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'Prelude to a Kiss' performs weekends at Lincoln • p 5

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Serving smiles with your coffee



SAYING "I DO" WAS EASY TO DO – Kimberly Bonilla and Levi Howell are back from their North Tahoe wedding. They left town with the rest of the café staff to have them share in this very special occasion. — Photo by Marissa Conklin

The Slider Café family celebrates Tahoe wedding

By Bill Reynolds

The Slider Café is a family restaurant in more than name only.

The Morris Street diner, known to locals for its friendly small-town ambiance and mission to “feed the hangry,” is no mere workplace for its staff.

It is truly home.

Owner Pat Ball not only gave his employees paid vacation last month, but closed the café for two weeks so that they could attend the Lake Tahoe wedding of two of their own – cook/kitchen manager Levi Howell and server/dining area manager Kimberly Bonilla.

“Pat wanted everybody to be able to take a good amount of time off, but also stay open for the holidays,” the happy bride told The Weekly News. “Because of all the hours we put in during tulips, everybody got time off in January for the wedding and to see friends.”

In many cases, those friends were also part of the extended Slider Café family in Tahoe.

Ball said second to having hired the couple in the first place, closing the café for the wedding and springing for a group vacation in Nevada was among the best decisions he has made during his long career in the restaurant business.

“I had no regrets and I wouldn’t have changed a thing,” he said. “It was so awesome.”

For that, many are thankful. Most notably the newlyweds, who shared

a post-nuptial kiss on a Squaw Creek ski lift.

“I don’t think it would’ve come off if it wasn’t for you,” Howell told Ball. “It was really cool being there and getting to snowboard on those slopes was very special.”

The Slider Café has made things happen for the Howells, who met on-line and began dating in 2014, for several years now.

“Our dream,” Kimberly Howell said, “was to work together at a café that didn’t serve alcohol and be home at five o’clock. I didn’t think it would ever happen.”

She preceded her future husband at the restaurant. Levi Howell, who grew up playing baseball and nurturing his food prep skills in Cle Elum, came to town after having attended the Skagit Valley College culinary arts program. The two had their first date at La Conner Brewing Co., where he was a cook.

Things progressed from there. Their daughter, Annabelle, now a first grader at La Conner Elementary School, was born a year later.

Eventually, Levi Howell hired on at The Slider Café.

“The best moves I ever made were hiring Levi and Kimberly,” Ball said. “I had no doubt that it would work having a couple working together.”

In fact, it wasn’t until Ball announced the café would briefly close for the wedding that some regular customers became aware that the soon-to-be Mr. and Mrs. Howell were a couple.

“We work hard,” explained Levi

Howell, “at separating our professional and personal lives.”

On the professional side, both are committed to team building and staff bonding. The wedding vacation was just one example.

“I’m a huge believer in team building,” said Levi Howell. “People who work together should play together.”

“Here it’s a family. I love the family aspect. We can bring our kid into work when we need to. And we’ve closed sometimes to care for Anna when she’s been sick. Pat always tells us that family comes first,” he said.

“We’re building something special here,” he added. “We just want to keep it going.”

The entire Slider family was back at the café the first weekend of February, greeting and serving locals and tourists.

“Our goal,” said Kimberly Howell, while sharing pictures of her bridal bouquet of baby’s breath and pinecones – symbolic of the couple’s mountain resort wedding ceremony – “is to make it feel here like you’re at grandmas, but also at a five-star restaurant.”

The Howells are settling into married life and resuming their regular routines. Annabelle is back in school after her family geography field trip to the mountains near Reno.

The couple said the schools, like The Slider Café, are a main reason why they are vested in La Conner.

“We’d heard people talk about the

(continued on page 4)

Shelter Bay board sanctions fellow board members

By Ken Stern

Shelter Bay Community board of directors Judy Kontos and Dan McCaughan were sanctioned by their board Feb. 15 based on findings of an ethics committee appointed by the board. Kontos and McCaughan were provided “Board Sanction” memorandums by Board President Wendy Poulton Feb. 16. Shelter Bay residents were informed of the temporarily restricted roles for the two in a community Board Member Update email Feb. 17.

The two were elected by Shelter Bay residents to the board in May on reform platforms critical of the board leadership.

McCaughan’s sanction is a “Public reprimand for violations of Chapter 40.020.010 (4) ‘Failure to support the decisions of the Board of Directors’ as agreed to in Board documents, along with a 90-day suspension from Board committee duties.”

Kontos was suspended “pending a recall vote of the community for four (4) violations of Chapter 40.020 including ‘Failure to support the decisions of the Board of Directors’ and ‘dissemination of information’ that is deemed confidential, for example, attorney client privilege.”

The ethics committee ruled that Kontos and McCaughan’s support of Shelter Bay resident Roberta Fontenot’s November emergency restraining order and preliminary injunction against “five fellow Board Directors [that] were accused of intending ‘further embezzlement’ and Director Kontos’ subsequent sworn declaration alleging that ‘financial malfeasance may have taken place’ against fellow Directors violated their oath of office.”

The community update does not provide details of the violations brought by the ethics committee. Kontos had signed, “under penalty of perjury,” a nine page, 26-point declaration in support of Roberta and Wesley Fontenot’s petition for the restraining order and injunctive relief, alleging financial mismanagement against fellow board members Poulton, Joseph Hurley, Monte Hicks, Louise Kari and Elaine Dixon in Skagit County Superior Court Nov. 15, 2022.

The Court then found the Fontenots demonstrated a need for preliminary injunctive relief. It scheduled a Dec. 2 hearing on the merits while ordering the board members and staff “shall not transfer any funds or change financial institutions without following all procedures required in the bylaws of SBC, Inc. (or/and Rules and Regulations).”

Defense attorney Kyle Retkofke sought a motion to dismiss the restraining order with prejudice, but the judge permitted it to be withdrawn without prejudice, which allows a future refile. When the case was dismissed Dec. 15, Retkofke again sought dismissal with prejudice and again, the judge declined to grant that.

Kontos pointed out that none of her sworn statements, “that the following facts are true and correct” have been challenged for perjury by board members.

McCaughan appeared in court to confirm Kontos statement that he asked for “Company Insurance policies to review the coverage for Directors and Officers and employee theft and dishonesty” and he “attempted to revise the agenda to discuss the potential violation of RCW and the lack of mailing of the budget.”

(continued on page 2)

Town delegation lobbies state legislators for flood, law enforcement measures

By Bill Reynolds

The La Conner Town Council met on Valentine’s Day, then its leaders looked for some love from state lawmakers in Olympia later in the week.

A Town delegation met with state Reps. Dave Paul and Clyde Shavers and the staff of Sen. Ron Muzzall to discuss flood management measures and other key local issues, including increased funding for law enforcement.

By all accounts, it was a positive dialogue with the District 10 legislators. It left Town officials hopeful yet more productive talks will take place.

“I think it went well,” Town Administrator Scott Thomas told the Weekly News Friday. “Our primary objective was to let legislators know that we intend to develop a comprehensive flood plan and then return when we would

be looking for assistance to implement the plan.”

Mayor Ramon Hayes said the Town conferred about grant options to secure funding for development of flood control strategies.

“We’re wanting to apply for a planning grant that probably tops out at \$300,000 and would require a 25 per cent match,” said Hayes. “So, we were advocating for dollars and a comprehensive flood management grant.”

“We have a very good relationship,” he said of Paul’s past support. “He got behind the new library. He’s always right there when we’re going for funding. And, on this, he wants to put in a good word for us.”

Hayes said he was also encouraged by Shavers, who expressed support after having recently held a public forum here.

Thomas used the time in Olympia to

share with the 10th district legislative team a proposed amendment to a bill that would earmark a one-tenth of one per cent increase in the state sales tax for municipalities to hire more police officers.

The amendment seeks a change in the bill’s language to cover “police services” as La Conner has no police department of its own, but contracts with the Skagit County Sheriff’s Office.

“They were all receptive to that,” Hayes said. “We’re not the only ones in this kind of situation. It applies to Concrete and Coupeville in this area and I imagine other places in the state as well.”

Hayes said in addition to outreach to 10th district lawmakers, an attempt was also made to meet with Rep. Debra Lekanoff, who worked for years for the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community. Lekanoff represents the 40th legislative district.

“She’s a supporter,” said Hayes, “but her schedule fell apart to meet with us.”

Muzzall was also unable to meet with the contingent.

“We met with Senator Muzzall’s executive assistant,” Town Council member Rick Dole said. “The senator was still on the floor when we had our appointment.”

