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Can't get enough Tom Robbins stuff • p 10

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Beautiful Every Season



ALMOST FALL — The soft light of sunrise over a field of corn silage just outside of town hints at the arrival of autumn.

— Photo by Nancy Crowell

Jewish congregation starting in Skagit Valley



MEET THE NEW ARRIVALS — Rabbi Shmuli Silver and his wife, Shevy, have moved to Skagit Valley from Brooklyn. Rabbi Silver will lead a new Chabad. — Photo by Mel Damski

By Mel Damski

Shopping at Trader Joe's in Bellingham recently, I ran into two young men who I could tell from their wardrobe were ultra-Orthodox Jews. We chatted briefly and they told me that a rabbi from Brooklyn was headed this way to start a Chabad in Skagit County.

A Chabad is a congregation organized by members of the ultra-Orthodox Jewish Hasidic dynasty that was founded in 1775 by Rabbi Shneur Zalman in Lithuania. Chabad is a worldwide Hasidic movement known for its outreach activities. It is a system of religious philosophy that teaches understanding and recognition of the creator through the application of three intellectual qualities – Chochma (wisdom), Binah (understanding) and Daat (knowledge). The initials from these Hebrew words form the word “Chabad.”

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Nicole Roozen is new Tulip Festival executive director

MOUNT VERNON — Nicole Roozen is the new executive director of the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival, its board announced Sept. 11. Roozen joined the Tulip Festival staff at the end of August.

“Nicole’s resume and marketing expertise is impressive,” said incoming Board President Rachael Woods. “What really impressed the committee was her growth mindset and passion for innovation. We’ve been fortunate to have steadfast leadership for 20 years, so the operations and workflow for the festival are dialed in. We knew we needed a communicator and marketing expert in this next chapter, to elevate our reach with tulip fans and our community members.”

Roozen grew up on the Kitsap Peninsula and spent most of her career in the greater Seattle area. She now lives in the Skagit Valley with her tulip farming husband and two young children. Over the last 10 years, Roozen had the unique opportunity of helping her in-laws at Roozengarde during festivals.

“I have such a deep appreciation for the farming community, especially the tulip and bulb industry. I am thrilled to join the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival,” said Roozen. “The Tulip Festival is so unique in that it brings people from all over the world to the Skagit Valley, showcasing our beautiful community and agriculture. I’m thankful for this incredible opportunity to contribute to the festival’s continued success and look forward to showing what is so special about the Skagit Valley.”

Roozen attained a Bachelor of Arts degree in communications from the University of Washington and went on to build an extensive portfolio of experience in marketing and project management, working with several large brands, including Nordstrom and Zulily.

The Tulip Festival requires approximately two years of planning by its staff. Roozen steps into the late stages of 2024 planning, with the first event – the 2024 poster unveiling – taking place Nov. 15 at Skagit Acres in Mount Vernon.

Source: Tulip Festival



Nicole Roozen

School budget deficit triggers state oversight

La Conner will face two years of financial scrutiny

By Jerry Cornfield
Washington State Standard

As students return to Washington classrooms, state education officials are closely monitoring how three cash-strapped public school districts are spending money.

La Conner, Marysville and Mount Baker districts, all located in Western Washington and part of Northwest Educational Service District 189, are in this position because they are beginning the school year without a balanced budget as the state requires.

In August, each inked an agreement with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction requiring the districts to regularly file budget reports and restore financial reserves to certain levels by a prescribed date.

Signing the so-called “binding conditions” pacts, which span at least two years, assures the districts access to money needed for operations. And it empowers OSPI and the local Educational Service District to “closely review and recommend school district decisions related to their current financial condition,” according to letters sent to each district’s superintendent.

“The goal is to ensure the district restores a healthy financial position,” reads the letter signed by T.J. Kelly, OSPI chief financial officer, and Larry Francois, superintendent of Educational Service District 189.

Fewer than 20 such agreements have been signed in the last two decades. Having three districts come under state financial oversight in the same month “is a bit unusual,” Kelly said in an interview.

While each district’s situation is unique, all three are dealing with the fiscal effects of lower enrollment, an end of federal pandemic aid, and increased costs of labor and supplies.

Plenty of other districts are too, which has Kelly wondering if this could be a sign of things to come.

“We’ll certainly be paying much more attention in the upcoming school year to help districts identify fiscal issues and see if we can offer ways to solve them or to avoid them,” Kelly said. “I don’t want to speak to the probability of whether or not we’ll be sitting here a year from now with 10 to 12 districts on binding condition, but it could happen.”

A path forward to solvency

Washington doesn’t want its public school districts to become insolvent. It requires districts to submit a balanced budget to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. Those that cannot and foresee a deficit can seek permission to borrow against future local tax revenue to cover a shortfall.

The state schools office won’t approve a request unless the district agrees, in writing, to certain binding conditions for a period of two years.

(continued on page 8)



TAKING IT ALL IN — Marna Hanneman listens and takes notes during a recent La Conner Planning Commission meeting. — Photo by Bill Reynolds

Hanneman takes steps to be next mayor

By Bill Reynolds

There’s no doubt Marna Hanneman has the resume to be La Conner’s next mayor.

Having served nearly a decade on the La Conner Planning Commission, a key advisory panel focused on land use and historic preservation, Hanneman comes with relevant academic and professional credentials.

She holds a degree in business administration from the University of Maryland and has enjoyed wide-ranging careers in marketing, property management and insurance.

And not to be overlooked is her long managerial stint with the oldest union print shop in Seattle.

Yet it is her certification as a yoga instructor that perhaps best qualifies Hanneman to succeed four-term mayor Ramon Hayes.

After all, more and more, public service – like yoga – requires flexibility, patience, balance and compassion in equal measure.

Hanneman, who filed unopposed last spring for the opening, vows to emphasize communication, collaboration and consensus while in office. She promises to take no shortcuts.

“I’ll do the best I can and my hope is we can all work together as much as possible,” Hanneman told the Weekly News.

She has already begun shadowing Hayes, town council members and town hall staff. She attended their summer retreat and joined a recent meeting of Town and Port of Skagit officials.

Hayes and other Town leaders have praised Hanneman for her diligence in studying all facets of town government in a quest to hit the ground running.

“It’s important,” Hayes explained, “to

have continuity and stability. Marna has taken the initiative and we’ve been glad to provide her with access. And it really helps that she has nine years of experience on the planning commission.”

Councilmember Rick Dole, who worked with Hanneman on both the planning board and the First-on-First early COVID-19 downtown shopping campaign, struck a similar tone.

“My thoughts on Marna,” said Dole, “are that she is wickedly intelligent, joyful, confident and 100% believes in bringing La Conner together and sees herself as being of service to the town.”

Hanneman embraced community service almost immediately after she and her husband, Leroy, an engineer, career executive and advisor to various government, commercial and academic entities, moved to La Conner and built

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From the editor —

Our small-town living woes

La Conner continues to dodge the bullets that so much of small-town America is getting hit by: loss of employers, employees and families moving away, empty storefronts and boarded up homes, loss of hospitals and school closures. No, instead the problems here are employers struggling to fill open positions, employees stuck with commuting long distances and the local government needing robust affordable housing planning, policies and funding. The school district reacts to a smaller student population, but the high cost of housing is a tragedy it cannot solve.

And then there is law enforcement. Last week an Associated Press story datelined Goodhue, Minnesota, reported the town of 1,000 65 miles south of Minneapolis was closing its police department. La Conner knows that story and it is common in rural America: over 520 police departments have closed since 1972 the article states.

Law enforcement coverage is essential though locally administering a police department is not. La Conner has long contracted with the Skagit County Sheriff's Office. Mayor Ramon Hayes and the town council have greatly increased funding in safety services the last two years and will likely add more to the budget for the coming year as emphasis continues to be placed on the fire department and code enforcement.

The town government has ensured public safety coverage. But how does the community gain protection from its reputation and its success? Everyone, seemingly, wants to first visit then live in La Conner. That cannot happen, of course. The limiting factor, as typically in America, is money. Everyone cannot afford to move here. Many of those who do are tilting the demographics to out-of-county residents tending toward, or in retirement. As well as becoming older, the community faces the possibility of becoming more homogeneous.

The Town of La Conner was able to resolve its need for law enforcement by contracting with the county's sheriff office.

But neither La Conner nor Skagit County has the funds nor the resources to support the development of a heterogeneous, multi-generational, vocationally and economic diverse population. This is a roundabout way to get to the central dilemma of workforce housing, an issue addressed in editorials here for years.

