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Heavy snowfall across county



DREAMING OF A WHITE CHRISTMAS – Through the early morning on Dec. 20, a blanket of snow engulfed the town of La Conner, including the community Christmas tree in Gilkey Square.

— Photo by Sarah Walls

First winter storm buries La Conner, western Skagit County

By Bill Reynolds

Today is the official start of winter. The seasons changed Monday, though, when La Conner and the Puget Sound region awakened to sub-freezing temperatures and light snow on the ground.

Much of the same is forecast through Friday.

The wintry conditions immediately impacted schedules. La Conner Schools Monday morning canceled Tuesday classes, the last day of school before winter break.

The La Conner High girls' basketball game at Meridian Monday and the Braves' Tuesday tipoff with Clallam Bay were postponed.

Those calls came in advance of the National Weather Service in Seattle issuing a Winter Storm Warning from Monday 7 p.m. until Tuesday 7 p.m. Heavy snow and record-breaking cold temperatures were predicted.

La Conner residents experienced overnight temperatures in the low 20s, a steady powdery snowfall of several inches, and slippery local roadways. The low Monday was 20.9 degrees at 8 a.m. and 20.7 degrees 7 a.m. Tuesday at the Washington State University Memorial Highway weather station. Swinomish Tribal Police reported

early Tuesday that "the entire length of Reservation Road is a mess" and that Pioneer Parkway and road surfaces in Shelter Bay were quite slick. "If you have to drive," a tribal po-

lice spokesman said, "give yourself a lot of time to get there."

The Town's planning commission canceled its Tuesday meeting.

The Town of La Conner Public works crew began plowing streets and removing snow from sidewalks 5 a.m. Tuesday. Whitney Hill (East Washington Street) was blocked to traffic, as is customary during winter storms that hit town, said Public Works Director

Brian Lease. Kids turned it into their sledding hill.

Some of the work was made easier by the type of dry, powdery snow that fell. Seven inches was measured at a La Conner site Tuesday.

"The good thing," Lease said, "is with this stuff we can use the large leaf blowers. It actually moves the snow."

The Port of Skagit had a plow in service at La Conner Marina Tuesday morning as well.

Lease said his department was preparing for temperatures in the teens on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. The challenges won't end there, he said.

Lease anticipates water leaks and related issues to arise when temperatures are forecast to reach the high 40s and perhaps low 50s on Christmas weekend.

"When it thaws out on Saturday," he said, "it could be a mess."

tops \$6.9 million By Ken Stern The 2023 budget the La Conner Town Council

2023 Town budget

The 2023 budget the La Conner Town Council passed Dec. 13 is robust in its expenditures, at \$6.97 million and modest in its increase in revenue, to \$5.6 million. It is a deficit budget of \$1.37 million, with reserves covering the difference.

Expenditures will be \$1.1 million more than projected for 2022, almost 19% higher. Five funds will increase by a total of \$1.1 million next year: The general fund increase of \$215,874 will include staff raises of 7.3% for administration and 3% for public works. Replacing the fire hall roof is \$180,000, partially covered by the cell tower lease reserve fund. The fire hall heating system cost of \$50,000 will be paid with federal coronavirus funds.

Replacing Maple Hall's heating and air conditioning is a \$162,000 cost, most of the \$176,350 increase in the facilities fund.

Funding the Town's water plan update is \$135,000, with \$65,000 more for an asset management program.

The \$300,000 increase in the compost program has \$250,000 for repairing and pads, and \$50,000 for replacing the mix auger.

The \$802,892 in storm drainage costs is covered primarily by \$767,941 in reserves, paying for several projects: Street projects at Whatcom and

(continued on page 3)

Family moves into Channel Cove Habitat home

By Max Drews

Sunday afternoon Skagit Habitat for Humanity's 41st home was ready and dedicated for Katelyn and her two children. The Channel Cove duplex on Park Street was ready for move-in after three months of renovation by primarily volunteer workers, including Katelyn.

Skagit Habitat Executive Director Tina Tate, Board President Rob Ashby and Skagit County Commissioner Ron Wesen spoke at a 2 p.m. ceremony in the Channel Cove community center. They welcomed Katelyn into her new home and expressed appreciation for all who made the project possible. Jodi Dean, Home Trust of Skagit director, presented the family with a \$200 cash gift and Rev. Scott Rossiter quoted from Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans that I have for you, says the Lord, plans for peace and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

When Kerry Ashby, a committee chair at Skagit Habitat, presented gifts to the family: a bouquet of flowers, a \$100 gift card donated by Grocery Outlet, a toolbox and an engraved wooden sign reading "MORGAN FAMILY," Katelyn dabbed tears from her eyes.

She thanked the crowd, Project Manager Andy Weightman proudly handed her the key to her home and everyone filed out for the ribbon cutting. After a few photos, Katelyn's daughter was given the scissors to cut the red ribbon. She did. It fell and everyone applauded. "It's an exciting new chapter in our lives," Katelyn said. "It's the best Christmas gift ever."

According to Congressman Rick Larsen's (D-Everett), whose text Tate read earlier, the affordable housing crisis should be a bigger priority in Congress. He noted Washington state is in the process of building 500,000 affordable homes within the next decade.

In Skagit County, those houses are built one at a time. The future owner of Skagit Habitat's 42nd home, Cynthia, was in the audience Sunday.

Shelter Bay lease forum held at Swinomish

By Bill Reynolds

Since 2015 talks had stalled regarding negotiation of a new master lease between Shelter Bay and the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.

Now folks are talking again.

Now folks are talking as Shelter Bay and Swinor

Shelter Bay and Swinomish residents and leaders last week attended the first of planned traditional Native American open floor discussions hosted by lease consultants Dr. Wil James and Ava Goodman at the tribal social services building.

Most came away with a positive view of the three-hour session, which invited a frank but respectful dialogue stressing common ground approaches to solving complex issues.

"The 900-pound gorilla in the room

"The 900-pound gorilla in the room is the lease," acknowledged Shelter Bay board member Monte Hicks. Because it expires in 2044, banks will not write 30-year mortgages. That is a difficulty for potential homebuyers.

Hicks added a Shelter Bay infra-

structure upgrade need: the continuing closure of its more than half century-old swimming pools, an issue he suggested could be addressed by Shelter Bay, Swinomish and perhaps the Town of La Conner.

"I'd like to try to work with the tribe and La Conner for a joint pool," said Hicks, adding that "we need to get more people involved. This is a great place to live"

live."
Swinomish Tribal Senate Chairman
Steve Edwards struck a conciliatory tone

in brief remarks from the floor.

"We appreciate you gathering here," Edwards told the sizeable Shelter Bay contingent. "We respect you and we respect your community. As neighbors, we can get along. I wanted to stop in, just to listen. This is your time to speak and express your feelings. God bless you."

The goal, said James, a medical doctor, is to secure a new lease that both assures Shelter Bay sustainability and pays Swinomish and individual allotees true market value for the land.

It will be a difficult balancing act, James conceded.

"With a new master lease," he said, "home values will go up. But not everybody living in Shelter Bay currently will be able to pay the new rate.

"This is," he stressed, "the most beautiful place in the world."

Several Shelter Bay residents said they appreciate residing on tribal land and have enjoyed the cultural diversity and becoming acquainted with Swinomish traditions. A number said they had volunteered at Canoe Journey a decade ago and attended annual Blessing of the Fleet ceremonies.

One, saying he has lived at Shelter Bay since 2019, called it a "magical, unbelievable, special place."

"Any knot," he insisted, "can be untied if we work together. You can get quite a lot if you work together."

Swinomish Senate Vice-Chair J.J. Wilbur and tribal member Jay Bowen, a local artist, provided unique perspectives as Shelter Bay homeowners. "When the Shelter Bay deal was signed," said Wilbur, who represents the Shelter Bay director district on La Conner's school board, "it provided a little more income for our people other than federal aid. We don't want to see Shelter Bay go away. We're going to keep working on this on our side."