“We had very limited time,” Hayes added. “They’re on tight, tight schedules.”

Muzzall told the Weekly News in a phone interview afterward that his staff – which he praised at length – has kept him up to speed on these issues, especially in regard to flood control.

“I know they figured the town sustained in excess of \$1 million in flood damage and are wanting to develop a plan to present at some future date,” Muzzall said. “We’re definitely going to look into that.”

LETTERS

Getting to the bottom of Shelter Bay board ethics allegations

Accusations of ethics violations are being used by the Shelter Bay board of directors to silence and dispense with dissension. As a member of the community, I know I'm joined by many others in completely rejecting the actions they have taken against two elected board members.

Sadly, the officers have been unable to lead the board in governing for the community. There are nine board members. Four are appointed, five elected. While the president is an elected member, the vice president, treasurer and secretary are all appointed members. This ratio has set the stage for the unprecedented and unwarranted actions the board has taken under the guise of ethics.

Our covenants call for officers to appoint a five person ethics committee to investigate and suggest actions when ethics complaints are filed. The board retains the right to confirm or reject the committees findings. What qualifications must one have to serve on the ethics committee? Should the board define qualifications and ask for applicants? I find it disturbing that the judge is able to file complaints, choose the jury and make the final ruling! The common term for that is

"Kangaroo Court."

Friday the president sent out an email to the entire community explaining their decisions and basically vilify the two board members being sanctioned. These two elected board members have no opportunity to rebut or explain to the same membership. I recall when I get my election materials for state and national elections both arguments for and against are in the same document. Shouldn't this be what happens in Shelter Bay? Also in the letter, the president inferred that the board's vote for sanctions was unanimous. The unanimous vote was to simply ratify what had been decided behind closed doors. That in no way should have implied that the vote to sanction was unanimous.

I could not be more disappointed in this board. They are all volunteers and for that we should be thankful. But, they are not governing in the best interests of the entire community. My suggestion is for them all to get into a room for as long as it takes, with or without mediation and stay there until they can agree to function as adults with differing opinions and agree to govern for the entire community. Steve Klein Shelter Bay

Billboard will be travesty

To those who are concerned from a Skagitianian.

Choosing an environment to enhance a business when you're young, or to enrich each day when you're old becomes a vital decision. My family members chose Washington state's Skagit County and have never regretted it.

Farms with verdant fields framed by magnificent mountain ranges enhance every outing. Space allows eyes to absorb and minds to respond to our natural beauty. To block the openness with a commercial sign threatening this healthy, developing opportunity is a travesty.

I implore you to consider the change Pacific Outdoor Advertising's 300 Square foot billboard sign would bring to one's perception of Skagit County. Having been raised in the Middle West, educated in the Southwest and vocationally enriched in the Northeast, I have watched the growth of similar signs block the natural beauty defining the areas in which we traveled, but not in Vermont. It did not permit them. Consequently, its natural beauty won much respect and appreciation from its residents and visitors.

May Skagit County's planning staff follow its lead, and allow the beauty of our environment continue to enrich our lives and the visitors who choose to come to us.

Barbara Carson Mount Vernon



It has been absolutely heart-breaking to follow the news of the devastating effects of the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria. The number of deaths is nearing 44,000 as I write this column and will definitely be higher when it runs in the paper Wednesday.

I'm wondering what we can learn from this. Apparently there is only a short warning period, something like 20 seconds, which is shocking to me considering how advanced we have come in technology.

All you can do if you get that warning is drop, cover and hold on.

But there are many things you can do lessen the effects of an earthquake. You can purchase survival kits that range from 40 to 200 dollars. These come in backpacks and include emergency water and good rations, sleeping bags and an assortment of tools, a folding knife, flashlight, whistle, thermal blanket and many other items.

It is totally worth the expense because even if you are not in an earthquake vulnerable area, these survival kits can also help if you are hit with fires or a tsunami. You can also go online and describe the places you live and work and see if they are more or less vulnerable to destruction.

The United States is the eighth most vulnerable country after Japan, Indonesia, China, Philippines, Iran, Turkey and Peru. The San Andreas fault is highly active along our west coast and puts millions of people at risk.

That is why we see many tsunami evacuation warning signs where I live right along the coast. Yes, I love living at the edge of our continent and I savor the views but I'm doing my homework and preparing for disasters which can easily catch us off guard.

A tsunami is a series of waves caused by the displacement of a large volume of water. Earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and other underwater explosions above or below water all have the potential to generate a tsunami.

If you're looking for the safest place to live in terms of natural disasters, it is Syracuse, New York. I went to college at Colgate University in Hamilton, which is a 40-minute drive from Syracuse and I'm having a college reunion there in June.

But I'm coming home to my wonderful home overlooking the islands and bays at the edge of the continent and I'm just going to be prepared as prepared as possible for natural disasters.

Keeping refrigerator door closed saves energy



By Greg Whiting

Just about everyone in the U.S. has heard the words: "Close the refrigerator door." Stereotypically, this is associated with an indecisive teenager.

How important is that closed door, really? Is it still important, given how much fridges have improved?

If you are using a really old fridge as your primary fridge, replacing it will save money in the long run. The easiest way to save money on refrigeration is to replace any fridge built more than 20 years ago with a new EnergyStar-rated refrigerator.

In the 1970s, a refrigerator might have consumed 2,200 kilowatt-hours a year. By the 1990s, improvements in insulation and the heat pumps used in refrigerators had reduced that to about 1,100 kWh/year. Today, a good refrigerator might only use 300 kWh/year. (For reference, an average home in the greater Puget Sound area uses about 900-1,100 kilowatt-hours a month for all electric uses. This does not reflect a home's entire energy budget if it also uses gas or propane.)

Fridges can last a long time, and new ones are expensive. You may want to keep an older refrigerator for the additional capacity, or for use in a space like a garage.

In places like Florida and Texas, a fridge in a hot garage might have to run constantly. It is not as bad here. In the Puget Sound area, fridges in garages without climate control can even be more efficient than an indoor fridge

in the winter months, because they only have to work against outside temperatures that are fairly close to the desired temperature inside the fridge, instead of working against a 68 degree home. However, it only takes a few really hot days to significantly increase the total energy used by a fridge in a hot garage. When possible, keep fridges used outside your kitchen in a climate-controlled location, or in a colder location like a basement, so that they don't have to work against hot outdoor temperatures in warm months. Never put a refrigerator in direct sunlight.

Go back to the teenager with the open refrigerator door. If the door is open, the air temperature in the refrigerator will go up, and the refrigerator compressor will turn on, because the controller senses that the fridge is too warm. An older fridge might need 800 watts, which is about the same as having thirteen, 60 watt lights turned on at the same time. However, most of the mass in the refrigerator is chilled food, which takes a long time to warm up. Once the door is shut again, the small amount of warm air that was let in while the door was open will cool to the desired temperature very quickly.

Keeping an old fridge's door open for five minutes would use 67 watt-hours, equivalent to running a 60 watt tungsten filament light bulb for a little over an hour. Keeping a new fridge's door open for five minutes would only use about 17 watt-hours. That's the equivalent of running a nine watt LED light bulb equivalent to a 60 watt 1970s tungsten filament light, for a little under two hours.

So, keeping the fridge open today, even though it only uses a quarter of the energy of a 1970s fridge, is even worse than it was then!

Close the refrigerator door!

Board members

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

Poulton's community update states that Kontos' "Declaration was so lacking in merit that it violated the Court's Rules." That is not true. Courts sanction attorneys for improper filings. Kontos was not cited for her declaration, which is not named by the court.

On Feb. 3 Judge Elizabeth Neidzowski ruled that the "proper CR 11 sanction is to award defendants' all reasonable attorney fees and costs incurred in opposing" the Fontenots' emergency order and preliminary injunction to the Shelter Bay attorney. The defendant's attorney was paid for by the board's directors and officers insurance policy.

The 730 word community update cites the board's documenting "Kontos and McCaughan deviating from established organizational authority that have led to disruption of business, harm to the community, and hindrance of progress for community priorities."

Kontos faces a recall election. Poulton told residents "the Board of Directors no longer has confidence that Director Kontos is fit to serve on the Board. However, the final decision will be up to the membership, to make the final determination by a recall vote, as outlined in the Shelter Bay By-laws."

The board, however, is not following Regulation 40.030.030, which states: "Board of Directors may suspend a Board member and immediately call for a Special Meeting / Election of the membership to remove the board member." Poulton's letter does not name a meeting date.

Poulton's four sentence sanction memorandum to Kontos

states she is "suspended from the Board of Directors pending a recall vote of the community," but no date is set.