As assessed in this space before, the population that employers of every sort and our school officials desire and require cannot afford to live in the more populated areas of Skagit County. And besides the needed industrious and the diligent, what about the fringe elements of artists and assorted roustabouts – the characters of Tom Robbins novels and the actual drifters and odd ducks who made their way into the La Conner of one, two and three generations ago? When folks say La Conner is interesting, they are not pointing out the retired doctors, lawyers and accountants – no offense to any of those proud and needed professionals. But when was the last time you heard a lament for the need of another insurance broker to move into the neighborhood?

Today La Conner seems fairly safe on many levels. Yes, there is aging infrastructure that will require massive capital expenditures to replace and bring it up to 21st century standards. And it is necessary as well as sensible to plan and save – and worry – about the essential need to flush toilets 50 years from now.

Town officials – elected and staff – are monitoring, planning and seeking solutions to treating wastewater and keeping fresh- and saltwater from flooding the community. But whether it is housing or creativity, it is the ad hoc efforts of individuals who are placing fingers in the dike to keep normalcy and the status quo from seeping in until one day, surprise, we are swamped with the established order of doing things as they have always been done.

— Ken Stern

Musings — on the editor's mind

Here is a backwards rhetorical question: How do you improve on the town's Tom Robbins celebration and day?

Answer: You can't. Don't try. Do more and better by organizing something different. What is the necessary alternative roadside attraction? Let's invent it by next summer.

Hopefully this unexpected answer your just read will be embraced and accepted for the necessary challenge it is.

More than one person has applauded the complete success of the Sept. 2 celebration, waxed on how wonderful it was to have a day focused on local people for local people and expressed their hope that it can become an annual event. Yes, but.

Everyone who attended, participated in, costumed or dressed up, applauded and bought raffle tickets can cheer for themselves as well as thanking Gina McCarthy, Meg Holgate, Betsy Humphreys, Alexa Robbins, Dorothy Bird, Christine Hill and the other volunteers who were lifted up in last week's editorial. Tom Robbins was a trooper to let us hold him up and parade him through town.

Now, a conversation on an annual day without Tom Robbins participation is a good idea. Parading Tom yearly is not a good idea.

Continued thinking outside the box is necessary. Here is a early contribution: an annual celebration, perhaps in Tom's name, that celebrates imagination and creativity in the arts, whether writing, music, drama, the visual arts or any other medium.

The future is about the idea of Tom and not Tom the person himself. Let's bring in other creative, imaginative, think-outside-the-box persons to have their turns riding on the fire truck. Elves and fairies and role models of creativity are out there waiting to be invited to the Second Annual Day of Fun and Magic in the Spirit of Tom Robbins' Imagination.

Our better future lies in meeting the challenge of evolving from celebrating Tom Robbins to the ongoing exaltation of the ideas, values and perspective of the ideals that the best of Tom Robbins' works represent.

It would be supremely ironic if the good citizens of La Conner, in introducing next year's celebration of Tom Robbins in it becoming an annual roadside attraction, turned him into an icon, even to the extent of one day in the distant future of mummifying his corpse.

Or, as Glen Johnson might write: a dummy of his mummy as long as he is with us. Wouldn't that be funny, driving that dummy of his mummy around in the parade annually? Let's place that on the fire truck in 2024.

A citizen's view —

Tom Robbins deserved his King for a Day

By Glen Johnson

So, Sept. 2 came and went, there couldn't have been a finer day in La Conner spent. There was a "King" in town, complete with a crown, and a shiny white old fire truck. Yeah, mega author Tom Robbins was kinda awestruck. The town was full of its regular crew and then there were the curious and people who didn't have a clue. Who's this fella anyways, what did he write, what did he say?

Well, he wrote words that he turned into novels

and one into a movie! He wrote about eclectic characters and notions that could raise your eyebrows and maybe, make you drink some brew.

Walking down the parade route I saw Jitterbug Perfume, a psycho psychedelic skateboarder, Stewart and Joyce, Bill, Mike, Mari and enough strangers to fill the sidewalks on First Street. Fancy cars all covered with colorful beads and a bike like an orca, all as the tide slowly flowed past. I met a

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tom Robbins celebration is community at its best

Tom and I were touched and grateful for everyone who participated in Tom Robbins Day. The event uplifted our community and reminded us to play, imagine and create. The costumes and parade participants were truly delightful. The day emphasized what a great town we are privileged to live in.

This event would not have happened without our committee. Gina Torpey (aka lead fairy), Meg Holgate, Betsy Humphrey and Cherie Ware worked tirelessly for three months to make this day possible. Big thanks to Mayor Ramon Hayes for his beautiful proclamation. Community leaders from Marna Hanneman to Kevin and Patricia Paul lent support in meaningful ways. Our firefighters and sheriff made the event safe for everyone. Restau-

rants and merchants were incredibly generous in supporting the raffle and making displays. Many wonderful local artists carved Spam to raise funds for the new kid's art program at the library.

We are thrilled that the fundraising portion will spark creative possibility in the youth of La Conner. Library Director, Jean Markert and Board Chair Susan Macek were instrumental in supporting our efforts. While the event was centered on Tom, our hope is that the spirit of Tom's imagination continues on in new and innovative ways. Community at its best celebrates more than one individual. It highlights the possibility for everyone's unique talents to shine. As Tom wrote: "Our greatest human adventure is the evolution of consciousness. We are in this life to enlarge the soul, liberate the spirit, and light up the brain."

Alex R obbins
LaC onner

Tom Robbins has been a longtime inspiration

Thank you for printing the Tom Robbins graduation address article. I graduated at about the same time and spent my formative years in the Skagit Valley. Although I experienced a traditional high school commencement speech, not a word of which I can remember, I clearly recall soaking up Tom's books.

I moved away from the Valley for graduate school and a satisfying career studying insects that eat trees. I've never tired of asking questions of the natural world, a fascination I attribute to having spent so much of my youth pondering the limitless

mysteries of Pacific Northwest forests.

Luckily, I found my way back home for frequent work trips and cherish my re-connection to the Valley. Settling into La Conner during work trips I discovered the Weekly News and smile when it arrives in the mailbox. I haven't read Tom's books in decades, but when I read the article, memories of my youthful explorations came flooding back.

I realize now how important those early years in the Valley have been in my life, and especially the wonder and awe that reading Tom's books inspired.

Thank you, Tom, and thank you, La Conner Weekly News. Now I'm going to re-read some of those books!

Ma k Whitmore
Itha n ew York

Tom's day showed soul

On Sept. 2 La Conner got our soul back. In honor of Tom Robbins our town came out to honor one of its own. The energy was electric, the costumes outrageous and the best part of the entire day was the sense of community. Truly that is a feeling that has

not been present in a very long time for whatever reason. The day was magical, La Conner sparkled in our uniqueness. So from one resident to another please let's keep that spirit going.

With joy and hope
Ma ndH ane ma
LaC onner

Maui fire human caused

For a short time eons ago, I lived in a rude hut southeast of Lahaina on Maui with sticky-foot gekkoes and cockroaches for roommates and obnoxious rats as my nearest neighbors. As the embers cool and the tempers flair from the recent Maui wildfires, I can't help admitting geologists are correct in calling this period of our planet's history the Anthropocene. Humans not only lit the flames of Maui's conflagration, Humans provided the fuel.

When I first visited the Islands, non-native cane toads hopped through vast plantations of sugar cane that grew where venerable rain forests had been clear-cut. Now, I'm told, the colonial imposed

plantations are superseded again, this time by alien, non-drought-tolerant grasses and brush.

Pre-fire records say the moisture content of this parched "wild" ground cover was 2%. Matches have more moisture in them. Maui is not alone. The vacant-lotting of no longer quickly profitable land is being repeated throughout the Hawaiian Islands and the rest of our world as these weedy, too often parched patches are left fallow to await the next economic opportunity.

Jerry Georg
LaC onner

Georg wa the foudi ngl ad S ewa d for The Nu n e Conservac y

Great local foods abound

It's peak season for food here in La Conner. Let's start with seafood, crab, oysters, prawns and I tasted some locally caught smoked salmon the other day, yum. La Conner is wonderfully positioned between the water and the farmland. There are so many stands offering sweet corn in our orbit it doesn't pay to grow it yourself. I will admit the six ears for a buck and the honor stands have gone the way of the Dodo bird, well we can always blame the politicians.

Sill, in the grand scheme of things locally grown food is cheap and supports our local economy. I am going to come right out and say it: Local berries are the best. Raspberries, strawber-

ries, marionberries and, if you know where to find them, wild blackberries. California strawberries do make great decorations but taste like strawberry cardboard.

Zucchini seem to appear on our door step; most of them large. The yellow crookneck does seem to be making inroads. It's like living is a salad bowl this time of year.

Visit the Hedlin farmstand on our doorstep for tasty tomatoes and a phantasmagoric selection of fruits, veggies and other local products. Kai and Jules have created a wish list for foodies so close you can walk there. Take the time to stop by and reflect on how lucky we are.

