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Tribal traditions



COASTAL TRAFFIC JAM — Swinomish Days was launched Thursday night with a dinner and coastal jam at the tribal smokehouse featuring singing and drumming. Two days later there was a coastal jam of another sort, with racing canoes on Swinomish Channel, one of the highlights of the local four-day Coast Salish cultural celebration. — Photo by Madoc Hillier

Drought could persist here until October

By Ken Stern and Kurt Batdorf

The 0.06 inches of rain last week, 0.03 inches Aug. 7 and again Aug. 9, measured at Washington State University's Memorial Highway Mount Vernon station, was not drought-breaking precipitation.

Far from it. The U.S. Department of Agriculture national crop and livestock map shows all of Skagit County in drought for agriculture. The drought area is based on U.S. Drought Monitor data.

And the U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook by the National Weather Service shows the drought persisting through October.

According to Washington State University's WSU AgWeatherNet Summary of Aug. 14:

"Intense heat is expected this week on both sides of the Cascades with highs reaching their peak Monday and Tuesday in Western Washington. Temperatures will remain quite hot in Eastern Washington through the end of the week. The hottest locations will see at least four more days of triple digits. Fire danger will be inherently high due to the heat, but particularly on Thursday and Friday as westerly winds pick up.

"By the weekend, temperatures will be much cooler, but the extent of the cooldown remains uncertain, particularly in Western Washington. Models that once advertised a weekend in the lower 70s have now ticked high temperatures back up closer to 80. Overnight lows will also be more comfortable. We'll keep an eye on rain and thunder chances, especially on Sunday."

Town sales taxes hit record in July

By Ken Stern

Better weather in May is probably why tourists again made La Conner their destination. The \$55,179 collected in sales tax revenue is the first record high collection for its month in 2023, topping July 2022 by 2.3%. The state's Department of Resources reports on a two month lag.

The special use fire tax barely reached its record, \$29 over the July 2022 report, at \$5,393, tracking sales taxes, as it does.

Most healthy, as it has been all year, was the hotel motel tax revenue, at \$16,442, another record, 9% above July 2022.

The \$9,874 in REET (Real Estate Excise Tax) revenue is \$2,000 above 2021. There was no July 2022 total. Property taxes, at \$1,412 were 52% below July last year.

The \$3.5 million in town revenues through July are 62% of the year's budget, on target across the 12 months. Town expenses to date are \$2.8 million, only 39% of estimated annual costs. Unless major capital expenditures are made the next 4.5 months, annual expenses will be greatly below the year's budget.

These totals are based on May collection from town stores and online purchases delivered to La Conner addresses and reported to town council from the state's Department of Revenue.

Canoe racing, basketball, games: Swinomish Days offers it all

By Bill Reynolds

They say there's no such thing as a free lunch anymore.

Unless, of course, you're willing to race canoes on Swinomish Channel all day in the August heat, often doing so while pulling against the current.

Canoe club members and elders braving the summer weather to watch the weekend races were treated Saturday to a free salmon luncheon prepared as part of the festive annual four-day Swinomish Days cultural celebration.

"We did about 400 pounds of salmon," Marty Cladoosby, part of the fish cooks crew led by Swinomish Indian Tribal Community Senator Eric Day, said afterward.

Admission to Swinomish Days likewise was free. The canoe races drew large numbers of spectators on both sides of the channel.

Weekend tourists on the town side marveled at the strength, stamina and speed displayed by the canoe teams.

"That has to be so tiring," was a refrain repeated the length of the boardwalk.

Brian Porter, also a member of the Swinomish senate, said tribal racers were ready for the challenge.

"It takes a lot of training," said Porter, who helped monitor the races. "It's a daily thing for us."

The work on the channel was just half of it. After each of the solo races, canoeists carried their beautifully stained and painted craft across sand

and upland from the shoreline to the area near the cedar hat pavilions, making room for the next group of racers putting their canoes into the water.

The action was constant until mid-afternoon when a 45-minute break was taken to let the tide rise further.

Once the contests resumed announcer Michael Vendiola said the canoe teams, comprised primarily of youths, reflected "Native American athleticism."

"We really have to give it up to these young people," he said, "for keeping this way of life — being healthy and learning teamwork."

Athleticism was also on display on the outdoor Swinomish basketball court where a three-on-three tournament was another popular event, drawing hoops players in several age divisions from around the region.

Across Snee-Oosh Road at John K. Bob Ball Park a carnival atmosphere prevailed complete with bouncy houses, children's games, face painting, food and apparel vendors and arts and crafts.

Youth was honored as well with the crowning of Swinomish Days royalty. Those chosen wore colorful regalia highlighting Coast Salish traditions and heritage.

Nor were adults left out. Competitive stick games, involving both chance and strategy, were held inside the ballpark tents, generating wagers in keeping with their origins generations ago as a means of entertainment and peacefully

settling disputes.

The 2010 Tulalip Battle of Nations Stick Game Tournament retains near legendary status, having attracted almost 200 teams that competed for a \$30,000 first prize.

Swinomish Days, coordinated by tribal cultural events director Aurelia Bailey and her department, kicked off Thursday night with dinner and a coastal jam at the tribal smokehouse. The drumming and singing were clearly heard across the channel in La Conner, where Beaver Tales Coffee offered a discount on its espresso drinks in recognition of Swinomish Days.

As was the case during the recent Canoe Journey stopover at Swinomish, camp tents and RVs dotted the village from near Swadabs Park to above the John K. Bob venue as participants arrived from throughout the Pacific Northwest, including British Columbia.

Among the first sights that welcomed them was that of master artisan and former Swinomish Senator Kevin Paul carving a handsome miniature cedar canoe in his driveway.

"It's something the kids can jump in and out of," he said, "something that they can have fun with."

Reflecting upon Swinomish Days, Paul noted. "It's all for the youth," then repeated: "It's all for the youth."

Yet, across its four days, Swinomish Days provided cause for celebration not only for the younger generation, but also among folks of all ages.

Skagit Valley Co-op members share the love of 50 years

By Ken Stern

More than 500 people crowded Mount Vernon's Riverwalk Plaza last Wednesday, Aug. 9 in response to the Skagit Valley Food Co-op invitation to its 13,000 members and the general public to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

There was food, of course, as staff served up bounty from their kitchen and deli, ending with cake and ice cream. The line to their food booth stretched out 30-people long for three hours, until by 7 p.m. the last of cantaloupe and watermelon was lonely in their trays.

Member-owners and customers came from Samish Island and Sedro-Woolley and perhaps as far away as Vancouver,

B.C., and Seattle and all points in between. They sat at black tablecloth-covered round tables provided by the Co-op set up under the plaza's trees. Many brought their own chairs, as they had been encouraged to do. There were jars of flowers on tables, sunflower bunches leaning against trees and flower displays, including an arbor, at the steps near the riverwalk.

Three bands played sets during the 4-8 p.m. celebration on a stage at the south end, near the tulip sculpture. The 4-foot high golden "50" leaning against the front of the stage marked the "golden jubilee" being honored.

General Manager Tony White and Marketing and Outreach Director Nicole Vander Meulen were often onstage, Vander

Meulen handing White raffle tickets and White reading off the numbers and Co-op staff handing out dozens of prizes donated by local businesses. Co-op staff and board members were most often in the traditional rainbow-colored tie-dyed shirts reminiscent of the 1960s and '70s. Some wore yellow tie-dyed shirts.

The intergenerational nature of the community was supported with buckets of chalk for drawing on the sidewalk along the Skagit River. An adult may have composed the pink heart encircling the word Co-op. Tri-Dee Arts offered tie-dyeing and Contours FX painted faces, primarily of children.



SHOW YOUR LOVE — Hundreds of Skagit Valley Food Co-op members filled Mount Vernon's Riverwalk on Aug. 9 to celebrate the Co-op's 50th anniversary with cake, ice cream and giveaways. — Photo by Ken Stern

(continued on page 7)

From the editor —

The Food Co-op's next 50 years

Some readers, surely, were among the over 500 people crowding Mount Vernon's Riverwalk Plaza last Wednesday, raffle tickets in hand, as Skagit Valley Food Co-op General Manager Tony White called out winner after winner, giving away prizes donated by local businesses and the Co-op in recognition of the 13,000 members who make the Co-op the amazing success it is today.

