’, a slack tide and not much wind,” writes Bellingham poet Luther Allen, on cooking prawns on a boat after they come out of a trap.

An open flame on a boat is not a good idea, Allen reminds readers – and so Johnson begins the book with a Kitchen Note: “You will find recipes, recollections of recipes, recipes turned into poems, here. Please note that none of these has been tested ... contact the author for certainty.”

For example, Olympic



Peninsula poet Gary Bullock’s instructions for “Dungeness Salmon Ambrosia Salad” begins: “Reserve 40 feet of Mount Olympus snowpack. Filter, percolate and grind through eons of granite and basalt.”

In real life a scrupulous recipe tester, Johnson did vet a few quantities and ingredients. “I wanted to make that if somebody wanted to try to a recipe, they would have a good chance,” she said. “But I know the authors would be thrilled to hear from people!”

Supper will not be served at the Jan. 20 Pelican Bay reading. Copies of “The Empty Bowl Cookbook” will be available – and very soon at the Museum of Northwest Art, as well.

Helping Hands reach out to help meet neighbors’ needs

By Adam Sowards

Food security remains a concern locally, so organizations and volunteers are expanding their efforts to meet the need. Helping Hands at Swinomish is one such enterprise. It received 850 visits in 2023 after starting in late 2022.

On Thursday afternoons, a white Helping Hands Food Bank truck from the Sedro-Woolley distribution center backs up to the Inspire Church across from Fire District 13 and unloads pallets of food and household items, including bread, meat, pasta and fresh vegetables, fruits, laundry soap and diapers. Most is salvaged from grocery store rescues, but local produce is sometimes available. This shipment supports 35 to 40 households.

The weekly delivery varies, but its quality is high, and the need persists.

When Helping Hands started distributing food at the church in October 2022, its goal was to make access easier for people to get the food they needed. Helping Hands Food Bank CEO Rebecca Skrinde said it was a “natural thing” to open a site there. Helping Hands already cooperated with Fire District 13 and distributed at two other Inspire churches in the valley.

“It’s such an amazing way to

bring all the cultures together feeding people,” said Skrinde.

Inspire Church Pastor Doug York noted that the decision to open this location was deliberate. “We don’t want another food bank just to be doing food banks,” he said. Helping Hands at Swinomish complements the La Conner Sunrise Food Bank and programs of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.

“The need is large enough that food banks on both sides of the channel help take care of people on both sides of the channel,” said York, who volunteers and makes sure the facility is available and ready every week. He and his wife Kay deliver food to community members who do not have access to transportation.

Recently, York learned that people living in their RVs cannot easily make it to the church. He is trying to figure out a solution to serve that group.

Helping Hands volunteers said the Swinomish community is especially grateful. One recent day a recipient of food broke into tears. “We were wowed by it,” said William Berdine of Sedro-Woolley, who has been volunteering with Helping Hands for a couple years.

Jonathan Phipps of Burlington, a warehouse assistant with Helping Hands agreed, while unloading boxes of vegetables. “This food is really impacting them,” he said. “Going without food should not be a thing.”

Skrinde told of a senior who recently learned of the food bank. He said it was the first food he had eaten in three days. Helping Hands assists

food bank clients sign up for other benefits. But there are no requirements and no waiting for benefits at the food bank, said Skrinde.

Phipps would “love to see more people coming in.” The food is wasted if people do not pick it up, so he encourages community members in need to not be afraid and to come to the food bank. “Fill that hole with what you need,” he said.

Phipps volunteered at Helping Hands for months before getting hired on the staff. He has been making the deliveries to Swinomish for about a month. “It makes me feel good,” Phipps said of his work. “I absolutely love it. I look forward to it every single day.”

Helping Hands Food Bank received a \$500,000 two-year grant from the Washington Department of Agriculture through its We Feed WA pilot food program. It supports purchasing from local farmers, some of it through the Puget Sound Food Hub.

“It’s a really exciting program,” said Skrinde. “We want to show that we are a valuable market for farmers and food producers.” She hopes to continue those relationships.

Food banks are efficient at leveraging their resources. For every dollar they spend, Skrinde said, they obtain about 25 pounds of food, or enough for seven or eight meals. Last year, Helping Hands distributed 3.4 million pounds of food through its several county locations.

Volunteers are always welcome. Call Helping Hands if you are interested: 360-856-2211.

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Search

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

Skagit Bay Search & Rescue and the Skagit County and King County Search & Rescue K-9 units.