S a t Welch
LaC onner

CORRECTION

In the "Agritourism stakeholders" story Aug. 30, it was Mikala Staples Hughes of Hughes Family Farm who said, "Farmers lose operational hours to individual requests by neighbors to not spray when they are home, or they choose to skip an area of a field when digging spuds because the dust could ruin the neighbor's barbecue," she said.

"Or maybe they have to skip a pole with a big gun when they're irrigating because vendors are setting up chairs at the neighboring wedding venue. These challenges are paired with the already complicated nature of farming as we are at the mercy of wind, rain and crop maturity."

The editor regrets the error of not correctly attributing the quote.

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Oct. 17 open house set for short-term rentals

By Bill Reynolds

Short-term rentals have been the talk of the town. That isn't going to change anytime soon. The community can participate at a 6 p.m. open house Oct. 17 at the La Conner Civic Garden Club.

Encouraging input on revising short-term rentals regulations is the goal.

The La Conner Planning Commission has been reviewing the issue this summer.

"We want to hear from as many people as possible," Assistant Planner Ajah Eills told the Weekly News Friday. "The Town is totally neutral on this."

Short-term rentals are permitted in La Conner's commercial zone. Allowing them in residential areas is the issue. Now, bed and breakfast operations require a conditional use permit to open in residential zones and their owners must live on-site.

Some municipalities permit unhosted short-term rental stays for between 30 and 120 days, though some – like the City of Port Angeles – are imposing moratoriums on new applications.

Proponents of extending short-term rentals cite opportunities for homeowners to lease their houses while on extended vacations or out-of-town work assignments, with the rental providing income, property security and added revenue for local businesses.

Opponents contend short-term rentals negatively impact residential neighborhoods and reduce housing stock in a community with painfully few options for permanent residents, a factor that in part reflects declining student enrollment at La Conner Schools.

Eills is hopeful the open house will produce a free flow of perspectives. The issue was to be addressed last year as part of a review of the accessory dwelling unit (ADU) section of the municipal code.

"The Town couldn't get to it then," Eills said after the nearly two-hour Sept. 5 planning commission session. Housing issues dominated the agenda.

"It will be a chance for neighbor-to-neighbor conversations in a casual setting," Eills said. "It can be a time for neighbors to talk about what short-term-rentals mean to the community."

At the planning commission meeting, several residents – some of whom had previously written letters to Town officials opposing changes to the present code – voiced their concerns.

Center Street resident William Smith emphasized cost-of-living impacts when houses are used for short-term rentals rather than permanent dwellings. Reducing housing supply will drive up costs to home buyers and renters, he intimated.

"If you're priced out, where do you go?" he asked, insisting, "we shouldn't do anything that

contributes to homelessness. It's a moral issue."

Local developer Greg Ellis plans a tiny house village behind Pioneer Market. His project includes a row of Airbnbs to shield permanent homes from business noise. He said the rental units will allow visitors to enjoy the ambiance of La Conner.

"The people in the Airbnbs can experience a walking community," he told commissioners. "People will want to come here and experience that. I've been working on it (a walking village) for 20 years."

Tiny homes will help achieve its long-stated goal of providing more affordable housing, Ellis said. "Some families are having trouble (financially)," said Ellis. "They're just trying to survive."

Commissioner Marna Hanneman, who is unopposed this fall for mayor, stressed the importance of securing affordable housing here.

"We need more families," she said, "because we need students in our schools. Certainly, we want affordable housing, but how do we as a town of less than a thousand people do that?"

The open house will foster discourse. "The staff," said Planning Director Michael Davolio, "doesn't have a position on short-term rentals. We want to make sure everybody who has a dog in this fight has an opportunity to come and present their views either way."

Town sales tax revenue muddling along

By Ken Stern

The \$60,820 in August sales tax revenue reported to the Town of La Conner from the state's Department of Revenue is the third highest June total ever, though down \$9,563 from 2022 and \$1,900 from 2021. The \$399,898 total year to date is 65.6% of the forecasted revenue, almost matching projections.

The special use fire tax total of \$6,064, as always, tracked sales tax totals and was also almost 10% below the same month last year.

People are still staying overnight in La Conner. The \$19,848 collect-

ed in hotel motel tax revenue set another monthly record, though only \$711 and 3.6% above 2022.

Property and REET (Real Estate Excise Taxes) taxes were \$3,299 and \$9,071, respectively, within the range of the Town's annual forecast.

Overall, Town revenues are at 72% for the year, now two-thirds over. Income from the water and wastewater service funds, including composting, continue to generate revenue above budget projections, assuming equitable monthly collections. Expenditures in every program fund is below projections, though late in the year

project costs are not listed.

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

La Conner has a calendar fiscal year.



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Here's a primer on La Conner's short-term rental regulations

By Ajah Eills

In Leavenworth, the owner must be present. Spokane separates them into two types. San Jaun County only allows 693 for their population of 18,662. Clyde Hill requires a business license, but no other permitting. Poulsbo states that an ADU cannot be used for it, but has no other regulations. Westport disallows more than one on a single parcel. What could result in such different standards and regulations around Washington state? Short-term rentals, typically defined as rentals of a residential unit for less than 30 days. Requirements for short-term rentals vary because there is no "one size fits all" for regulations. Communities shape elements specific to their own needs and resources.

As La Conner moves forward with evaluating short-term rental regulations, the staff is depending on community input.

A Community Mix and Mingle for residents to discuss short term rental regulations is 6 p.m. Oct. 17 at the Garden Club.

La Conner only permits short-term rentals in its commercial zone. In the residential zone, bed and breakfasts are allowed to operate with an administrative conditional use permit. B&Bs are defined as an "owner-occupied home" that provides overnight accommodations, breakfast and occasional family-style meals for guests. Detached accessory dwelling units cannot be used as a B&B. Any residential short-term rental use has to take place in an owner-occupied space, meaning that guests cannot stay on a completely empty property.

The town is updating its short-term rental regulations. Input from community members will drive decisions. Staff need community input in order to craft regulations best suited to the town. Variables to consider include:

What policy objectives are being implemented? How to design a short-term rental policy

consistent with La Conner's mission statement?

The mission statement in the comprehensive plan is five-fold and includes providing basic services in an "economical and effective manner," promoting a business climate, advancing La Conner as a cultural center, maximizing public access and enjoyment of water, and preparing for climate change and natural disasters. How would different short-term rental regulations affect these goals?

For homeowners who rent out their homes while on vacation?

Residential property owners can run a B&B with an administrative conditional use permit. Removing this option may impact people's ability to make money or support themselves.

La Conner experiences intense waves of seasonal tourism. Should this impact how we structure short-term rental rules?

For example, La Conner could allow residential short-term rentals during April and May only.

Would a "tiered" system of rental regulations, where the regulations for short-term rentals differ depending on the characteristics of the rentals (i.e., owner-occupied vs not) work here?

In Spokane, owner-occupied short-term rentals have fewer regulations than non-owner-occupied short-term rentals.

How do short-term rentals impact the housing market? Would this affect housing affordability?

There is evidence that short-term rentals negatively impact housing affordability. Olympia, Kirkland, Walla Walla and Chelan County all reference housing affordability as a reason for regulating short-term rentals.

Will the town be able to enforce policy recommendations? The town has a limited budget for enforcement, so any regulations must be easily enforceable.

Send suggestions to planning@townoflaconner.com, brought to Town Hall.

Ajah Eills is the Town's assistant planner.

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Soccer, volleyball girls fall in opening rounds

By Bill Reynolds

All wasn't lost when the new-look La Conner High School girls' soccer team dropped two tough non-league tests to open the 2023 campaign.

First-year coach Maddie Huscher was encouraged by her club's effort in an 8-1 setback to North Mason and 7-0 shutout defeat at Northwest House of

Seattle last week.

"It was tough competition playing a team not in our division," Huscher told the Weekly News after the road trip to Northwest, "but it was a great learning experience. We played on a turf field, something we aren't used to."

Huscher said the team's returning players kept the lineup focused with on-field communi-

cation throughout both matches.

In addition, at Northwest, Huscher said right-center defender Kim Williams shut down several potential scores and cited teammate Angie Pena for outstanding play.

Offensively, Lydia Grossglass displayed some deft passing while advancing the ball to the opposing half.

"The girls did great, learned a

lot and had fun," said Huscher.

The Lady Braves resume their non-conference slate at 4 p.m. Thursday opposite Forest Ridge at the La Conner Elementary School Playfield.

In related sports news, the defending state 2B champion Lady Braves volleyball team opened the season with setbacks to 1A programs Meridian and Lynden Christian before com-

peting in the Yakima Sun Dome Festival on Friday. La Conner captured pool play with a 6-3 mark before falling 24-26, 15-25 in bracket competition featuring top seeds.