Residents from Samish Island and Sedro-Woolley came and others from perhaps as far away as Vancouver, B.C., and Seattle. It may be possible and is certainly true that pound for pound and per capita this is the most successful as well as the best food co-op not only west of the Cascades but statewide.

Many member-owners not only want to shop there and enjoy their shopping but are committed to the co-op in a way that must be the envy of every corporate grocery chain in the country. Yes, this co-op has hundreds of local vendor accounts and the produce on hand was growing in fields people passed on the way to the store, but that is only part of the story.

Ask the leadership, staff and board members. Heck, strike up a conversation with neighbors who, like other members, own a share of the business. Start with asking "why do you shop there" or "what do like about it" and then get to that unique question: "Why do you belong?"

That is the kicker. Community. Shared decision making. When White, former general manager Todd Wood and board members past and present spoke, they did not get too far before the equally beautiful twin sister of community, democracy starts getting extolled. Imagine reflecting back on debates leading to decisions to stock – or not – coffee and white sugar. Is that silly white privilege navel gazing? Or, as Francis Ambrose said, "It was really about democracy. It is a way for a lot of us to learn new things about each other."

The success was not even the decision to include coffee and sugar on the shelves. It was about the process. That is what democracy is: a process. Democracy – and the people participating are creating and living it – is sharing values and beliefs. We choose to live life together or we don't.

Part of that result can be incredible financial success. That is how the Skagit Valley Food Co-op went from zero dollars in sales to projecting \$25 million at the end of the year. That is the same thing as Organic Valley. In 1987 that co-op had zero dollars in revenue. In 2022 the 1,600 farmer member-owners had sales of \$1.2 billion. That is billion with a B.

Food Co-op Board President Tom Theisen last week said that \$50 million for the 100th year anniversary is a good goal. Yes, that will be an economic success. Consider the positive ripple effects of its presence in the community the next 50 years.

The Co-op started 2023 making a \$100,000 donation to Viva Farms, the Skagit Valley farm incubator organization. That is a commitment in people and farming futures as well as securing inventory for the store's shelves. That is a commitment to the environment and all our futures, whether we are member-owners or never shop at the store.

Commitment. Community. Both have the same root meaning: "to unite, connect, combine; to bring together."

The root question is what is the process with which you want to create the future?

— Ken Stern

TOWN MEETING AGENDAS

Emergency Management Commission, 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 22, Council Room, 104 Commercial St.

AGENDA

Minutes
Public Comment (items not on the agenda)

OLD BUSINESS

Upper Skagit Tribe communications
Temporary flood measures: Update
Conditions to implement temporary flood protections measures

What level of flood protection? What is reasonable risk? (Regardless of where the risk comes from)

- 100-year flood event (1%),
- 500-year flood event (0.2%),
- 1,000-year flood event?

Flood height for Skagit River design.

Trigger(s) for a Skagit River Flood watch for La Conner.

Flood height for coastal flooding – Pacific Coast.

Trigger(s) for a Coastal Flood watch for La Conner.

Heat Event Protocol and Cooling Rooms – Summer Heat Shelters

Community Disaster Recovery – Recommendations

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of Skagit County's CEMP.

Join meeting on Zoom at: <https://phaudowud-online.zoom.us/j/82578769914?pwd=b0lWV-Vh6K3JnRndmTG11V3d-hYkNKZz09>

Meeting ID: 825 7876 9914
Passcode: 725092

• Town Council, 6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 22, Council Room, 104 Commercial St.

AGENDA

Public Comments (Limit: 3 minutes per person)
Presentations

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda (Approved without objection 5/0)

Approval of the Minutes: Council Meeting August 8, 2023
Finance:
Approval of Accounts Payable
Approval of Payroll

REPORTS

1. Administrator's Report
2. Mayor's Report
3. Council Committee Reports

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Center Street Project
2. Jenson Property
3. Flood Prevention
4. Agreement – Fire Hall Electrical Engineering for HVAC Upgrades (K Engineers, Inc.)
5. Agreement – Maple Hall Electrical Engineering for HVAC Upgrades (K Engineers, Inc.)

NEW BUSINESS

MAYOR ROUNDTABLE

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.

This meeting will be recorded on Zoom. Join at <https://phaudowud-online.zoom.us/j/84060133585?pwd=UUkrNy9BSnNUblpNYm-9PL0tPQ1FuQT09> or call 253-215-8782 on a mobile phone.

Meeting ID: 840 6013 3585
Passcode: 115405

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Try reliable solar power

Dear Skagit County citizens,
As the vice president of Skagit Valley Clean Energy Cooperative (SVCEC), the organization sponsoring the Solarize Skagit 2023 program, I want to remind folks that one of the benefits of the program is to get connected with pre-vetted, qualified and reliable installers. I am hearing that several residents have been approached by "door knockers" selling solar. They are not affiliated with the Solarize Skagit program. Please check with the Better Business Bureau prior to making any commitments.

Although the special program pricing for the Solarize Skagit 2023 has ended for anyone not already signed up, SVCEC is still a resource if you're thinking of going solar. www.skagitvce.coop.

Mary Wohleb, vice president
Skagit Valley Clean Energy Cooperative
La Conner

Questions about flooding

I was pleased to read in last week's Weekly News of the emergency flood commission touring the areas that were breached in last year's flood. It has been seven months since the high tide inundated the town causing 1.8 million dollars damage to people's homes and town businesses.

Having experienced the flooding up close and personal, I have a few questions. I have photos of the water pouring through the blue metal buildings on the old Moore Clark property. That water spread throughout the south end of town. My question is what is stored in those buildings? This area was used for industrial purposes for years. I would like to think that the Fire Department has made inspection in the event of an industrial fire.

My other question pertains to the north end of town. The La Conner Retirement Inn has underground parking. Two cars did not make it out when the tide

flooded the parking area. Water was pumped out of the parking garage into the Center Street neighborhood causing more damage. Has there been any planning to seal off the parking garage during high tide events?

I hope we don't take our eye off the ball for flood potential from the Skagit River. I would hope that commission members have the opportunity to read and view the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers report on how a breach at the riverbend in Mt Vernon will affect La Conner. Many millions of dollars were spent to prepare this report and computer simulation. For anyone who does not live on the hill, flood insurance is an expense that continues to rise as climate change batters our country.

I advocate on behalf of all town residents that live in the flood plain that the highest priority for town government is to protect the town and its infrastructure.

Recently moved out of the flood plain,
Stuart Welch
La Conner

A citizen's view —

Enough with the status quo of gun violence

By Fr. Paul Magnano

Governor Gavin Newsom of California calls for a constitutional amendment enshrining common-sense gun control. He calls his effort a "mechanism to address the echo chamber of despair" – the evermore-frequent mass shootings. Newsom's proposed twenty-eighth amendment to the U.S. Constitution is hardly the comprehensive measure this country would need to stop the bloodshed. It would merely raise the minimum age to buy a gun from 18 to 21, mandate universal background checks, impose a waiting period for purchasing a gun and ban assault weapons. The proposal is bound to go nowhere, but the governor insists that something has to be done.

Before July 4, the United States was already on pace to exceed the carnage of last year. Then the long holiday weekend brought shootings in Baltimore, Chicago, Cleveland and Philadelphia; in Fort Lauderdale and Elizabeth City, North Carolina; in Lexington, Kentucky and Shreveport, Louisiana and many other places – 22 mass shootings in 17 states that killed at least 20 Americans and injured more than 100 others.

This is the toll of acceptance: as of mid-July, the Gun Violence Archive's tally of mass shootings stood at 372 for the year so far and the number of mass murders committed with guns at 27.

At the same time, some of the worst mass shootings of recent years were back in the news. In June, the shooter who killed 11 worshippers at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life Synagogue in 2018 was found guilty in a federal death-penalty trial. On July 7, the shooter who killed 23 people in a racist attack at an El Paso Walmart in 2019 was given 90 consecutive life sentences. On July 3, families of victims of the 2018 Parkland, Florida, school shooting – in which 17 people were killed – toured the halls of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, scheduled for demolition now that it is no longer needed as evidence in the trial of the gunman.

Since the Parkland massacre, there have been more than 200 attacks on schools by people with easy access to high-powered firearms. On top of calls to arm teachers and subjecting children to active-shooter drills, we've decided to accept mass shootings as a feature of American life. Four in 10 Americans now believe it is at least somewhat likely that they'll be the victim of a shooter within the next five years. Newsom's twenty-eighth amendment may be very unlikely, but it isn't crazy. What is crazy is the status quo.

