

'The Irish Girl' a familiar immigrant story • p 5
If the cartoon fits, print it and read it • p 8

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LA CONNER WEEKLY NEWS

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Here comes Santa Claus



YUP! A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS – This Maple Avenue La Conner family – probably Dad, mostly – had their yard aglow before Thanksgiving. If you don't have your tree up, the music playing and the hearth ablaze, what are you waiting for? Only 21 shopping days before the Jolly Old Elf makes his way here. — Photo by Ken Stern

Ho-ho-ho-liday festivities are coming to town

By Ken Stern

News scoop: Santa's advance schedule of early La Conner visits has been leaked to the Weekly News. Parents, are these times on your calendar?

Saturday morning Santa will be stopping for photos at Maple Hall when the Rotary Club of La Conner holds its annual Santa Breakfast, 8-11 a.m. Dec. 7. Breakfast is \$10 and \$5 children, with those under 5 eating free.

There is no charge for photos, but donations will help support the La Conner Rotary Club's literacy initiatives. In past years this was a dog-friendly photo-op.

Linger and shop at the holiday craft show organized by the Kiwanis Club of La Conner as a fundraiser. Local artists and craftspeople will offer their wares and at least the La Conner Soroptimists will have baked goods. Peruse and purchase in the bar/entrance area and upstairs. Hours are 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

After a much-needed hot chocolate and cookie break, and the time needed to feed his reindeer, Santa returns to Gilkey Square at 5 p.m. The La Conner Chamber of Commerce has negotiated Santa's assistance to light the Town of

La Conner's Christmas Tree. The fire department will most likely deliver him in their white 1941 Ford firetruck. The reindeer will be left at the fire station, where they will be munching hay and resting before taking Santa back to the North Pole. A lot of toy making remains ahead of Dec. 25.

The Chamber promises hot drinks. In years past hot chocolate was available.

And there is more in the coming weeks in the 21 shopping days till Christmas. Yards, houses and fences are bright with holiday lights and puffed-up Santas, reindeer, candy canes and all kinds of Christmas cheer. Shop windows on First Street are festooned with a variety of displays, white, green, red and other bright and dull colors – and more lights – with snow, trees, icicles and whatnot. Go see for yourself.

Santa will be at the La Conner Swinomish Library Tuesday, Dec. 10, 5:30 p.m., also for photos, of course. He will be gifting a book to each child.

Next week there will be music galore. Mark your calendars to avoid conflicts and missing out on a single note.

The Skagit Community Band's annual Christmas concert in Maple Hall 7 p.m. Friday the 13th is free – donations ac-

cepted – and – singular. There is not an Anacortes concert. While it promises an evening of festive and exciting music and the added pleasure of the A'Town Big Band, alas, it conflicts with the Shelter Bay Chorus's holiday concert at the Shelter Bay clubhouse, also at 7 p.m. The chorus performs again at 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14. Donation: \$10 suggested.

The Skagit Valley Chorale performs "Heralding Christmas 2024" at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 13 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15 at McIntyre Hall in Mount Vernon. The Skagit Symphony's winter concert, "Air," is Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m. at McIntyre Hall. Tickets for both: mcintyrehall.org; 360-416-7727.

Neither last and certainly not least, is the Swinomish Yacht Club's Holiday Lighted Boat Parade at 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14. The theme is "Classic Characters: 'A Charlie Brown Christmas' and 'Frozen.'"

And, in the spirit of giving to those in need, La Conner Kiwanis and Scott Price have a Giving Tree at the Edward Jones office, 708 Morris Street. The gifts deadline is Dec. 16. Details, call 360-466-2933.

Newspaper purchase falls short

Community group runs out of time to acquire Weekly News

By Kurt Batdorf

The effort by the La Conner Community News group to purchase the La Conner Weekly News and secure its future into 2025 and beyond appears to have fallen short, but not for lack of effort.

Unless an angel investor comes forward in the next two weeks, the final issue of the La Conner Weekly News under publisher Ken Stern will hit the streets and mailboxes on Dec. 18.

"It's a sad day for La Conner," Mayor Marna Hanneman said. "It takes a village and when something important in the village goes, it leaves a big hole."

Stern told readers that the Weekly News was for sale in an editorial on Aug. 2, 2023.

He was open and honest about his desire to find a new owner, preferably a journalist, so he could retire. He advertised the Weekly News in national and online publications. He pitched his newspaper as a great opportunity for mid-level professional

(continued on page 6)

Above average rain fell in November

By Ken Stern

Another high-rain month in November, 4.8 inches worth, with 1 inch falling the first two days. The 0.9 inch storm Nov. 1 was the highest single-day amount.

Fourteen days in a row of rain Nov. 9-22 dropped 3 inches, with most of it, 1.9 inches, Nov. 17-22. The month's last large rain event was 0.4 inches Nov. 25.

Seventeen of the 20 rain days were 0.1 inches or more. Six were at least 0.36 inches.

Five years since 2015 November has had at least 5.6 inches of rain. Ten times since 2011 at least 4.7 inches came down. This is only the 10th wettest November since 2000.

Novembers are historically wet in the 21st

(continued on page 6)

Rain Report

Rainfall in November: 4.8"
Number of rain days: 20
Least rain, one day: 0.01", 2 days
Most rain, one day: 0.6", 2 days
Least rain: 1.61", 2000
Most rain: 8.15", 2021
Average rainfall, 2000-2024*: 4.5"
Rainfall in October: 4.2"
* No data, 2003
Data from WSU Mount Vernon

Old photographs are focus of La Conner-area history mystery

By Bill Reynolds

History is full of mysteries and a good one focuses on a collection of old photographs stored for decades in the attic of a rural La Conner home.

Steve Thein, of Landing Road southeast of town, came across the studio-quality black-and-white prints while clearing space to insulate his attic.

The photos, judging from hairstyles and clothing fashions they reveal, appear to date from the early to mid-20th century.

Some photos are identified only by first name, others not at all. Only a few photos are dated.

Those pictured likely were close friends or relatives of Thein's parents or grandparents.

"These pictures have been in our attic for a long time," said Thein, a 1975 La Conner High School graduate. "But I can't identify the people in them."

He places great value in history and mementoes. He's a



WHO IS THIS? — Steve Thein isn't sure who the family is, but this photo lived in his attic for decades. He hopes someone in the La Conner area recognizes them as long-lost kin. — Photo courtesy Steve Thein

lifelong collector with an interest in restoration of vintage pinball machines.

"It would be fun to be able to hand these photographs to the grandchildren or great-grandchildren of the people in them," Thein

said. "That would be cool."

He has unearthed some clues, though nothing definitive, as to the identities of those in the pictures.

"One of the photos is of a distinguished looking man who

is standing in front of a barn that used to be on our property," Thein said. "The barn isn't there now, but I've seen it in other photographs."

The Theins emigrated from western Europe to Minnesota, then on to Fir Island before finally settling in the Pleasant Ridge area.

Thein grew up believing the family's roots were German, but a cousin's research later indicated their forebears are from Luxembourg.

As for the local move, the earlier Theins sought higher ground after suffering through a series of Fir Island floods.

Interestingly, members of the La Conner pioneer Bessner family are pictured in a couple of the photographs Thein found that have identification. Their history bears striking similarity to that of the Theins.

John Bessner was born in Luxembourg in 1829 and as a young man came to the United

States, settling first in Minnesota. He ventured to La Conner in the 1870s, by which time his son, Matthew Bessner (1867-1962), was school age.