The La Conner net team, facing heavy graduation losses from last fall's state title lineup, returns home today (Wednesday) for a 3:30 non-conference date with Neah Bay.

Braves play tough against 2A foe but come up short, 28-12

By Bill Reynolds

C.J. Edwards reeled off a 53-yard touchdown run, Ivory Damien delivered a 45-yard scoring strike to Tommy Murdock and the La Conner High School defense recovered five fumbles, but the Braves still fell 28-12 to Evergreen of Seattle in their grid opener at Whittaker Field Friday night.

The difference, even more than the Wolverines' 16-point margin of victory, was in roster depth.

Evergreen is a 2A King County program that rolls out 57 players. The 2B Braves, by contrast, suit up 20, two of them freshmen.

It was a quartet of Evergreen's team that did the most damage.

Ernie Tofi ran nine times for 101 yards, including a 36-yard TD burst that tied the score at 6-6 midway through the first period.

Quarterback Gabriel Fernandez scrambled six times for 54 yards, capping a seven-play, 57-yard second quarter scoring march with a nine-yard touchdown that pushed Evergreen's lead to

double-digits at 16-6. Fernandez also completed two of five passes for 40 yards.

Miguel Savea, a bruising 240-pound running back, netted 88 yards on 11 attempts, one a 10-yard scoring scamper five minutes into the second half.

The Wolverines' Carter Morell rushed for 30 yards on just four carries, one of them a three-yard insurance TD run that gave Evergreen its largest edge at 28-6 with 5:28 to play.

The victors overcame their five turnovers and 95 yards in penalties by methodically wearing down La Conner, several of whose players suffered cramping on a night that began warm and muggy and ended cool and crisp.

"We showed a lot of hustle, heart and effort," Braves head coach Charlie Edwards said afterward. "We preach that constantly."

It was apparent from the get-go that the message has gotten through.

Kenai Zimmerman foiled Evergreen's opening drive with a fumble recovery at the Braves'



ON THE RUN — La Conner Brave Tommy Murdock (25) gets offensive blocking from C.J. Edwards (24) against 2A Evergreen of Seattle. The Braves defenders recovered five fumbles, but Evergreen came out on top, 28-12.

— Photo by Mdoc Hillier

40. He would thwart a second Wolverines' possession by pouncing on another fumble.

Meanwhile, C.J. Edwards got the hosts on the board first with a quick hitter between the tackles from just shy of midfield less than four minutes into the contest. Edwards paced La Conner's ground attack by running

13 times for 79 yards. He also matched Zimmerman with a pair of fumble recoveries, the first came on a first half goal-line stand.

Oscar Soto likewise recovered a Wolverines' cough-up, doing so at the La Conner 30 just prior to intermission.

Clinging to a slim 8-6 advantage coming out of the break, Evergreen asserted itself in the third quarter. The visitors scored

touchdowns on successive possessions, building a comfortable 22-6 lead.

With La Conner down 28-6 in the late going, Damien took advantage of single coverage by firing a deep spiral to state hurdles champion Tommy Murdock, who had gotten open behind the Evergreen secondary.

Damien finished with five completions out of 10 attempts for 106 yards. In addition to the long TD, he also found freshman wideout Jimbo Bobb on a 34-yard pass-run play and receiver Logan Burks twice for 22 yards.

La Conner looks to even its season slate tomorrow (Thursday) with a key NW2B home test with Friday Harbor. Kickoff is at 5 p.m.

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Giant Pumpkin Festival Saturday

Giant pumpkins from throughout Western Washington will be displayed and weighed this Saturday, Sept. 16, at the Skagit Valley Giant Pumpkin Festival at Christianson's Nursery on Best Road. Enjoy family-friendly carnival games, face painting, toad observatory, bluegrass music and more from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.. The weigh-off competition for pumpkin-growing hobbyists and giant vegetable growers typically starts in the early afternoon. First

prize is \$2,000 with 10 prizes going down to \$25. Prizes will be awarded for the prettiest and ugliest pumpkins, also. The festival is an official weigh-off site for the Giant Pumpkin Commonwealth, an international organization, sanctioned to submit giant pumpkin world records. The pumpkins will be on display for the next week or two. Information: christianson-nursery.com. *By Anne Ba ye*

FD 13 fire hall open house Sept. 23

Skagit Fire District 13 invites everyone to an open house to tour its new building, fire hall and fire truck Saturday, Sept. 23, 12-2 p.m. at its Sneeh Oosh Rd fire station. The Red Cross will pass out

smoke alarms and the Swinomish Police Department will give out bicycle helmets. Kids will be able to shoot water from a fire hose at a house prop. There will be food. *By Bill Reynolds*

Be a county planning commissioner

The Skagit County's Planning Commission is seeking applicants for a vacancy in Skagit County commissioner district 1, the area of greater La Conner. The term is through August 2024. The Planning Commission works with the Planning and Development Services Department and advises the Department and the Board of County Commissioners on proposed land use plans and regulations in unincorporated Skagit County. The Planning Commission has

nine members and usually meets twice monthly in Mount Vernon. Information about the Planning Commission is available at: skagitcounty.net/planningcommission. Applications must be emailed by 4:30 p.m. Sept. 22 to commissioners@co.skagit.wa.us or mail to 1800 Continental Place Ste 100, Mount Vernon, WA 98273. Questions: 360-416-1300, commissioners@co.skagit.wa.us. *By Bill Reynolds*

Picnic nets \$4,000 for museum

Among its many devotees, the annual Pioneer Picnic in La Conner is always a winner. Especially by the staff and volunteers at the Skagit County Historical Museum. This year was no exception as proceeds from the annual picnic in August allowed the La Conner Civic Garden Club and Skagit County Pioneer Association to contribute a total of \$4,000 to the museum last week. The joint contribution by the organizations to the museum was approved during the association's board meeting at the Skagit City School Building on Fir Island Friday afternoon. The meeting was led by 2023-24 President Loren Dahl, whose family roots in Skagit County extend back more than a century. New vice-president Troy Hanson, a third generation Skagitonian and Sedro-Woolley High School graduate was introduced during the hour-long session. "I'm very passionate about history," said Hanson, a Sedro-Woolley Fire Department lieutenant. "My whole life, I've been surrounded by Skagit

County history, and a lot of that has come from the older generations." The Civic Garden Club serves the salmon luncheon that precedes the Pioneer Picnic's business meeting, which is chaired by the pioneer association president. The historical museum is preparing to open the exhibit "Barber Historians" in October.

Singing the salmon home

By Anne Ba ye

It's hard to take a photo of a fast-moving salmon – even when you are surrounded by them. They splash. They skitter. They hit your kayak and soak your shirt. One second they are a tiny ripple in the water and the next they speed past your camera, while you snap pictures of empty water. On Sunday morning at low tide, 10 of us welcomed chinook salmon back to the Samish River with the Skagit River Poetry Foundation. Our agenda: drift among the salmon, talk about salmon habitat and lifecycles, read some salmon poetry, eat some salmon.

It was a golden ticket to an utterly different world. Northwest of the Bayview-Edison bridge, the river was shallow and studded with sand bars. From our kayaks, we watched these 24-pound salmon go from subtle ripple to splashing silver fiend as they zigzagged through the river. Sometimes their fins circled us slowly. Then they would dash dozens of yards. Rest, dash. Rest, dash. "They are sprinters," Alison Studley of the Skagit River Fisheries Enhancement Group told us.

In the shallowest spots, their fins became wings. They flew past us. Each time one came near I was drenched. One snuck between me and the river bank not 18" away. Wet again. Another salmon landed right on top of the sandbar. Seagulls pecked at it fruitlessly. These scavengers need an eagle to start taking the body apart. With nary an eagle in sight, one seagull kept trying. The carcass was gone 20 minutes later.

We had all the time in the world. The salmon didn't. After eluding Alaskan fishermen and hungry orcas for the last four to six years, these big fish were determined to get upstream to lay their eggs, in nests called redds. In the estuary at the mouth of the Samish, where salmon transition from salty sound to freshwater river, they weren't caught



ONE WITH NATURE — A kayaker drifts among the salmon along the Samish River on a lazy Sunday morning. — Photo courtesy of Holly Hughes

by a heron. But these tough fish weren't home free yet. A hundred yards upstream, fishermen lined the banks. "I was whispering the salmon a warning about what lay the beyond the bridge," said Maggie Wilder.

The salmon arriving Sunday morning were born at the hatchery near Pomona Grange county park on Highway 99, Studley informed us. That's where most will be intercepted so their eggs can be born and grow safely.

And yes, at the end of their long and perilous journey, all salmon die. "But their lives are just beginning," said Studley. "They have so much more to give!" Salmon carcasses nourish other species and the forest when predators drag their carcasses ashore.