Fr. Magnano is the parish priest for the Skagit Valley Catholic churches.

Community builds La Conner scholarship fund

By Russell Jensen

The foundation board would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the people and organizations in the community that have given us the means to award scholarships each year at La Conner High School.

We are pleased to share that the general foundation fund has grown to \$1,100,000. This endowment was created solely by the generosity of you folks in the community. Many alumni have given one dollar for every year post-graduation. Many of our neighbors from Shelter Bay, past graduates and community members at large have made us what we are today.

In addition to cash donations, our foundation accepts estate gifts, as well as stocks, bonds and IRAs. Some examples of these generous donations include a community member who gifted a \$15,000 IRA he no longer needed.

The McMillan family owned the San Juan cannery at the south end of town decades ago. Upon her passing, Lea McMillan Diacos gifted \$1.6 million through her estate. She had discussed her desire to do something for the young generation of the community with Gail Thulen and the late Corky Cornwall, though the specifics remained unknown at the time.

Ken Knopf, who was active in the community service clubs and was a board member for years, also generously supported the foundation. Ken provided donations and he also set up an endowment when his wife passed away. Ken's daughters notified the foundation when Ken passed to share that he had gifted us through his estate too. His endowment is currently \$225,000.

Beverly Erickson gifted us a portion of her estate. She had roots in the area and was part of the Cornelius family, who used to farm adjacent to Pleasant Ridge. Her endowment is currently \$122,000.

We keep each endowment separate and award scholarships for each endowment and disburse only our earnings. Our total value of all the accounts is \$3.2 million.

All the local service organizations: Kiwanis, Rotary, La Conner Alumni Association, various businesses and the Swinomish Tribe have been a pleasure to work with. There are other donors and organizations as well, too many to list. We as a board continue to be thankful for their contributions.

We are a 501c3 tax exempt organization recognized by the IRS and currently have a fund drive campaign going on until November. In an effort to motivate donors, a very generous alum recently told the board, "If you can raise \$50,000 dollars, I will match it!"

So, for every dollar you donate, it will be matched by this awesome individual. Some businesses do match also. If you are with a company that does the matching to a 501c3, that is also a terrific way to gift.

Our website is laconner.dollarsforscholars.org. You can donate using PayPal, Venmo and Ziffy. You can also donate by sending checks to La Conner Community Scholarship Foundation Box 1277 La Conner, WA 98257.

If you have any questions, please reach out to us!

Jensen is a fourth generation family of La Conner and LCHS class of 1974.

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Ken Stern, Publisher & Editor

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OBITUARIES



Douglas Keith Otis

Douglas K. Otis, age 85, of La Conner, Washington, died on Aug. 7, 2023.

Doug is preceded in death by his parents, E. Donovan Otis and Gayle (Hancock) Otis; wife of over 50 years, Dixie (Maloy) Otis; son, D.J. Otis; brother, David Otis; granddaughter, Michelle Howard; and great-great grandson, Bowen Stidman.

Doug is survived by his children: Cindy (Rick) Moore, Chris (Wayne) Ceradsky, D. Scott (Barbara) Otis, Megan (Brian) Masonholder, and Andrew (Kelli) Otis. Doug had 13 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and five great-great grandchildren.

During a nearly 50-year career with the Washington State Department of Transportation as a heavy equipment mechanic, Doug also coached youth sports, turning the back pasture into a soccer field; raised waterfowl, propagating wood ducks to help increase the local, wild population; and enjoyed woodworking, making cradles, bookcases and toys for his grandchildren. Doug cared for his pets, which included the resident deer population on Pleasant Ridge, fed generously with apples and corn, along with many birds, dogs, and even a couple of peacocks over the years. He was a fan of athletics from local high schools and colleges to professional teams, particularly respecting women's programs and most recently developing an interest in the Seattle Kraken. Doug especially enjoyed the state "B" league high school championships, including a decades-long basketball tournament program collection. He loved watching the Olympics and the annual Little League World Series, and while he barely tolerated the Mariners, he rarely missed a game.

Doug was a straight-forward man who lived a quiet life. He enjoyed simple pleasures like rocking babies to sleep, listening to Linda Ronstadt, feeding critters, mowing the lawn, drinking strong coffee (preferably with cookies), and eating peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.

The family will be holding a small graveside service at Pleasant Ridge Cemetery at 1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 18, 2023.

You may offer your condolences and share memories of Doug online at www.kernfuneralhome.com.

Funeral services are under the care of Kern Funeral Home of Mount Vernon.

Florence B. Lockrem

Florence B. Lockrem passed away on the night of Aug. 7 at 11:20 p.m. She slipped peacefully into the next world with her eldest son by her side. Florence was born on Jan. 24, 1935, in the town of Sioux Lookout, Ontario, Canada. Her early life was harsh and demanded that she grow up quickly in order to help care for her brothers and sisters.

In 1953 at the age of 18, she began working as a switchboard operator in her hometown. A short time later, she met a handsome young Airman at a fire. They were married two weeks later and would remain so until he passed in 2013.

After living briefly in Minnesota and North Dakota, she and her husband settled in Seattle, Washington. There they would raise their four children. In 1981, they purchased five acres in La Conner, built their home and settled into middle age.

Florence continued to work as a telephone operator until that occupation was phased out in the 1990s. She would go to work for well over another decade at the local grocery store, Pioneer Market. Florence enjoyed working and took pride in what she did. She knitted, read and loved to gossip in her spare time. She did her best to care for her family from early to old age. She will be sorely missed.

Florence was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Richard Lockrem, and her son, James. Her children survive her: Richard, Kathy and Gary; her daughter-in-law: Carol and her sister, Beverly Gordon; 12 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

A Funeral Service for Florence will be held at 1 pm Friday, Aug. 18, at Evans Funeral Chapel and she will be laid to rest at Fernhill Cemetery.

To share memories of Florence, please sign the online guest register at www.evanschapel.com/obituary/florence-lockrem.

Council keeps focus on king tide flood readiness

By Bill Reynolds

Town officials remain focused on mitigation of flood conditions ahead of king tide season in the fall. La Conner Town Council members last week endorsed recommendations proposed by Public Works Director Brian Lease for immediate short-term saltwater flood protection remedies along the town's waterfront.

Lease had earlier shared with the emergency management commission a priority purchase list for materials and equipment – ecology blocks, sandbags, a sandbagging machine and forklift.

"I'd like to have sandbags filled and on pallets by Oct. 1," Lease told the advisory panel during its Aug. 8 session at Maple Hall that preceded that evening's council meeting.

"Time is of the essence," agreed Commission Chair Bill Stokes, a former council member whose Caledonia Street home

sustained severe damage during flooding on Dec. 27, 2022.

Stokes has been in contact with officials of the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe about placing flood barriers on their property abutting the south waterfront.

"Their executive director seemed very on board with it," Stokes reported. "He didn't expect it to be a big problem. I'm just waiting to hear back."

There is some optimism that Upper Skagit might help purchase the barriers that would be positioned on the tribe's La Conner property.

"My main focus for this commission," stressed Stokes, "is to prepare ahead so we don't have to do something at the last minute. If we don't do things ahead of time, we're just going to be dealing with recovery."

The walking tour of the north waterfront to determine where best to station barriers there before anticipated fall and winter flood threats was reported in the

Aug. 9 Weekly News.

Everyone agrees that communication between the Town and private property owners will be essential.

"We'll need to reach out to the Chamber of Commerce and business owners," Town Administrator Scott Thomas emphasized.

Stokes is encouraging commissioners to jot down for Council members specific ideas and recommendations related to local emergency preparedness.

Lease had his list prior to the meetings with the commission and council. The sandbag machine is at or near the top of his flood control menu.

"It's a huge time-saver," he said, "and it's something we can easily move and set up."

Lease estimated the town will need to put in place more than 8,000 sandbags to mitigate saltwater flooding here. He said a sandbag machine, when staffed

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Skagit Bay Rescue, FD 13 may align

By Bill Reynolds

Gary Ladd was bare headed on Thursday, though figuratively he was wearing two hats that morning.

A Skagit County Fire District 13 officer, he also serves as an officer of Skagit Bay Search & Rescue – and he spoke for the latter during the fire district's monthly commissioners meeting at the Sneeh Oosh Road station.

The SBSR leadership proposed to Commissioners Bruce Shellhamer, John Doyle and J.J. Wilbur that the fire district part-

ner with the search and rescue group on emergency calls.