Matthew Bessner eventually farmed the Skagit Delta and upon his passing was buried at Pleasant Ridge.

"I have to think that the people in the photos had to be friends or somehow had ties to our family," Thein said. "There were three or four totes of photos among the accumulations of my 67 years and of my dad's. I've gone through them and the ones I was able to identify I put in albums or sent to family members and kept some to put on our mantle."

There is, however, a full tote of non-identified photos that Thein would like to reunite with the immediate families of those pictured.

"I'd hate to throw any of them away," he said. "You know there's somebody out there who would love to have them."

387 issues printed since July 5, 2017. 2 weeks till the paper closes

From the editor —

Your weekly news in 2025:

Solar charging infrastructure will power La Conner tourism

By Greg Whiting

The La Conner public parking lot, east of Maple Hall, occupies about an acre. It's big enough to host a 400 kilowatt solar generation system, built in the form of a canopy covering most of the lot. Such a canopy would also provide protection from snow, rain and sun.

Building a solar canopy over most of the lot would require installation of support structures and some analysis on how the power would be delivered to the grid, or whether it would be better to install batteries and keep the system off the grid. A grid connection there might be more expensive than batteries.

Depending on how the solar panels on such a canopy can be angled, an array would probably generate about 400,000 kilowatt-hours a year. The energy wouldn't be generated continuously over the year. However, solar energy production is best in La Conner during our prime tourist months. Figure that this hypothetical solar array would produce about 50,000 kWh/month from April-September.

A DC fast (level 3) charger recharges car batteries at a rate



of 50 or more kilowatt-hours per hour. A large electric car, like a Tesla Model S or a Mustang Mach-E, has a 100 kWh battery, and could thus be recharged from zero to full in about two hours. At an AC (level 2) charger, the same car would probably charge at a rate of about 10 kWh/hour and would take 10 hours to recharge from zero.

Most cars that would charge at a public station in La Conner probably wouldn't need to be recharged all the way from zero. Some cars would need more, some less. Start with an estimate that the average car would only require half of a full charge (50 kWh) when first parked here. Thus, a 50,000 kWh/month solar array would supply enough energy to recharge 1,000 cars/month, or over 30 a day.

About a month ago, I wanted to recharge my car at the Pier 7 parking lot, but its two spots were full. During the tourist

months, it's possible that 30 vehicle owners a day will want to recharge in La Conner.

As I've said in this space before, it's important to have more Level 2, and at least a couple of Level 3, chargers in town. The cost of electric cars is continuing to fall. Battery range is still improving. These trends are likely to continue. The share of electric vehicles on the road will continue to increase. In Norway, where electric cars have been adopted more quickly than in any other country, about 90% of new car sales are electric and about half of the cars licensed to be driven there are electric.

Without charging infrastructure, La Conner will be like a town without a gas station and auto repair shop during the early years of gasoline car adoption, when tires might have only lasted 50 miles. We are a little out of the way. It's 25 miles from the Interstate to La Conner and back; it's about 10 miles from (and back to) Highway 20. That's not much, but if you're traveling between major cities on I-5, or to or from a ferry in Anacortes, it's just enough to make an EV driver think twice.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tic tock, tic tock, tic tock, tic tock

The clock is running out on "Saving the La Conner News" . . . 3 weeks, 2 weeks, 1 week, GONE . . . say it isn't so! . . . say it isn't happening!!

How shall we learn about town government meetings? School sport events and scores? Maple Hall events? New businesses and our wonderful current ones? Activities of fraternal organizations? Arts events? Emergency management efforts? La Conner redevelopment initiatives? The latest miracles from the Clean Energy Alliance? The vox populi in the Letters to the Editor . . . What's on at the library and the museums? Meet interesting new community members and bid a loving "Hail and Fond Farewell" to our dearly departed fellow citizens? . . . and so, so much more . . .

A hole will open wide in our community every midweek. How will we feel on Wednesdays?

But how to split up \$250,000? Proposals have been floated for 10 donors of \$25,000 (call them "Cherubin") . . . 25 donors of \$10,000 (call them "Archangels") . . . Either would be a true miracle for our beloved community. Hosannas would resound!

Yet how about a whole host of 250 "Angels" of \$1,000 each? "Angels we have heard on high" is what we sing at this time of year. Now that would be some holiday present to ourselves! Sounds like the start (too late?) of a Go Fund Me campaign. And with every \$100,000 pledged, a matching \$10,000 promised by the ever-generous Ken Stern, edi-

tor-hero. Tell me that's doable?! Can we take a poll of pledges? Count me (a retired guy) in for \$1,000 and renew my subscription!

Of course, money is just one of our problems. The other: Finding a new editor-of-excellence. Now there's a tough one. But if we "build a field," one will come, right?

Let's do this!
George Bozarth
Snee-Oosh Road

Weekly News effort falls short

A good number of people have asked about the status of our recently formed La Conner Community News non-profit organization's efforts to "Save the Newspaper."

We have been encouraged by the community interest and support demonstrated by financial pledges and donations, but have raised only a fraction of the funds needed to purchase the La Conner Weekly News and transition to a new managing editor.

Even though our 11th-hour efforts have not raised sufficient funds for a purchase, we plan to continue our efforts to ensure the presence of a source for local news in the event Ken is unable to transfer ownership of the newspaper to another publisher.

In conversations with subscribers and readers of the paper, many have expressed how much they appreciate Ken's editorial voice and hope in some way he can be a part of whatever local news source is in La Conner's future.

Thank you, for all your hard work, effort and dedication

in publishing your award-winning newspaper for the past seven plus years. We wish you all the best on your well-deserved retirement.

Updates about our progress can be found on our Facebook page La Conner Community News and inquiries can be sent to laconnercommunitynews@gmail.com.

Andrew Ashmore
Shelter Bayr

Why the holdup on Moore Clark?

I saw the announcement of a "Public forum" on Dec. 11 that is called to address "the town's south end plan." I see that title as an obfuscation, by the town, to hide the important process of dealing with the blight and danger present in the Moore Clark property.

Reality is that the Skagit County Assessor's Office current fair market value appraisal of the property, parcel P74496, is actually \$442,300, not the \$2,300,000 that the town administrator keeps quoting. So far there has been no attempt for the current owner to purchase insurance against injury or to offer the property for sale to a developer or investor.

I hope for current residents and merchants to attend the Dec. 11 meeting in Maple Hall to support real action soon. The \$45,000 "study" is scheduled to be completed in January, 2025.

I am a nearby resident for the last 25 years.

Sincerely concerned,
Breta Malcolm
La Conner

If I ran the zoo

By MEL DAMSKI



Post-election letdown

The result of the presidential election surprised me and put me into a funk. I considered moving back to Canada, where I worked as a TV and movie director for 16 years, but that was a difficult decision because I have so much family in the U.S. and I love writing this column.

Then I heard that the governors of California and Washington state were not at all happy with Trump and they both declared that they would continue to support women's rights to have abortions and continue to agree with me on many issues.

It's still going to be tough for me to turn on the news and constantly see Trump so I'm going to be avoiding that kind of programming on television and instead watch sports and the kind of shows I used to direct, such as "M*A*S*H" and "Ally

McBeal." I also just had many of my shows transferred from VHS to DVDs so I can go back in time and enjoy my own movies.

I grew up in Long Island, N.Y., and was a sportswriter for the Suffolk Sun and then a reporter for Newsday. Nassau used to be pretty progressive county but both Nassau and Suffolk counties voted for Trump and that really stunned me.