"As a homeowner in Shelter Bay with family ties in the (Swinomish) village, I have a high stake in this community," said Bowen, who served as sergeant-at-arms for the Tuesday forum. "I have cousins who are (Shelter Bay) leaseholders, who live on that money."

Tony Cladoosby, older brother of former longtime Swinomish Tribal Senate Chair president Brian Cladoosby, struck a humorous chord speaking as one of four official open floor witnesses.

Cladoosby drew laughter, noting as he looked around the room that he saw "persons of a certain age" who likely won't be affected when the present lease expires in just over two decades.

"It's good that you have your sense of humor," he said, quickly switching to a more serious tone.

"We opened our front door to you," said Cladoosby, pointing out that the Shelter Bay entrance sign is one of the first things seen by visitors to Swinomish Reservation.

"We don't want you to leave," he said, expressing the hope residents can pass homes to their heirs.

James and Goodman, who reside in (continued on page 3)

Christmas

Holiday Closures

Sunday, December 25

Everything:

Bank: Closed

Buses: No service

Library: Dec 24-25

Schools: Dec 20-Jan 2

Town Hall: Dec 24-25

County government: Closed

Post Office: Closed

Trash Pick Up: None

Weekly News: Closed

And God bless us, everyone

A famous editorial —

"Is There a Santa Claus?"

We take pleasure in answering thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

Dear Editor —

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon

115 West Ninety Fifth Street, New York

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence.

We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abidina.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

- Francis Pharcellus Church

Reprinted from the Sept. 21, 1897 number of The New York Sun. This is the most reprinted editorial ever to run in newspapers in the English language.

Giving thanks for community support —

Volunteers brightened library's Tiny Trees success

LETTERS

By Susan Macek and Jean Markert

Once again our community responded generously and warmly to this year's Festival of Tiny Trees. More than \$8,000 was raised to support additional furnishings for the new La Conner Swinomish Library. It was wonderful to be able to host everyone in our new library and to recognize the amazing efforts that made it possible. We applaud and appreciate all who made this year's event a success!

- Tam Mason from WaFd Bank who stepped up to coordinate the event. What a hero!
- Our creative tree donors & designers:
- Local businesses and museums: Linda Banaszak, Caravan Gallery; Kim Broadhead, Jackie Bailey, Kait Hailey, Stompin' Grounds Coffee; Christina & Robyn Burdick-Good-Rubenstein, Kim & Elizabeth Rubenstein, Tillinghast Postal & Business Center; Michelle Calvin, Beaver Tales Coffee; Amy Green, Jacque Chase, Chris Mohnkern, Pacific Northwest Quilt & Fiber Art Museum; Julia Johnson, Jo Wolfe and staff, Skagit County Historical Museum; Rich Murphy, Scott Dean, Jessi Creason, Matt May, Pac Nor Westy; Colleen O'Brien-Miller, Beezie & Company Family Flower Farm
- Individuals: Alice Collingwood and Sarah Broderick; Georgia Johnson; Alexa Robbins and Tina Everitt; Kay Stewart; Kathleen Wadland; Lee Ann Wing
- Sierra Pacific Industries for their donation of a Seiko woman's watch to our silent auction
- Frances Simmons, event graphics and operations volunteer
- Bernadette Bishop, website
- Event volunteers Katryna Barber, Serena Campbell, Robert Hancock, Emily Markert, Kim Rubenstein, Lee Ann Wing; Friends of La Conner Swinomish Library: B.J. Carol, Sandy Chomiak, Diane Fritzler, Midge Hanson, Joan Scarboro
- Skagit County Historical Museum
- Soroptimist International of La Conner

We wish everyone a safe, peaceful and joyous holiday season – and we hope to see you at the library!

Macek is director of the La Conner Library Foundation. Markert is director of the La Conner Swinomish Library.

LETTER POLICY

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

Dec. 13 Town **Council meeting**

By Ken Stern

The La Conner Town Council was productive at its last meeting of the year Dec. 13. It approved the Town's 2023 budget and passed ordinances raising fees after hearing from residents and getting staff

No residents spoke at the public hearing ahead of unanimous approval of the budget. The budget estimates \$5.6 million in revenues with expenses of \$6.97 million, projecting a \$1.4 million deficit. See story, page 1.

The business-side approvals included an amendment finalizing the 2022 budget, joining increases passed earlier. The six fund categories codified went from the arts through composting, \$152,602, streets, \$24,462, and the general fund, \$19,680, for a total of \$197,644.

An ordinance to raise funds by imposing a "proportionate share of the cost of fire protection and park facilities needed to serve ... new growth and development" was passed. A resolution approving a table of fees will be brought to Council next year.

Fees for low-income housing are set at 50% and Council may reduce fees more. Low-income is defined at 80% or less of Skagit County's median family income.

The ordinance amends Title 13 of the Town's Uniform Development Code.

Council passed an ordinance increasing sewer and water monthly rates and service charges, amending parts of chapter 12 of the municipal

A resolution was passed for annual updates covering five pages of land use and public works services fees.

Town planner Michael

Fish, and strategy, needed

Thanks for the free paper, Mr. Editor, even if I'd read it before. I think I've missed maybe one, since your arrival as publisher all those years ago. I like to think of myself as a La Connerite, but perhaps I'm not. The Beaver Marsh and Fir Island are formally Mount Vernon, but here is where I hang out. I fished the channel when there were some fish here and I fished the Skagit River when fish were there. Now I fish neither, nope, not enough fish anywhere! Now I grit my teeth and look a bit pitiful, with my steely glare and my mostly missing white hair.

I'm not sure what to think about DNR's decision to end all finfish rearing in their waters, does this include trout ponds and hatcheries? Now that we've lessened the fish counts, are we going to throw in the towel, give up and hope that they'll return to pre-industrial levels? We just saw the devastating effect of rubber tires breaking down, causing coho deaths in an expensively rehabilitated stream. As a student of soils, fish, flora and fauna, I've designed and strategized several systems to help these dwindling stocks. Remediating contaminated waters is in my wheelhouse, along with my colleagues, yeah, a few of us have been at it for fifty years! Some of us have become famous, while some of us have studied in obscurity, struggling to get our dissertations heard.

Milo Moore became famous here for his work with salmon and fish food, yet next to nowhere is his work revealed. As a ten year old boy he caught a 62 pound Chinook, at Mount Vernon, on the Skagit. He headed the state's department of fisheries during much of the '40's, spent his whole life establishing coho and chum runs, in Japan, Korea and even Wisconsin! Then he created the fish food to feed them, yeah, somehow his fame has gone the way of the salmon, from struggling to threatened, then endangered, extremely rare.

So, who now has a great new strategy? I keep my ear to the ground, but I hear nary a sound, even when the fish are seldom found and we all hope for a miracle recovery for the watershed of the Salish Sea, we see not the dire situation, or think it's important to listen to different ideas. Glen S Johnson Skagit Valley

Davolio's contract was renewed at a rate of \$90 per hour for a maximum of \$75,000 annually for two years, or 16 hours weekly. Davolio told Council this would be his last term and that new assistant planner Ajah Eills "can step in" in 2025.

Council approved \$10,000 for the La Conner School District's after-school Braves Club, providing participation for 10 low-income children.

A contract for cleaning with Andrea's House Cleaning Services for bi-weekly cleaning of Town Hall and the La Conner Sheriff's Detachment office for \$350 monthly on an ongoing basis was approved.

Council canceled its Dec. 27 session and elected Councilmember Rick Dole mayor pro tem for the next six months.

Four residents spoke at the meeting's start. Mayor Ramon Hayes and Councilmember Marylee Chamberlain were absent.