The community update states "the ratification of the vote was unanimous" but does not provide a roll call of the sanctions vote against either director. This ratification is only board confirmation of the executive session report.

Kontos accuses the board of refusing to follow the bylaws. "They say I am mistaken. One of us is mistaken and it is not me," she said. "Advanced gaslighting, (level) 301, 401" is taking place, she says. Forbes magazine defines gaslighting as "a form of psychological manipulation that hinges on creating self-doubt."

She believes she is being retaliated against and intimidated for her consistent criticism of legacy board members. She has repeatedly brought up the lack of a properly ratified 2022-2023 budget and warned of the liability exposure to the association.

Shelter Bay resident Steve Klein points out that four of the nine board members serve by appointment, including three executive committee officers. "This ratio has set the stage for the unprecedented and unwarranted actions the board has taken under the guise of ethics," he writes in a letter on page 2.

Resident Dick Hasslinger met Kontos when she first moved to the area. He notes that Kontos, McCaughan and Nancy Shimeall campaigned criticizing actions, or inactions of the board around the Rainbow Park clearcut, the subsequent large fine imposed by the Swinomish Planning Commission, the two pools being out of use without a plan, the costs and payment of dredging the marina and negotiating the master lease with the Tribe. "The main thrust of this is there are lots of citizens concerned about the expenses of Shelter Bay

and now we have a board that is in turmoil and not because of suspended board members but legacy board members and their antics. That is why people are concerned," he believes.

Kontos has often criticized board leadership and now some ethics committee members for calling Roberta Fontenot the "enemy." "Anything you did in support of the lawsuit in their view makes you conspiring with an enemy," she said, "but I have no Shelter Bay enemies. I represent everyone whether you like me or not. My intent is to do the best thing I can by asking questions that have never been answered."

McCaughan declined to speak on the record except to reiterate his consistency since his campaign for the board. "I wanted to see more transparency and accountability. I want to have that foundation of knowing what the rules are," he repeated.

Board President Poulton did not respond to questions by press time.

A Shelter Bay town hall is scheduled for Feb. 26.

CORRECTION

Andy Szurek provided his photo of Bill Slater for the Feb. 15 story, but did not get the photo credit. The editor regrets the error.

CORRECTION

The "Center Street condos are a go" story Feb. 15 incorrectly reported that the 1986 La Conner Town Council took legislative action in passing an ordinance and later made a legislative amendment to the Town's Comprehensive Plan. The legislative action the council took was "passing a motion." The story has been corrected on the Weekly News website. The editor regrets the error.

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Feb. 14 meeting –

Town Council considers hiring grant writer

By Bill Reynolds

Faced with future major fire protection costs – including purchase of a fire boat and replacement of a 30-year-old fire truck – plus pending necessary upgrades to La Conner’s wastewater treatment plant and aging water lines at Skagit Beach, Town officials are weighing the merits of hiring a municipal grant writer.

Town Councilmember Ivan Carlson, noting the fire department’s pressing equipment needs, raised the prospect of a professional grant writer during the panel’s Feb. 14 hybrid session at Maple Hall.

“The fire department will have more expenses than the fire boat,” Carlson said as part of a roundtable discussion. “I think we need a grant writer for all the grants the fire department will be pursuing.”

“We’ve been talking about grants for the past few years,” he said. “There aren’t any easy grants out there. There’s no guarantees.”

“The fire boat we have,” he added, “has been out of service for a year-and-a-half. Right now, we have no protection for millions of dollars of property on the waterfront.”

Fire Chief Aaron Reinstra said he has been working closely with Mayor Ramon Hayes and Town Administrator Scott Thomas on securing funding for the fire boat and other firefighting needs.

“We’re doing everything in our power to move this thing forward,” said Reinstra.

“We’ve also talked about

doing that with transportation grants and the wastewater treatment plant,” said Thomas.

“Maybe we could find a grant writer for all of it,” Councilmember Mary Wohleb suggested. “I know there are a lot of grant writers who work on a commission basis. They often take a portion of the grant award.”

The Upper Skagit Tribe is a possibility. It has offered grant writing services for flood control funding.

“We’ll look at any help we can get, for sure,” Thomas vowed. “Several grant opportunities are available and we are developing plans to pursue those opportunities,” he emphasized in the report he filed prior to the meeting.

For flood management, initial steps have been taken by establishing a Emergency Management Commission. Thomas and Councilmember Rick Dole said application materials have been developed for the five-member commission, which will also address earthquake and tsunami preparedness. Members will be appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the council.

Council adopted planner Michael Davolio’s proposal for implementing development impact fees to support the fire department and the park system.

Resident Jim Matthews asked the Town consider using funds collected from businesses that cannot provide required parking spaces – an estimated \$35,000 at present – to purchase property that can be converted to parking.

He suggested the Greg Ellis lots behind Pioneer Market.

Matthews said the 20-unit multi-family complex planned behind The Slider Café will provide just 20 parking spaces.

“How many families have only one vehicle?” he asked, rhetorically. “Not many. Maybe we could apply a good amount of money in the parking fund to find more parking (spaces) in town.”

For private property to be used for parking, the Town would have to enter into negotiations with the owner, Hayes said.

For new housing, Hayes again voiced support for a model tiny house development on the former Jensen property near Channel Cove.

Council approved an infrastructure improvement agreement with C.J. Ebert regarding construction of two Snapdragon Flats triplexes off the intersection of Maple Avenue and Hill and Park streets.

“This is not a building permit,” Public Works Director Brian Lease pointed out. “The structures haven’t been approved or are even on the table to be approved.”

Dole ended the meeting noting he had seen two near traffic accidents at Morris Street and Maple Avenue, where the free left-hand turn for westbound motorists turning south catches some out-of-towners by surprise.

A westbound stop sign there has since been nixed because it would clog the roundabout at the entrance to town during peak traffic volumes.

A View From The State House



Dave Paul
State Representative



District 10

Workforce, housing crisis solutions

Last month, I wrote about the workforce shortage, which is holding back our economy and critical services like healthcare.

The housing crisis is intertwined with our workforce shortage.

Even if a local business or hospital recruits a great candidate for a job, no one can take that position without a place to live.

Sometimes, the only home they can find or afford isn’t anywhere near their work. That means they either can’t take the job – or they suffer through long commutes every day, adding to traffic gridlock.

We must solve these two problems together.

Adding more affordable housing for working families and the middle class doesn’t get much attention in newspapers and television news, which is often focused on the homeless crisis.

It is the right thing to help folks experiencing homelessness so they can get back on their feet.

And it is the right thing to expand the housing supply for working families, because adding more homes will help reduce the cost of housing for everyone.

Here are some ideas that we’re working on that could help:

Middle housing: Decades ago, we had far more variety in the types of housing in our towns and cities, which today are dominated by single-family detached homes or apartment buildings.

Allowing other options like cottage courts and townhouses, like we had before, would allow for more housing close to jobs and transit. It would help people spend less time in traffic while helping solve the housing

shortage.

Mother-in-law apartments / Accessory Dwelling Units: This is another reform that would give homeowners a second source of income while providing more housing where we need it most.

Cutting red tape: The Legislature is considering a number of bills to make it simpler, and quicker, to build new housing throughout the state.

Housing near transit and reforming parking requirements: It is common sense to allow more housing units near transit stations – and to relax requirements for a minimum number of parking spots for new apartments located near transit.

There are dozens of bills addressing these issues, and it is too early to say which bills in the House or Senate will pass and become law. Each bill, even if it becomes law, will become amended and perfected along the way compared to where it is now.

What I can tell you is I’ve never seen so many lawmakers, Democrat and Republican, united in common purpose to tackle this issue.

These ideas and solutions will help reduce workforce shortages, shorten commutes, and lower housing costs for everyone, whether you’re renting a home or trying to buy one closer to your job.

Real solutions like these will also make it possible for the students of today to have hope that when they graduate and get a job, they’ll be able to save up and buy their first home.

And every family needs a home – a safe, warm place to call their own.

Take Skagit County COVID-19 health survey

There is no doubt the COVID-19 pandemic brought with it unprecedented public health, economic, and mental health challenges for individuals and the community at large. While COVID transmission still remains in Skagit County, Public Health is now able to respond within general operating capacity and is no longer in emergency response mode.