It's also very disappointing that people in this country do not want a woman to be president. We've had wonderful women, Hillary Clinton and Kamala Harris, run for office but so far it ain't happening.

Let's be grateful about where we live and hope and pray that in the future we will be more democratic and more progressive and take care of the poor as well as the rich.

The final issue of the La Conner Weekly News is Dec. 18, 2024

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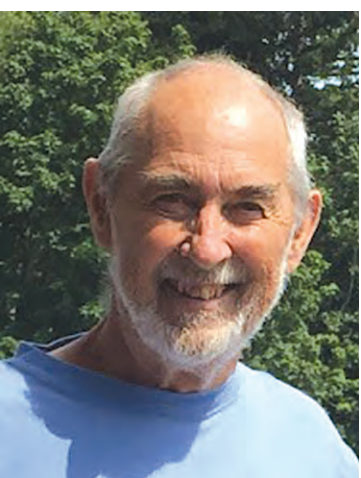
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LETTER POLICY

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

OBITUARY



Eugene Marble May 19, 1939–Nov. 3, 2024

Eugene “Gene” R. Marble, 85, of La Conner, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Nov. 3, 2024.

Gene was born on May 19, 1939, in Tacoma, to Bud and Sara Marble. At the age of 7, his family relocated to Friday Harbor, where he spent his childhood and graduated from Friday Harbor High School in 1957. He pursued higher education at Gonzaga University and Central Washington University, earning a bachelor’s degree in education. During his time at CWU, Gene met and married Joan Hanlon. The couple moved to Skagit County after graduation, raising four children: Danny, Sherrie, Kelly and Curt.

After teaching for two years at Westview Elementary School in Burlington, Gene decided to dedicate himself to commercial salmon fishing in Puget Sound and Bristol Bay, Alaska – a career that brought him great fulfillment.

Gene cherished travel, exploring the U.S. by motorhome and venturing abroad on cruise ships. For 40 winters, he and Joan called Kona, Hawaii, their seasonal home, where Gene enjoyed playing tennis, bridge and pinochle.

He was also deeply involved in the lives of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, frequently attending their sporting and musical events. Gene often shared his wish to see his youngest granddaughter, Ellie, play high school basketball. He was proud to witness her compete in volleyball at his alma mater, Central Washington University.

Gene was preceded in death by his parents, Bud and Sara Marble; his brother, Lee Marble; his son, Danny Marble; and his daughter, Kelly Hastings. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Joan; his daughter, Sherrie (Greg) Marble; his son, Curt (Suzanne) Marble; and his brother, Dale Marble and sister-in-law Linda Marble. He leaves behind nine grandchildren: Nathan Hastings (Lena), Carlee Daub (Bryce), Brad Rabenstein (Abi), Eric Marble (Julie), Trish Hastings, Jordan Eliason (Eva), Alex Eliason, Luke Marble, and Ellie Marble. He is also survived by six great-grandchildren: Parker and George Hastings, Tatum and Rylee Daub, and Saylor and Rhett Marble.

Gene will be remembered for his adventurous spirit, his dedication to family, and his love of all things fishing. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to Hospice of the Northwest, 227 Freeway Drive, Suite A, Mount Vernon, WA 98273.

Busy meeting for a 3-person town council

By Bill Reynolds

It was a La Conner Town Council meeting that nearly wasn’t.

The Nov. 26 session at Maple Hall was almost scuttled due to lack of a quorum among the five-members.

Councilmembers Ivan Carlson, Mary Wohleb and Annie Taylor were absent as the 6 p.m. start time approached. Fortunately, Taylor – who Mayor Marna Hanneman said was under the weather – shook off the effects of fatigue and illness and arrived to save the day 10 minutes later.

“We’ll try to make this as short as possible,” the mayor stressed, as Taylor took her seat, “so that Annie can go home.”

With consultant Tom Beckwith also out of pocket due to a scheduling conflict, it was left to Assistant Planner Ajah Eills to make an update on the status of the south end revitalization plan.

Eills said the project will produce “a plan that defines allowable land uses in this specific area.”

That area comprises about four acres adjoining the south waterfront, formerly a bustling industrial zone home now has parcels owned by Triton America, Dunlap Towing and the Town.

Eills reported that an online survey seeking public input on how best to address the subject proper-

ties had drawn 104 responses.

“That’s pretty good for a small town like La Conner,” Eills said, adding that “the majority of respondents live here but don’t have a formal association with downtown.”

She said the project will be revisited at the Dec. 3 planning commission meeting and a Dec. 11 public forum.

“We’ll talk about implementation and financing strategies then,” Eills reported. “Moving forward, you’ll see more information coming before you.”

The Community Development Block Grant funding that supports the project will be expended by the end of December, she said, but some work will spill into early 2025.

Hanneman noted that the Town can designate zoning and code requirements for the area.

Council members anticipate reviewing and taking possible action this month on a draft Community Emergency Management Plan.

Councilmember Rick Dole, liaison to the Town’s emergency management commission, said the proposed CEMP is designed as “a living document.”

Emergency management commission chair Doug Asbe concurred.

“A list of annexes will be added to the CEMP as time goes on,” said Asbe.

Dole added that one more vacancy remains on the five-member advisory emergency management board.

“So please continue to beat the bushes,” Dole implored.

Planning Director Michael Davolio said the 306 Center Street multi-family proposal has stalled. The Town is awaiting a meeting with Skagit County officials and the project applicants concerning the dimensions of an elevator proposed for the three-story building. The council was told that while the elevator’s shaft complies with Town height restrictions, Fire Chief Aaron Reinstra is concerned it isn’t wide enough to accommodate a gurney.

“At this point,” Davolio said, “it’s in the applicant’s hands to decide what to do.”

Davolio further noted that proposed updates to the Town’s uniform development code, for which the council provided its preliminary approval, represents an effort “to be consistent with what the state has done.”

The council approved four separate service agreements,

with Water and Wastewater Treatment Services, the Skagit County Sheriff’s Office, Western Fireworks and Skagit County for senior services funding.

Town Administrator Scott Thomas said the 2025 municipal budget includes a 13% increase for the one-year pact with the sheriff’s office for increased labor costs.

“We actually budgeted higher than that,” said Thomas.

Thomas, Hanneman and Dole remarked that deputies have increased their presence in town with additional foot and vehicle patrols.

“We see them a lot,” Dole said.

Western Fireworks will again provide fireworks on July 4, but will explore less expensive options for 2026. For several years, the Town has paid for pyrotechnics while the Port of Skagit has sponsored live music, food and refreshments at La Conner Marina.

“We’ll discuss July Fourth with the Port,” Hanneman said, “and then review whether to come up with a different plan after next year.”

Town seeks input on Moore Clark Area

The Town of La Conner has scheduled a public workshop on Dec. 11 to hear citizen feedback on future uses of the Commercial Transition Zone, also known as the Moore Clark Area.

The Moore Clark warehouse dominates the area south of Town Hall and west of the South Third Street public parking lot.

Draft concepts for the area will be presented. Consultant Tom Beckwith and his team have crafted revitalization scenarios.

Zoning changes will likely be made to encourage development.

The meeting will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, in Maple Hall, 104 Commercial St. Info: www.townoflaconner.org.

Share Growler experience in online meeting on Dec. 11

Sound Defense Alliance invites the public to attend an online listening session at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18, to discuss how the U.S. Navy’s EA-18G Growler jets based on Whidbey Island affect their lives.

To talk about or hear personal experiences with the Navy’s EA-18G Growler jets, go to www.sounddefensealliance.org/events and sign up as a storyteller or listener. This event is free.