SBSR is currently aligned with the Skagit County Sheriff's Office for search missions, said Ladd.

"We want to stay with them for training and callouts for searches," Ladd said of the sheriff's office, "but we want to be available to fire departments, too."

"We're being called out by the sheriff's office seven or eight times a year, mostly for searches but not rescues," he added. "We can provide immediate rescue services, but we're not getting

called (for those)."

Insurance coverage is a key consideration for any agreement. SBSR maintains and moors a vessel at La Conner Marina. The boat's insurance premium is paid by the Port of Skagit County.

Supported by donors, SBSR is a non-profit organization covered by insurance through the sheriff's office when its boat leaves the marina.

"But," Ladd said, "we can't take the boat out without permission. The key here is we

(continued on page 7)

Valve fault cuts Channel Cove water

Five households in Channel Cove lost water overnight when a valve failed after routine maintenance by La Conner Public Works staff on Aug. 8.

Supervisor Todd Park said his crew had been "exercising a valve" when it apparently failed and started to leak after they finished their work.

Jodi Dean, executive director of Home Trust of Skagit, the landlord, said she got tenant reports of standing water in the grass.

"I called (Director of Public

Works) Brian (Lease) and said, 'Hey, listen, I've got some water standing out there,' so we had his crew go out and they took care of it," Dean said.

Park found the leak and shut off the valve at 8 p.m. It affected the apartments in the 930 Park Street building.

Park and his crew returned in the morning to excavate the valve. They fixed the leaking valve and had water service fully restored at 8 a.m.

– Kurt Batdorf

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laconnerweeklynews.com

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MAKE A GAME PLAN
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If the kittens appear to be well fed and in good health and mama seems to be nearby or has obviously been there recently, then wait and try to see if you can bring mama in as well. If she's friendly scoop them up, and give us a call. If she isn't keen on contact, again, call us at 360-757-0445 for advice on trapping so you can bring them all in together safely. A trap might be necessary and it's important to get mom first, so you don't scoop up the babies and then realize you can't get mama.
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2	\$49,399	\$55,529	\$900
3+	\$53,057	\$59,187	\$1,200

La Conner Schools superintendent finishes doctoral degree

By Bill Reynolds

A former marathoner, La Conner Schools Superintendent Dr. Will Nelson knows the value of committing to a plan for the long run.

He is also familiar with having to negotiate different routes leading from Point A to Point B.

But more than that, Nelson has learned to cover ground separately and simultaneously along equally challenging paths. During his first two years as administrator he has overseen implementation of several innovative academic programs, overseen the launch of a five-year strategic plan, dealt with post-COVID-19 fiscal constraints and painful campus budget cut-backs and completed work on his doctorate at Western Washington

University.

Nelson, who was born in northern Montana and is an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Nation, expected a heavy workload when he succeeded interim superintendent Rich Stewart in 2021.

“As I interviewed for this position,” Nelson, whose traditional Native surname is Makoyiisaamihaa, related to the Weekly News, “I looked at all aspects of the La Conner School District. I reviewed data from OSPI (Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction).”

He couldn’t have predicted having to add special programs duties to his assignment list this coming year due to the retirement of Andy Wheeler and a streamlined 2023-2024 budget designed to right-size the district



Will Nelson

in response to declining student enrollment and loss of federal emergency pandemic funds.

Nelson’s earlier research, though, not only gave him an idea of the makeup of the school system but also provided inspiration for his doctoral dissertation.

Like his mentor and one of his predecessors, Tim Bruce, Nelson opted to explore factors that enhance academic achievement for Swinomish students, whose culture is steeped in the storytelling oral tradition rather than one based on written language with knowledge measured by a numerical grading system.

Nelson was influenced in his research by author Dr. Betty Bastien, whose premise is that “knowledge is generated for the purpose of maintaining the relationships that strengthen and

protect the health and well-being of individuals and the collective in a cosmic universe. Through stories and lived experiences indigenous communities have gained the knowledge necessary to embrace their ways of knowing.”

Yet Nelson was equally influenced – if not more so – by insight from numerous Swinomish sources whom he sought out both for the dissertation and in his role as superintendent.

“What I did,” said Nelson, “is create a focus group of Swinomish community members that could help develop the right research questions. That way they came right from the Swinomish people.”

In his dissertation, which (continued on page 7)

Cascadian Farm now a Rodale Institute center

By Glen Johnson

The day dawned cloudy and there was an up-valley smokey haze. It would be less hot than it has been. I was destined for the Cascadian Farm Home Farm, a famous place, a fertile bench of farmland near Rockport across Highway 20 from the emerald green waters of the mighty Skagit River.

The farm was the brainchild of one Gene Kahn who, in 1972, as a recent college graduate and student of history, spied the uniquely beautiful property and put his plan into motion. Old friends followed him from the east coast and new friends

joined his budding enterprise from more local environs. One of their brands was called “Many Hands” for good reason. Too many hands at times, it’s sometimes very difficult to be a budding businessman when your excess employees are too close of friends to let go. Sometimes tearful decisions have to be made, upriver jobs are hard to come by, but it was a business just like any other.

Rockport is not an easy place to farm: It rains 3-4 times what it does in La Conner. The east coast transplants fell in love with the remote mountains and kind of tried to dream the rain away. It was an experiment, what can we

say? Sometimes the strawberries rotted, sometimes the speeds had problems, sometimes they had to get extremely creative with their marketing. Pretty soon they had created a name for themselves and outside producers had to be brought onto their team, things got more complicated; such is the way of the world.

Being certified organic didn’t make things easier. As you might well imagine, organic fertilizers are usually more odorous, especially when made soggy by a few inches of rain. They eventually decided to get their crops produced and processed in more appropriate growing conditions. Blueberries

became the crop that did the best, so a success they became. It took a lot of sweating bullets, but Kahn persevered and finally found a buyer for his enterprise and Welch Foods, of grape juice fame, became the owner. It gave Kahn a reprieve to pursue other pursuits. In time, General Mills bought it from Welch’s and the Cascadian Farm brand became a household name with frozen and canned products in nearly every store in America.

Kahn maintained an involvement, bringing in a farm management team. Jim and Harlan Meyer squared up the blueberry scene and the plants are beautifully productive.

The farm has moved once again and is now the Rodale Institute

Pacific Northwest Organic Center, with national headquarters in Kutztown, Pennsylvania. Jerome Rodale started studying organic agriculture many decades ago and his son Robert continued in his father’s footsteps, researching new organic farming practices, principles and technologies. They have the longest standing organic-conventional side-by-side plots in the country at 40+ years.

This gift was formally accepted by CEO Jeff Tkach Aug. 5. A small contingent of friends and associates attended the wonderful occasion. Tim, the present farm manager, gave us a nice tour and brief history which I knew from my own personal experiences. Kahn accepted an award for his vision and the vision of the future of the farm is a work in progress, but it is in very, very good hands.

I look forward to what they ultimately do, but research and education on sustainable agriculture is in their mission statement, so we’ll see what sorts of new collaborations might transpire.

Johnson owned a Skagit Valley farm in previous years.

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SWEET SUMMER SAVINGS

Steps to reduce the risk of home loss

Wildfire preparedness for home landscapes

By Marlene Finley

The wildfires in Hawaii make it clear few locales are immune from the devastating effects caused by wildfire. Despite Western Washington's wet reputation, we also are not immune to wildfires, especially during drier years. Here in Skagit County, we also are facing severe drought.

A recent climate impact study developed by the University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group reported that the temperature in Washington has increased 1.5 degrees F in the last 20 years.

Firewise landscaping is an array of practices promoted by the National Fire Protection Association and others to create a defensible space around your home that can slow a wildfire or discourage ignition. Here are a few practices you can take to be prepared this fire season.

First, remove fire fuel wherever possible. Clean your gutters of debris and make sure your roof is clear of leaves and moss. Install one-eighth inch metal mesh screening to block embers.

Never store flammable materials underneath elevated decks or porches (for example firewood) and clean dead vegetation from between deck boards and under the deck. Visit Firewise.org for more information.

Second, plant for moisture resilience. An excellent

publication has been produced by Washington State University, Oregon State University and the University of Idaho titled Fire Resistant Plants for the Home Landscapes. The free pdf download includes an extensive list of plants that tend to be less flammable. <https://catalogue.extension.oregonstate.edu/pnw590>

Drip irrigation systems that deliver just the right amount of water at the correct intervals help conserve water during dry months. See our recent blog post on DIY Drip Irrigation: skagit-mg.org/diy-drip-irrigation/.