To gather information about the strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for improvement of our local pandemic response, Skagit County Public Health is requesting public comment about COVID-19 emergency

response in Skagit County. The survey specifically requests feedback about demographics, access to and utilization of services (including testing and vaccination), availability of COVID-19 related information and sources, ease of access, and more. Input collected from the survey will be used as part of the County’s After Action Report and Improvement Plan to strengthen Skagit County’s emergency preparedness and response system in the future.

Access the survey at:
 • English - <https://bit.ly/caapenglish>
 • Spanish - <https://bit.ly/caapspanish>

caapspanish
 The survey takes approximately 15 minutes to complete and responses are anonymous. It will remain open for public comment until Feb. 28.

Thank you for sharing valuable feedback and for your commitment to the health and vitality of Skagit County. If you have questions, need assistance completing the survey, or would like more information about Skagit County Public Health’s COVID-19 After Action Plan, please call (360) 416-1500.

Source: Skagit County, Public Health

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 Jan - April 3.

520 MORRIS ST., LA CONNER, WA

Edward Jones

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Braves upset Coupeville to earn state berth

By Bill Reynolds

Turnabout is fair play. After having lost two tense games to conference foe Coupeville – one on a three-point buzzer beater – the underdog La Conner Braves avenged themselves with a dramatic 63-61 triumph Thursday, securing an improbable bi-district title and state tournament berth.

La Conner, seeded 15th out of 16 state entries, faces No. 10 Chief Leschi this weekend in a loser-out contest. The winner advances to the state 2B Hardwood Classic round of 12 March 1 at the Spokane Arena opposite either Northwest Christian of Colbert or Morton-White Pass.

But, for now, head coach C.J. Woods' charges can enjoy having defied the odds and qualified for the big dance.

Senior transfer Braden Thomas, whose mid-season arrival sparked a Braves resurgence, calmly sank two free throws with four-tenths of a second left to play, completing a stunning win over the host Wolves.

Thomas had been fouled amid confusion over whether a long jumper by Coupeville was a two-pointer or perimeter trey. Officials ruled the shot a three-pointer, which tied the score at 61-61, with just two seconds remaining.

But mistakenly thinking the bucket came inside the trey arc, which would have Coupeville trailing 61-60, a Wolves player fouled Thomas to stop the clock after he received the ensuing in-bounds pass. He was awarded two free throws as the team was in the double bonus.

It was a crazy finish to a game. The Braves trailed 9-2 early. They then reeled off a 14-7 run to pull even at 16-16 after the first period, fueled by three pointers from Thomas, Ivory Damien and Brayden Pedroza.

Coupeville controlled the second quarter, but two free throws by Thomas pulled the



ONE MORE WIN, THEN NEXT STOP SPOKANE! – The La Conner High School boys basketball team won the bi-district tournament with a dramatic last second victory against Coupeville Feb. 15. They play for a spot in the state tournament against No. 10 seed Chief Leschi Saturday at Auburn High School. – Photo by Sarah Walls

visitors within 31-27 at the break.

The Wolves extended their lead to 40-32 in the third quarter on a layup by Downes, who led all scorers with 26 points.

But back came La Conner. Isaiah Price scored on a layup on a nice feed from Damien and followed with a pair of charity tosses to narrow the count. C.J. Edwards cut the Wolves lead to 40-38 going into the final stanza with a driving layup.

The Braves, who drained eight three-pointers, continued to do long range damage in the fourth quarter.

Two treys by Damien and a three-pointer from Price lifted La Conner on top 50-46 midway through the frame. The lead swelled to 53-48 after Price reeled in an offensive board and fed Thomas for yet another La

Conner three-ball.

The Braves were up 56-50 at the 2 minute mark following an inside hoop and free throw by Thomas.

Coupeville kept within striking distance: La Conner missed four straight foul shots. A Downes layup pulled the Wolves closer, at 60-58, with 10 seconds on the clock.

Thomas was fouled when La Conner inbounded the ball in backcourt. He converted one of two freebies for a 61-58 led with 9 seconds remaining. Downes then pushed the ball up the floor and delivered the tying three-point bucket.

Damien was four-of-seven on three-pointers and led the team with 19 points. Thomas finished with 18. Price recorded a double-double with 14 points and 11 rebounds, while Pedroza chipped

Lady Braves win bi-district hoops crown

By Bill Reynolds

The girls' basketball team is going back to Spokane. Winners of the Northwest Bi-District title, they were seeded sixth in the 16-team state girls 2B Hardwood Classic. They face No. 3 Napavine in first round regional action this weekend.

The winner advances to the Spokane Arena March 2 against either Davenport, Raymond, Adna or Warden. The loser tips off March 1 opposite Forks or Northwest Christian of Colbert.

La Conner (19-4) enters state action after Coach Joe Harper's team drubbed NWC-Lacey 63-16 last Tuesday and drilled Coupeville 59-35 on Wednesday.

The Lady Braves easily won the opener despite resting top scorer Ellie Marble, who was nursing a lower back strain.

The senior returned to victimize Coupeville with 16 points and a half dozen rebounds.

Seniors Makayla Herrera and Josie Harper each recorded double-doubles in the Tuesday matchup with the Lady Wolverines.

Herrera scored a game-high 21 points on shooting from the floor and grabbed a team-high 12 rebounds.

Harper was seven of 10 on field goal attempts and finished with 18 points to go along with 10 assists.

Freshman point guard

in 10 points, including a pair of treys.

Edwards rounded out the attack with two points.

The Braves shot at 18 of 41 from the floor, were eight of 19 on three-point attempts and 19 of 30 from the foul stripe.

The team advances to state action with a somewhat misleading 11-12 slate as they played six games before Thomas' debut and four of the team's losses were to larger enrollment non-league opponents.

Shaniquah Casey also scored in double figures with 12 points.

Kennedy Miller (6), Maeve McCormick (4) and Lydia Grossglass (2) rounded out the La Conner attack.

The team shot at a 51% clip (28 of 55) and added five of nine charity tosses.

The Tuesday game had been delayed because the Lacey team was caught in Port Townsend when high winds shut down the Keystone ferry to Coupeville.

That meant La Conner was playing its second game in as many nights in the finale.

No problem on that count. Especially with Marble back in the fold.

La Conner took an early 8-0 lead, then stretched its edge to 28-12 at intermission. The Lady Braves clinched matters with a 20-6 run in the third period.

In addition to Marble, Josie Harper (19) and McCormick – who scored a season high 11 points – landed in double-digit scoring.

Herrera pulled down a team-best 10 rebounds and added eight points. Miller scored a deep trey.

The team was 20 of 44 from the floor and 15 of 23 from the foul stripe. The winners were four of 12 from three-point range, with Harper meshing two of her four attempts from beyond the trey line.

Harper also dished out five of La Conner's nine assists.

Wedding

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

school district," said Levi Howell, "and we decided we needed to make it happen."

"We love the diversity," Kimberly Howell said. "When you walk into the elementary school, it has 'Be Kind' written everywhere."

Another selling point is La Conner Hook & Ladder. The Howells are looking forward to The Slider Cafe's annual fundraiser for local firefighters on March 18.

"We'll pass around the boot," said Kimberly Howell, "and are pledging a portion of the proceeds that day to the fire department."

And, before you know it, it will be time for another Slider family vacation. The destination is to be determined, but Levi Howell anticipates it being a less eventful venue than the trip just completed.

"Next year," he quipped, "we may go to a beach and do nothing."

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Play review —

Love is more than just a kissing fancy

By Ken Stern

That old story line: “Boy meets girl.” Then: Girl falls for boy. Boy falls for girl. They marry. Boy loses girl. When the story turns in a strange fantastical way you have an original plot and the play “Prelude to a Kiss.” It opened before an enthusiastic and friendly audience Feb. 17 at the Lincoln Theatre.

Peter (Matthew Twining, in a strong performance) is the slightly disheveled, somewhat uncertain narrator, breaking the fourth wall to speak directly to the audience from his first line. There is a waking dream quality of uncertainty to his telling.

In his mannerisms and dress – a long scarf carelessly draped over his shoulders; his untucked shirt and unmade tuxedo tie on his wedding day, Twining, probably under Angela Marinella’s direction, conveys a slightly disheveled, somewhat uncertain stability.

Rita (Emelia Bateman, energetic and bright) is all in on Peter once his friend Tyler (Matthew Bianconi) introduces them. She is a live-in-the-present bartender, aware and reflective enough to be a socialist and not want to bring children into this troubled world, uncertain in her own way.

There is an attraction that pushes them past awkward

moments. Pretty soon they have kissed – and more – and Peter moves in. They both joke their way through a marriage proposal they realize they mean.