Sound Defense Alliance uses its listening sessions to learn about the diverse impacts the jets have on people across the region and for individuals to speak about their experiences and be heard by fellow community members and others.

More: Info@SoundDefenseAlliance.org

Source: Sound Defense Alliance

Edward Jones Member SIPC

Worried about market volatility?
Let's review your strategy.

 **Scott A Price**
Financial Advisor
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MKT-5894P-A AECSPAD > edwardjones.com

Holiday Craft Show



Saturday, Dec. 7 ~ 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Maple Hall,
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Sponsored by:
La Conner Kiwanis & La Conner Rotary

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Rotary Club of La Conner presents
Breakfast with Santa



December 7th, 2024
Breakfast 8-11 am


Kiwanis Holiday Craft Fair 9am-3pm

SANTA WILL BE THERE, SO
BRING YOUR CAMERA FOR FAMILY PHOTOS!

ADULTS \$10, CHILDREN \$5
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“Since 1913”

La Conner honors late coach Rich Watkins

By Bill Reynolds

The middle school basketball game between La Conner and Conway here last week was emotional.

So, too, was a special pre-game ceremony.

Before the teams tipped off for what was a seesaw, down to the wire 49-46 La Conner victory, Braves coach Greg Edwards honored his mentor, the late Rich Watkins.

"Rich really helped me out my first five years of coaching," Edwards told the large crowd gathered at the middle school gymnasium. "I had great respect for him."

A beloved figure at La Conner Schools – he also mentored longtime high school baseball coaches Jeremiah LeSourd and Andy Otis – Watkins died earlier this year.

Edwards saluted Watkins for the legacy he left on the La Conner campus, one marked by unwavering optimism and tireless energy in support of the school district's students.

Then Edwards called forward Watkins' widow, Karen and daughters, Katie and Ashley – both of whom are La Conner alumni – to receive a photograph and basketball signed by team members.

The applause that followed was heartfelt.



TRIBUTE TO COACH WATKINS — Karen, Katie and Ashley Watkins received a photograph and basketball signed by La Conner Middle School players before their Nov. 26 home tipoff with Conway. The presentation was made to honor the memory of the late Rich Watkins, Karen's husband and Katie and Ashley's dad, who was a longtime coach in La Conner.

— Photo by Karla Reynolds

Rich Watkins, who had been a stellar athlete at Mead High School in Spokane, was just 58 years old at the time of his death. He had undergone a bone marrow transplant in his early 20s to treat a condition in which his body had stopped producing red blood cells.

He was a patient of Nobel Prize winner Dr. Don Thomas, widely considered the father of bone transplantation, at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research

Center in Seattle.

"He taught us to celebrate each day because tomorrow is not a given and to live each day to the fullest," La Conner resident Jaime Stroebel-Reinstra said of Watkins prior to attending a celebration of life service for him last February.

That spirit was rekindled a week ago Tuesday when Watkins' memory was heralded in the building where he had been such a positive force in the lives of local youth.

Girls use grit to fight back against Ferndale

By Bill Reynolds

The La Conner High School girls' basketball team couldn't rebound from a slow start against 3A Ferndale in the season opener for both clubs at Landy James Gym Nov. 30.

The 2B Braves trailed 21-4 after the first quarter and fell behind 28-8 early in the second period before mounting a furious comeback bid that brought the hosts to within 35-32 midway through the third frame.

Ferndale closed with a 25-10 run to post a 60-42 victory.

Maevie McCormick led La Conner with 19 points, 15 in the second half, including three perimeter treys. Two McCormick three-pointers brought La Conner within three points of the lead at the 3:48 mark of the third quarter.

The hosts could get no closer. McCormick's third trey briefly narrowed Ferndale's edge to 49-38 in the final stanza, but Ferndale outscored La Conner 11-4 the rest of the way.

Ferndale capitalized on La Conner turnovers and foul trouble that sidelined McCormick,

starting point guard Shaniquah Casey and post Kiana Jenkins.

"It was a very slow start to the game and they were hot from three-point range right off the bat," La Conner head coach Joe Harper lamented afterward. "But I'm super proud of the girls for continuing to fight. The first and fourth quarters were bad, but our second and third quarters were solid."

Losing McCormick, Casey and Jenkins to fouls hurt La Conner.

"Foul trouble really hampered our ability to continue the comeback," said Harper. "I don't think I've been part of a game where we've had three girls foul out. Being down 20 points and closing the gap to three showed a lot of grit. There was no quit and the girls should be proud of the way they continued to battle."

Jenkins and Reese Bird scored seven points each. Abi Poulton added five more. Nora McCormick (2), Dela Damien (1) and Casey (1) rounded out the Braves' scoring.

La Conner faces yet another larger school foe with a 5:40 p.m. Wednesday tipoff at Mount Vernon High School.

Girls, boys split with Blaine

By Bill Reynolds

Maevie McCormick scored a game-high 17 points, leading eight La Conner players in the scoring column, as the Braves evened their record at 1-1 with a 48-27 non-conference victory over visiting Blaine in girls' hoops action Monday night.

McCormick scored nine first quarter points, including a perimeter trey, as the hosts bolted to a 15-7 lead and never looked back.

The team clinched matters with a 13-5 run in the third quarter fueled by five points from Faith Jenkins, a three-pointer and free throw by Shaniquah Casey, and two points each by McCormick and Abi Poulton.

Jenkins finished with nine points. Kiana Jenkins (4), Nora McCormick (4), Reese Bird (4),

Casey (4), Poulton (4) and Dela Damien (2) joined Maevie McCormick in the point parade.

Beatrice Dickson paced eight Blaine scorers with eight points.

In the boys' half of the home varsity twin bill, the team debuted with a hard-fought 58-48 setback to the 1A Borderites.

Brayden Pedroza led La Conner with 22 points, including a mid-range jumper that gave the Braves a brief 41-40 lead early in the fourth period.

Corran Eisen finished with 10 points, including a pair of treys.

C.J. Edwards (7), Jimbo Bobb Jr. (4), Tyler Cicotte (3) and Christian Fix (2) rounded out the La Conner scoring.

Landon Melton and Abdul Kanagie led a balanced Blaine attack with 15 and 10 points, respectively.

Friday, Dec. 6, the boys host non-league foe Granite Falls. Junior varsity tipoff is 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. for the varsity.

The boys and girls play at Lummi Saturday with junior varsity (1 p.m.) and varsity (4 p.m.) non-league games.

Annual La Conner Kiwanis toy drive underway

La Conner Kiwanis and the local Edward Jones office are collaborating again this year to bring a bit of holiday cheer to the children of La Conner.

A Giving Tree is located in Scott Price's office of Edward Jones, 708 E. Morris St. Tags for

La Conner families will be available, if people want to give to specific needs. You can also drop off unwrapped toys for the Forgotten Children's Fund, which provides gifts for La Conner and other Skagit County families.

Edward Jones office hours

are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday to pick up tags and drop off gifts. Unwrapped gifts need to be delivered by Monday, Dec. 16.

"This year we have more families than ever in need," Kiwanis Club event organizer Joy Neal said. "Thank you for your support."

Source: La Conner Kiwanis

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A&E BRIEFS

Skagit Community Band with special guest A'Town Big Band will present a free concert at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13, at Maple Hall in La Conner. Enjoy an evening of holiday cheer with the SCB as they perform a program of festive and exciting holiday music. Joining the SCB will be the A'Town Big Band putting its own spin on "Swinging" holiday favorites. More info at: www.skagitcommunityband.org.