Third, create a defensible space. Fire professionals often talk about maintaining a defensible space within 100 to 200 feet of your home. Within this area modify the landscaping to give your house the best chance to survive on its own. Beyond using inflammable hardscape, groundcovers such as succulents and even a narrow band of turf grass



can provide valuable protection. Keep grass near your home (both turf and natural meadows) watered, if possible and mowed during fire season to no more than four inches.

What About Mulch? Mulch helps to retain soil moisture over the summer and insulate in winter and can be used beyond five feet from the foundation. Do not use flammable mulches or groundcovers within five feet of your foundation. WSU scientist Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott recommends using fresh arborist chips because valuable nutrients are lost during composting.

Curious and conscientious caretakers of backyards and natural areas can learn more about various resources by visiting the Skagit County WSU Extension Master Gardener Blog at this website: skagitmg.org/firewise/.

Finley is a former wildland firefighter, retired forest manager and Skagit County WSU Extension Master Gardener.



CANNOT BEAT THE VIEW – Or, not quite Seattle writes Chloe Peterson, the beneficiary of a month of housesitting above Sneeh Oosh Road and daily sunsets across Skagit Bay. Great to have friends near La Conner, eh?
– Photo by Chloe Peterson

Reflecting on La Conner

My Skagit summer vacation

By Chloe Peterson

There is truly no gig greater for a college student than housesitting.

Instead of spending my July in a tiny I-5-adjacent apartment where, if I open my windows I'm greeted by the cacophony of cars streaming past, I resided in lovely La Conner where, outside my windows, I could hear waves on the bay and view bald eagles and the occasional cat fight.

Let's back up a little bit though, so I'm not just a name at the top of an article. My name is Chloe Peterson, I'm a junior at the University of Washington and I work as a photojournalist for both the UW Daily and, this past month, freelancing for the La Conner Weekly News (although you might see my name pop up in future articles).

I jumped at the chance to watch over my roommate's family's house while they went abroad, living out the plot of a Hallmark movie as a big city girl moving to small town Washington. I spent my days exploring all that La Conner and the neighboring cities had to offer, going to farmers markets, local bookstores and on long drives to soak in the joys of both beau-

tiful farmland and having a car (which I lack in the city).

The atmosphere of the town was intriguing as I experienced things through the eyes of a non-tourist outsider. The charm of people seeming to know each other everywhere I went, small conversations erupting in line for the changing room at Vintage La Conner and people waving as they passed by in cars truly made my heart sing. In Seattle, I'm so used to people minding their own business like it's a full time job, so the change was welcome.

I feel like it's really easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of city living. As a young person it is great for social and work opportunities and is ultimately the place I love living in. However, the siren song of slow and picturesque living is calling to me now that I'm back home. I look forward to being able to return again.

Thanks for the memories and wonderful month La Conner! Y'all stay well.

If you're interested in more of my work, I'm a columnist for the Daily of the University of Washington where I write about crows, the occasional concert and do a wide range of photography work.

Roger Small opening 5 p.m.

Roger Small's opening for an ongoing exhibit of his paintings at La Conner Brewing Co. on First Street is 5-7 p.m. today.

He typically presents themes and images that define Skagit Valley and its people, painting landscapes in acrylics and oils.



• On Aug. 28, 1789, William Herschel, court astronomer under England's King George III, discovered Enceladus, one of Saturn's innermost moons, while using his new 40-foot telescope for the first time. Enceladus reflects almost 100% of the sunlight that strikes it and has at least five different types of terrain.

• On Aug. 29, 1998, a strike by 6,200 Northwest Airlines pilots seeking a 15% pay raise left 70,000 frustrated passengers high and dry around the U.S. The pilots had been in contract negotiations for more than two years, and an agreement was finally reached on Sept. 10 after the strike had cost the airline \$26 million per day.

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Puyallup Tribe's partnership with Kenmore Air takes off with scenic South Sound seaplane flights



SWEET SOUTH SOUND LANDING – Kenmore Air operates seaplane flights out of Seattle, the San Juan Islands and up into British Columbia. Their partnership with Puyallup Tribe adds Tacoma to that list.

– Photo courtesy of Parker Miles Blohm, KNKX

By **Bellamy Pailthorp, KNKX**

Members of the Puyallup Tribe described it as an historic day, when a newly-painted seaplane from Kenmore Air touched down on Commencement Bay, with a distinctive red, black and white livery featuring tribal

art depicting a salmon on the aircraft's tail.

The new seaplane flights started taking off Aug. 10 from the new Puyallup Tribal Air Terminal on Ruston Way in Tacoma, Washington. It's a partnership with Kenmore Air, a regional airline based north of

Seattle that specializes in scenic and destination seaplane flights.

Members of the public can take a 20-minute sightseeing flight over the South Sound, with views of Mount Rainier, Commencement Bay and Vashon Island among other sights. All seven members of the

Puyallup Tribal Council emerged from the inaugural flight to celebrate with a formal blessing ceremony and ribbon cutting.

"We have a terminal!" exclaimed chairman Bill Sterud with a laugh.

The Puyallup Tribe came up with the idea just a year ago and got the necessary permits in record time.

Sterud spoke at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new terminal, saying it's part of a larger economic development push by the tribe.

They've recently purchased a candy company, opened a new casino and partnered with Amazon on a sorting center, among other lines of business.

"Not to brag, but we like to think big and like to think out of the box. And you never know where we're gonna go," he said. "We're going up in the air now!"

Kenmore Air President David Gudel said they were honored to be part of the tribe's big plans.

"Big audacious plans often don't come to fruition, because they're hard," he said.

"What you see out there today represents an amazing, amazing amount of work. And that could not never have happened without the tenacity and commitment

that your team has shown. We moved mountains to make this happen."

Several politicians in attendance, among them Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland, said the tribe's success will benefit everyone.

"This is going to be an asset, not just Tacoma and the South Sound, but to the entire Pacific Northwest region and the state. So congratulations on this monumental effort," she said.

The terminal on Ruston Way is on newly-acquired tribal land, that is the Puyallup's ancestral homeland. The scenic flights will continue through Oct. 15 and resume in April, with a goal of expanding the service to the San Juan Islands and Victoria, B.C. sometime next spring.

The Puyallup Tribe says its partnership with Kenmore Air makes it the only tribe in the United States to bring seaplane services into its economic portfolio.

knkx.org/south-sound/2023-08-11/puyallup-tribe-kenmore-air-tacoma-south-sound-seaplane-flights

First published Aug. 11, 2023. Copyright 2023 KNKX. Reprinted with permission.

Montana judge rules in favor of youth plaintiffs in landmark climate trial

By **Shaylee Ragar, Montana Public Radio**

A district court judge in Montana handed down a landmark decision Monday, ruling that the state violated its own constitution by failing to consider fossil fuels' contribution to climate change.

Sixteen young people sued the state over its promotion of fossil fuel-based energy, saying it violates their right to a clean and healthful environment under the Montana Constitution.

Their case was the first of several youth-led lawsuits against states for failing to address climate change to go to trial.

The Montana Constitution says, "The state and each person shall maintain and improve a clean and healthful environment

in Montana for present and future generations."

In a ruling Monday, Lewis and Clark District Court Judge Kathy Seeley sided with the plaintiffs and struck down portions of state law that forbid the state from considering the impacts of greenhouse gasses and climate change in environmental policy and assessments.

Seeley wrote the state failed to prove "any compelling governmental interest" to uphold the laws, and that they're contributing to the depletion and degradation of Montana's environment.

Our Children's Trust, which represents the young plaintiffs in the case, said in a statement the ruling "marks a turning point" in efforts to mitigate climate change. Kian Tanner, an 18-year-old plaintiff from

Bigfork, said he hopes the ruling will encourage others to make their voices heard.

"It's truly incredible. This is just the first step towards climate action and creating a stable climate for future generations to live in," Tanner said.

A spokesperson for Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen called the ruling absurd, saying Montanans can't be blamed for changing the climate. The state will appeal the decision to the Montana Supreme Court.

mtptr.org/montana-news/2023-08-14/judge-rules-in-favor-of-youth-plaintiffs-in-landmark-climate-trial

First published Aug. 14, 2023. Copyright 2023 Montana Public Radio. Reprinted with permission.