Post-drift, around the lunch table we learned that chinook and the other four species of salmon found in the Skagit River system (of which the Samish is part, said Studley) don't all come at once. Guided by different signals, the humpies being fished by the west side bridge come in odd years, while fall and spring chinook runs happen less frequently. Each species seeks out a particular kind of habitat and stays in the river a different length of time.

Coho salmon that want to spawn in small streams don't swim upstream until rain has swelled the tributaries. Chinook prefer to spawn in the mainstem river, so they don't need to wait for rain. The diverse habitat of our river system supports them all.

Salmon need a healthy chain of habitats, and that chain can break, Studley reminded us. Marine con-

ditions and freshwater conditions can decline, caused by humans or by natural cycles. "When marine and freshwater declines coincide it can be hard for a species to rebound."

This was discouraging. When she's disheartened, said poet Holly Hughes, "salmon help. They give me hope." To cheer us, Hughes and commercial fisher Tella Aasden led us in reading aloud from "I Sing the Salmon Home," an anthology of poems about salmon by Washington poets, edited by former poet laureate Rena Priest of the Lummi tribe.

You can find this beautiful and challenging collection (including poems by Georgia Johnson, the late Robert Sund and coastal Salish poet Sasha LaPointe, who lived on the Swinomish Reservation as a youth) at the La Conner Library, for the grant that paid for the volume also paid to place one in every public library in Washington.

To see some very small salmon, you can stop by La Conner Schools in January, when students will begin growing 200 Coho salmon eggs in a 55-gallon aquarium to release in the spring.

To see very big, tired salmon, go stand on the Bayview-Edison bridge this week and listen for the splashing, skittering salmon. Sounds I will always remember.

Or join one of Skagit River Fisheries Enhancement Group's "Salmon Sightings" this fall at Oyster Creek near Taylor Shellfish and Pressentin Park near Marblemount to see returning salmon for yourself. Find details at skagitfisheries.org/events/.

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EV costs are predictable; that cannot be said about gas powered vehicles

By Greg Whiting

A typical home in western Washington uses about 10,800 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity per year. If you add in an electric car, that will increase to about 14,400 kWh.

Solar panels in western Washington produce about 1,100 kWh per year, per installed kilowatt (kW) of capacity. To fully power a house and a car, you'd need to install about 13 kW of solar generation capacity.

Here in Washington, net metering utility rate tariffs allow you to feed excess power to the grid and be paid for it, so, for that typical home, installing 13 kW of solar power would reduce your combined electric and single-car fuel bill to about zero (you still

have to pay a minor grid connection charge, usually less than \$10/month). Besides the connection fee, you still save about \$1300 a year on the electricity your home required before buying the electric car.

The cost of an electric car for commuting 12,000 miles/year varies substantially based on the model. Say, however, that your plan is to use it as a commuter/second car, and that you're not particularly concerned about longer trips. If the new EV replaces an older commuter car that gets 20 miles per gallon and the gas price is about \$4.50/gallon, you'd save \$2,700/year on fuel, and probably about \$1,000/year on maintenance.

Your total savings: \$5,000/year.



A new base-model electric vehicle – one with enough range for comfortable commuting, but not for long-range driving – can cost around \$30,000. A 240 volt home charger, which most EV drivers prefer, would add about \$2,500. The cost of a 13 kW solar installation, e.g., via the Solarize program the Skagit Valley Clean Energy Cooperative sponsored this year, would be about \$36,400 before tax credits, or \$25,500 after tax credits. Your total up-front cost would be about \$58,000.

Driving a car 12,000 miles a year for 12 years puts 144,000 miles on it. With modern cars, that's realistic.

After 12 years, you'll have saved \$60,000, or \$2,000 more than you invested in these devices. At that point, you'd need to buy a new car – but you probably would anyway, since 144,000 miles is a good lifetime for a gasoline engine car, too.

Over the next 12 years, your savings on car maintenance would be a little less because maintenance wouldn't cost as much on a new internal combustion engine car as it did on the used one you originally replaced. So, you'd only save, on average, about \$4,500/year for the next 12 years, or another \$54,000.

Total savings over 24 years:

\$56,000 – and your car fuel budget will be predictable, not volatile. If the price of oil goes up, your total savings will be even greater.

The price of oil is more likely to go up, on average, over 24 years, than it is to go down. It has gone up, on average, over the last two 24 year periods, because easily accessible, shallow, low-sulfur oil has long since been discovered. New oil fields are likely to be in inaccessible (e.g., deep ocean, remote Siberia) locations with inherently high costs of discovery, development, production and delivery. Even if all regulations were removed, and drilling was completely unrestricted, oil prices would still have to be high to justify and repay investment in pursuing new oil.

Judge temporarily blocks Dayton library dissolution from fall ballot; Sept. 20 hearing

By Courtney Flatt
NWN News, NWPB

A measure to dissolve the Columbia County Rural Library District in southeastern Washington has been temporarily blocked from the Nov. 7 ballot.

Superior Court Judge Julie Karl ruled Sept. 6 that the proposition that would shut down the county's only library is invalid. The temporary restraining order she issued will block the measure from the ballot and prevent officials from printing ballots for 14 days.

The clock is ticking. According to the county auditor, the first ballots are supposed to be mailed to military and overseas voters Sept. 23.

Proposition 2 aims to dissolve the Columbia County Library in Dayton, Washington. The plaintiffs, including the local political action committee Neighbors United for Progress, filed a lawsuit and said the measure would cause voters irreparable harm if it was placed on the ballot.

Last year, several people asked to move or take out

books they say are pornographic or obscene. When that didn't happen, they gathered signatures to dissolve the rural library district, based in Dayton.

If Proposition 2 succeeds, librarians said this would be the first public library district in the country to be dissolved following a book challenge.

In a news release posted to Facebook, Jessica Ruffcorn, who supports the rural library district dissolution and is a defendant in the lawsuit, said no one requested to ban any books, only relocate them to areas that they said were more appropriate than the young adult section.

In recent weeks, the library moved the young adult non-fiction section into the adult fiction section. Librarians also said they'd allow parents to add permissions to their children's library cards. For example, if a parent only wanted children to check out required reading for school, a note could be added to the child's account.

This week, library staff announced they'd moved the "parenting section" to a larger

bookcase that includes the "first conversations" section, which includes books on puberty, consent, bodies and sex education. In a Facebook post, they also said they set up bright green soft room dividers around the young adult section to "both muffle sound, in case someone is trying to study while there are young children playing and to clearly mark where the young adult section is."

The attorney for the plaintiffs, Ric Jacobs, said in an earlier interview that there is no evidence children have ever checked out the books in question.

If the library district is dissolved, librarians and attorneys said all of the materials will go to the state and the building will return to the City of Dayton, which library supporters said previously had trouble funding upkeep and maintenance on the historic building.

If the measure does make it into the November ballot, people who live in the city aren't allowed to vote on it.

As part of the temporary restraining order, Karl

ruled the proposition gave too much power to people in unincorporated parts of Columbia County. Karl also agreed with the plaintiffs, saying the state law is inconsistent. She said that means the petition process and upcoming vote are invalid. She said there is "substantial evidence" of fraud regarding

the petition signatures that library opponents collected.

Another court hearing is scheduled for Sept. 20.