Theater Arts Guild presents "The Secret Garden, the Musical" with performances on Dec. 6-8, 12-15 and 19-21 at the Lincoln Theatre 712 S. First St., Mount Vernon. Advance reserved seating tickets: \$34 1st section; \$32 2nd section; \$26 3rd section; \$20 4th section plus applicable fees. Discount night Dec. 12: \$20 all seats plus applicable fees. Tickets online at lincoltheatre.org/live-theatre-secret-garden-musical.

Calling all artists and crafters. La Conner Kiwanis will host their annual Holiday Craft Show in conjunction with the Rotary Santa Breakfast on Saturday, Dec. 7, in Maple Hall. The craft show will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

My Adult & Me: A Winter Holiday Card-Making "Craftaganza" with Kayla Williams, 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7 at Museum of Northwest Art, 121 S. First St., Ages 5 and up (all children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult). All supplies provided. Cost: \$39 adult and child pair. Register at www.monamuseum.org/events/craftaganza-2024.

Book review —

'The Irish Girl' reveals a woman ahead of her time

By Ken Stern

There is a Chinese saying that a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. For the 13-year-old Mary Agnes Coyne, her three-thousand-plus mile journey to America from County Galway, on Ireland's western central coast, starts with the hardest, most reluctant step of all: being kicked out of her parents' house, and for the worst of all reasons: falsely accused of being a whore by her mother in the aftermath of her half-brother Fiach's attempt to rape her in her bed.

Ashley Sweeney's great-grandmother, named Mary A. in Sweeney's new, fourth novel, "The Irish Girl," was born prepared for all of her life's journeys.

Sweeney imagines, tracks down and researches the dates, places, travels and travails the real Mary Agnes undertook from 1886 to 1892, from Ireland to Liverpool, England; across the Atlantic on the ship Endeavour, with dozens dying; entering the United States at New York's Castle Garden — pre Ellis Island; into the tenements of New York City; then Chicago;

Colorado Springs; and back to Chicago.

Mary A.'s journey is through life, as well as geography. This feminist novel's protagonist has determination, grit, hope and — amazingly — love. This in spite of the harshness and cruelty of, mostly, men, in the burgeoning and industrializing world.

Mary A. is raped twice, groped, forced to touch men's crotches, and to undress. Through it all, she is bolstered by her Catholic faith and an indomitable spirit.

She has — and offers — the same love her grandparents have, who took her in, held her close and paid for her passage to Chicago. Like them, she insists on a larger view of the world.

"They say all of Ireland is cursed, but don't ya believe it," her grandfather Fetus tells her. "We're made of something different and don't let anyone tell ya otherwise."

They hire her a tutor who is a classmate of William Butler Yeats. He reads from a Yeats' poem, "For the world's more full of weeping than you can understand."

Mary A. has been exposed to

weeping since birth. Her father is an alcoholic, her mother, beaten, beats her — and worst — has turned her heart against her daughter. The only abundance in Mary A.'s life is of want. She is often cold, hungry, wet and deprived of affection.

In Chicago, against all odds, she meets Tom and falls in love and marries a wonderful man, though she had vowed to never marry.

But real life is heartbreak. Colorado's high desert air cannot save Tom and his tuberculosis kills him.

Fiction imagines the possibilities of a hopeful spirit. The real Mary Agnes went to work on a cattle trail chuckwagon. Sweeney, a lover of the Southwest, has Mary A. get recruited to cook on a ranch by a handsome Dutch cowboy. She learns to ride and cooks for a crew.

Sweeney has an eye for and appreciation of nature. She is also open to the larger world. When a hummingbird buzzed about, Mary A. reaches, not to touch the bird but something out of reach. "What does this bird teach us," she thinks. It doesn't take but a second for an answer. "Even

though the journey is long, never give up. Never." She smiles. "It might as well be tattooed on my heart by now. Never give up."

Mary Agnes is 18. She will return to Chicago, be raped, become pregnant, miscarry and be nursed to health by an Italian immigrant landlady. Mary A. in turn, will help a former rich employer's turned-out daughter, now bedraggled, cold, filthy and confused. She brings her to her tiny apartment and sponge bathes her. Reaching Doria's feet, "she holds her breath. It's no less than what Jesus would do."

Unexpectedly rewarded by Doria's mother, she decides to find her cowboy, now in Sante Fe. About to leave, she thinks, "None of this would have unfolded the way it did if I didn't walk every step of this journey."

She is 19.

The real Mary Agnes lived a long life into the 1930s in Chicago, raising Sweeney's grandmother and father.

Since 2016 Sweeney has published "Eliza Waite," "Answer Creek" and "Hardland," all award-winning novels.

Skagit County Historical Museum thankful for a great year

By Anne Basye

Jo Wolfe has a lot to be grateful for this Thanksgiving.

The executive director of the Skagit County Historical Museum

says that its recent fall party netted the museum about \$25,000 — a new high for an event that is just three years old.

The new fire detection system, paid for by the raise the paddle segment of last year's fundraiser, is up and running. When problems are detected, the system alerts Guardian Security, which calls the La Conner fire department, all in a matter of minutes.

Visitors and participants in museum-sponsored programs have skyrocketed, from 3,800 in 2023 to 6,000 so far in 2024.

Over 900 school children on field trips have come for docent-led tours of the museum's collection or plunged into the 19th century at all-day Skagit City School experiences. "They play tug of war, jacks and pick-up sticks and have sack races," Wolfe explained, "and learn about coast Salish life and the county's agri-

cultural history."

July's Public History Day at the former Northern State Hospital grounds drew 500 people.

Some shared stories, photos and memorabilia about relatives who worked or lived there. Others wanted to join the docent-led tour of a building or learn more about former residents.

Public history days help fill what Wolfe calls "the Era Gap." The Museum's collection of artifacts is strong on the County's earliest days, but thin on the 1940s and 1950s. Hosting public history days at Anacortes, Big Lake and Lake McMurray would uncover rich material about the two Anacortes oil refineries as well as the logging camp era. "A lot of the early guys who came to work at the refineries are aging and we need to connect with them," she said.

Because more history is born

every day, the museum's seven-person staff puts on more exhibits than it did 10 years ago with six staff members.

A big new exhibit means an all-hands-on-deck focus for staff. For "Wick Peth and the History of Rodeo in Skagit County", which closes in March, "everyone sat in on interviews with Liza and Dan Peth and helped choose items to display," said Wolfe. Archivist Mari Densmore scanned photos and wrote captions. Collection manager Laynie Moran spent two weeks labeling and hanging the show. Volunteers — there are three dozen in all — were vital at every stage, from documenting, storing and scanning items and handling hospitality during openings. Once the exhibit opened, staff caught up on regular work they had set aside.

"Our programs keep growing and our exhibits get more successful," said Wolfe. More staff hours are needed and she hopes the \$25,000 raised for operations on Nov. 2 will expand hours for current staff or fund a new position.

(continued on page 8)

SKAGIT SYMPHONY
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music by Nathaniel Stookey with text by Lemony Snicket
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Sunday, January 26, 2025
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Weekly News

(from page 1)

journalists to chart their own success. He sent sales prospectuses to university journalism schools. He recruited and met with some 20 La Conner and area residents in 2023 to explore potential group ownership of the newspaper.

He got a few nibbles, but no serious offers.

June 26, Stern wrote another editorial on the future of the paper on the seventh anniversary of his ownership. He said he wouldn't publish the Weekly News beyond 2024 and set a final issue date of Dec. 18.