And, as lovers do they share intimacies of biography and life journeys, markers of their unique selves. There are introductions to Rita’s parents, Mrs. (Lisa Notter) and Dr. (Scott Andrews) Boyle. There is an outdoor wedding, with aunts (Diane Longmire, Anneliese Vance-Sherman) and the ensemble cast taking selfies and filling the rows of chairs.

Then, the play turns as an Old Man (Kevin Cobley) shuffles haltingly, confusedly into the scene. His unexpected kiss of the bride changes everything. He causes a scene. Lights flash. The Old Man runs off, more energetically. What has happened?

“Any new reality is scary,” one of them says. And the honeymoon in Jamaica is odd, off-center for Peter. Rita has changed in obvious ways. The secrets and special experiences and interests they revealed to each other? All of a sudden they are all clunkers. And Rita’s interests have changed. This is not the honeymoon of either’s dreams.

Peter is confused. He wanders back to the bar where Rita used to work. The Old Man is there. Peter interrogates him. Could it be? Spoiler alert, in code: Turns

out a kiss is not just a kiss.

Cobley becomes the surprising center of the play. He transforms before our eyes. This slightly rotund Santa Claus has a crush on Peter. And he is slightly feminine, his voice and gestures are all 20 something Rita. He flutters his fingers and lays his head on Peter’s shoulder. He radiates a youthful energy.

Peter and this new Rita explore hope, acceptance, resignation, understanding. There are possibilities. It being theatre, resolution beckons. Will it be that Peter can embrace the new Rita?

Playwright Craig Lucas combined romance, humor and pathos. Alas, he rushes to judgment to reach the climax. That is a limitation of the script, not the actors or the production.

The ending here? Sealed with a kiss.

There is music before and through the show. The Joan Penny Jazz Trio accents and provide mood as well as bridges scenes during set changes. Hans Brehmer, keyboards, and Drew Baddeley, upright bass, support Penny’s vocals.

Lucas’ play premiered on Broadway in 1990.

Performances are weekends through March 5. Tickets and times: lincolntheatre.org; 360-336-8955.



Library Happenings

By Jean Markert, La Conner Swinomish Library director

New library cards have arrived! Come by the library to get your brand-new library card featuring our new logo. Our system requires us to use a new barcode number, so everyone will get a new card. If you are an online reader, no need to worry, we can merge your old number and your new number so you will not lose any of your saved information. Please see a library staff member if you have any questions.

Don’t miss our special event with Bob Abrams today from 5-6 p.m. Mr. Abrams will talk about his fascinating life as an illustrator for Disney and Warner Brothers.

If you haven’t picked up your winter reads Bingo card there is still time. Complete five squares in a row to get a bingo, then bring your card by the library to receive a free treat at either Beaver Tails or Stompin’ Grounds Coffee. Fill out your entire card to get a blackout and get entered in a raffle to win a \$25 gift certificate to Seaport Books.

We still have several blind date books just waiting to be picked up. Who knows; if your date is successful, you may find a new author or genre. Once you finish your book, tell us how your date went by filling out a Rate Your Date bookmark. Each blind date will fill a square on your winter reads bingo card.

Looking for something to do on a dreary, rainy day? The library has chess sets available for use at the library, and we have a good selection of fun board games and puzzles to occupy your time. Come in with your friends and play some games.

Thursday, March 2 is Dr. Suess’s Birthday. Come to the library and revisit some of your favorite Dr. Suess books. Green Eggs and Ham anyone?

Need of a good book, check out these staff picks:

Susan’s pick: “Smitten Kitchen Keepers: New Classics for Your Forever Files, a Cookbook” by Deb Perelman. Discover a new recipe with this award-winning cookbook contains more than 100 delicious recipes to keep you cooking. Our staff highly recommends the thick molasses cookie recipe!

Katryna’s pick: “The Box in the Woods” by Maureen Johnson. Amateur detective Stevie Bell is anticipating a boring summer at home until she receives a note from the owner of Sunny Pines summer camp offering Stevie a chance to solve a true crime case. The third book in the series, this modern day twist on Nancy Drew offers fun for all ages.

Mat’s pick: “Blindsight” by Peter Watts. In this suspenseful sci-fi book, an eclectic group sets out to make first contact with an alien race. This book is a must read for any science fiction fans.

Char’s pick: “If I Knew Then: Finding Wisdom in Failure and Power in Aging” by Jann Arden. This funny, heartfelt and fierce memoir on becoming a woman of a certain age. The power, gravity and freedom she’s found at fifty-seven are superpowers she believes all of us can unleash.

La Conner Marina moorage rates up

By Ken Stern

Boaters mooring their vessels at the La Conner Marina will pay more this year. At its Feb. 14 meeting Port of Skagit commissioners approved an 8% rate increase for all moorage slips. Harbormaster Chris Omdal had briefed commissioners the week before, pointing to supply and demand and the rates at marinas in the region, inflation and the expense of infrastructure replacement.

With the new rates, a 50-foot covered slip is \$973. The monthly cost for that size slip at the Everett Marina was \$1,036 last year. Omdal reported that La Conner is at the low end of the scale in the region.

Rates are up for the RV park across the street on North Third Street, too, by \$4 to \$6 for the back-in premium RV spaces, depending on the spot and time of year. Storage units are also increased by 8%.

Schools student loss discussed

By Bill Reynolds

At its study session Feb. 13, the La Conner School Board heard and accepted Amanda Bourgeois’ resignation from their body. The board continued its examination of declining student enrollment numbers, accepted two major cash donations and met with and sought feedback (continued on page 8)

Poets read Feb. 25

Saturday Sam and Sally Green and poet friends read from “Art in a Public Place,” the latest issue from the Madrona Project

Poetry Reading Series. Washington state Poet Laureate is among the dozen poets reading at 7 p.m. at Pelican Bay Books, 520 Commercial Avenue, Anacortes.

Source: The Madrona Project

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LEGAL NOTICES

THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SKAGIT Estate of Joyce M. LINDBERG, Deceased. Eric A. LINDBERG, Petitioner. Case No. 23-4-00063-29 NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO: ALL CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT. YOU AND EACH OF YOU TAKE NOTE that the Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this Estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the Court. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the Personal Representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(3); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets. Date of First Publication: Feb. 22, 2023. Personal Representative: Eric A. Lindberg Attorney for the Personal Representative: JOSEPH D. BOWEN, #17631 Address for Mailing or Service: JOSEPH D. BOWEN ATTORNEY AT LAW, P.S. 401 South Second Street Mount Vernon, WA 98273 Published in the La Conner Weekly News Feb. 22, March 1, 8, 2023.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR SKAGIT COUNTY In re Estate of WILLIAM R. HARTLEY, Deceased. NOTICE TO CREDITORS No. 23-4-00050-29 Benjamin P. Hartley 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 presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after the Personal Representative served or mailed the notice to 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 filing Notice to Creditors: January 31, 2023 Date of first publication: February 8, 2023 DATED this 30th day of January, 2023. JONES BUTLER DOLAN, PS JAMES B. DOLAN, WSBA No. 29190 Counsel for Personal Representative BENJAMIN P. HARTLEY P.O. Box 458 Stanwood, WA 98292 360-629-3833 Published in the La Conner Weekly News Feb. 8, 15, 22, 2023.

Superior Court of Washington, County of Skagit In the Guardianship of: Ryker Ward Respondent/s (minors/children) No. 23-4-00074-29 Summons (SM) To: The parents, child, and person with court-ordered custody: 1. The Petitioner has started a case asking for guardianship of the above-named children under RCW 11.130.185. If the Minor Guardianship Petition is approved, the rights of the parents or legal custodians could be substantially restricted. 2. You must respond to this summons and petition by serving a copy of your written response on the person signing this summons, any other party, and by filing the original response with the clerk of the court. If you do not serve your written response within 20 days after the date this summons was served on you (or 60 days if you are served outside of the state of Washington), exclusive of the day of service, the court may enter an order of default against you and the court may, without further notice to you, enter an order and approve or provide for the relief requested in the petition. If the petition has not been filed, you may demand that the petitioner file this lawsuit with the court. If you do so, the demand must be in writing and must be served upon the person signing this summons. Within 14 days after you serve the demand, the petitioner must file this lawsuit with the court, or the service on you of this summons and petition will be void. 3. If you wish to seek the advice of a lawyer in this matter, you should do so promptly so that your written response, if any, may be served on time. 4. This summons is issued pursuant to rule 4 of the Superior Court Civil Rules of the State of Washington. File original of your response with the clerk of the court at: Skagit County Superior Court, Skagit County Clerk, 205 Kincaid, Room 103, Mount Vernon, WA, 98273. Serve a copy of your response on: Petitioner's Lawyer Rachelle Marie Eason, 725 South 1st Street, Ste B, Mount Vernon, WA 98273. Published in the La Conner Weekly News Feb. 15, 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 2023.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR SKAGIT COUNTY In re Estate of MARIANNE E. FORTMANN, Deceased. NOTICE TO CREDITORS No. 23-4-00051-29 Gertrud D. Hipp 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 presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after the Personal Representative served or mailed the notice to creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the dates 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 filing Notice to Creditors: February 1, 2023 Date of first publication: February 8, 2023 DATED this 31st day of January, 2023. JONES BUTLER DOLAN, PS JAMES B. DOLAN, WSBA #29190 Counsel for Personal Representative GERTRUD D. HIPPI P.O. Box 458 Stanwood, WA 98292 360-629-3833 Published in the La Conner Weekly News Feb. 8, 15, 22, 2023.