WHOSE WORLD? OUR WORLD – Montana teens and their supporters rallied outside the courtroom where Lewis and Clark District Court Judge Kathy Seeley decided the state government violated its constitution by not considering the impacts of fossil fuels on the environment.

– Photo courtesy of Josh Burnham, Montana News

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Council meeting

■ ■ ■ (from page 3)

by four people, can fill about 3,400 bags per hour. The 8,000 sandbags will require over 100 pallets for staging.

“I would like to have 80 per cent of our barriers in place before we have a flood event,” he said.

The preference, if funding allows, is to purchase rather than rent flood control equipment. Lease said the town paid \$12,000 monthly in flood equipment rental fees last year.

Councilmember Rick Dole, liaison to the commission, praised Lease for having “put together an excellent cost sheet.”

Dole added that part of the cost can be recouped by renting the machine to other jurisdictions.

Dole said the essential items on Lease’s list are expected to cost about \$117,000. The town has \$163,000 in its flood account, he said.

Finance Director Maria DeGoede pointed out that covering all items listed would “clean out” the flood fund.

“That’s all you’ve got in there,” she said. “You’ll be starting over.”

Given the devastation caused by the Dec. 27 flood – residential and commercial property damages in La Conner totaled nearly \$2 million – Hayes and the Council reached a preliminary consensus authorizing Lease to explore further the cost and feasibility of acquiring the materials and equipment on his list.

“You’ve got the green light to get going with this,” said Hayes. In other town business:

- Resident Barbara Brunisholz objected during the public

comment section of the meeting to the use by developers of the 19-unit Center Street apartment/condo proposal of the moniker “Talmon Project” for their on-site infrastructure improvement plan. Brunisholz said the name is disrespectful to former planning commission member Linda Talman, who has been outspoken in her opposition to the proposed three-story development. “They’re thumbing their nose at Linda Talman, they’re giving her the middle finger,” said Brunisholz. “I wish the council could refuse the project for them being so rude.”

- Planning Director Michael Davolio said that the Center Street project pre-construction meeting with involved parties is planned and Lease will make sure all work at the site will be done consistent with what is mandated in the Town engineering report.

- Hayes said one of his “last acts as mayor” will be lining up a meeting between Town officials – including mayor-in-waiting Marna Hanneman – and Port of Skagit leadership to discuss the port’s long-range plans for re-visualizing the marina. “We’re taking this to the commission level,” Hayes said. “We want to have a dialogue that gives the new mayor a solid foundation.”

- Councilmember Mary Wohleb announced that the Town has gained state grant monies to conduct feasibility studies for future installation of solar heating systems at the fire station and La Conner Schools campus.

a large wildland blaze in Eastern Washington near the Oregon border.

“We took a truck there,” he said, “and everything worked perfectly.”

Well, almost perfectly. “We did lose a hub cap,” Weiss said.

Co-op at 50

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

Food was also available to buy from The Skagit Table, Slow Food Youth Network and Cocina Sabores. Riverwalk businesses District Brewing and Taste of India were also open.

In remarks, White praised the 165 employees of the Co-op, the board and its progressive policies, including \$16 per hour starting wages and that “it is fair to say we are one of the anchors of downtown Mount Vernon. It is fair to say that we love to be here and Mount Vernon loves having us here.”

He also extolled Todd Wood, general manager for some 40 years, saying “We are where we are and can do the things we do because of Todd.” Wood, and other longtime anchors of a different sort, board members and

farmers, spoke during the open mic section offering historical reminiscences. “It took a bunch of dreamers and activists,” Wood said, for the Co-op to come about.

And while the Co-op was key to 10 years of “Magic Skagit” protests and celebrations against siting nuclear power plants in the county in the 1970s and ‘80s, he recalled that serving and selling food was a critical fundraising activity for the store’s bottom line.

Longtime board president Francis Ambrose called her involvement “one of the great satisfactions of my life.” She remembered dividing up 50 pound bags of rice and flour in the Presbyterian church basement in the 1970s and the monthly meetings as a “real exercise of community and democracy.” debates over stocking coffee and white sugar in the store. “It

helped us understand different opinions. It was really about democracy. It is a way for a lot of us to learn new things about each other.”

She recalled when there was a play area for kids in the store, because young parents were a key constituency.

Board President Tom Theisen, the longest serving board president, spoke last. He noted the Co-op went from zero dollars in sales in 1973 to reaching \$25 million by the end of this year. “In the next 50 years we can go from \$25 million to \$50 million, sure we can,” he said, “with family, friends and community.”

Grandchildren of children attending the 50th year celebration will be there to herald the accomplishments yet to come.

The local bands playing were The Nematones, The Wes Jones Trio and Yogoman Burning Band.

Degree

■ ■ ■ (from page 4)

Nelson successfully defended earlier this year, he notes that stories and anecdotes provided by the Swinomish focus group “tell factors that contribute to successful experiences while sharing barriers and challenges they faced as well.”

Nelson received input from a cross-section including – but not limited to – tribal senate chair Steve Edwards, school board members J.J. Wilbur and Loran James, tribal senator Alana Quintasket, elders Janie Beasley, Diane Vendiola and Lona Wilbur, tribal social services director Tracy James, paraeducators Theresa James and Taysha James-Sherman, tribal education department head Michael Vendiola and La Conner alumni Dean Dan, Anna Cook and Wilbur Bailey.

The practical application of Nelson’s research can be seen in key initiatives now undertaken in the district. The headlines are universal design for learning, professional learning communities and mastery-based learning

along with promotion of student equity across the curriculum.

Universal design for learning emphasizes the need to offer instruction that meets a wide range of student learning styles and brings culturally responsive voice, choice, interest and relevance to learning.

Professional learning communities encourage teachers to collaborate and forge student-centered lessons that prioritize essential standards to be met while progressing toward graduation.

Mastery-based learning promotes a learning pace relevant to each student.

The dissertation process confirmed for Nelson, 61, who previously lived in California and Florida before embarking on careers in education and technology in the Pacific Northwest, that La Conner is a great fit for him personally and professionally.

“I knew that working in the

La Conner School District was where I needed to be,” Nelson stresses in his dissertation.

That hasn’t changed despite a busy work schedule that no longer leaves time for marathon training.

Instead, the job itself has Nelson constantly on the run.

“It’s definitely a round-the-clock position,” he said last week.

And one in which he is willing to go the distance.

“I wanted to work at a school district with a large Native American population,” Nelson said, noting that 35-40% of students are indigenous.

As for the dissertation, his two-year mission simply seemed the right thing to do.

“People are good,” he explained. “It’s everyone’s responsibility to engage in communication to learn one another’s history and culture.”

Fire District 13

■ ■ ■ (from page 3)

need to have insurance.”

Established in 2002, SBSR volunteers provide marine-related support to the sheriff’s office. Members are trained in boat operations, navigation, search and rescue procedures and medical support and transportation.

Ladd said the sheriff’s office is onboard with SBSR being available to fire departments. It is a matter of lining up the insurance coverage.

“We’d like the commission to continue moving forward to make this partnership work,” he said.

Shellhamer, who chairs the panel, and Chief Wood Weiss each endorsed the plan.

Shellhamer called bringing SBSR under the fire district umbrella “a fabulous idea.”

“I see a lot of positives,” said Weiss.

Weiss struck another positive note during the 90-minute hybrid session when he reported that a grant secured by the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community will purchase four new gas monitors valued at around \$3,600 each. The monitors can be employed for a wide array of emergency calls, said Weiss, including train derailments, gas line breaks and chemical spills.