Shelter Bay resident Andrew Ashmore was one of a few readers to take the June 26 editorial seriously enough to act.

He and Aven Wright-McIntosh spearheaded a community meeting Sept. 25 that galvanized creation of La Conner Community News and its effort to preserve local news coverage in La Conner.

Stern reminded the 80 or so people who gathered to save Weekly News why he was selling.

"I'm tired. I'm toast. I'm burned to a crisp," he said.

Twenty-one people volunteered to serve on an interim or perma-

nent board or expressed some other interest to preserve the Weekly News beyond 2024.

Board members and Stern met several times to discuss and understand newspaper business operations and staffing and how a group would operate a sole proprietorship. However, the board ran out of time to create a new business plan and raise money to meet Stern's schedule to present a purchase offer.

"It's been difficult to organize a fundraising campaign" in such a short time, Ashmore said. "If we had started a year ago, we could've pulled it off."

La Conner Community News is still getting pledges and donations, Ashmore said, "but not enough to move the needle."

Ashmore stressed how much the community values the Weekly News and specifically Stern's editorial voice. La Conner Community News will "regroup after the holidays" and study options for continuing Stern's La Conner news legacy in some form other than a weekly printed newspaper.

Stern said Adams Publishing Group, owners of the Skagit Valley Herald, Anacortes American, Stanwood-Camano News and about 100 other newspapers across the U.S., has expressed interest in buying the La Conner Weekly News and its property on

"It's been difficult to organize a fundraising campaign..."

Andrew Ashmore

North Third Street.

Stern has long maintained it is not his responsibility to keep a newspaper open in town.

"Of course I'm disappointed," he said Tuesday. "I am inordinately proud of the quality and the depth of coverage that this newspaper - through the hard work of the staff - has provided the past seven-and-a-half years. Since November 2022, I have reached out to people and editorialized more than once that community ownership was the guaranteed route for continuing the newspaper.

"The newspaper is not distressed. The paper is a success. It is very sad to see it end.

"This odd democracy thing. People are literally watching it dribble away."

Mayor Hanneman echoed the sentiment.

"I kind of equate it to a member of the family. Sometimes, we don't always agree," she said of the town's relationship with the Weekly News. "But in this day and age of social media, we need that check and balance."

Rain report

(from page 1)

century. At least 3.5 inches of rain has fallen 18 years. More than 4 inches of rain fell 14 times. In nine years, over 5 inches fell and 6 inches or more has fallen five times.

Five years since 2015 there has been at least 5.6 inches of rain. The most rain this century, 8.1 inches, was 2021, when the Skagit River flooded downtown Mount Vernon.

Five years this century less than 3 inches of rain has fallen. Two of those years were 2019 and 2020.

The 4.8 inches this November is 8% above the century average. It is the seventh month in a row of above average rainfall for the century. Nine of 11 months have had above average rain. For the year, the 32.5 inches of precipitation is 4.3 inches

above the century average.

The fall's first frost was Nov. 29, 30.7 degrees, the month's low temperature and one of four nights it dipped below 33 degrees.

November's high was 59.4 degrees Nov. 10. The last 50-plus degrees day was the 24th, the fifth day in a row over 50 degrees.

The month was a little warmer than average for the century, with average temperature of 45.3 degrees 1.3 degrees higher. The average daily high, at 50.8, almost matched the high for the last 25 years. The 40.5 degrees morning average was 2.5 degrees above the month's century average.

No precipitation or temperature records were set.

There is no data for 2003. Measurements and data are at Washington State University's Mount Vernon weather station on Memorial Highway.

N. Cascades Highway closed

State Route 20, the North Cascades Highway, has closed for the season due to adverse conditions and avalanche risk, Washington State Department of Transportation announced Nov.

18. The highway is closed the 37 miles between Ross Dam trailhead (milepost 134) on the west side and Silver Star gate on the east side (milepost 171)

LEGAL NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR KING COUNTY IN RE THE ESTATES OF DEAN EDWARD MILLER AND KAREN L. MILLER (HUSBAND AND WIFE) DECEASED. NO 24-4-07131-5 SEA NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Glen R. Clausing has been appointed as personal representative of these estates. 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 undersigned 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 this 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:

November 20, 2024. King County 11-15-24. Skagit County 11-20-24. /s/ _____ Glen R. Clausing, WSBA #5755 Attorney for Personal Representative 11225 SE 6th St., Ste 100 Bellevue, WA 98004-5841 (425) 451-0508 Published in the La Conner Weekly News, Nov. 20, 27, and Dec. 4, 2024.

TOWN OF LA CONNER NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town of La Conner will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 10, 2024 to consider 2025 Final Budget. The Public Hearing will be held during the 6:00 PM regular Town Council Meeting located at 204 Commercial Street (Upper Maple Center). The Public Hearing shall be for the purpose of receiving public comments, written or oral. Written comments are to be submitted to Town Hall or by email to financedirector@townoflaconner.org prior to the meeting, no later than 12:00 PM on Monday December 9, 2024. This meeting will be held in person with remote view only option available. All materials and remote access will be available at www.townoflaconner.org/Calendar by December 6, 2024.

By: /s/ Maria DeGoede, Finance Director Published in the La Conner Weekly News, Dec. 4, 2024.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SNOHOMISH COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF IAN E. ELLIS, DECEASED. NO. 24-4-40103-31 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.40.030

The personal representative named below has been appointed as personal representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the personal representative or the personal representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced.

The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four (4) months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets. DATE OF FILING COPY OF NOTICE TO CREDITORS with Clerk of Court: November 22, 2024. DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION: November 27, 2024.

FOR PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE: Amy C. Allison, WSBA #34317 Anderson Hunter Law Firm, P.S. 2707 Colby Avenue, Suite 1001 Everett, WA 98201 COURT OF PROBATE PROCEEDINGS: Snohomish County Superior Court AND CAUSE NUMBER: 24-4-40103-31 Published in the La Conner Weekly News, Nov. 27, Dec. 4, and Dec. 11, 2024.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY NO. 24-4-00563-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030) IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ROBERT J. GILBERTSON, 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: November 27, 2024 Rae A. Gilbertson Personal Representative SKAGIT LAW GROUP, PLLC ANDREW C. SCHUH, WSBA #47724 Attorneys for Personal Representative P.O. Box 336 / 227 Freeway Drive, Suite B Mount Vernon, WA 98273 Published in the La Conner Weekly News, Nov. 27, Dec. 4, and Dec. 11, 2024.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY ESTATE OF RUTH ELLEN PRATER, DECEASED. NO. 24-4-00561-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030) PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

The above Court has appointed me as Personal Representative of Decedent's estate. Any person having a claim against the Decedent 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: December

4, 2024 /s/ _____ Gwendolyn M. Prater Dalseg, Personal Representative c/o Jayne Marsh Gilbert, WSBA #24656 Attorney for Personal Representative 314 Pine St, Ste 211, Mount Vernon, WA 98273 Published in the La Conner Weekly News, Dec. 4, 11, and 18, 2024.

STATE OF WASHINGTON CLARK COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT IN THE MATTER OF: PATRICIA A. BROOKS, DECEASED. NO: 24-4-01311-06 NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The Estate Administrator named below has been appointed as Estate 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 Estate Administrator or the Estate 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 probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the Estate 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 non-probate assets. Date of first publication: December 4, 2024 Estate Administrator: RICHARD D. BROOKS Attorney for Estate Administrator: NICHOLAS ALEXANDER Address for mailing or service: c/o Vancouver Wills and Trusts 405 W 13th Street Vancouver, WA 98660 Court of probate proceedings and cause number: CLARK COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT, CAUSE NO. 24-4-01311-06 Published in the La Conner Weekly News, Dec. 4, 11, and 18, 2024.