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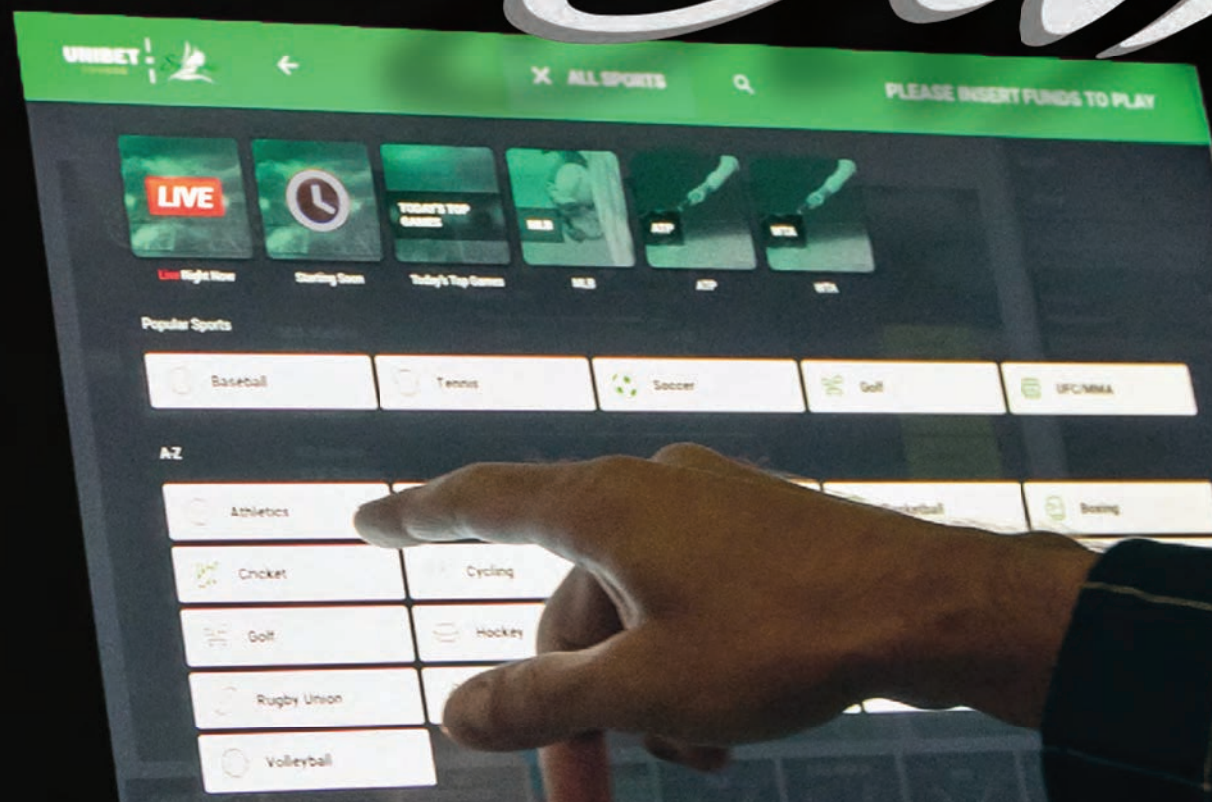
DANCING THE DAY AWAY – The Fabulous Murphtones rocked Gilkey Square for the last Sunday concert of the season Sept. 10. Concerts start again Memorial Day weekend 2024.

-P photo by Ken S ern

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POLICE BLOTTER

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sunday, Sept. 3

10:00 a.m. The real deal – Subject at Shawn O'Donnell restaurant paid with a \$100 bill that they believed was fake. A deputy arrived and found all the water marks and believed the bill to be real. The customer paid with other cash and advised he would contact his bank for verification on the \$100 bill. No crime. La Conner Whitney Rd., Greater La Conner.

11:58 a.m. Struck and got away – Vehicle prowled at the Conway boat launch while a subject was out fishing. The back window of this truck was broken out and a backpack containing fishing gear was taken. No suspect info. Dike Rd., Conway.

Monday, Sept. 4

6:20 a.m. All moos good news – Report of cows in the road on Best Road. A deputy checked and the cows were back in the field. Best / McLean Rds., Greater La Conner.

3:32 p.m. Mail gone – Mailbox at this address was pried open and mail taken. Unknown suspect but the caller was certain it happened that day. Best Rd., Greater La Conner.

Tuesday, Sept. 5

7:59 a.m. Driver twice wrong – A deputy was working traffic in the school zone when a driver failed to stop for kids in the crosswalk. The driver was stopped and cited for failing to yield to pedestrians and driving while license suspended. N 4th St., La Conner.

12:44 p.m. No horse sense – Caller concerned for a horse that did not have shelter. The laws were explained to the caller and the horse was found to be in good health. SR 536 / Bradshaw Rd., Greater La Conner.

Wednesday, Sept. 6

11:53 a.m. Walked wrong way – Report of a male subject who was walking in the road and causing a traffic problem. A deputy was able to contact and advised the subject to stay on the sidewalk. A check of his name found several warrants and he was arrested and booked into jail. Morris / N 2nd Sts., La Conner.

Friday, Sept. 8

6:31 p.m. This ended badly – Report that someone dumped/abandoned approximately six guinea pigs in a field near the marina. The animals could not be found but witnesses stated there was extensive bird activity just prior to the deputy arrival. N. 2nd St., La Conner.

Saturday, Sept. 9

4:40 a.m. Fast car, slow cow – Car vs. cow MVA. Car needed to be towed and unknown status of the loose cow. Chilberg / Dodge Valley Rds., Greater La Conner.

9:57 a.m. This ended badly - 2 – A 31-foot boat sank while tied to "K" dock at the La Conner Marina. The boat was not underway and the cause of the water leak that sank it is unknown. Port authority and Ecology were advised for the removal of the boat. N. 2nd St., La Conner.

New rabbi

■ ■ (from page 1)

Rabbi Shmuli Silver recently arrived from Brooklyn with his wife, Shevy, and 10-month-old son, Yitzchak (Isaac), with the intention of creating a Chabad, a center for Jewish residents in Skagit and Island Counties. His intention is to spread the word in a new place but he made it clear, he wants to create unity with people of other religions and not rock the ship.

Growing up in New York, I often drove through Brooklyn, especially when the Dodgers were still there, and I saw many Orthodox Jews walking around with their families and I would always honk my horn and wave. Women did not wear trousers and skirts and dresses had to fall below the knee, arms were covered to the elbow and necklines were highly cut.

Ultra-Orthodox males have long side curls in their hair and there are ropes attached to their pants waists called tzitzit. Orthodox women do not show their hair in public after they have married. Wearing headscarves or wigs, referred to as sheitels, they signal to their community that they are married and that they comply with traditional notions of propriety.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Rosh Hashana, Jewish New Year under the Hebrew calendar, is coming up and Shmuli is inviting Skagit Jews to join him on the second day of Rosh Hashana, Sunday Sept. 17, for a celebratory Shofar blowing event at his home in Mount Vernon.

Whether you are Orthodox or not, you are welcome to join this event and others in the future. If you interested in attending, you can sign on at jewishskagit-county.com. Their website states: "Here at Chabad, we practice Judaism with love, care, and passion, providing people of all ages with a warm, genuine, and personalized Jewish experience. Our vision is to foster a personal and meaningful connection with every individual in Skagit area, allowing us to cater to your needs, At Chabad, every community member feels a sense of belonging."

Swinomish fair prepares against natural disasters

By Bill Reynolds

Despite perfect late summer weather, thoughts of potential natural disasters – earthquakes, tsunamis, wildland fires and more – were on the minds of those visiting John K. Bob Ball Park on Swinomish Reservation Saturday afternoon.

Emergency management staff and volunteers from throughout the region shared information and provided take-home items for use during major disaster events.

The four-hour Swinomish Disaster Preparedness Fair, coordinated by the tribal emergency management department, was the first in a series of local events in coming days and weeks to increase public awareness of effective readiness strategies against possible disasters.

On Sept. 19 the Shelter Bay Community will host a 6:30 p.m. disaster preparedness program at its clubhouse. A month later, on Oct. 19, Skagit County Fire District 13 – whose coverage area is Swinomish Reservation and rural La Conner – will stage Great ShakeOut earthquake response drills.

In addition, the Federal Emergency Management Agency designates September as National Preparedness Month: ready.gov/ september.

Summer wildfires in British Columbia and on the Hawaiian island of Maui have made disaster preparedness here a topic of growing concern.

"When you have a fast-moving wildfire," said fair participant Brock Ward of Anacortes, "you have to get up and go. And there isn't a lot of egress in places like Shelter Bay."

Ward noted that historically the Puget Sound region is overdue for a major earthquake.

"If there were to be a major earthquake here," he said, "we'd have to be prepared to help our families and communities."

He cited the need for more people to secure HAM radio licenses because traditional forms of communication would likely be rendered inoperable by a significant earthquake.

"The backup batteries for cell towers are only good for a few hours," he said, pointing out that "people in their 90s and eight-year-olds have passed the test" for HAM radio licenses.

Swinomish Indian Tribal



BE PREPARED — Lona Wilbur and Quentin Cobbs pose with backpacks containing supplies for use at home during emergencies and natural disasters. The items were provided free by the Swinomish Emergency Management Department. — Photo by Bill Reynolds

Community Police Officer and Emergency Manager Brian Geer said there is no shortage of possibilities for which residents here must be prepared should a large earthquake strike.

"Everybody talks about 'The Big One' taking out all the bridges around here," said Geer, a combat veteran with more than 25 years of experience in the emergency response and preparation field, "but what worries me is the rocks over there (at Warrior Lookout Point, just west of Rainbow Bridge) crashing down."

The fair, where tribal Sen. and vice Chair Alana Quintasket managed an information booth, also offered a series pre-emergency food preservation and home preparedness classes.

A popular feature was distribution of free backpacks and "emergency go-bags" stocked with items to be taken home for emergency use.

"They're filled with food and other specific items that if you have to go in a hurry, you can carry them with you," said Geer.

"But you can also take these home and personalize them for you and your family."

Geer said a steady stream of fairgoers visited information booths, attended the preparedness classes, picked up the backpacks and bags and partook of free food.

And received free advice.

A suggestion frequently made was people take home extra emergency preparedness backpacks and bags as Christmas presents for friends and family members.