Texas regulations failed electricity customers if they could receive one. Even



By Greg Whiting

In February 2021, Texas had unusually cold weather, resulting in an electric energy supply crisis. Millions of customers were without power for up to four days, during the coldest days of the year. Retail prices went up dramatically, and some customers received monthly bills for more than ten thousand dollars. Initial news reports assigned the blame for both the reliability issues and the costs to Texas utilities increasing the amount of renewable energy on its grid.

What really happened in the Texas electric market? What was the affect of the increased use of intermittent renewable power sources? What should Washington do, and what is Washington doing, to avoid similar reliability issues and price spikes in the future?

Explaining this will take more than one column. Let's start with the huge retail electric bills.

For any commodity in a wellfunctioning free market, supply and demand balance at a marketclearing price. When a system upset occurs that suddenly changes either supply or demand, a new market-clearing price has to be established that reflects that change. When supply and demand balance again, the price

Usually, a sudden rapid increase in price is caused by a short-term, unexpected shortage of supply. In such cases, the price of a commodity goes up until demand goes down and the market clears again at a new, higher price. That's what happened in Texas.

However, electricity is a unique commodity. It's generated as it is used. There are very few ways to store electricity and draw down an inventory during a short-term crisis. If supply falls suddenly, prices can rise 100-

And, electric customers usually don't know about price changes immediately. A consumer who sees higher orange juice prices in a store after a Florida freeze can choose not to buy orange juice. Electric consumers don't know that the electricity for space heaters and refrigerators suddenly costs a hundred times as much as it did two hours ago. The electric bill won't arrive for days, or weeks.

Furthermore, most consumers don't understand how to react to an electric price signal even

if they did understand it and were willing to act, there are few mechanisms through which utilities can offer delivery of electricity to some customers willing to pay a higher price while cutting off service, or reducing service, to others.

In most locations, utility regulations are set up to require utilities to have a maximum retail price. Utilities, in turn, set up backup power and load management programs to react immediately to supply crisis situations. If they guess wrong, the utility owners might absorb financial losses. Even when they don't, short-term costs are factored into years' worth of future bills. End consumers don't see giant bills immediately.

Texas has unusual regulations. Consumers can choose their electric utility even if they are in another utility's historic service territory. Some retail utilities had offered contracts that passed live pricing on to the consumer. Most consumers are not aware that other contract offers' higher prices included the costs associated with mitigating price spikes, and are not aware that electric price spikes can be so dramatic. Some consumers signed up for such contracts, and got lower prices for a few years – till they suddenly got ten thousand-dollar invoices.

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Jim Zimmerman

James Roger (Jim) Zimmerman was born June 26, 1933 in Noonan, ND to Edgar and Stella (Kjos) Zimmerman and passed away December 12, 2022. In 1936 the family, with siblings Eloise and Boyd, headed west, starting a new life in LaConner, WA. Jim graduated in 1951 from LaConner High School and went to work on the tugboats for Dunlap Towing Company. In 1963 Jim and 19 coworkers purchased the Company from Gene Dunlap and he spent the next 30 years in a management role until he retired in 1992.

In 1951 he married Mary Ann Peth and together they raised 3 children, Tommy, Annie & Nancy in LaConner until her death in 1972. In 1973 Jim married Margery Dunlap and gained two daughters, Laura and Alison. They spent nearly 50 years together, traveling mostly by car. Road trips to remote places in USA were their favorite destinations. Together they built their dream home at Bayview, watching endless sunsets and tending to their gardens. He loved sharing his garden's bounty with family, friends and neighbors -- even giving away his last homegrown cantaloupe in October.

Jim enjoyed his annual pack trips with the guys hunting mule deer in the Pasayten Wilderness and crabbing with his brother Boyd for many years. Jim could tell a story like nobody else and loved spending time with his friends and family. He was a people person and rarely met a person he didn't like. He will be so missed by all. His "Jim isms" will carry on!

Jim is survived by his wife Margie, son Tom Zimmerman (Judy), and daughters Annie Hernandez (Jerry), Nancy Alvord (Dave), Laura Powers (Cameron) and Alison Bailey and his sister Eloise Green. He is also survived by 11 grandchildren, 22 great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ed & Stella Zimmerman, his brother Boyd Zimmerman and his grandson Aaron Hernandez.

A private family memorial will take place at a later date. Donations can be sent to your favorite charity. Arrangements are under the care of Kern Funeral Home.

Shelter. . . (from page 1)

Shelter Bay and have deep Swinomish roots, were retained two years ago, at \$10,000 per month, to break what had become a lengthy impasse in negotiations.

They have conducted numerous personal outreaches and developed YouTube videos outlining the history of Shelter Bay's master lease development.

"Shelter Bay didn't cost the Swinomish Tribal Community anything other than deferred rent," James said. "At the time, Swinomish didn't have any money. Shelter Bay has upheld for the most part its end of the bargain.

James said that historical trauma related to Native Americans and land has some questioning whether the lease should have been entered into in the first place.

He is not in that camp.

"Their initial response is to take it back," he said. "But I have to trust that my ancestors who made this deal acted in the best interests of my people.

"I believe in the future," said James. "It's not 2044. Our ancestors made the deal and left the responsibility to us."





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OBITUARIES



Rev. Fr. Dale A. Johnson June 7, 1950-Dec. 8, 2022

Author, Lecturer, Priest, Human Rights Advocate

The Rev. Fr. Johnson is the son of a dairy farmer from Mount Vernon, Washington. graduating Mount Vernon High School in 1968, he continued a lifelong passion of study and teaching. Many who knew Fr. Johnson as a youth knew him as a talented wrestler, a sport that takes grit and determination for success. He put this same grit and determination into his study of semitic languages and service to orphans and refugees around the globe. Fr. Johnson eventually attended a graduate program for semitic languages at The University of Chicago in the early

With a passion to study, follow and spread the teachings of Jesus Christ, he was ordained as a priest for the Syriac Orthodox Church of Antioch in 1991 by His Eminence Mor Athanasius Yeshue Samuel of Dead Sea Scroll fame. Father Johnson was a linguist and was one of the world's leading experts in Aramaic, the family of semitic languages considered by scholars to be that of the spoken language of Jesus Christ.

He has worked for the World Council of Churches of Geneva, Switzerland in Turkey and Iraq where for more than 15 years he investigated and reported on violations of human rights, served refugees and managed relief projects. He also did mission work in China and South Africa. Fr. Johnson was attuned to the call of the Holy Spirit and went to wherever he was called, no matter the physical deprivation or danger. In the early 1990's he lived and studied at Mor Gabriel Monastery, a Syriac Orthodox monastery in remote South Eastern Turkey near the Syrian and Iraqi border. Fr. Johnson expressed a deep love and commitment for the people of that area of the world and considered Mor Gabriel Monastery his spiritual home.

He recently was serving as a missionary priest and human rights activist in the Dominican Republic, and has been instrumental in developing and initiating strategic antipoverty programs with the help of short term volunteers from North America serving orphans, homeless women and children. He was recognized in the Dominican Republic for his service of organizing feeding centers and census work on homeless children, milk and



pampers projects for women with HIV/AIDS, education programs and Micro-credit projects.

In 2015 Father Johnson spearheaded a project focused toward helping refugees in the Middle East escaping ISIS. He led a group of Christians from the Pacific Northwest to Turkey providing seeds to Christian refugees planting gardens in an effort to give "Seeds of Hope" and self-sufficiency in a region of increasing Christian persecution. Father Johnson took a vow of poverty later in life. He had a great heart while living at the level of the poor. In contrast it was said by mission volunteers that when they were with Father Johnson in Turkey it was like being with a "movie star;" children would run out into the street to greet Father Johnson in order to receive a blessing.