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Super Crossword

Answers COVES HIHO ABCS ABET ALIVE ADAR GRILL GURU LEOIV SELA SODOI OMAN VOLLEYBALLS NEWSH SSE ESS NOEL BEATREPORTER ETRE TRESS UAESTEPHENC STENTENTERS ACRESHAKENUP ADFREE THREEP OPERAGOER ISAW ERE BOWWOW SHELTONDORIONA MARKS SLAW THERAPIST SOWING SERAPE DAMAGERS ATRA TARTARS ASHATOMIZER OCREEDITSAALIF LIGHTWEIGHT BOWALLS ADA ALBAADGETDOWNWARDDOG TINT TESTL XENAEIDER TACO TRINA EVER AMORE EDEN SNOB REST DENSE

Weekly SUDOKU

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



Aqimuk's Kitchen

By Patricia Aqimuk Paul, Esq., Food Editor

Apple Pear Pie



If I could bake a different pie each week, I would be content. On the menu for breakfast, afternoon snacks and for dessert after dinner. That's at least three slices a day!

- Ingredients**
- Pie crusts, two
 - Apples, 2 or 3
 - Pears, 3
 - Brown sugar, 1/4 cup
 - White sugar, 1/4 cup
 - Butter, 2 table-spoons
 - Lemon juice, 2 tablespoons
 - Cinnamon, 1 tea-spoon

ples and pears. Place one pie crust in bot-tom of pan. Layer with apples and pears. Sprinkle sugars, cinnamon, lemon juice on top and dot with butter. Add top crust and crimp sides. Bake in preheated 350 F oven for 45 minutes to 50 minutes. Optional: Cover edges of pie crust with foil and remove during last 10 minutes of baking.

- Preparation**
- Peel and slice ap-

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Complete Events Calendar on laconnerweeklynews.com

HEADS UP

Kiwanis Annual Holiday Craft Show 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Satur-day, Dec. 7, Maple Hall, 104 Commercial St., La Conner. Christmas shop with locals. Or-naments, bags, stickers, jewelry, tablecloths, toys, cards, wall art, cookies and pies for sale. Come early for the Rotary Club Santa Breakfast and stop by the vendors on your way out.

Town of La Conner public workshop on the use of the Commercial Transition Zone, aka the Moore Clark Area, 6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11, in Maple Hall, 104 Commercial St. Info: www.townoflaconner.org.

LIBRARIES

La Conner Swinomish Library. 520 Morris St., La Conner. 360-466-3352. www.laconnerswinomishlibrary.org/events. Open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. Closed Sundays.

- Storytime for Children, 11 a.m. Fridays.
- Tech Help Mondays, 3-5 p.m. Get 30 minutes of one-on-one technical help. Must register.

Mount Vernon Public Library. 208 W. Kincaid St., Mount Vernon. 360-336-6209,

mountvernonwa.gov/175/Library.

- Virtual Storytime to Go: 9 a.m. Saturdays.
- Virtual Bilingual Storytime: 9 a.m. Sundays.
- Read Harder Book Club, noon-1 p.m. second Tuesdays.

Anacortes Public Library. 1220 10th St., Anacortes. 360-299-8067, cityofanacortes.org/220/Library.

- Family Storytime, 10 a.m. Fridays. For ages birth to 5, siblings welcome.
- LEGO at the Library, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Mondays.
- Teen Creative Writing, 2-3 p.m. Wednesdays.

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

- Bilingual Storytime, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Fridays. Ages 6 and under with caregivers.
- Wednesdays of Wonder, 3:30-4:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Arts and crafts for children.

MUSEUMS

Museum of Northwest Art. 121 S. First St., La Conner. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, noon-5 p.m. Sunday and Monday. monamuseum.org, 360-466-4446. Exhibits through Jan. 12:

- Peter Millett: Built Forms is the first major institutional survey of the Seattle artist's work.

Submit an event

Get eyes on your event in advance! Go to laconnerweeklynews.com/page/community-events-calendar/105 and submit your event!

- At the Seam: MoNA's Permanent Collection is an engagement with the collection.
- Outside In Gallery, Creative Response to Trauma: A Community Response. See art and writing from trauma survivors.

Skagit County Historical Museum. 360-466-3365 or skagitcounty.net/museum. Hours 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday-Sunday. Current exhibit through March 2:

- "Wick Peth: The Original Rodeo Bullfighter" and the History of Rodeo in Skagit County."

Pacific Northwest Quilt & Fiber Arts Museum. 703 S. Second St., La Conner. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday. qfamuseum.org, 360-466-4288. Current exhibit:

- 2024 International Quilt & Fiber Art Festival Winners, through Dec. 22.

MUSIC

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

Shelter Bay Chorus. Meets 4:30-6:30 p.m. Thursdays, Shelter Bay Clubhouse. No auditions. Call Joan at 360-941-7507.

SERVICE & VOLUNTEER

Skagit Valley Humane Society. 18841 Kelleher Road, Burlington. 360-757-0445. Volunteer and donate at skagithumane.org.

Swinomish Helping Hands Food Bank. Food distribution 2-5 p.m. Thursdays, nonessentials every first Thursday. 17444 Snee

Oosh Road, La Conner. 360-856-2211. helpinghandsfoodbank.org.

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

MEETINGS

La Conner Thrives Association is a new public group that focuses on tourism, 8:15 a.m. Mondays, 503 Morris St., La Conner. Info: Gina Torpey, 360-228-8021 or 925-487-1848.

Restful Dementia Relief Sessions, 11 a.m. Mondays at La Conner United Methodist Church, 601 S. Second St. This is a therapeutic group for relaxation, cognitive improvement and joy. Free-will offering. Caregivers, please accompany those with dementia. Info: 206-939-2124.

Skagit Men's Garden Club. All are welcome, 6-8 p.m. first Thursdays at Christianson's Nursery, 15806 Best Road, Mount Vernon. SMGC promotes interest in recreational gardening.

Little Mountain Gamblers Anonymous. Meets at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays at Mount Vernon Senior Center, 1401 Cleveland Ave.

Town of La Conner Council Meeting, 6 p.m. second and fourth Tuesdays at Upper Maple Center. www.townoflaconner.org.

Skagit Cemetery District 1. Meets 5 p.m. second Thursdays at Lori Buher's home, 17604 Valentine Road, Mount Vernon.

Rotary Club of La Conner. laconnerrotary.org. 6-7 p.m. Mondays at Shawn O'Donnell's Restaurant.

Skagit Conservation District. Regular board meeting at 7:30 a.m. fourth Wednesdays, at 2021 E. College Way, Suite 205, Mount Vernon. 360-428-4313. Public is welcome.