"That way," said one vendor, "you're not out a lot of money and it's a gift that probably won't be duplicated."

Quintasket stressed that the Swinomish fair was a way to be proactive rather than reactive when it comes to emergency management and disaster preparedness.

"And the beauty of it," said Geer, who has compared notes with Town of La Conner emergency management commissioner Jerry George, "is that this is something we can build off of."

Super Crossword

Answers

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NWMLS #2078193

LISTED BY KRISTINE STULTZ
 360-708-9967



LEGAL NOTICES

MEETING NOTICE
TOWN OF LA CONNER
PLANNING COMMISSION
 Tuesday, September 19, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
 Location: Lower Maple Center
 104 Commercial Street, La Conner, WA
 And by Zoom
 Information below and on the Town website
Agenda
 1. CONVENE
 2. PUBLIC COMMENT (Topics not otherwise on the agenda) – time limit 3 minutes.
 3. MINUTES
 Approve minutes from the September 5, 2023 meeting
 4. OLD BUSINESS
 Status Report: Talmon Development
 Status Report: Public Participation Program
 Status Report: Transportation Element
 5. NEW BUSINESS
 6. CLOSING COMMENTS
 Join Zoom meeting at <https://phaudowud-online.zoom.us/j/86003765360?pwd=Z2pna-jdGV1hUmk3Q1hZcmJFR-3Z0Zz09> or call 253-205-0468 for one-tap mobile access. Meeting ID 860 0376 5360, passcode 427767.

DATE: OCTOBER 27, 2023
 TIME: 9:00 AM
 PLACE: SKAGIT COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT, ROOM: TBD
 7. Your failure to appear at this hearing may result in a Default Order permanently terminating all of your rights to the above-named child.
 8. You are further notified that any non-consenting parent or alleged genetic parent has the right to be represented by an attorney, and an attorney will be appointed for an indigent person who requests an attorney. You are further notified that you have a right to file under Chapter 26.26 RCW a claim of paternity.
 9. You are further notified that an alleged genetic parent's failure to file a claim of paternity under chapter 26.26 RCW or to respond to the petition, within twenty (20) days, or thirty (30) days if served outside of this state, of the date of service of the petition is grounds to terminate his parent-child relationship with respect to the child.
 10. You are further notified that if an alleged genetic parent of an Indian child acknowledges paternity of the child or if their paternity of the child is established prior to the termination of the parent-child relationship, that their parental rights may not be terminated unless he: (i) Gives valid consent to termination, or (ii) their parent-child relationship is terminated involuntarily pursuant to chapter 26.33 or 13.34 RCW.
 11. If you wish to seek the advice of an attorney in this matter, you should do so promptly so that your written response, if any, may be served on time. Copies of these papers have not been served upon your attorney.
 12. One method of filing your response is serving a copy on the petitioner by sending the response by Certified Mail with Return Receipt Requested.
 DATED this ____ day of _____, 2023.

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 30, 2023
 Ann L. Hernandez
 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. 30, Sept. 6 and 13, 2023.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR KING COUNTY
ESTATE OF LYNNE BEATTY RAVATT
 Deceased.
 NO. 23-4-05650-4SEA
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 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 assets and nonprobate assets.
 Date of first publication: September 6, 2023
 Personal Representative: Gail Ann Beatty
 Attorney for Personal Representative: KRISTIN LILLQUIST REEDER, WSBA #29491
 Address for Mailing Service: 2370 130th Avenue NE, Suite #103, Bellevue, WA 98005 (425) 861-1109
 Court of probate proceedings and cause number: 23-4-05650-4SEA
 King County Superior Court
 Published in the La Conner Weekly News, Sept. 6, 13, 20, 2023.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON COUNTY OF SKAGIT
 In re the ADOPTION OF: VICTORIA MIKAYLA GONZALES
 DOB 11/08/2010
 A person under the age of 18. Case No.: 23-5-00031-29
SUMMONS & NOTICE OF PETITION/AND HEARING RE RELINQUISHMENT OF CHILD OR TERMINATION OF PARENT/CHILD RELATIONSHIP AND ADOPTION
 Clerk's Action Required TO: HECTOR TAPIA
 1. The Petitioners have filed with the Clerk of the above Court a Petition requesting relinquishment of the above-named child to them and praying that the parent/child relationship between the father (alleged father) of the above-named child and the above-named child be terminated.
 2. A copy of the Petition is filed herein and is named as follows: PETITION FOR TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS AND ADOPTION
 3. You may respond to this Summons and Petition by filing a written response with the Clerk of the Court and serving a copy of your response on the person signing this Summons. If you do not serve your written response within twenty (20) days, or thirty (30) days if served outside of this state, after the date this Summons was served on you, exclusive of the day of service, the Court may enter an Order of Default against you permanently terminating all of your rights to the above-named child. The Court may, without further notice to you, enter an Order relinquishing the child to the Petitioners, terminating your parent/child relationship, and approving or providing for the adoption of the above-named child.
 4. The child was born on November 8, 2010. In the city of Brawley, CA.
 5. The child's mother is Ana Gonzales nka De Los Rios
 6. The court hearing on this matter shall be held on the following date and time:

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY
 No. 23-4-00441-29
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS
 (RCW 11.40.030)
 In the Matter of the Estate of Margery G. Zimmerman, 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

Budget oversight

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

Circumstances dictate specific requirements for districts coming under the state's watch.
 Examples may include:
 • Providing budget status reports monthly to the state schools office and educational service district.
 • Attending quarterly meetings with state and local education officials to review expenditures and revenues, enrollment trends, staffing levels and cash flow projections.
 • Submitting comprehensive spending plans.
 • Achieving a minimum ending fund balance for a designated school year.
 OSPI enforces the conditions but "cannot force a school board to take any specific action," Kelly said.
 Unless, after two years, the situation is not improving. Then it can get more involved as state law lays out a process that could lead to a district being placed under "enhanced financial oversight" or even dissolved. That last happened with the Vader School District in Lewis County in 2007.

Smaller districts, smaller deficits

The La Conner School District is starting the fiscal year, which runs from Sept. 1 to Aug. 31, with a negative fund balance of \$300,000.
 In the district's "binding conditions" letter, leaders of the 550-student district cite several factors that brought them to this point including declining enrollment, overestimating their beginning budget balance for the year, and overstaffing.
 They expect to turn things around and end the budget year with \$600,333 in reserves, about 5% of the district's general fund expenditures. The agreement with the state calls for an ending fund balance of \$1.28 million in the district's 2024-25 budget.
 In Whatcom County, the Mount Baker School District is dealing with a projected deficit of just under \$1,175,000.
 Under terms of its agreement with the state, the district of roughly 1,700 students must erase the shortfall by the start of the 2024 school year.
 District leaders told the state it reached this point because of difficulties with inflation in the price of goods and services, salary costs not covered by state funding, expiring federal aid, declining enrollment and a reduction in levy equalization dol-

lars from the state.
 The Mount Baker district also had an unexpected change in finance directors. Classes started Aug. 30 in the La Conner and Mount Baker school districts.
A tide of red ink
 Marysville School District in Snohomish County is facing a \$17,500,637 deficit in its current budget – even after eliminating jobs and making spending cuts.
 It is little surprise the district of roughly 10,000 students is in this situation.
 In 2022, voters twice rejected renewal of the district's four-year local property tax levy which generated around \$25 million a year for staff and programs not paid for by the state. That left the district without those local dollars in 2023.
 Voters did approve a new four-year levy in February's special election. But the first collections of this local property tax won't arrive until spring 2024.
 Compounding the challenge, district leaders say, is federal pandemic aid is going away, enrollment has been declining, and state funding they receive is inadequate.
 The district's agreement with the state envisions a three-year period to get back on stable financial footing. In the short-term, it will need a loan, to be repaid with future local tax collections. As The Daily Herald in Everett reported this week, the district is working on terms with the Snohomish County treasurer.
 Before the Aug. 31 start of school, the district issued a statement reassuring families and students the financial troubles won't impede education.
 "The effects of the current financial crisis should feel seamless to children as they meet and greet their teachers and classroom support staff," the statement said. "There will still be supervision of students, buses to take them to and from school, nutritious meals, cleaning and maintenance, and caring adults to attend to their needs."
 Kelly met with district officials a few weeks ago to discuss the situation.
 "They all understand they are in a challenging spot," he said. "I think they appreciate there will be a second set of eyes on things."
First published Sept. 30, 2023. Reprinted with permission. Write to: hring@statedaily.com or hring@statedaily.com. Keep fiscal tabs on three cash-starved school districts.