Homes said the K-9s are trained in water scent detection.

“Subsequent search efforts,” the sheriff’s office stated in its Jan. 5 press release, “have also included divers from U.S. Customs and the Border Protection BORSTAR Dive team, boats, K-9, divers, a remote-operated vehicle, sonar and drones from the King County Sheriff’s Office Marine Unit and the Skagit County Sheriff’s Office Marine Patrol.”

Teams were searching Monday. Vehicles and staff

were operating from the parking lot below Maple Hall. On Friday staff had worked out of Maple Hall.

Word had begun circulating in town mid-week that a search was under way for a woman who had gone missing on the La Conner waterfront toward the south end of the business district. A social media post on Wednesday from a woman who identified herself as the subject’s mother said the “whole family are distressed (and) looking for her.”

The search is active, Skagit County Sheriff’s Office Patrol Deputy Kyle Wiggins said Tuesday.

The sheriff’s office is asking that anyone with information call 360-428-3211. Reference Case Number 24-00004.

Moore

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

designed racing shells with them.

“We took our shells on the train, just like in “The Boys in the Boat,” Moore said.

At the time, Milo Moore was in South Korea, providing his expertise to the war-torn country’s fisheries program. An admiral he knew bet that Navy would win the national regatta. Milo Moore insisted Washington would win.

“Dad,” Moore recounted, “won the bet.”

The tradition then was that rowers on the winning team would receive tee-shirts from their counterparts on the other crews, in this case oarsmen representing the Naval Academy, Cornell, Wisconsin, Columbia, California, Syracuse, Penn and Princeton.

Moore’s summer shirt wardrobe was greatly enhanced.

The Husky crew and Moore enjoyed extensive Seattle Times coverage during his three years on the team. Moore has collected news clippings in a carefully bound album he keeps in his den at home.

There are Times accounts and photos of Moore rowing with his UW teammates. One picture shows Moore’s wife of 68 years, Lynn, watching a race from the shoreline.

“In those days,” said Moore, “the shore would be lined with thousands of spectators. Being a young college kid, being cheered by people on the shoreline, it would inspire you quite a bit.”

Moore said Ulbrickson trained his rowers to have a finishing kick at the end of each race.

“That was Ulbrickson’s way,” Moore said. “He didn’t want you to expend all your energy at the start. He wanted you to save your energy until the end. There’s nothing more disheartening than when another boat comes up on you.”

Moore learned quickly

how essential the team concept – as with other sports – is in collegiate crew.

“I’d get a little nervous at the start of a race,” he said, “but then it’s all over quickly. You just know the other guys will do their best. It’s not something you’re doing as individuals. It’s the whole boat.”

Off the water, Moore enjoyed success in UW classrooms. He earned a bachelor’s degree that led to a career as an officer in the U.S. Air Force. Coincidentally, he received his diploma at graduation from the late Bea Gardner of La Conner, then a member of the university’s board of regents.

Fast forward nearly 70 years to Moore’s recent viewing of “The Boys in the Boat.”

“It’s well done,” Moore said of the film. “There are quite a few shots from the air so that you can see how the oars go in unison.”

Moore noted that Husky head football coach Kalen DeBoer had his team view “The Boys in the Boat” prior to UW’s wild 37-31 Sugar Bowl triumph over Texas in New Orleans.

“An important player in the movie,” said Moore, “was George Pocock, the boatbuilder.”

Indeed, Pocock achieved international recognition by providing the eight-oared cedar racing shells which won gold medals again in 1948 and 1952.

Pocock, an Englishman, had learned that indigenous peoples in the Northwest had long used red cedar, which he called “the wood eternal,” for their canoes.

The connection between the UW crew’s Pocock shells and Native American cedar canoes was celebrated here in La Conner in 1941 with a goodwill exhibition race on Swinomish Channel.

Moore remembers watching it as a youth.

“Nobody really remembers who won,” said Moore, who cited its overarching public relations value as a positive cross-cultural event.

can play a decisive role in reaching multilateral agreements and coordinating their application and enforcement.”

“It is my prayer at the start of the New Year” the message concludes, “that the rapid development of forms of artificial intelligence will not increase cases of inequality and injustice all too present in today’s world, but will help put an end to wars and conflicts and alleviate many forms of suffering that afflict our human family.”

Fr. Paul Magnano is parish priest of the Skagit Valley Catholic Churches.