Super Crossword

BREEDS ON THE DECLINE

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| ACROSS | 45 Canonized Mlle. | 92 Gillette brand | 125 Eternally | 36 Sports sites | 80 Petri dish gel |
| 1 Lagoons | 46 Campers under canvas | 93 Genghis Khan followers | 126 Love, to Lucia | 37 Snitching sort | 81 Old JFK jet |
| 6 Jaunty greeting | 50 Field unit | 95 Silvery gray | 127 Place of bliss | 38 Sort of sword | 82 Meadow |
| 10 Basics | 51 Jarred | 96 Deliverer of a fine spray | 128 Stuck-up type | 41 Fill totally | 83 Haughtiness |
| 14 Aid in crime | 55 Having no commercials | 99 Text-scanning device, briefly | 129 Relaxation | 42 Sch. worker | 85 Gridiron |
| 18 Full of vitality | 56 High-scoring hoops shot | 100 Revises text | 130 Crowded | 43 Went wrong | score after a throw, in brief |
| 19 Purim's month | 59 Met or La Scala frequenter | 103 First letter of the Arabic alphabet | DOWN | 44 See 41-Across | 87 Street urchin |
| 20 Patio cooker | 61 "That didn't escape my notice" | 104 130-to-135-pound bout competitor | 1 Give birth, as a whale | 45 Give a bias to | 89 Alternative to "Section 2" |
| 22 Sage guide | 62 Prior to, to bards | 108 "— Well That Ends Well" | 2 Margarines | 47 Wildlife-tracking aids | 91 Steadfast |
| 23 Pope after Sergius II | 63 Pooch's cry | 109 Cavity fillers' org. | 3 Forerunners of cellos | 48 Lulu Hogg player Peggy | 94 Spring farm machines |
| 24 Acting Ward | 65 Country singer Blake | 112 According to (ill-fated ship) | 4 Pernicious | 49 Stitch up | 97 Earthen pot |
| 25 "Same here" | 67 Andrea — (ill-fated ship) | 113 Sheriff's star | 5 Like July, order-wise | 52 GI address | 98 Interpret wrongly |
| 26 Arab country | 69 Swimming sensation at the 1972 Olympics | 114 Popular yoga pose ... or something found seven times in this puzzle | 6 Dinosaurs, so to speak | 53 "Blech!" | 101 Starts eating, informally |
| 27 Player hitting to prepare for a spike | 71 Nine-sided shape | 117 Color shade | 7 Exemplar | 54 "The Raven" poet | 102 "— kick from champagne" (Cole Porter lyric) |
| 30 Energetic journalist | 75 Comic buffoon | 119 Research facility | 8 Passageway | 57 Spanish river | 104 Milk, in Italy |
| 32 Chicago-to-Tampa dir. | 78 Entertainer Zadora | 121 TV "Warrior Princess" | 9 Brand of toothbrushes | 58 See 56-Across | 105 Homer epic |
| 33 Suffix with leopard | 81 Deli salad | 122 Duck with soft feathers | 10 DOJ heads | 60 Red Muppet | 106 Bulb unit |
| 34 Caroling song | 84 Injury rehab professional | 123 Tortilla treat | 11 She wrote "Jane Eyre" | 64 Infant's cry | 107 See 104-Across |
| 35 Journalist covering a particular sector | 86 Scattering in the field | 124 One of the singing Braxton sisters | 12 Apple quaffs | 66 Nabisco treat | 108 Two of Henry VIII's wives |
| 38 To be, to Bardot | 88 Baja blanket | | 13 Most sluggish | 68 Doing sentry duty | 109 Append |
| 39 Lock of hair | 90 Vandals, e.g. | | 14 Past time | 70 See 69-Across | 110 Active sorts |
| 40 Dubai's country, for short | | | 15 Lousy pieces of advice | 72 H.S.-level exam | 111 Match up |
| 41 "Kung Fu Hustle" director and star | | | 16 Rub out | 73 "... bug — feature?" | 115 "— Only Just Begun" |
| | | | 17 Piano fixer | 74 Quarterback great Joe | 116 Very thin coin |
| | | | 21 Talk like Daffy Duck | 75 Relief sound | 118 2,000 pounds |
| | | | 28 Past time | 76 Mao — -tung | 120 See 119-Across |
| | | | 29 See 27-Across | 77 Other, to Gabriela | |
| | | | 31 See 30-Across | 79 About | |

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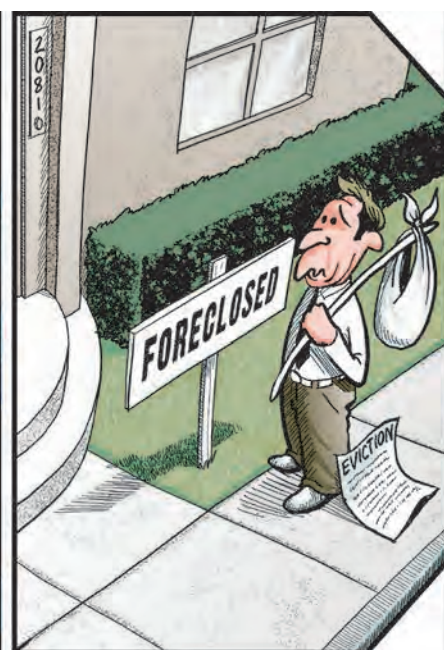
Weekly SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!



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SCAN ME

Museum thanks

■ ■ ■ (from page 5)

Thanks to \$110,000 arriving soon from the county's Lodging Tax Advisory Board, the museum's marketing and promotion is healthy.

"One hundred percent of our advertising/marketing budget is Hotel/Motel funds from Skagit County and Town of La Conner," said Wolfe. "The money lets us invest in marketing without impacting our regular operations funding."

Marketing makes a difference. "Some of our past exhibits have had splashy openings and little

attendance afterwards," she noted. "But this year, in part due to increased social media and promotion, attendance is steady."

Attendance at the Wick Peth exhibit is still strong. Dan Peth and Liza Peth Bott showed their support for the museum by winning the bid for next year's naming rights for the museum's east wing, home to rotating exhibits. Wick and Dorothy Peck's names have already been put on the wall.

"Thank you for preserving our legacy," Peth Bott told party attendees.

Wolfe and her team are happy to oblige, saying, "That's our job, to preserve and present County history."

POLICE BLOTTER

Tuesday, Nov. 26

11:13 a.m.: So loose it slipped away – Report of a loose horse that was running in the roadway and through farm fields. The caller lost sight of the horse and a deputy could not locate it. Beaver Marsh Rd / SR 536, greater La Conner.

Wednesday, Nov. 27

11:33 p.m.: Lights suspiciously off – Marina security called in a report of a suspicious vehicle driving the parking lots with its lights off. The vehicle fled when it saw security and a deputy was unable to locate it in the area. The plate did return to a local owner who the deputy is attempting to contact. Pearl Jensen Wy, La Conner.

Friday, Nov. 29

9:15 a.m.: Why we lock cars – Caller reported a purse taken from her unlocked vehicle. A deputy is still investigating possible suspects. Myrtle St., La Conner.

Saturday, Nov. 30

10:17 a.m.: That's a long ride – Tractor stolen from a farm that was GPS tracked to a location east of Sedro-Woolley. The tractor was recovered with an ongoing investigation. Farm to Market Rd., Bay View.

6:14 p.m.: Deer, dog, both? – Caller reported an injured dog on the side of the road. This was a deer that had been hit and was deceased. The deer was removed by law enforcement. Maple Ave., La Conner.

BURTON JEWELERS

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Join us for the Holiday Art Walk on Friday, December 6th, from 6 PM to 8 PM. It's the opening night of the Burton Eclectic Art Show featuring paintings and sculptures. Live entertainment will be available during the Art Walk.

Special Extended Holiday Hours: Open Monday to Saturday until Christmas from 10:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Open Sundays from December 15th to 22nd from 12 PM to 4 PM.

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Now it's time to say good-bye

Publisher and Editor Ken Stern is retiring.

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