Fr. Johnson was especially thankful for the compassion and support he received from members of Christ Episcopal Church in Anacortes from 2017 through 2021, when he was in the United States between mission trips. A place to live was kindly provided by the church while stateside. Several Episcopal and Lutheran Parishes throughout the western United States graciously supported and supplemented Fr. Johnson's missions over the years. Many consider Fr. Johnson a family member. Fr. Johnson considered orphans and refugees his family. There are family members that number thousands, they live safe now around the globe, grateful to acknowledge their Father that helped save their lives, escaping poverty and persecution.

Father Johnson is also the author of more than one hundred publications of various genres. Many that knew him referred to him as Father Dale. One of Fr. Dale's teachings and lasting message was, "Let Go and Let God."

He was preceded in death by his parents, Albert and Martha Johnson, his brothers Allen Johnson, Dennis Johnson. Father Dale is survived by two children and extended family that live in the Pacific Northwest.

"For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Philippians 1:21.

In lieu of flowers or other sentiment the family requests that donations be made to www. SyrianOrthodoxChurch.org, in

honor of Rev. Fr. Dale A. Johnson. Information prepared by family and dear friends of Rev. Fr. Dale A. Johnson.

Home Loans Made Simple

Jessica Nguyen

Peoples Bank

Skagit County Home Loan Specialist

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peoplesbank-wa.com/jessica

Town of La Conner 2022 tax revenues are golden

By Ken Stern

The slight dip, to \$57,164, in the Town of La Conner's November sales tax revenue was the first sizeable year-to-year drop in collections since the first summer of the coronavirus pandemic, in 2020. That is \$3,7467, 6.2% below 2021. Still, the \$631,012 collected in 2022 is almost \$140,000 above the year's budget projections and exceeds 2021's year total.

Elsewhere, revenues are solid gold, moving to platinum by year's end. The \$21,228 in hotel/motel tax revenues is the highest November report ever, 5.2% over 2021. Revenue is almost \$50,000 above budget estimate. This is the ninth month collections exceeded 2021 totals.

The \$4,149 collected in REET (Real Estate Excise Tax)

revenue more than doubles the 2022 revenue estimate, totaling \$81,860 versus the \$40,000 projected for the year.

La Conner's total revenues are at 109% of projections, with a month to go. Almost every fund category is above 100%, including public works. Total expenses stand at 78%. Barring huge end of the year expenditures, the Town will finish over \$1 million in the black. It had projected a deficit budget for 2022.

No firetruck bond report was provided.

These totals are based on September collections from town businesses and online purchases delivered to La Conner addresses and reported to town council.

La Conner has a calendar fiscal year.

Budget...

(from page 1)

Laurel; Maple and Caledonia and East Washington total \$435,000. Updating the storm water plan is \$40,000

Water projects are \$172,500 for a plan update, \$135,000, operation and maintenance, hydrant and water replacement, \$30,000, and \$7,500 for an analysis of the Skagit Beach main.

Operating costs for public

operating costs for public safety: the Skagit County Sheriff's office contract, the Town's code enforcement program and the fire department – will make up 9.4% of the budget, at \$658,000. The contract with the sheriff's office increased 9%, to \$369,017. The code enforcement program is another \$60,000, half in salary and benefits. The \$226,092 fire department expenditures have increased 31%, as upgrading equipment and training has become a frequent concern the past year.

The department now has a half-time fire chief in Aaron Reinstra, a fulltime Town employee with code enforcement duties. Likewise, some equipment and maintenance costs are split between the two units.

The fire truck bond was paid off in 2022. The special fund safety tax is banked for future fire apparatuses.

Councilmembers are investing \$7,000 in a planning retreat.
Town revenues are projected

to increase 9%, to almost 5.6 million, a conservative increase from 2022's budget. Revenues for this year are above that total with December not yet tallied. In 2021 the actual revenue was \$6.1 million. Mayor Ramon Hayes again expressed caution in his budget message, writing, "we are still in a time of uncertainty with expected decreases in our tax revenues and increases in cost and materials Storm clouds appear on the horizon as many economists report the advance warning signs of a recession."

ly for over two years. Revenues from sewer and compost operations have also exceeded projection in 2021 and 2022. The 2023 budget is again cautious in projecting growth from every revenue source.

Hayes has led the Town administration to be frugal in pro-

Tax revenues derived from

tourists have been robust month-

Hayes has led the Town administration to be frugal in projecting revenue and expending actual dollars, yearly. This year, expenditures are \$1.7 million below the annual budget.

The end of 2023 projected fund balance, or reserves, is \$4.3 million, over 75% of 2023 revenue. Town policy is to maintain the fund balances equal to 20% of operating revenues. The mayor and council members have long discussed the need for major water main and wastewater treatment plant infrastructure projects. The Town's reserve fund continues to grow.





Dec. 24th, 5p.m.
La Conner United Methodist Church

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Kim Pedroza leaves as school district transportation director

By Bill Reynolds

La Conner Schools Transportation Supervisor Kim Pedroza is leaving the school district for a similar post with the Stanwood School District.

School Board President Susie Deyo formally recognized the many contributions Pedroza has made at the panel's monthly hybrid meeting Friday morning.

Pedroza will be hard to replace, a point underscored by transportation staff member Randy Swift, who juggles driving, maintenance and classroom instructional assignments.

"Our coach has gone to Stanwood," Swift lamented, "and we're in the process of finding someone else. We need to have

a varsity coach, not a JV coach. We need a great coach. My biggest concern is that we take our time and find somebody who's pretty stellar."

Complicating matters, said Swift, is that three district bus drivers are eligible to retire at the end of the school year.

"We're trying to get newer and younger folks to come in here," Swift said. "We have to get creative doing that."

Brian Gianello, as director of finances and operations, updated a tough short-term district fiscal forecast. A combination of declining student enrollment, loss of COVID-19 emergency funding and a significant drop in anticipated federal impact aid monies will likely push the

reserve funding balance below its goal of 10 per cent of budget expenses, he said.

Board member J.J. Wilbur, who serves on the Swinomish Tribal Senate and is a Fire District 13 commissioner, said the drying up of pandemic revenue is affecting governmental entities.

"This isn't the only budget I look at," he said. "Without COVID money, we're back to reality."

La Conner's K-12 student population has dropped from around 600 prior to the COVID-19 pandemic to 530.

"The good news," Gianello allowed, "is we're holding around 530. That seems to have

(continued on page 8)

La Conner Schools will remove diseased trees during break



TREE REMOVAL – The school district plans to remove diseased trees and trim back others on campus. The work, weather permitting, is scheduled to take place over winter break. Photo by Madoc Hiller

By Bill Reynolds

'Tis the season to put-up Christmas trees.

At school, it's also the time of year to remove diseased trees and trim back others that are intruding on campus buildings.

La Conner School District staff will take out "five sickly trees" plus trim several more over the upcoming winter break.

"Three of these sick trees will be removed from the front of the high school," district staff stated in a release last week, "and four others will be limbed back in that area. One tree will be removed from behind the high school gym. One tree will be removed from

the front of the middle school. Two trees will be limbed back at the district office."

The work will be done reluctantly, they stress.

"We will be sad to see these trees go," the release noted, "but feel this is appropriate for both the longevity of our buildings and safety of our school community.'

The district is putting out the word beforehand, so the public is not surprised when they realize the trees are no longer in place.

Those wishing additional information on the project may contact Director of Operations and Planning Bobby Vaughn at the district office, 360-466-3171.

Braves suffer tough overtime loss against MVC

By Bill Reynolds

Mount Vernon Christian played well but needed an almost miracle to edge La Conner 65-61 in boys' hoops action at their home court Saturday.

The Braves (3-5) had seemingly won the game when Isa Gonzales-Rojas sank two of three free throw attempts for a 56-55 lead with two seconds remaining in regulation. He had been fouled on a desperation three-point heave from midcourt.

The winds of fortune then shifted in favor of the Hurri-

Referees nixed the second of Gonzales-Rojas' made free throws by whistling La Conner for a lane violation, sending the contest into overtime tied at

Mount Vernon Christian took

away in the extra session.