LEGAL NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SNOHOMISH COUNTY
In the Matter of the Estate of
JOHN A. SAYRE,
Deceased.
No. 23-4-02414-31
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 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 (4) 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:
 December 21, 2023.

DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION: 27 December 2023

P E R S O N A L REPRESENTATIVE:
PATRICIA A. SAYRE

ATTORNEY FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE:
 Amy C. Allison, WSBA #34317

Anderson Hunter Law Firm, P.S.

2707 Colby Avenue, Suite 1001

Everett, WA 98201

COURT OF PROBATE PROCEEDINGS: Snohomish County Superior Court

AND CAUSE NUMBER: 23-4-02414-31

Published in La Conner Weekly News Dec. 27, 2023, Jan. 3 and 10, 2024.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY
In Re The Estate of:
KATHRYN MARIE CHAPMAN,
Deceased.
No. 23-4-00614-29
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS
(RCW 11.40.030)
(NTRCD)

JENNIFER COLEMAN 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 FIRST PUBLICATION: January 3, 2024.

Personal Representative
 Print Name: Jennifer Coleman

Attorneys for Personal Representative
 Print Name and Bar #: Heather Ledgerwood #56238

Address for Mailing or Service:
 Heather Ledgerwood
 Wade Law Offices
 6100 219th St SW, Suite 480
 Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

800-835-2634

Court of probate proceedings and cause number:
 Snohomish County Superior Court

Case No. 23-4-00614-29

Published in La Conner Weekly News Jan. 3, 10 and 17, 2024.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SKAGIT
In re the Estate of
MARY PATRICIA TURNER,
Deceased.
Case No.: 23-4-00665-29
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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 First Publication:
 January 10, 2024

Personal Representative:
 Randolph Reilly

Attorney for the Personal Representative: Rachelle Eason

Address for Mailing or Service: P.O. Box 1725, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Court of Probate proceedings: Skagit County Superior Court

Cause number: 23-4-00665-29

SIGNED this 2nd day of January, 2024.

/s/ Randy Reilly

Randy Reilly, Petitioner
 Personal Representative of the Estate of

Mary Patricia Turner
 Prepared by:

/s/ Rachelle Marie Eason
 Rachelle Marie Eason, WSBA # 29922

Attorney for Petitioner
 Published in La Conner Weekly News Jan. 10, 17, 24, 2024.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR WHATCOM COUNTY In re the Estate of:
GREGORY JOHN ZIMMERMAN, Deceased.
No. 23-4-01217-37
NOTICE TO CREDITORS.
Judge Lee Grochmal.

The Person 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 of the decedents’ probate and nonprobate assets.

Date of Filing of Notice to Creditors: January 3, 2024, with the Clerk of Court

Date of First Publication:
 January 10, 2024

Name of Personal Representative: Shelby Yates Zimmerman

Attorney for Personal Representative: Genissa M. Richardson, WSBA #56339

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 True North Legal Services, PLLC

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DATED: January 3, 2024

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 Shelby Yates Zimmerman

Published in La Conner Weekly News Jan. 10, 17, 24, 2024.

Weekly

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

Since the news broke, the paper has received around \$100,000 in donations through its GoFundMe page and website, Mortenson said. One contributor wrote that they’ve never been to Eugene, but were moved to donate anyway.

“Local journalism is vital to community identity and an underpinning of informed voting,” the donor, Lawrence Szabo, said on GoFundMe.

Mortensen said she’s been touched seeing people who are willing to support alt-weekly journalism, but the paper isn’t in the clear yet.

“On one hand, it’s just a huge and amazing amount of money,” said Mortensen. “And on the other hand, I start feeling sick, because that’s just the tip of the iceberg of even just what we know was taken.”

The work continues

In the newsroom, Mortensen said former interns, freelancers and the

laid-off staff are volunteering to help create content for the web.

“Editors of other newspapers or folks who moved on from the Register Guard – the paper that’s technically our competition – have reached out and been like, ‘what can I do?’” she said.

According to Mortensen, the fraud investigation is limiting the paper’s future access to funds, but the goal is to rehire staff and resume printing near the end of January. She said she’s cautiously hopeful.

“With the amount of community support that has shown up,” said Mortensen, “I can’t imagine not pulling this off.”

Eugene Police confirmed last week that they were investigating the embezzlement case. On Jan. 4, a spokesperson told KLCC that there were no updates on the investigation.