Assistant Fire Chief Jamie Jurdi reported he and other district firefighters were mobilized in July to help combat

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LEGAL NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY
No. 23-4-00399-29
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS
(RCW 11.40.030)

In the Matter of the Estate of Linda E. Pickett, 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: August 2, 2023
Bradford L. Pickett
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, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 2023.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY
CHRISTINA EGERER, as Successor Trustee of the Wilson Family Trust dated June 19th, 1997



- Barbie** (PG-13) Margot Robbie, Ryan Gosling
 - Meg 2: The Trench** (PG-13) Jason Statham, Jing Wu
 - Oppenheimer** (R) Cillian Murphy, Emily Blunt
 - Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem** (PG) Micah Abbey, Shamon Brown Jr.
 - Haunted Mansion** (PG13) LaKeith Stanfield, Rosario Dawson
 - Sound of Freedom** (PG13) Jim Caviezel, Mira Sorvino
 - Mission: Impossible — Dead Reckoning Part One** (PG-13) Tom Cruise, Hayley Atwell
 - Talk to Me** (R) Ari McCarthy, Hamish Phillips
 - Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny** (PG-13) Harrison Ford, Phoebe Waller-Bridge
 - Elemental** (PG) Leah Lewis, Mamoudou Athie
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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Super Crossword

Answers

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

Answers to Aug. 16 puzzles

Plaintiff vs. **THE HEIRS & DEVISEES OF JOHN JOHNSON & WILHEMINA JOHNSON, h/w; AND, ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN CLAIMING ANY INTEREST IN OR TO THE SUBJECT REAL PROPERTY**
Defendants
No. 23-2-00565-29
SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF WASHINGTON TO: ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN CLAIMING ANY INTEREST IN OR TO THE SUBJECT REAL PROPERTY, Defendants:

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 26th day of July, 2023, and defend the above entitled action in the above entitled court, and answer the complaint of the plaintiffs, and serve a copy of your answer upon the undersigned attorney for plaintiffs 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.

The object of this action is to quiet title to certain real property, located in Skagit County, Washington, and described as follows:
That portion of the Northeast ¼ of the Northwest ¼ of Section 14, Township 35 North, Range 3 East, W.M., lying East of the Pacific Highway; EXCEPT one acre, also showing as one acre square, also showing as the North 208.7 feet of the East 208.7 feet thereof.
DATED: July 26, 2023.
CRAIG SJOSTROM #21149
Attorney for Plaintiff
1204 Cleveland Ave.
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
(360) 848-0339
Published in the La Conner Weekly News July 26, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY LISTED BELOW

The Plaintiffs Kevin Paul and Patricia Paul are initiating a Quiet Title action on the building located at the following address: 17544 Pioneer Parkway, La Conner, WA 98257. Quiet Title actions are used to determine the ownership interests in homes and other buildings. The Quiet Title action has been filed in the Swinomish Tribal Court. The matter has been set for hearing on September 12, 2023, at 3:00 p.m., at the location below. Any person wishing to assert a right, title, or interest in any of the buildings at the address listed above, should contact the Swinomish Tribal Court to obtain the necessary paperwork to file a claim.
QUIET TITLE HEARING LOCATION
Swinomish Tribal Court Social Services Building, 17337 Reservation Road La Conner, WA, 98257
CONTACT FOR QUIET TITLE HEARING SCHEDULE
Blair Page, Swinomish Tribal Court Clerk

Phone: (360) 466-7217
Email: bpage@swinomish.nsn.us
Date of first publication of this notice: July 26, 2023.
Published in the La Conner Weekly News July 26, and Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2023.

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY
In the Matter of the Estate of Hazel Cheryl Monahan, Deceased.
Cause No. 23-4-00420-29
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 assets.
Date of First Publication: August 9, 2023
Personal Representative: Martin William Monahan
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: 360-671-7700
Published in the La Conner Weekly News, Aug. 9, 16, 23, 2023.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY
No. 23-4-00417-29
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

In the Matter of the Estates of Glen K. and Betty R. Loy, husband and wife, 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 decedents' probate and non-probate assets.
Date of first publication: August 16, 2023
Glenda R. Gundersen
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, Aug. 16, 23, 30, 2023.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY
No. 23-4-00416-29
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

In the Matter of the Estate of Donna M. Zeltinger, 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: August 9, 2023
Personal Representative: Martin William Monahan
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: 360-671-7700
Published in the La Conner Weekly News, Aug. 9, 16, 23, 2023.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY
No. 23-4-00417-29
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

In the Matter of the Estates of Glen K. and Betty R. Loy, husband and wife, 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
Date of first publication: August 16, 2023
Michelle M. Foggin
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, Aug. 16, 23, 30, 2023.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KING
In re the Estate of STEPHEN E. WICKS, Deceased

Case No.: 23-4-05210-0SEA
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS
(RCW 11.40.030)

The personal representative named below has been appointed as personal representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the personal representative or the personal representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets.
Date of First Publication: August 16, 2023
Personal Representative: Cindy Maxwell
Attorney for the Personal Representative: Michael Biesheuvel
Address for Mailing or Service: 114 Second Ave. S., Suite 101, Edmonds, WA 98020
Court of probate proceedings and case number: King County, WA
Law Offices of Kyle G. Ray, P.S. 114 Second Ave. S., Suite 101, Edmonds, WA 98020 (425) 712-0279
Published in the La Conner Weekly News, Aug. 16, 23, 30, 2023.

TOWN OF LA CONNER NOTICE OF ORDINANCE
Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of La Conner, Washington, passed Ordinance No. 1229 at the August 8, 2023, Town Council meeting. A summary of Ordinance No. 1229 is as follows:
An Ordinance amending Chapter 12.15.070 of the La Conner Municipal Code.
Complete copies of Ordinance No. 1229 are available at La Conner Town Hall, P.O. Box 400, La Conner, WA 98257
Dated this 9th Day of August 2023
Maria DeGoede, Town Clerk
Published in the La Conner Weekly News, Aug. 16, 2023.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY
Estate of C. SUSAN COOPER (a/k/a SUSAN COOPER), Deceased.
NO. 23-4-00405-29
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

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY
Estate of C. SUSAN COOPER (a/k/a SUSAN COOPER), Deceased.
NO. 23-4-00405-29
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

TOWN OF LA CONNER NOTICE OF ORDINANCE
Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of La Conner, Washington, passed Ordinance No. 1229 at the August 8, 2023, Town Council meeting. A summary of Ordinance No. 1229 is as follows:
An Ordinance amending Chapter 12.15.070 of the La Conner Municipal Code.
Complete copies of Ordinance No. 1229 are available at La Conner Town Hall, P.O. Box 400, La Conner, WA 98257
Dated this 9th Day of August 2023
Maria DeGoede, Town Clerk
Published in the La Conner Weekly News, Aug. 16, 2023.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY
Estate of C. SUSAN COOPER (a/k/a SUSAN COOPER), Deceased.
NO. 23-4-00405-29
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

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY
Estate of C. SUSAN COOPER (a/k/a SUSAN COOPER), Deceased.
NO. 23-4-00405-29
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

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY
Estate of C. SUSAN COOPER (a/k/a SUSAN COOPER), Deceased.
NO. 23-4-00405-29
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: August 16, 2023
Jerald Allen, Personal Representative
c/o Jayne Marsh Gilbert, WSBA #24656
Attorney for Personal Representative
314 Pine Street, Suite 211
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
Published in the La Conner Weekly News, Aug. 16, 23, 30, 2023.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KING
In the Matter of the Estate of: NANCY M. HUSTED, Deceased.
NO. 23-4-05572-9 KNT
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Jami L. Wallace has been appointed as the 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: (a) filing the original of the claim with the Court, and (b) serving the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below with a copy of the claim. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) THIRTY DAYS after the Personal Representative has served actual 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 sections 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 OPENING PROBATE: August 9, 2023
DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION: August 16, 2023
Attorney for Personal Representative
Michael K. DuBeau, WSBA # 15581 Michael DuBeau & Associates, PS 2135 - 112th Avenue, N.E., Suite 200 Bellevue, WA 98004. (425) 455-9787
Published in the La Conner Weekly News, Aug. 16, 23, 30, 2023.

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POLICE BLOTTER

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sunday, August 6

1:20 p.m. Big truck gone – A person called in to report a stolen Ford F-350 truck taken sometime in past two days. Truck was black in color with a canopy and has not been recovered. 2nd St., La Conner.

the way they were holding a dog. The person confronted him and he called her names. The other subject also called in for animal abuse and thought the kids were rough with the dog. A market. Morris St., La Conner.

Thursday, August 10

6:57 a.m. Here and gone – Report of a vehicle going over 70 MPH and passing on a double yellow line. Deputies were unable to locate the car and no plate was provided. La Conner Whitney Rd., La Conner.

11:10 a.m. Sad dog story – Loose dog on Maple Street was hit and killed by vehicle. Deputies helped remove the dog and checked on the owner who lives alone. Owner was located and was ok. She was advised about the dog but did not require any other help. Maple St., La Conner.

Tuesday, August 8

8:00 p.m. Mom check – A person was unable to reach her mom and nobody was answering at the center. Deputies were able to make contact and pass on the info. N. 1st St., La Conner.