La Conner played the final two minutes of overtime without Braden Thomas The senior transfer fouled out after his tip-in knotted the score 57-57.

Thomas had scored 44 points in his La Conner debut, a 95-14 road romp past Chief Kitsap Friday.

La Conner closed to 62-61 on successive scores by Cole Medeiros and C.J Edwards. The team earlier appeared on the verge of a blowout win, bolting to a 15-2 first period lead.

Thomas, Edwards and Isaiah Price buried perimeter treys during that stretch. Ivory Damien drained a 15-foot jumper and Price worked inside for a put-

The tide turned after Thomas knocked down a turn-around jumper for a 19-6 lead at 6:30

MVC responded with a 13-4 run that narrowed the deficit to 23-19.

Price answered with a trey and bucket in the paint and Logan Burks meshed a short jumper for a 30-25 Braves halftime lead.

The Hurricanes' 6'6" 225-pound senior post Liam Millenaar spurred the second quarter MVC comeback with three hoops in the paint, including a deft reverse layup that cut La Conner's lead to 25-23 with less than a minute remaining.

In an omen of things to come, Damien had a driving shot in the lane to open the third quarter waved off for traveling. Still, he soon nailed a three-pointer to offset a DeJong spin move and keep the visitors in front, 33-29.

A layup, free throw and two close-range scores by MVC gave

(continued on page 5)

La Conner girls swept away by second half Hurricane comeback

By Bill Reynolds

Big school programs on the La Conner High School girls' basketball schedule have posed few issues for the Lady Braves.

Not so with nearby small

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school rival Mount Vernon Christian, however.

The Lady Hurricanes overcame a five-point halftime deficit to hand La Conner a 46-45 NW-2B/1B setback at DeKok Court Saturday afternoon.

La Conner was playing its third road game in three nights, having bested 4A Kamiak 68-45 Thursday and 2A North Kitsap 52-40

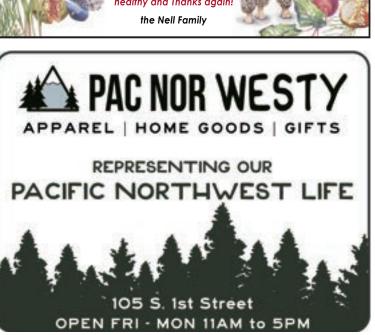
Mount Vernon Christian, the defending state 1B champions, parlayed a patient half-court offense and crucial three-point shooting into its one-point comeback triumph.

La Conner rebounded from an 18-13 second period deficit in a back-and-forth affair.

An inside bucket and putback by Makayla Herrera narrowed the final margin to 46-45. Despite forcing a Lady Hurricane turnover, La Conner was unable to score in the last 49 seconds.

La Conner (7-2 overall) was scheduled at 1A Meridian Monday night.





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Art auction supporting local

Shelter Bay Marina a community asset

By Aven Wright-McIntosh

Shelter Bay community residents learned about their marina's history, structure and financials at the second "Know Your Community" class held Dec. 12 at the clubhouse.

The class began with interim community manager Pat Mc-Garry saying he was "drafted" to the volunteer marina committee after moving here in 2010 based on his marina construction experience. The marina's story started with Axel Osberg negotiating a lease agreement with Dewey Mitchell of the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community in the 1960s to dredge a harbor and create a development to provide income for the Tribe. The marina, built and controlled by the Osbergs, was built in 1970.

In 2004 a group of residents purchased the lease and marina from the Osbergs. As a community, Shelter Bay agreed, for the marina would pay 10% of the lease. The borrowed funds were then repaid by marina revenue. This entity – lease and marina – became Shelter Bay Company.

In 2007 an engineering assessment estimated the marina's lifespan to be 5-10 years. A finance team presented the 2013 Marina Business Plan with two options; 1) take no action and let the facility deteriorate to failure, or 2) rebuild the marina and dredge community waters. The decision to rebuild increased property values, allowed raise moorage fees, built an asset to borrow against to attain a commercial loan for future work and realigned boat slip lengths to market demand which increased marina occupancy and revenue.

Reconstruction shifted smaller slip lengths to larger; to 50 feet from below 40 feet. This brought much higher, yearround occupancy and additional revenue. "Larger slips are occupied year-round – you can't pick'em up and put'em in your backyard," McGarry said.

In 2016, the board transferred marina ownership from the for-profit Shelter Bay Company to the non-profit Shelter Bay







360.336.8955

lincolntheatre.org

Community.

Between 2017-2020, docks A-E were replaced funded by borrowed community reserves, repaid by marina revenues and lease contributions made. This year, replacing docks F-I, along with the dredging work, "are the biggest thing we've done," McGarry said. "It's been 40 years since any major dredging."

Harbormaster Vanessa Finch outlined the physical plant, tenants, vessel slips and rates ending with budget and financials. "The marina exists because volunteers have committed to preserving it," she said.

The harbor committee is 11 volunteers plus a strategic marina business and implementation task force of 10. The marina employs one full time harbormaster (Finch) and a half-time person. Nearby La Conner Marina, slightly larger, has nine full time summer employees. Finch is accountable for

day-to-day marina functions, maintains the physical plant and supports the safety/security of tenants/vessels. She also ensures compliance and seeks maximum profitability. Shelter Bay residents com-

prise 36% of the marina tenants. Most of the remaining 64% are from nearby counties.

Slip sizes are up from less than 32 feet in 2013 to over 36 feet in 2022 and over 42 feet projected for 2023 including 60 slips 48 feet and larger.

Obtaining a slip requires a signed lease, proof of \$500,000 liability insurance, current registration and, if not a resident, a paid security deposit equivalent to one month's rent. "It's also going to require going on a wait list," said Finch. Community members "go to the top of the list," said Finch giving a thumbs up.

Moorage rates for residents through June 2023 are discounted 10% and range from a per feet cost of \$8.27/month (\$9.18/month for non-residents) for slips less than 38 feet to \$10.79/month (\$11.98/month for non-residents) for slips 60 feet and up and end ties. There are no liveaboards.

Marina revenue sources are 60% from non-residents, 34% residents' moorage fees and 6% other. The marina pays \$204,400/year towards the master lease and continues to be profitable with net income upwards of \$500,000 for fiscal year 2022. Marina profits are typically transferred to the community's capital reserve. Complete financial information is at shelterbay.net.

The next class, on community leases and taxes, is presented by Rod Proctor Jan. 10 at 6:30

wildlife sanctuary is success

La Conner locals and friends of Predators of the Heart gathered at Skagit Cellars in Gilkey Square to celebrate a 20-year legacy and raise funds for ongoing operations the night of the lighted boat parade, Dec.

The winery was packed. Of a staggering 62 artworks for auction, 52 sold, bringing in over \$5,000 for wildlife rescue and conservation. Two participants drove all the way from Auburn to attend and others joined online from California to New York.

Some donated above and beyond their winning bids. A generous winner of 11 items selected just a few to keep and donated back the remaining artworks, enabling POTH to hold another auction in the future.

Fundraising is ongoing! POTH is holding a Christmas Miracle campaign to match funds up to \$10,000 from a generous supporter. Learn more at: poplme.co/poth.

Source: Predators of the Heart

Braves...

(from page 4)

them a 38-35 lead entering the fourth quarter.

The score then went back and forth. Price lifted the visitors to 45-43 with an 18-foot jump shot off a nice feed from Damien. MVC recaptured the lead at 47-45 on two straight baskets.

Thomas brought La Conner ahead at 54-51 with 1:20 to play on a pair of three-pointers and a foul shot. Again, setting the stage for the finish, a second Thomas free throw was denied due to a lane violation.

MVC re-took the lead at 55-54 with just three seconds on the clock after two consecutive

Gonzales-Rojas was then fouled attempting a game-winning three-point shot. He saw his first free throw rim out, but then sank the next two shots – the second apparently winning for La Conner.