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SUDOKO

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Answers

S	I	X	O	S	A	H	A	S	A	C	O	W	O	P	E	D				
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Peace

■ ■ ■ (from page 2)

Francis notes that artificial intelligence can be used to promote “important innovations in agriculture, education and culture, an improved level of life for entire nations and peoples and the growth of human fraternity and social friendship.” The pope therefore urges the global community of nations to work together to adopt a binding international treaty that regulates the development and use of artificial intelligence in its many forms: “The global scale of artificial intelligence makes it clear that international organizations



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Complete Events Calendar on laconnerweeklynews.com

By Patricia Aqimuk Paul, Esq., Food Editor

Sausage, Kale and Bean Soup

An Instant Pot recipe that you could adapt to the stove top. Choose the sausage of your choice. I combined homegrown kale with pantry stocked canned beans. You will have a simple quick meal for lunch or dinner.

Ingredients

- Portugese sausages, 10 ounces
- Onion, 1 small
- Kale, 4 stems
- Mixed beans, 15 ounce can
- Garlic, 1-2 cloves
- Olive oil, 1 tablespoon
- Water, 1 quart



Preparation

Prepare the kale by cutting the leaves from the stem. Freeze the stems to later make a broth. Chop the kale by rolling/curling the leaves and cut one-inch slices. Set aside. Chop the onion. Cut the sausage into bite size pieces. Peel and crush the garlic. Using the sauté cycle, add in the olive oil. As the oil heats, add the onion and garlic. You want to brown the onion slightly before adding in the sausage. Warm the sausage through or cook till its edges are brown. Turn off the sauté cycle. Add the beans and kale. Mix and scrape the bottom of the pan. Add the water. Mix and make sure no bits are stuck to the bottom of the pan. Use the soup cycle, for 20 minutes. Slow release.

NOT TO BE MISSED

Tuesday, Jan. 16, 2024, at 6 p.m. Town of La Conner Planning Commission Meeting For a current Agenda go to www.townoflaconner.org Sign up for "Notify Me" to get current Town Information

Jan. 20, 7 p.m. Pelican Bay Books, 520 Commercial, Anacortes, "Madrona Cookbook." Join us for the celebration roll out of the Madrona Project Empty Bowl Books anthology. Michael Daley and Georgia Johnson along with 12 writers read their work along with other favorites from book.

Feb. 23, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Community Blood Drive - La Conner High School Gymnasium, 404 N. Sixth St., La Conner. Coordinated by Bloodworks Northwest and local volunteers.

Donations requested: Skagit County Historical Museum is seeking donations of vintage, holiday wares, craft supplies, collectibles and unique items for their annual Sale at the School in April. Please contact jwolfe@co.skagit.wa.us or call 360-466-3365 for more details.

LIBRARIES

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

- Book Club. Meets at 2 p.m. every fourth Wednesday. Info: Richard Wisniewski at wisniew10@gmail.com
- Tech Help. 4-6 p.m. every Monday. One-on-one technical support in 30-minute blocks.
- Dungeons & Dragons Club. 3-5 p.m. every Tuesday. No previous gaming experience necessary.

Mount Vernon Public Library. 315 Snoqualmie St., Mount Vernon. 360-336-6209, mountvernonwa.gov. • Virtual Reality. Every Saturday, 1-3 p.m. Must be 12 or older.

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

Burlington Public Library. 820 E. Washington Ave., Burlington. 360-755-0760, burlingtonwa.gov/library. • Knitting Club. All ages, Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

MUSEUMS

Pacific Northwest Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum. 703 S. Second St., La Conner. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. qfamuseum.org. 360-466-4288.

Skagit County Historical Museum. 360-466-3365 or skagitcounty.net/museum. Hours 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday-Sunday. • Exhibit: "More than just a little off the top: barbershop historians."

LEGAL THRILLERS

Museum of Northwest Art. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, noon-5 p.m. Sunday and Monday. monamuseum.org. 360-466-4446. • Teen Art Club. A free program for youth in grades 6-12, where you can bring your friends and your creativity to make art together and inspire your art. Pizza, snacks, and art supplies will be provided.

MUSIC

Ukelele Fun & Song Circle. Meets 1-2 p.m. Wednesdays, Burlington Senior Center. For info, email yogaheartspace0@gmail.com.

Shelter Bay Chorus. Meets 4:30-6:30 p.m. every Thursday. Shelter Bay Clubhouse. No auditions required. Questions, call Joan at 360-941-7507.