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY In the Matter of the Estate of Claudia Leigh Nasi, Deceased. Cause No. 23-4-00058-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030) The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(3); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate as-

sets. Date of First Publication: Feb. 8, 2023 Personal Representative: Keith Nasi Attorney for Personal Representative: Aaron M. Rasmussen, WSBA #29496 Address for Mailing or Service: North Sound Law Group, PLLC, 300 N. Commercial St., Bellingham, WA 98225; Phone: 360-733-0212 Published in the La Conner Weekly News Feb. 8, 15, 22, 2023.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY Estates of WILLA JOSEPHINE HANSEN and DONALD DUANE HANSEN, Deceased. NO. 23-4-00034-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030) PLEASE TAKE NOTICE The above Court has appointed me as Personal Representative of the Decedents' estate. Any person having a claim against the Decedents must present the claim: (a) Before the time when the claim would be barred by any applicable statute of limitations, and (b) In the manner provided in RCW 11.40.070: (i) By filing the original of the claim with the foregoing Court, and (ii) By serving on or mailing to me at the address below a copy of the claim. The claim must be presented by the later of: (a) Thirty (30) days after I served or mailed this Notice as provided in RCW 11.40.020(1)(c), or (b) Four (4) months after the date of first publication of this Notice. If the claim is not presented within this time period, the claim will be forever barred except as provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective for claims against both the Decedent's probate and non-probate assets. Date of First Publication of this Notice: 02/07/2023 Barbara J. Murphy, Personal Representative Gilbert & Gilbert Lawyers, Inc. Jayne Marsh Gilbert, WSBA #24656 Attorney for Personal Representative 314 Pine Street, Suite 211 Mount Vernon, Washington Published in the La Conner Weekly News Feb. 8, 15, 22, 2023.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SKAGIT TERESA LORI GRAGE, an individual, Plaintiff, vs. MICHAEL MOSCONE, an individual, and SANDRO MOSCONE, an individual, Defendants. NO. 22-2-00041-29 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF WASHINGTON TO THE DEFENDANTS NAMED ABOVE: You are hereby summoned to appear within sixty days after the date of the first publication of this summons, to wit, within sixty days after the 1st day of February, 2023, and defend the above entitled action in the above entitled court, and answer the complaint of plaintiff Teresa Lori Grage, and serve a copy of your answer upon the undersigned attorney for plain-

tiff at his office below stated; and in case of your failure so to do, judgment will be rendered against you according to the demand of the complaint, which has been filed with the clerk of said court. DATED this 25th day of January, 2023. GOURLEY LAW GROUP Thomas L. Hause, WSBA No. 35245 P.O. Box 1091/1002 10th Street. Snohomish, WA 98291 Telephone: (360) 568-5068 Fax: (360) 568-8092 E-mail: Tom@glgmail.com Published in the La Conner Weekly News Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, March 1, 8, 2023.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY No. 23-4-00047-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030) In the Matter of the Estate of Robert Patrick Farrell, Deceased The personal representative named below has been appointed as personal representative of this estate. Any person having claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the personal representative or the personal representative's attorney at the address stated below, a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets. Date of first publication: Feb. 8, 2023 Merrily L. Farrell Personal Representative SKAGIT LAW GROUP, PLLC MEGAN OTIS MASON-HOLDER, WSBA #29495 Attorneys for Personal Representative P.O. Box 336/227 Freeway Drive, Suite B Mount Vernon, WA 98273 Published in the La Conner Weekly News Feb. 8, 15, 22, 2023.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY No. 23-4-00075-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030) In the Matter of the Estate of Ralph G. Horton, Deceased. The personal representative named below has been appointed as personal representative of this estate. Any person having claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the personal representative or the personal

representative's attorney at the address stated below, a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets. Date of first publication: Feb. 15, 2023 Russell L. Horton Personal Representative SKAGIT LAW GROUP, PLLC MEGAN OTIS MASON-HOLDER, WSBA #29495 Attorneys for Personal Representative P.O. Box 336/227 Freeway Drive, Suite B Mount Vernon, WA 98273 Published in the La Conner Weekly News Feb. 15, 22, March 1, 2023.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR WHATCOM COUNTY In re the Estate of: PAUL Z. SILVA, Deceased. Cause No. 23-4-00142-37 NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.40.030 The Administrator named below has been appointed and has qualified as Administrator of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the administrator or the administrator's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probated proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after the administrator served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 AND 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets. Date of First Publication: February 15th, 2023 Name of Administrator: JESSICA CAUGHLIN Attorneys for Administrator: David M. Neubeck, WSBA #31321 Sara LC Hulford, WSBA #52098 Todd L. Sliva, WSBA #54298 Address for Mailing or Service: Elder Law Offices of Meyers, Neubeck & Hulford, P.S. 2828 Northwest Avenue Bellingham WA 98225-2335 Telephone: (360) 647-8846 Facsimile: (360) 647-8854 Published in the La Conner Weekly News Feb. 15, 22, March 1, 2023.

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Laconnerweeklynews.com

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Super Crossword

Answers

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Answers to February 22 puzzles

LA CONNER MARINA

Permanent and Guest Moorage Dry Boat Storage, Boating Services Public Laundry, RV Park

Office: 613 N. 2nd St., 360-466-3118 www.portofskagit.com

Edward Jones

Scott A. Price Financial Advisor

708 E. Morris St. Ste C La Conner, WA 98257 360-466-2933

JP Automotive

Full service automotive repair & maintenance shop.

360-336-3496 Mon.- Fri. 8 am - 5 pm closed Sat. & Sun. 1304 Memorial Hwy. Mount Vernon, WA

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LEGAL NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of La Conner, Washington, passed Ordinance No. 1224 at the February 14, 2023, Town Council meeting. A summary of Ordinance No. 1224 is as follows:

An Ordinance adopting Fire and Park Impact Fees. Complete copies of Ordinance No. 1224 are available at La Conner Town Hall, P.O. Box 400, La Conner, WA 98257

Dated this 15th Day of February 2023
 Maria DeGoede, Town Clerk
 Published in the La Conner Weekly News Feb. 22, 2023.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WHATCOMB IN RE THE ESTATE OF CARLOS ONOFRE CAMPOS, DECEASED. NO. 23-4-00128-37 AMENDED NONPROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.42.030 JUDGE: DAVID FREEMAN

The notice agent named below has elected to give notice to creditors of the above-named decedent. As of the date of the filing of a copy of this notice with the court, the notice agent has no knowledge of any other person acting as notice agent or of the appointment of a personal representative of the decedent's estate in the state of Washington. According to the records of the court as are available on the date of the filing of this notice with the court, a cause number regarding the decedent has not been issued to any other notice agent, and a personal representative of the decedent's estate has not been appointed.

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 11.42.070 by serving on or mailing to the notice agent or the notice agent'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 notice agent's declaration and oath were filed. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the notice agent served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.42.020(2)(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 11.42.050 and 11.42.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets.

Date of First Publication: Feb. 22, 2023.

The notice agent declares under penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington on Feb. 13, 2023, at Bellingham, Washington, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Notice Agent: RUTH CHRISTINE CAMPOS PO Box 204, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

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

Court of notice agent's Declaration and Oath: Superior Court of Whatcom County Cause Number: 23-4-00128-37

Published in the La Conner Weekly News Feb. 22, March 1, 8, 2023.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON COUNTY OF CHELAN IN PROBATE In the Matter of the Estate of ARTHUR A. TERRANA, Deceased. NO. 23-4-00057-04 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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR
 Complete Events Calendar on laconnerweeklynews.com

ART & THEATRE

Anacortes Community Theatre. 918 M Ave, Anacortes. 360-293-6829. acttheatre.com.