La Conner was scheduled at home yesterday, Dec. 20, opposite Clallam Bay. The Braves have another non-league matchup at Landy James Gym today, 5 p.m., with Providence Classical Christian.

CEDAR DECKING

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Museum Hours 11 - 4 Thur. - Sun.

Early History of the Town of la Conner



LEGAL NOTICES

tice to the creditor as provid-

ed 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 will be forev-

er barred, except as otherwise

provided in RCW 11.40.051

and 11.40.060. This bar is ef-

fective as to claims against

both the decedent's probate

DATE OF FIRST PUBLICA-

PERSONAL REPRESEN-

ADDRESS FOR MAILING

OR SERVICE: Heather S.

de Vrieze, WSBA#28553 de

VRIEZE | CARNEY, PLLC

3909 California Avenue SW

#101 Seattle, WA 98116-3705

PROCEEDINGS: King Coun-

CAUSE NUMBER: 22-4-

Published in the La Conner

Weekly News Dec. 21, 28,

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE

STATE OF WASHINGTON

FOR SKAGIT COUNTY

In the Matter of the Estate

of John Richard Diamond

a/k/a John Richard Schmid,

Deceased. Cause No. 20-

4-00517-29 NOTICE OF

HEARING ON FINAL RE-

PORT AND PETITION FOR

DECREE OF DISTRIBU-

TION (RCW 11.76.040)

Tim Schmid, the personal

representative of the above-en-

titled estate, has scheduled a

hearing seeking court approval

of a Final Report and request-

ing a Decree of Distribution.

As of the date of this publi-

cation, the Final Report and

Petition for a Decree of Dis-

tribution has been filed with

the clerk of the Court and the

Court has been asked to set-

tle such report, distribute the

property to the persons enti-

tled thereto, and discharge the

personal representative. The

hearing is scheduled at 9:00

AM on Friday, January 20,

2023 at Skagit County Superi-

or Court, 205 W. Kincaid St.,

/s/ Tim Schmid, Personal

Representative, 8757 Auburn

Folsom Rd. #2856, Granite

Attorney for Personal Repre-

sentative: Aaron M. Rasmus-

sen, WSBA #29496, Barron

Smith Daugert PLLC, 300 N.

Commercial St., Bellingham,

WA 98225; Phone: 360-733-

Published in the La Conner

Weekly News Dec. 21, 2022.

NOTICE OF RECEIVERSHIP

THE STATE OF WASHING-

TON, COUNTY OF SKAGIT

Commercial Aircraft Interi-

ors, LLC, No. 22-2-00860-29.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that

on November 15, 2022, Turn-

ford Restructuring Group was

appointed as General Receiver

for Commercial Aircraft Inte-

riors, LLC, whose last known

address was 1415 Pacific

Drive, Burlington, WA 98233.

Counsel for the Receiver is

Christine M. Tobin-Presser,

601 Union St., #5000, Seattle,

WA 98101. In order to receive

any distribution, should funds

become available, you must

SUPERIOR COURT OF

Mount Vernon, WA 98273.

Bay, CA 95746

PROBATE

COURT OF

ty Superior Court

07922-1 SEA

Jan. 4, 2022.

TATIVE: Zachary C. Ginnett

TION: December 21, 2022.

and non-probate assets.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY In the matter of the estate of IRA ROGER BUTTON Deceased. No. 22-4-00612-29 PRO-BATE NOTICE TO CREDI-

TORS (RCW 11.40.030) 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 at the address 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 latter 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 December 21, 2022. Scott A. Button Personal rep-

way, WA 98238 Published in the La Conner Weekly News Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 4, 2022.

resentative P.O. Box 561 Con-

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of La Conner, Washington, passed Ordinance No. 1217 at the December 13, 2022,

summary of Ordinance No. 1217 is as follows: An Ordinance Amending the

Town Council meeting. A

2022 Budget. Complete copies of Ordi-

nance No. 1217 are available at La Conner Town Hall, P.O. Box 400, La Conner, WA

Dated this 14th Day of December 2022

Maria DeGoede, Town Clerk Published in the La Conner Weekly News Dec. 21, 2022.

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of La Conner, Washington,





8

Super Crossword

Answers PREFABS |M|A|S|H|U|P|S| AVIATOR RIVIERA EASES CATHERINEPARROT QUINT ANTOPS MATURATE S I M S R O B O T R E I N E R I C Y OPERAS OLE CAMELOTOR IVER DJS ROC AMPS HEEL B O A Q U O I P A T T O N A L L O T F O R N A U G H T E N O V I I B C R O L L E M I S S Y M E A N D M Y B I G O T M O U T H |S|O|F|A|R||[A|R|O|S|E| I R S A NO C A R R Y T H E B A L L O T G E R M A N A R E S B O D A R I E E P P S T S E R A S S S H R I M P G U M B O O T DEC FAMINE GPA OLA SAFETYPINOT SOAK A|B|A|C|U|S|E|S OILBET T H E B A R D O T O F A V O N R E N E W A L A V O C A D O GAZER A T E I N

passed Ordinance No. 1218 at the December 13, 2022, Town Council meeting. A summary of Ordinance No. 1218 is as follows:

An Ordinance approving the 2023 Budget.

Complete copies of Ordinance No. 1218 are available at La Conner Town Hall, P.O. Box 400, La Conner, WA

Dated this 14th Day of March

Maria DeGoede, Town Clerk Published in the La Conner Weekly News Dec. 21, 2022.

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of La Conner, Washington, passed Ordinance No. 1219 at the December 13, 2022, Town Council meeting. A summary of Ordinance No.

Amending Title 13 of the Town's Uniform Development Code adopting Fire and Park

1219 is as follows:

Complete copies of Ordinance No. 1219 are available at La Conner Town Hall, P.O. Box 400, La Conner, WA

Dated this 14th Day of December 2022

Maria DeGoede, Town Clerk Published in the La Conner Weekly News Dec. 21, 2022.

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of La Conner, Washington, passed Ordinance No. 1220 at the December 13, 2022, Town Council meeting. A summary of Ordinance No. 1220 is as follows:

An Ordinance amending Chapter12.10, 12.15 and 12.40.080 of the La Conner Municipal Code, regarding Utility Rates. Complete copies of Ordi-

nance No. 1220 are available at La Conner Town Hall, P.O. Box 400, La Conner, WA 98257

Dated this 14th Day of December 2022

Maria DeGoede, Town Clerk Published in the La Conner Weekly News Dec. 21, 2022.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF WASH-INGTON, KING COUNTY Estate of PAUL A. GIN-NETT, deceased. Case No. 22-4-07922-1 SEA NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

THE PERSONAL REPRE-SENTATIVE named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any persons 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 representa-

Weekly SUDOKU ___

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tive served or mailed the no-

submit a proof of claim no later than January 18, 2023. A Proof of Claim form may be obtained by request to Paula Sutton at psutton@bskd.com and when completed, must be emailed to psutton@bskd.

Published in the La Conner Weekly News Dec. 14, 21, 28,

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASH-INGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WHATCOM IN RE THE ESTATE OF BRI-AN WOLFE, DECEASED. NO. 22 4 01184 37 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

JUDGE: ROBERT E. OLSON 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: December 21, 2022

Personal Representative: Kathy Wolfe 14940 Benson Heights Place, Bow, WA

Attorney for the Personal KATTI ESP Representative: 301 Prospect

Street, Bellingham, WA 98225 Address for Mailing or Service: KATTI ESP 301 Prospect Street, Bellingham, WA 98225

Court of Probate Proceedings and Cause Number: Superior Court of Whatcom County Cause No. 22 4 01184 37 Published in the La Conner Weekly News Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 4, 2022.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY No. 22-4-00597-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO **CREDITORS** (RCW 11.40.030)

In the Matter of the Estate of Alice Marie Kammenga, 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 as-

Date of first publication: December 14, 2022 John E. Kammenga

Personal Representative SKAGIT LAW GROUP, **PLLC** LAURA MINTON BRECK-

ENRIDGE, WSBA #16140 Attorneys for Personal Representative P.O. Box 336/227 Freeway

Drive, Suite B Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Published in the La Conner Weekly News Dec. 14, 21, 28,

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY Estate of Charles Elmer Brown.