MEETINGS

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

Skagit Cemetery District 1. Regular meetings at 5 p.m. every second Thursday, at Lori Buhers' home, 17604 Valentine Road, Mount Vernon.

Skagit Conservation District. 2021 E. College Way No. 203, Mount Vernon. 360-428-4313. Zoom info at skagitcd.org. Board meetings 7:30-9 a.m. every fourth Wednesday.

Rotary Club of La Conner. laconnerrotary.org. Meetings 6-7 p.m. every Monday at Shawn O'Donnell's restaurant. Optional dinner, 5:30 p.m.

Little Mountain Gamblers. Gamblers Anonymous meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Mount Vernon Senior Center, 1401 Cleveland Ave.

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

SERVICE & VOLUNTEER

Pacific Northwest Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum is looking for volunteers as a museum host or in our gift shop. Six hours per month. Fill out a volunteer application online www.qfamuseum.org or stop by the museum. Open Wednesday - Sunday 11 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., 703 Second Street or call Jacque Chase 360.466.4288 x 101.

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

Swinomish Helping Hands Food Bank. Food distribution from 2-5 p.m. every Thursday. **Non-essentials every first Thursday.** 17444 Snee Oosh Road, La Conner. 360-856-2211. helpinghandsfoodbank.org.

Skagit Valley Humane Society. 18841 Kelleher Road, Burlington.

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Super Crossword

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 Highest roll of a single die</p> <p>4 Peak in Thessaly</p> <p>8 Freaks out</p> <p>15 Subjective paper piece</p> <p>19 Never dying</p> <p>21 Kind of cherry named for its shape</p> <p>22 — sci. (coll. major)</p> <p>23 Scaled-down symphony group [1994]</p> <p>25 Mallorca, por ejempló</p> <p>26 "King" primate</p> <p>27 Writer Ferber</p> <p>28 Anti-bias job agcy.</p> <p>29 Gown fabric</p> <p>30 Program interacting with a remote server [1993]</p> <p>34 Bygone times</p> <p>38 Nurtured</p> <p>39 Kids' song with French lyrics</p> <p>40 — to go (gung-ho)</p> <p>41 "It's ch-chilly!"</p> <p>42 Whimpered like a baby</p> <p>44 Place to disclose sins [2010]</p> | <p>48 Coinage for something with no name</p> <p>53 Beginning on</p> <p>54 "To — much is given ..."</p> <p>55 Nantes' river</p> <p>57 Sets of points on graphs</p> <p>58 Shallowest Great Lake</p> <p>60 Waltz or tango [1997]</p> <p>63 Itinerant band member, say</p> <p>66 State after wedlock</p> <p>68 Having more seepage</p> <p>69 Panels that may reverse decisions [2008]</p> <p>71 Melody</p> <p>72 Jungle roarer</p> <p>73 Ouzo flavorer</p> <p>74 Exact lookalike</p> <p>76 Brand of rodent killer</p> <p>80 Horse-man of myth</p> <p>83 Greeting act conveying confidence [1991]</p> <p>86 First-rate</p> <p>88 Flub it up</p> <p>89 Actress Shire</p> <p>90 Plant snugly</p> <p>94 — -cone</p> | <p>95 Junk email sender</p> <p>97 Samoan peak famous for trapping clouds [1995]</p> <p>101 Italian port</p> <p>102 Exactly</p> <p>103 Money won in a game of dreidel</p> <p>104 Claudius I's successor</p> <p>108 Getting the job done</p> <p>109 What the first word of each of seven answers in this puzzle is, when preceded by "The"</p> <p>113 Stun with a charge</p> <p>114 Canceled by crossing off</p> <p>115 Revising, as text</p> <p>116 Bishops' jurisdictions</p> <p>117 Prescription amounts</p> <p>118 Berlin article</p> <p>119 Meadow</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>1 Ailing</p> <p>2 Texter's "If you ask me"</p> <p>3 Mutant Marvel superhero</p> | <p>4 Celestial ball</p> <p>5 Like a cold, hard gaze</p> <p>6 Manhattan eatery since 1927</p> <p>7 Isolated</p> <p>8 Ad — committee</p> <p>9 Hatchet part</p> <p>10 Ram or ewe</p> <p>11 "The Fox and the Crow" storyteller</p> <p>12 Tabby's scratcher</p> <p>13 Bobby of hockey</p> <p>14 Venus Williams' org.</p> <p>15 Sedative drug</p> <p>16 Sticky little sheet</p> <p>17 "Mama" Cass</p> <p>18 Actress Wiest</p> <p>20 Texter's "Yikes!"</p> <p>24 Bolted to escape</p> <p>29 Riyadh native</p> <p>30 Sugar source</p> <p>31 Shore flier</p> <p>32 "Not yet sure what my answer is"</p> <p>33 Director Joel or Ethan</p> <p>34 Killer whale</p> <p>35 Neighbor of Myanmar</p> <p>36 Early James Bond foe</p> | <p>37 Not similar</p> <p>41 Dust jacket write-up</p> <p>42 Demi and Dudley</p> <p>43 Departs</p> <p>45 Cupcake flourish</p> <p>46 That lady</p> <p>47 Less spicy</p> <p>49 Honey-coated Easter entree</p> <p>50 Anderson of "WKRP in Cincinnati"</p> <p>51 Cicero's "Lo!"</p> <p>52 Cake layer</p> <p>56 ICU workers</p> <p>59 Actor Stephen</p> <p>60 Iran's former name</p> <p>61 Ball-shaped</p> <p>62 Put on, as an outfit</p> <p>63 After-bath powder</p> <p>64 Andy Taylor's boy</p> <p>65 Sitting atop</p> <p>66 Suffix with ball</p> <p>67 Innocent types</p> <p>70 President before Donald</p> <p>71 Shallow pan</p> <p>74 Swarms</p> <p>75 Huge conflict</p> | <p>77 Sedate</p> <p>78 Steinbeck migrant</p> <p>79 Close</p> <p>81 In — (more than sleeping)</p> <p>82 Arm bone</p> <p>84 Eatery list</p> <p>85 Baseballer Musial</p> <p>87 Is really mad</p> <p>90 Grain fungi</p> <p>91 "Watch Me (Whip/—)" (2015 hit)</p> <p>92 "Apollo 13" actor Gary</p> <p>93 Bills worth 100 bucks</p> <p>94 "You got that right!"</p> <p>95 Meat in a sub</p> <p>96 Coal-mining guys</p> <p>98 MMA fighter Rousey</p> <p>99 Armageddon nation</p> <p>100 Little laugh</p> <p>104 Silent "yes"</p> <p>105 Like villains</p> <p>106 Russo of film</p> <p>107 Gymnast Korbut</p> <p>109 Elly May Clampett's pa</p> <p>110 Good Grips kitchen brand</p> <p>111 "— a trap!"</p> <p>112 Ark.-to-Ill. dir.</p> |
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ANSWERS ON PAGE 6