Wednesday, August 9

1:25 p.m. Callers, kids and dog – A person reported that a male subject had approached her children and yelled at them for



UP IN SMOKE – No one was injured when this motorhome caught fire while parked on First Street Tuesday morning. The RV was locked and unoccupied at the time. La Conner firefighters needed to break the door lock to get in. They speculate that an electrical problem caused the fire. – Photo courtesy of Wes Jensen

How Mel Damski got to La Conner and loved it

By Ted Griggs

How does Mel Damski, an Oscar- and Emmy-nominated producer and director with more than 40 years in show business, leave Hollywood and become an award-winning columnist for a local newspaper?

The short version of his story starts with both sets of his grandparents fleeing Nazi Germany for New York. Damski's parents meet, fall in love, then move to Long Island to establish a jewelry store. Damski's older brother becomes a successful attorney, his sister a successful real estate agent. His younger brother becomes a successful sound mixer. Damski, the third child, follows his uncle Harry Rosenthal – Woodward and Bernstein's editor at The Washington Post – into journalism.

It's the '60s. Damski writes sports for Newsday. He lives in Manhattan, but the drug scene has exploded. People everywhere are high. Damski doesn't smoke or drink. He wants out. He enrolls in film school at the University of Denver.

"My very first day of class my teacher describes what a director does. I said, 'That's what I want to do,'" Damski says.

He makes a short film, "The Illegals." For the key shot, Damski stands in the middle of the Rio Grande between Mexico and Texas, filming people across the divide between hope and poverty, opportunity and despair.

He sells the film to the local PBS station and applies to and is accepted to the American Film Institute. He makes another short, "The Lost Phoebe," and wins awards for his portrait of an elderly widower who can't accept his wife's death.

An agent signs Damski. He goes straight from film school to directing episodes of "Barnaby Jones." He directs an episode of "MASH" in its seventh season. Damski is 30. Just about everyone in the cast is older than him. "The truth is the show could have directed itself," he says. But "MASH" leads to an episode of "Lou Grant," where Damski's experience as a journalist comes in handy. He ends up directing five episodes.

"That just launched my career. I've done 40 movies and hundreds of hours of series. That's pretty amazing, right?" Damski says this as if his career is still a pleasant surprise.

Damski declines to name his favorite movie. "It's like picking my favorite child," he says. But he adds that "Psych" – he produces every episode in the show's eight-year run except the pilot – is his favorite job.

"Psych" is also the reason Damski moves here. The show films in Vancouver, and Damski lives there for eight years. He buys a house in Shelter Bay as a weekend getaway and falls in love with the Pacific Northwest. It is so beautiful Damski decides he will never leave. One day



Mel Damski

in 2006 or so he marches into the La Conner Weekly News' office with a column about how much he loves the area and asks then-editor Sandy Stokes if she wants to publish it. Stokes asks if he wants to write the column every week. For 16 years, "If I Ran the Zoo" is, often, one of the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association's top columns in the annual statewide newspaper contest.

"I'm a very opinionated person, I'm a very passionate person. Sometimes I love to praise things, sometimes I like to condemn things," Damski says. "You can't do that as a reporter, but as a columnist you can express your opinion."

MARINA MOORINGS

Port of Skagit

The weather has been fabulous for boating this summer and our guest docks continue to be full. Many of our guests are stopping in La Conner on their way to or from Seattle. They come in around lunch time, relax for a day in town, then head out early to get into the traffic lines at the locks.

We had a boat come through this week that was over 100 feet long. This is pretty large for our guest docks and the channel. Our guest docks are 500 feet long, so over 20% was covered by just this one vessel. And moored in front of it was the second largest boat we have seen this summer, a beautiful 90 foot yacht. These two were pretty impressive, parked nose to nose, and combined they took up half the dock.

We have had RV guests from all over the country and Canada and even a few Europeans. It's remarkable how some of these travelers get around and how many of them love visiting La Conner.

We constantly get questions about the depth of the channel. People get very nervous when they pass through a constrained feature such as this. Usually in the salt water around here if it is wet there's plenty of water for navigation, whereas in the channel the max depth is 12-feet when measured at a zero tide. We lose a bit of that depth with a minus tide, so a minus 2 tide gives us a nominal depth of 10-feet. A boat's draft has to be subtracted from that, so a boat with a 3 foot draft theoretically has 7 feet of water under it. This means that any obstruction on the bottom would have to be over 6 feet high to interfere with this boat's passage. Most boats are just fine passing through at any stage of tide, but some report they have touched bottom in various places. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is scheduled to dredge the channel this fall and we hope this improves boater safety.

Our first summer hires have left us to go back to college. These are WSU students and they start early. We will gradually lose the rest as their schools start up. They are a high-powered bunch and we wish them the best after a summer of good work!

See you on the Channel!

— Chris Omdal, harbormaster

SKAGIT COMMUNITY BAND
Summer Concert
 Saturday August 26
 2:00 PM
FREE EVENT
 Gilkey Square
 103 Morris Street
 LaConner Washington

COME ONE, COME ALL

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX!

TOM ROBBINS DAY
 KING FOR A DAY
 IN LA CONNER
SEPTEMBER 2ND, 2023

COME IN YOUR FAVORITE TOM ROBBINS CHARACTER ATTIRE OR AS CRAZY AS YOU WANT IN HIS HONOR!

PARADE 1-3PM
FOOD & DRINK
ARTS & SHOPPING
LOTS OF FUN GIFTS & GAIETY

RAFFLE TO HELP OUR KID READING PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY

NO PERSONAL PHOTOS OR SIGNING WITH TOM, PLEASE

Bird migration and nesting patterns

By Bob Hamlin

We almost always assume everything will be the same. That is not true for humans or birds.

Climate change in California is affecting birds more so than people. Thirty percent of California forests have burned in the last decade. This does not include the loss of plants due to erosion, which provided food and shelter. During migration, most birds live off the land. They consume fruit and water. Plants lost to fire may take years to repopulate and provide this food.

This year there seems to be a reduction in swallows numbers. Part of this may be due to the spring's cold weather. Insects won't show until the weather

warms. Cold prevents insects from hatching, except for mosquitoes.

No robins nested in March as in prior years. Neotropical species like black headed grosbeak may be late. Swainson's thrush migrates at night but sleeps at night. Some birds feed on the go, like swallows. They move only a limited distance each day.

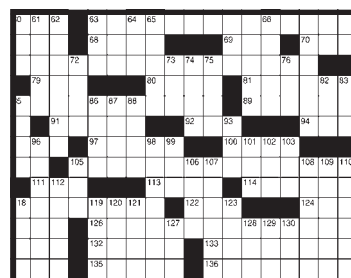
Others, like swallows, must have constant sources of insects, requiring hundreds of calories just to fly. When arriving at their nesting grounds, they must have good body reserves to lay eggs and care for their young. After arriving, the weather must be conducive to supply food for both the adults and their nestlings.

The nesting season varies with each swallow species. Barn swallows are the winner, sometimes laying four clutches in a nesting season. The newly fledged young may help feed newly hatched chicks. I have seen young birds with parents going south on Thanksgiving Day. Tree swallows may abandon their nest the minute cold weather sets in and return to renest when food is available. They rarely nest more than twice. Violet-green swallows usually nest only once. Bank swallows only nest on cliffs. Rough-winged swallows only nest once.

This summer keep an eye out for flocks of white pelicans. They nest on islands in saltwater areas and feed as a group on large schools of smelt and herring. Mostly they surround schools, chasing the fish into tight groups. They open their bills together in a collective attempt to scoop up these fish. They then fly off to their nesting areas.

I had heard last year nests were discovered on an island in Padilla Bay. I also heard that the nests were wantonly destroyed. Someone doesn't like pelicans.

The local snow goose population's summer nesting is on Wrangel Island off Russia's northeastern coast. It is now a haul-out spot for outbound polar bears. Last year over 1,000 bears were stranded here and spent the summer and fall without food. Some surely starved to death.



Love Puzzles!

See our new online puzzle page
laconnerweeklynews.com/puzzles

Town of La Conner

YARD WASTE RECYCLING

Compost pick-up at compost kiosk facility is FREE.

Hours: Monday-Friday 8 am - 3:30 pm
 12154 Chilberg Road,
 La Conner, WA 98257
Phone: 360-466-4314

Purchase punch cards at Town Hall for buying compost at the plant.
 No cash or punch card sales at the plant.

www.townoflaconner.org

Moving?

Email your address change to
info@laconnernews.com