Deceased Probate No. 22-4-00588-29 Dated: November 23, 2022. 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 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 CREDI-TORS with the Clerk of the Court: December 6, 2022

DATE OF FIRST PUBLICA-TION: December 7, 2022 PR: /S/ Gale Hickok Address of PR 1301 Riverside Drive,

Mount Vernon, WA 98273 Attorney: William G. Knudsen WSBA #6064

Published in the La Conner Weekly News Dec. 7, 14, 21,

)STAL and

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF SKAGIT WIL-DERNESS VILLAGE COM-MUNITY ASSOCIATION, a Washington nonprofit corporation, Plaintiff, vs. CHARLES R. STAHL, or his heirs and devisees if deceased, Defendants. Cause No.: 22-2-00492-29 SHERIFF'S NOTICE TO JUDGMENT DEBTOR OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY To: CHARLES R. STAHL. or his heirs and devisees if de-

ceased, Judgment Debtors An Order of Sale has been issued in the above-captioned case, directed to the Sheriff of

the Sheriff as follows: THE STATE OF WASH-INGTON TO: SHERIFF OF SKAGIT COUNTY

Skagit County, commanding

THIS MATTER having come on before the undersigned Judge or Commissioner of the above-entitled Court on the 26th day of October, 2022, and the Court having entered a Judgment and Decree of Foreclosure directing that the subject property be sold;

AND WHEREAS, the principal amount of the judgment is \$3,412.94, plus costs of \$1,722.60 and attorney's fees of \$2,500.00, for a total judgment of \$7,635.54, with interest on such amounts accruing at the rate of 12% per annum from the date of judgment;

AND WHEREAS, no payments have been received by Plaintiff following the date judgment was entered;

AND WHEREAS, the said judgment was recorded on November 16th, 2022 under Skagit County Auditor's File No. 202211160046; Now, therefore,

IT IS ORDERED, AD-JUDGED AND DECREED that the Sheriff of Skagit County, Washington, shall sell, in the manner provided by law, the following described real property, which is situate in Skagit County: Lot 1, "WILDERNESS VIL-

LAGE DIV. 1", as per the plat recorded in Volume 10 of Plats, pages 48-50 inclusive, records of Skagit County, Washington. (P78184) IT IS FURTHER OR-

DERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the proceeds from the

said property be applied to the payment of the judgment, accrued interest, attorney's fees, costs, and increased costs, attorney's fees and inter-

est; and, IT IS FURTHER OR-DERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Plaintiff has

waived any deficiency judgment. The sale date has been set

for February 3 2023 YOU MAY HAVE A RIGHT TO EXEMPT PROPERTY from the sale under statutes of this state, including sections 6.13.010, 6.13.030, 6.13.040, 6.15.010, and 6.15.060 of the

those statutes. Dated this 9th day of December 2022.

Revised Code of Washington,

in the manner described in

Don McDermott, Sheriff By: Melinda Larsen, Civil Assistant

Skagit County Sheriff's Office 600 South Third Street Mount Vernon, WA 98273 360-416-1913

Published in the La Conner Weekly News Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022.

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Answers to December 21 puzzles

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I DE ALLY

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Complete Events Calendar on laconnerweeklynews.com

NOT TO BE MISSED

La Conner Live.

New Year's Eve Party. Dec. 31, 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m. at Maple Hall. Fundraiser with Chris Eger Band. \$75 per person.

ART & THEATRE

GalleryW.

101 N 1st St, La Conner. 360-265-2374. galleryw.art

Exhibit: "Connected" featuring Sherry Ying Ruden. Through Feb. 26. Lincoln Theatre.

712 S 1st St. Mount Vernon, 360-336-8955. lincolntheatre.org.

Free Film: It's a Wonderful Life. Dec. 23, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

NYE Concert: Kuinka and Savanna Woods. Dec. 31, 8 p.m.

LIBRARIES

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

Storytime. Every Friday at 11 a.m. Anacortes Public Library. 360-299-8067, CityofAnacortes.org. 1220 10th St, Anacortes.

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

Noon Year's Eve. Dec. 31, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Crafts and snacks to share.

All ages welcome. Mount Vernon Public Library.

360-336-6209, 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

Burlington Public Library. 360-755-0760, burlingtonwa.gov. 820 E Washington Ave, Burlington.

ation on Dec. 28 and the contest will be Dec. 29. Vote for your favorite creation and enjoy a free hot cocoa.



MUSEUM EXHIBITS

Museum of Northwest Art. Open daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m. monamuseum. org, 360-466-4446.

Exhibit: Consonance by Richard Nash. Through Feb 5, 2023.

Exhibit: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Honoring our Stolen Sisters. Through Feb 5, 2023.

MoNA Collection: New Acquisitions. Through Feb 5, 2023.

Pacific Northwest Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum. Hours: Closed Dec. 24-Jan. 3. qfamuseum.org, 360-466-4288.

703 S Second St, La Conner. Exhibit: Scandinavian Stitches. Through Jan. 22.

Exhibit: Celebrating 25 Years -Treasures from the permanent collection. Through Jan. 29.

Exhibit: Our Voices in Fiber. Through

Skagit County Historical Museum. 360-466-3365 or skagitcounty.net/

Hours: Thurs-Sun 11 a.m-4 p.m. Holiday Sale: Buy any Skagit County Historical Society publication and get one of lesser value at half price.

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. McIntyre Hall.

2501 É College Way, Mount Vernon. 360-416-7727. mcintyrehall.org. Holiday Treasures. Dec. 22, 7 p.m. Fidalgo Youth Symphony. Purchase tickets online.



MEETINGS

Town of La Conner

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

La Conner School District 305 N 6th St, La Conner. 360-466-4113. lcsd.wednet.edu.

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

Board meetings. Every fourth Wednesday 7:30-9 a.m.

Rotary Club of La Conner. 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 Buher's 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.

SERVICE & VOLUNTEER

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.

Skagit Valley Humane Society. 18841 Kelleher Rd, Burlington. 360-757-0445. skagithumane.org. Operating by appt. only at this time. Find volunteer/donation opportunites online.

Have you seen our new website?

Laconnerweeklynews.com

Aqiimuk's Kitchen

By Patricia Aqiimuk Paul, Esq., Food Editor.

Haystack Cookies

I like baking those cookie recipes from days gone by. Particularly if the ingredients are easy to come by and the recipe is simple to make. This is a no-bake recipe. I bought chow mein noodles a month or so ago, on a whim. I saw the price had not increased from previous years. It's good to have them on hand, just in case. Yes, just in case I decided to whip up a Chinese meal. They are the hard, crunchy noodle. In this instance, they were perfect to create a sweet treat to gift to friends at Christmas. Finally, Kevin and I wish you all a Merry Christmas.

Ingredients

- Dry roasted, salted peanuts, half a 16 ounce iar
- Chow mein noodles, 1 package, 12 ounces
- Vanilla candy coating, 12 ounces
- Sprinkles, 2 tbsp
- Parchment paper to line two large

baking sheets

Preparation

Line two large baking or cookie sheets with parchment paper. In a large bowl add and mix the peanuts and noodles. In a microwave safe bowl, melt the candy coating, according to the package instructions. In this instance, 90 seconds. Stir and smooth out any soft lumps. Pour the melted candy coating into the bowl of peanuts and noodles. Slowly mix until the candy coats all the peanuts and noodles. Use an ice cream scoop, to measure each cookie. Use your fingers to shape each haystack. When both baking sheets are full, apply the sprinkles. The cookies will harden and should be ready in two hours.