As *You Like It*. Through Feb. 25, Thurs-Sat 7:30 p.m. and Sun 2 p.m. Purchase tickets online.

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

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

Museum of Northwest Art. monamuseum.org, 360-466-4446.

Teen Art Club. Every Friday, 3-5 p.m. Free for grades 6-12. Pizza, snacks and art supplies are provided.

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.

Yoga at the Library. Every first and third Saturday, 9 a.m. Great for beginners. Bring your own yoga mat.

Jazz Walk. March 3, 6-10 p.m. in downtown Anacortes. Free.

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 a.m.

MUSEUM EXHIBITS

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

Exhibit: *Permanent Immigrant, Italo Scanga in the Dale and Leslie Chihuly Collection*. Through May 14.

Exhibit: *Geppetto's Children, Italo Scanga at Pilchuck Glass School*. Through May 14.

Pacific Northwest Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum. Wed-Sun, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. qfamuseum.org, 360-466-4288. 703 S Second St, La Conner.

Exhibit: *Birds of a Fiber*. International and national bird themed quilts and fiber art pieces. Through Feb. 26.

Exhibit: *Our Voices in Fiber*. African American quilters today. Through Feb. 26.

Exhibit: *Bedtime Stitches*. Through April 30.

Skagit County Historical Museum. 360-466-3365 or skagitcounty.net/museum. Hours: Thurs-Sun 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Exhibit: *Quilt Until You Wilt*. Through June 2023. Design your own paper quilts.

MUSIC

Shelter Bay Chorus. Meet every Thursday. 4:30-6:30 p.m., Shelter Bay Clubhouse. No auditions required, just a joy for singing. Rehearsals are resuming for Spring Concert. Questions, call Joan 360-941-7507.

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

Mark Hummel's *Blues Harmonica Blowout*. Feb. 20, 7:30 p.m.

MEETINGS

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

Town Council. Feb. 28, 6 p.m. at Maple Hall.

Planning Commission. March 7, 6 p.m. at Maple Hall.

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

School Board. Feb. 27, 5 p.m. at District Office Board Room.

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

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

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.

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.

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

Skagit Valley Humane Society. 18841 Kelleher Rd, Burlington. 360-757-0445. skagithumane.org. Find volunteer/donation opportunities online.



Aqimuk's Kitchen
 By Patricia Aqimuk Paul, Esq., Food Editor.

Vaquero Bean Soup

This soup bean is awesome. I have cooked with it twice. It is so flavorful and makes a dark broth. Soaking beans is optional. I rinsed and soaked the beans in plain water for three hours. This package of beans was gifted to us by a local friend, Giuliani. I chose to cook on the stove in a big soup pot, one that has a lid. These are basic, simple ingredients. My signature dishes will have basic, simple ingredients.

Ingredients

- Vaquero beans, 16 oz
- Water, 1 liter
- Olive oil, 2 tbsp
- Red onion, one small, minced
- Garlic cloves, 2 minced or pressed
- Carrot, 1 large
- Vegetable broth, 32 oz
- Sour cream, 1 tbsp per serving
- Green onions, 2 chopped

Preparation

Soak the beans in water for three hours. Drain. In a large soup pot, add the olive oil and after it heats a bit, on medium heat, add the onion. Add the garlic. Stir. Just takes a couple minutes to soften and become aromatic. Peel and chop the carrots. I chopped to a size smaller than the beans. Stir and add the beans. Add the vegetable broth. Bring gently to a boil. Lower the heat to a simmer. Cook until tender, two hours. Serve with a dollop of sour cream and diced green onion.

AqimuksKitchen@outlook.com

The Garden Bug Growing catnip

Set out catnip seedlings in a sunny, well-drained spot after the last frost of spring, spacing them 18"-24" apart (some can grow to 5 feet tall). Water regularly, and pinch back any spindly growth to get fuller, more robust foliage. Outdoor cats can be rough on these plants, as they like to roll and lay on them; try placing bamboo stakes every few inches to prevent their destroying them. For "indoor" kitties, pick off a sprig and bring it inside for your cat to enjoy on the floor or in its favorite bedding. - Brenda Weaver

Source: bestplants.com

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CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads now in print and online * same low price
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FOR SALE. Dania circular sofa, brown leather. Paid \$6,000, sell price \$749. Too big for our home. New pilates machine, \$98. Butcher block wood piece. 6 feet x 35 inches, \$125. Call Sandi at 360-387-2039.

TWO MOONS GALLERY. Our 27th Anniversary Sale begins today! Everything is at least 20% off. Many of your favorites are now 30%-50% off. Spring is around the corner and we have great deals in store for you! Let's all shop local and celebrate. 620 S. First St, La Conner.

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

ARE YOU BEHIND \$10k OR MORE ON YOUR TAXES? Stop wage & bank levies, liens & audits, unfiled tax returns, payroll

issues, & resolve tax debt FAST. Call 866-973-1302 (Hours: Mon-Fri 7am-5pm)

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

LEGAL NOTICES

below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after the Personal Representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020; 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: Feb. 22, 2023.
 CAROL F. TERRANA, Personal Representative
 Address: 4229 S 252nd Pl Kent, WA 98032-4112

Attorneys for Personal Representative: JEFFERS, DANIELSON, SONN & AYLWARD, P.S.
 CHELAN COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE
 Martin D. Young, Clerk
 Chelan County Superior Court
 Chelan County Law & Justice Facility 350 Orondo Avenue, Suite 501 Wenatchee, WA 98801-2885

Published in the La Conner Weekly News Feb. 22, March 1, 8, 2023.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON COUNTY OF CHELAN IN PROBATE In the Matter of the Estate of ARTHUR A. TERRANA, Deceased. NO. 23-4-00057-04 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



AGENDA

Town Council Agenda February 28, 2023

104 Commercial Street Upper Maple Center And by Zoom Information is below and on the Town Website

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Public Comments (Limit: 3 minutes per person)
- IV. Presentations:
- Consent Agenda

A. Consent Agenda (Approved without objection 5/0)
 1. Approval of the Minutes: Council Meeting February 14, 2023

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

- Administrator's Report
- Mayor's Report
- Council Committee Reports

VII. Unfinished Business:
 1. Center Street Project - Discussion

- Jenson Property - Discussion

VIII. New Business
 1. Cabaret License - Ravens Cup Coffee & Art Gallery

- Council & Planning Commission Joint Meeting - Discussions

IX. Mayor Roundtable
 X. Executive Session

There may be an executive session immediately preceding or following the meeting as allowed by RCW 42.30.110 and as announced by the presiding officer.
 Meeting ID: 889 6501 1004
 Passcode: HHT41Z