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!

POLICE BLOTTER

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sunday, December 31

5:20 p.m. Out of gas — Car driving slow and weaving in the lane of travel. A deputy arrived and found the vehicle and driver parked on the shoulder. The driver had run out of fuel and was just coasting to a stop. The driver walked to the gas station and was able to get gas and continue on his way. La Conner Whitney Rd., La Conner.

have been subjects launching fireworks from the dock on New Year's that caused a small fire. Sherman St., La Conner.

Thursday, January 4

11:04 a.m. Mudflats — Report of excessive mud on the road from farm vehicles. The area was checked and there was no traffic hazard. McLean Rd., Greater La Conner.

Saturday, January 6

7:55 a.m. Not fenced in — Hit and run collision that happened around 1:40 a.m. The property owner had video of a white truck leaving the road and hitting a fence and driving into the yard. No plate was seen and the vehicle was not located. Beaver Marsh Road, Greater La Conner.

4:28 p.m. Dogs gone wild — Report of two dogs running loose in the fields near La Conner Elementary. The area was checked but the dogs were not located. Sixth St., La Conner.

Monday, January 1

8:11 p.m. Helping paws — Two dogs loose near the boat launch and seemed to be staying at one truck. It was determined the dogs had gotten free from the truck while the owner was out on his boat. A neighbor to the launch took the dogs in and put them in a fenced yard until the owner returned. Sherman St., La Conner.

Tuesday, January 2

9:20 a.m. Fired up — Report of damage to the dock at the launch where it looked like someone had set the dock on fire. This may

Channel Drive resident honored for 64 years in Rotary

By Anne Basye

For more than two-thirds of his life, Doug Jones has been a Rotarian.

The 95-year-old Channel Drive resident joined Rotary when he was 31. He has been a Rotarian longer than the 52 years he was married to his late wife Ruth and almost, but not quite, longer than he has been a father.