AqiimuksKitchen@outlook.com

POLICE BLOTTER

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Monday, December 12 12:39 p.m.: Package thief - A package delivered by Fed Ex was removed from the owner's porch by a female. The incident was captured on security video and is under investigation. Maple Ave., La Conner.

2:26 p.m.: Vehicle prowl - A vehicle parked in a driveway was broken into overnight. Stolen from the vehicle was a GPS. Park St., La

Tuesday, December 13 3:51 p.m.: Stolen appliances -Suspects entered the house and stole a Kitchen Aid freestanding gas range and a Beko French door refrigerator. The house is new construction and staged with furniture for sale. No supsects or witnesses have been identified. Maple Ave., La Conner.

Wednesday, December 14 11:53 a.m.: Dine and dash - A customer ate a meal and left without paying. This customer has done this in the past and other citizens have paid the bill. The restaurant has come up with a plan so this doesn't happen again. 1st St., La Conner.

CLASSIFIEDS

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ested contact :jalan8532@gmail.com.

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360-708-2022 STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS ADVERTISE STATEWIDE with a \$325 classified listing or \$1600 for a display ad. Call this newspaper or 360-344-2938 for details.

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Super Crossword 35 Give gas to 47 Giant bird of 92 Mao — -tung DOWN

PUTTING IN OVERTIME

82 Been abed

84 Bit of advice

86 Yank's foe

90 Name in

frozen

waffles

93 See 119-

Down

95 Med. plan

96 Household

97 In heaven,

98 Go toward

99 Subterfuge

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author Carl

- -pitch

110 Using speech

111 In a lazy way

113 Tortilla snack

116 Ethyl ending

100 Did some

103 "Cosmos

104 Drop off

106 — dish

105 Unsettles

say

- Remo

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83 "It's either

ACROSS

1 Many musical mélanges

8 Modular

homes 15 Two-time Washington senator

Gorton 20 Airplane flier 21 Cannes area

22 Relaxes 23 Wife of Henry VIII who

was always mimicking people?

25 One of five womb-mates 26 Cookout pest

27 Photo -(PR events)

28 Ripen

30 Suffix with govern 33 Computer

game family 35 Guy who directs films in a very mechanical

manner? 38 Bashful

39 Intensely cold

'Fidelio'

46 Pro sona

20

109

114

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126

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selectors

40 "Falstaff" and

42 Madrid cheer 43 King Arthur's

chauffeur?

something erroneously? 62 Glam rocker pay 63 XI less IV 66 Young girl 67 What Archie

Bunker said when a discriminatory comment strike got him in trouble?

73 Up until now 75 Stood up 76 Auditing gp 77 Year, in Rio

50 Rock concert

command 52 Python's kin

53 Je ne sais

George

57 Apportion

Brian

65 Actress

Esther

gear

51 Dog

de Janeiro 80 Walk around with a voting

85 Einstein's language

87 War deity 88 Reel go-with 89 Singer

91 Omar of

"Juice"

109 Primitive calculators 110 Valuable 114 One staring

115 Actress Brigitte Stratford?

out

case

valedictorian

103 Wine with a childproof

bottle? 108 Knight's title

112 Parlay, say

who lives in

126 Hatchlings' hangouts

monitors footwear item worn while catching

99 Jan. preceder 100 Food scarcity 101 High no. for a

slip?

115

124

127

1 Buddy

94 High rubber

93 Coll. dorm

54 War general

125 High-fat fruit

128 Made a

21

crustaceans?

102 Suffix with

lock on its 107 Get really wet

123 Didn't dine

124 Subscription extension

127 In the optimal

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2 Gardner or 37 Gin mill DuVernay of 40 Hershiser of the screen 41 Tylenol unit

3 Dog command **4** "Funny!" 5 Ladle, for one

6 Colonnaded entrance **7** — Lanka

8 Get set, for

9 Splits 10 Actress Mendes 11 Pine relative.

12 — Lingus 13 Fizzy stomach settlers

14 Occupied, as a booth 15 Films with a "II" appended

16 "House" actor 17 Chinese, e.g. 18 Al-

(pasta order) 19 Aromatic compound 24 Rejections

29 "Iliad" figure

30 Bust out of

31 Tribal healer

32 Enjoying the

benefits of

an effective

medication

34 Folklore tale

12

110 111

116 117 118

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128

59 Dress smartly, with "out" 60 "Alice" spinoff 61 Tickle 64 Popular potatoes

36 Valuable strike

the diamond

44 Part of i.e.

45 Drug bust gp.

46 Scale starter

47 Liquid carpet

- and aahs

49 Dot on a map

55 Female organ

56 Diarist Anaïs

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52 Nut go-with

53 Conk out

58 Balcony

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68 Acoustic pair 69 TV horse of the '60s 70 Age-revealing stat

79 GM

and singer

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117 TV's Arthur **71** Troop gp. **72** Pt. of NOW 118 Piercing tool 73 Sing jazzily 119 With 74 Boat movers 93-Down. 78 Port of Italia

many mid-April mailings assistance system 81 Actor Morgan

120 Preventive shot, for short 121 Lofty verse 122 Drop off

18

120 121 122

23 25 9 6 8 28 26 33 9 4 7 38 39 42 1 6 8 43 45 46 5 1 3 50 52 7 2 9 6 54 55 56 60 58 59 61 62 66 65 1 7 4 67 68 70 72 3 4 2 5 76 73 78 5 8 9 80 81 85 83 90 Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and 92 93 95 each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine. 101 102 103 104 105 108 106

3 5 2

Weekly **SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: •

▶◆◆ HOO BOY!

Puzzle Answers Page 6

Moderate → ◆ Challenging © 2022 King Features Synd., Inc

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able at Jo's Healing Hands LMT at

Schools. . .

(from page 4)

stabilized."

Gianello said declining enrollment is not unique to La Conner, though the desirability to live here and resulting increased cost of living makes it less affordable for families with school age children.

"Most districts around the state are experiencing something similar," Gianello said.

The problem, noted board

member and legislative liaison John Agen, is that there's no easy fix to the student enrollment issue.

"It would be great to increase our student population," he said, "but that's not going to happen overnight."

The alternative, though, isn't

"Cost cutting would be painful," Agen said. Wilbur said it's even more

imperative that the district take measures to boost enrollment.

The district has considered

marketing to families of children graduating from parochial or non-aligned middle schools, such as Conway, and study reasons students residing in the district opt to enroll elsewhere.

'We need to get these kids back," said Wilbur.

Still, Gianello expressed at least guarded optimism that the district will eventually receive about half of the \$500,000 federal impact aid shortfall through disbursement adjustments. The district might tap into a portion of the \$850,000 it received from the state for Braves mascot logo removal.

The board approved \$3,000 for the Wahkiakum School District for its litigation to extend the McCleary Act mandate for equal education funding to include capital construction

"This would be big for us in La Conner if they win," Deyo

"It's hard for taxpayers in small districts to raise capital funds," board vice president Lynette Cram pointed out.

Wahkiakum has repeatedly seen bond measures designed to upgrade aging buildings and infrastructure fail at the polls. Deyo and Cram said that proportional school construction costs are much higher for Wahkiakum School District taxpayers than for those residing in more affluent areas such as Issaquah.

Also, Deyo, Cram and Agen were re-elected to their respective board leadership positions.



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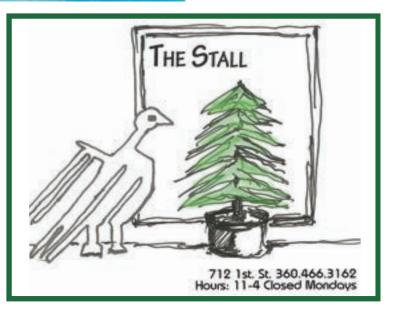
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