Super Crossword

TOTALLY OUT OF IT

- ACROSS**
- 1 Four-string guitar
 - 5 Bits of land in el agua
 - 10 Luca Brasi in "The Godfather," e.g.
 - 16 Soft infant food
 - 19 Life — know it
 - 20 New Mexico or Colorado county
 - 21 Useless
 - 22 Division of history
 - 23 Start of a riddle
 - 26 Mantra syllables
 - 27 Old-time cleaning cake
 - 28 Tennis' Safin
 - 29 Not skilled in at all
 - 31 Heavy weight
 - 32 All — sudden
 - 35 Spoken
 - 37 French movie theater
 - 38 Riddle, part 2
 - 44 President Biden
 - 45 Speaks
 - 46 Singer Turner
 - 47 Tell el — (Nile excavation site)
 - 50 It fills la mer
 - 51 Riddle, part 3
 - 57 Becomes familiar with anew
 - 59 Per-unit price
 - 60 Mortise insertion
 - 61 Ambulance VIPs
 - 62 Decorative dashboard finish
 - 66 Chain in biology
 - 67 Riddle, part 4
 - 73 China's Chou En- —
 - 74 Like many soda bottles, volume-wise
 - 75 Purposely ignore
 - 76 Book of charts
 - 79 IRS form IDs
 - 80 "— is a virtue"
 - 84 Riddle, part 5
 - 87 In honor of
 - 89 Small river
 - 90 — -mutuel betting
 - 91 Oxygen-requiring bacterium
 - 93 Start for center or Pen
 - 94 End of the riddle
 - 102 Square yardage, e.g.
 - 103 Instant replay option
 - 104 Expressive rock genre
 - 105 — Leppard (rock band)
 - 106 Mythical man-goats
 - 109 "In the red," e.g.
 - 111 Division of history
 - 115 Concorde, e.g., in brief
 - 116 Riddle's answer
 - 120 Grassland
 - 121 Henner of "Taxi"
 - 122 — Island (Providence's state)
 - 123 Old TV's —
 - 124 Work unit
 - 125 Workout wear
 - 126 Planted
 - 127 Some deli loaves
 - 6 Leave for a short time
 - 7 Spy novelist Deighton
 - 8 Exhibit works
 - 9 "... or — told"
 - 10 Drag racer
 - 11 New York home of Cornell
 - 12 Relative of a stickpin
 - 13 Raging crowd
 - 14 PD's cousin
 - 15 Emperor after Claudius I
 - 16 City on the Illinois River
 - 17 Ralph Lauren competitor
 - 18 Pale hue
 - 24 Actress Skye
 - 25 Main parts of churches
 - 30 Fuel rating
 - 33 Galas
 - 34 On the Red, e.g.
 - 36 Former senator Trent
 - 38 Open slightly
 - 39 City in Alaska
 - 40 Four-piece band
 - 41 Writer Capote, to pals
 - 42 Org. in many spy novels, e.g.
 - 43 Make a ski mask, maybe
 - 48 Lagoon surrounder
 - 49 Christen
 - 51 Core group
 - 52 Frisky swimmer
 - 53 Uncool sort
 - 54 About
 - 55 Lower-class, to Brits
 - 56 Growl threateningly
 - 58 Warning initials above an internet link
 - 59 Hair bases
 - 62 Actress Kate of "Grey's Anatomy"
 - 63 Of sheep
 - 64 "Casablanca" woman
 - 65 Prized buy for a coin collector
 - 67 Nail on a paw
 - 68 Pledge
 - 69 Brand of sneakers
 - 70 Didn't win
 - 71 Hang it up
 - 72 App that asks "Where to?"
 - 77 Frolicking
 - 78 Move back and forth
 - 80 Open tourney, often
 - 81 Necessarily sleeveless cloak
 - 83 Arabian chief
 - 85 Pooch noise
 - 86 Misters
 - 87 Agent's cut
 - 88 "... there — square"
 - 91 Something hilarious
 - 92 Fabric with raised designs
 - 94 Grapple with, slangily
 - 95 Slate clearer
 - 96 Attachment to a dog or cat collar
 - 97 "House" actress Wilde
 - 98 Old-time Ford
 - 99 NASA countdown term
 - 100 Ferber of fiction
 - 101 — regions (Hades)
 - 107 Crater edges
 - 108 Novelist Irwin
 - 110 Corp. VIPs
 - 112 Squeezed (out)
 - 113 Be in power
 - 114 Jubilant cries
 - 117 Exist
 - 118 "So that's your trick!"
 - 119 Wrecker's job

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POLICE BLOTTER

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sunday, February 12

2:59 p.m.: Territorial dogs – Report of neighborhood dogs acting aggressive toward the caller when they entered the property where the dogs live. There were no injuries reported. Park St., La Conner.

Monday, February 13

11:47 a.m.: Abandoned car – A vehicle left abandoned was removed by a tow company. Best Rd., Greater La Conner.

Tuesday, February 14

6:21 a.m.: Car in ditch – A vehicle spun out and landed in a ditch near Snow Goose Produce. The driver was able to get the vehicle out and there were no reported injuries. Fir Island Rd., Greater La Conner.

7:02 a.m.: Lost traction – A vehicle lost traction and went off the road. The vehicle was removed by a tow truck. Rexville Grange Rd., Greater La Conner.

7:34 a.m.: Utility pole crash – The driver of a vehicle lost control on the slippery road and crashed into a utility pole. The road was closed for several hours to allow for repairs of the pole and wires. Chilberg Rd., Greater La Conner.

7:52 a.m.: Slippery conditions – A vehicle spun out on the slippery road and ended up in a field. There were no injuries reported. Best Rd.,

Greater La Conner.

5:21 p.m.: ATV trespassers – Report of people riding an ATV and a motorcycle in a private field. The riders left prior to law enforcement arriving. Fir Island Rd., Greater La Conner.

Wednesday, February 15

10:18 a.m.: Here then gone – Report of a suspicious motorhome in Pioneer Park. The park was checked by law enforcement and it was gone. Pioneer Pkwy., La Conner.

Thursday, February 16

12:00 p.m.: Nice car – Report of a male subject pan handling near the parking lot of the business. After the report, the male left in a large tan SUV. Morris St., La Conner.

Friday, February 17

9:56 a.m.: Stuck in mud – A silver Dodge truck was left abandoned in a field. The vehicle was associated to a male who was reported in a front yard and covered in mud earlier in the day. The male told the property owner his vehicle got stuck in mud. Bradshaw Rd., Greater La Conner.

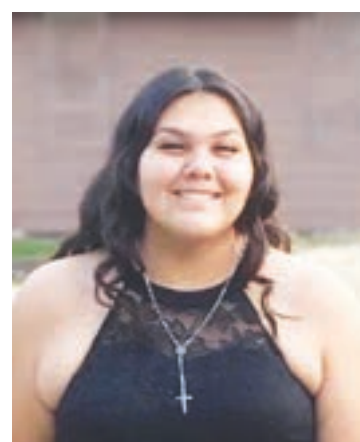
11:55 a.m.: Vehicle prowl – A vehicle parked in the parking lot was prowled a week prior. Taken from the vehicle was a cell phone. Maple Ave., La Conner.

Taylor Rae Cayou is February Soroptimist student

La Conner Soroptimist honored student for February Taylor Rae Cayou has demonstrated an aptitude for leadership in several significant ways.

As a member of Peer to Peer at La Conner High School, Taylor and 8-10 other students work on addressing important issues affecting the high school population. During suicide prevention month, they presented a lunchtime slide show explaining how to talk about suicide. They also are creating a movie, "Most Teens Don't Vape."

As a school board student representative, Taylor prepares and presents a monthly report. She recently worked on the details and implementation of a new cell phone policy, "No Phones Out During Class." She is also a student representative on the Native American Parent Advisory Council, which has addressed complicated issues



Taylor Rae Cayou

such as bullying, attendance and race.

Taylor further demonstrated her leadership skills as moderator for the Swinomish senate candidates' forum. She was the meeting facilitator and invited to ask questions of the candidates.

Taylor is committed to practicing mindful meditation daily and presented a mindfulness program to the high

school staff at the beginning of the school year.

Taylor enjoys playing first base on the LCHS softball team and playing on the volleyball team. In her free time she likes to go crabbing and salmon fishing with her dad. Taylor also worked on the development of the clam garden on Kiket Island, the first modern clam garden in the United States.

A lifelong La Conner resident, Taylor is the daughter of Kim George and Louis Cayou. She has an older sister, Olivia, and a nephew, Kayson. She is attending running start at Northwest Indian College and would like to go on to university and study law or marine biology.

Taylor will receive a gift certificate to Vintage Thrift, the thrift and consignment shop run by volunteers to support women and girls in the community and enabled by the generous donations from the community.

School

(from page 5)

from middle school and high school students.

Board President Susie Deyo shared a spread sheet showing 56 students from outside the district have enrolled. Forty-seven students have left for other districts or remote learning programs.

Despite the net gain, K-12 enrollment has fallen from around 600 prior to the COVID-19 pandemic to 525-530 students. Public schools receive state funding based on enrollment. The decline has put a significant pinch on its budget.

The 2022-2023 K-12 enrollment was estimated at 530. The February full-time student enrollment is 526.2, said Superintendent Will Nelson.

"Being down five students from the projected level means about a \$50,000 to \$60,000 decrease in funding," Board Member John Agen noted.

Deyo has proposed an eight-point strategic plan to address enrollment. She is recommending that the district:

- Create a pamphlet to promote La Conner Schools for the purpose of attracting and retaining students.
- Better understand the attraction and selling points of the district's schools.
- Select and approach families in the district whose students are attending school elsewhere to develop ideas for retaining them.
- Select and approach families outside the district who bring their students to La Conner to develop ideas for assuring their continued attendance here.
- Determine the number of students in the district who attend private schools.
- Approach home-school families to identify reasons for those students to attend La Conner.
- Promote the attractiveness of the \$15 million middle school building.
- Study parent accessibility issues such as childcare and preschool program needs.

The board also expressed its gratitude for a \$1,000 donation from Christianson's Nursery for the senior class trip and a \$1,000 contribution from Robin Johnson for the Little Braves Preschool.

Board members met for 30 minutes each with middle school and high school student groups, hearing interests and concerns.

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