"Rotary has been a way of life," Jones told an appreciative crowd at the Dec. 18 La Conner Rotary Christmas party, as his 64 years with the service club were celebrated.

The club has been a constant throughout his varied career, which ranged from delivering milk to owning a hardware store in Darrington to serving as deputy administrator of the Arlington airport. Along the way, he belonged to three Rotary chapters, transferring to La Conner Rotary in the 1990s.

While part of the Lynnwood Rotary club, he and long-time "frienemy" Don Bakken helped start the Lynnwood Rotary International Air Fair in 1969. During its 24 years at Paine Field, the fair drew hundreds of thousands of spectators and netted more than \$1.5 million for Rotary grants and scholarships.

It was a big job for a small Rotary Club, but Jones and Bakken — also later a La Conner Rotary member — were committed to its success. Jones used his political contacts with Governor Dan Evans and Senator Henry "Scoop" Jackson to book the Navy Blue Angels, the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds and the Canadian Snow Birds. The Goodyear blimp was often on the roster.

Even with all those balls in the air, he and his family found time to host seven Rotary exchange students from five countries, six months at a time.

He brought the same energy to the La Conner club when he and



Doug Jones

Ruth built their Channel Drive home.

"There wasn't anything I wasn't involved in," he said.

For the Smelt Derby, which ended in 2020, "he would go along Main Street calling on all the businesses to solicit gifts and put up posters," said daughter Kelley Jones. "Today many of those businesses still participate in the Rotary Auction."

On Derby day, he would set up a big coffee urn before heading outside to sell tickets or trouble-shoot, so that volunteers could come in and warm up.

During tulip season, he drove south to sell flowers to the Arlington Rotary. He also built his own tulip booth at the corner of McLean and La Conner Whitney Roads. "Our then-tulip chairman thought it would be too hard to have a third location and that we could never staff it," Rotary President Connie Milliken remembers. "But when the season ended, his booth had sold more than either one in town."

That, says Milliken, is a good example of Jones' dedication and determination.

Not to mention the discipline of running your own business, having two kids and donating thousands and thousands of hours — and thousands of dollars — to Rotary. Jones is proud of

every hour and every cent and especially proud of Rotary's women leaders.

Like all Rotary Clubs, the La Conner Rotary Club was a male-only group when it was chartered in 1945. In 1989, Rotary International changed its policy to admit qualified women. Today there are 300,000 women members, Jones reminded his Christmas party diners.

Milliken, one of those "qualified" women, oversees a club that gives away about \$100,000 annually. Much of it goes to La Conner Schools as scholarships, clothes for the clothes closet, food for the food closet and support for the preschool and the Braves Club. As part of its focus on literacy, the club pays for a book a month for any child under five within the school district registered in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

Rotary is also involved in the development of La Conner's Waterfront Park and gives grants to groups like the Skagit River Poetry Festival, Children of the Valley and the Anacortes Family Center.

"All of our work is focused on the county, except for our international work in Honduras," Milliken says. Members record 50 to 90 volunteer hours at every Monday meeting as they live out the Rotary slogan, "Service above Self."

Jones has been to Guatemala and Honduras as part of that international work. "In a way, his influence extends around the world," says daughter Kelley.

His influence will also extend well beyond his 64 years of service, because like many of his fellow club members, Rotary is named in his will.

"Keeping Drama Alive in La Conner Schools" will be the topic at the January 15 La Conner Rotary meeting at 6 p.m. at O'Donnell's Restaurant on Highway 20.

Surge talk at MoNA

By Ken Stern

"Inside an Artist & Scientist Collaboration: 66 Birds/3 Degrees," a talk by artist Natalie Niblack and scientist John Bower Jan. 20 closes the Museum of Northwest Art free programming for its exhibit, "Surge: Mapping Transition, Displacement and Agency in Times of Climate Change."

The two will discuss the scientific process and research that led to the list of bird paintings Niblack is exhibiting. The audience will have the opportunity to participate in using citizen science resources to explore how climate change affects birds in the Pacific Northwest.

An RSVP is needed for this 1-2:30 p.m. program and must be made on the MoNA website: monamuseum.org/events.

Compost Christmas trees

La Conner residents can drop off their Christmas trees at the Town of La Conner's composting facility east of the fire station on Chilberg Road from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Drive into the service area to unload trees.

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