Next mayor

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

An avid walker, Hanneman has familiarized herself step-by-step with every square inch of town. She strikes up conversations with those she encounters in neighborhoods, the business district and on the waterfront boardwalk, which she cites as an example of what cooperative interaction can achieve.
 "The boardwalk," said Hanneman, "has changed the complexion of the town in a very good way."
 Hanneman remains optimistic that community engagement, curbed by isolation imposed by the pandemic, can make a comeback and re-emerge as a force fostering expanded public input and insight.
 Her approach, she said, will be to listen intently and seriously contemplate options prior to taking or recommending specific action. Hanneman inferred that adopting a "be sure you're right, then go ahead" mindset is crucial to avoiding pratfalls associated with crisis management.
 "It's okay, sometimes, to pause and take a breath," she said, invoking – consciously or not – a yoga parallel.
 To encourage dialogue with residents, Hanneman plans to distribute door hangers around town this fall.
 Hanneman anticipates robust discussions related to affordable housing, preservation of La Conner's unique quality of life and funding strategies for necessary major infrastructure improvements, most notably a state-mandated upgrade of the community's nearly half-century old wastewater treatment plant.
 "We have to address housing," she said, acknowledging it has been an enduring challenge here given that La Conner is constrained geographically by farmland and the Swinomish Channel.
 "I remember when John Doyle was town administrator," Hanneman recalled, "and that he told us we could support a population of 1,200 people. Right now, we're at about 1,000, which is quite a jump from the population of around 700 that was here 20 years ago or so."
 Hanneman expects the needle to finally move on solutions to the former Moore-Clark property on the south waterfront. The Town has a planning grant for the underutilized area, which includes the vacant and dilapidated warehouse building that sits partially on south First Street and has been completely cordoned off as a public safety measure.
 She recognizes the challenge of following in the footsteps of La Conner's longest serving mayor.
 "I have big shoes to fill," Hanneman acknowledged, "but we have great people in this town and I'm committed to being transparent and serving the town for the long-term and not just in the short-term."

their home on S. Third Street 15 years ago.
 When it was suggested by a friend that she apply for a vacancy on the planning commission, never a position for the feint of heart, Hanneman threw caution to the wind, interviewed and secured the appointment.
 In the years since, despite occasional project proposals that have sparked controversy – the Maple Field housing development and Center Street condominium plan among the most recent – Hanneman insists the terrain here can still be mostly defined as common ground.
 "We all love this community," she said. "We're all neighbors. We've all chosen to live here."
 "The Tom Robbins Day celebration," she added, "is a great example. That was La Conner at its best. It was a day when people celebrated joy and all those things that are possible when we work together."

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WANTED: La Conner apartment rental wanted by a mature, able-bodied veteran with excellent local references. 360-421-2423
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Aqimuk's Kitchen

By Patricia Aqimuk Paul, Esq., Food Editor.

Chicken and Dumplings



This is one of several meals you can prepare with a rotisserie chicken. You start by making soup, cooking the whole carcass. This recipe makes enough for two families. We shared the other pan with our neighbor, Starina d nes. This is a comfort food. Takes about 2 hours to prepare.

Ingredients

- Rotisserie chicken, what's leftover from another meal
- Onion, 1/2 medium, chopped
- Carrots, 2 peeled and chopped
- Water, 2 quarts
- Flour, 2 cups
- Baking powder, 1 tablespoon plus 1 teaspoon
- Dried oregano or thyme, 1/4 teaspoon
- Milk, 3/4 cup
- Butter, melted, 4 tablespoons

Preparation

Add the rotisserie chicken, whole, into the water. Bring to a boil and simmer for 20 to 30 minutes. Remove the chicken and cool slightly. Debone, remove skin and tear or cut into chunks. Add it back into the soup pot. Add the onion and carrots. Cook another 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.

For the dumplings mix the flour, baking powder, melted butter, milk and oregano or thyme. It will be a wet dough. Use an ice cream scoop to make the dumpling. Add to your simmering chicken soup, one at a time. Cook for 10 minutes. Use a slotted spoon to turn it over, after 5 minutes.

Test them with a toothpick. If the center is doughy, cook another 2 minutes.

Cooking tip. The longer you leave the dumpling in the soup, the more soggy they will become. But they are still tasty.

AqimuksKitchen@outlook.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Complete Events Calendar on laconnerweeklynews.com

NOT TO BE MISSED

Skagit Symphony begins its 2023-24 season with "Second Chances" on Oct. 21. The concert features Sandra Shen on piano playing "Stars" by Mary Howe, Rachmaninoff's second piano concerto and concludes with Mussorgsky's legendary "Pictures at an Exhibition." Info: www.skagitsymphony.com/second-chances.

LIBRARIES

- La Conner Swinomish Library.** 520 Morris St., La Conner. 360-466-3352. www.lclib.lib.wa.us. Open 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday.
- Storytime for Children. 11 a.m. every Friday.
 - Book Club. Meets at 2 p.m. every fourth Wednesday. Info: Richard Wisniewski at wisniew10@gmail.com
 - Tech Help. 4-6 p.m. every Monday. One-on-one technical support in 30-minute blocks.
 - Dungeons & Dragons Club. 3-5 p.m. every Tuesday. No previous gaming experience necessary.

Mount Vernon Public Library. 315 Snoqualmie St., Mount Vernon. 360-336-6209, mountvernonwa.gov.

- Virtual Reality. Every Saturday, 1-3 p.m. Must be 12 or older.

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

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

- Knitting Club. All ages, Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

MUSEUMS

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

- Bojagi Journey 2023; curated by Patti King, through Oct. 8.
- David Owen Hastings: Paper + Stitch, through Oct. 29.

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

- Exhibit: "I Do, the History of Weddings," through Sept. 24.

Museum of Northwest Art. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, noon-5 p.m. Sunday and Monday. monamuseum.org, 360-466-4446.

- Teen Art Club. A free program for youth in grades 6-12, where you can bring your friends and your creativity to make

art together and inspire your art. Pizza, snacks, and art supplies will be provided.

MUSIC

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

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

La Conner Live Concert Series. Live music 1-4 p.m. Sunday in Gilkey Square.

Burlington Summer Nights. Live music from 6-8 p.m. every Friday at the Burlington Visitor Center Amphitheater, 520 E. Fairhaven Ave., Burlington.

SERVICE & VOLUNTEER

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

Swinomish Helping Hands Food Bank. Food distribution from 2-5 p.m. every Thursday. Non-essentials every first Thursday. 17444 Sneeh Oosh Road, La

Conner. 360-856-2211. helpinghandsfoodbank.org.

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

MEETINGS

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

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

Skagit Conservation District. 2021 E. College Way No. 203, Mount Vernon. 360-428-4313. Zoom info at skagitcd.org. Board meetings 7:30-9 a.m. every fourth Wednesday. Next meeting is Sept. 27.

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

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

Super Crossword

NATIONAL DATA

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bumper-car carnival ride
 - 7 TV title alien
 - 10 Garden pond fish
 - 13 Cause to blunder
 - 19 Cook too long
 - 20 Ned of NASCAR
 - 22 Ned of "The D.A."
 - 23 Appear gradually, as a scene
 - 24 "No, seriously!"
 - 25 Surrounded by
 - 26 Mountain laurel
 - 29 Clumsy type
 - 30 Stocking stuffer
 - 31 It's charged
 - 32 Alternative to ChapStick
 - 37 "Old Folks at Home"
 - 44 Vital artery
 - 45 Spellbound
 - 47 1989-2007 senator Trent
 - 48 Stein fillers
 - 49 Blue spruce
 - 53 Propose a date to
 - 55 Author Ferber
 - 56 Pro — (in proportion)
 - 57 "— a customer"
 - 59 Joe of "GoodFellas"
 - 60 Clinton aide Myers
 - 62 Susan of "Goldengirl"
 - 64 Eurasian animal with antlers
 - 66 "North to the Future"
 - 70 Used up
 - 74 118-Across was one
 - 75 Printing goofs
 - 80 Humdinger
 - 81 Reformer Ralph
 - 84 "OK" from Tom Sawyer to Aunt Polly
 - 86 Workplace welfare org.
 - 87 Fuddy-duddies
 - 89 Topaz
 - 92 Relative of a lutz
 - 93 Bullfight yells
 - 95 Israeli airline
 - 96 Right wrongs
 - 97 Cactus wren
 - 101 Went in
 - 103 To the — power
 - 104 Savings acct. accrual
 - 105 Hail, basically
 - 106 Some legislators (or the theme of this puzzle?)
 - 117 Arrived by plane
 - 118 Opera legend Pavarotti
 - 119 Make a comment
 - 120 Response to "You'd never do that!"
 - 121 Ill-fated NASA mission of 1967
 - 122 And others, to Ovid
 - 123 Dwelt
 - 124 Round bread of India
 - 125 Subj. for some immigrants
 - 126 Passable
- DOWN**
- 1 Tip politely, as one's hat
 - 2 Human face's shape
 - 3 Whoop- — (extravagant fanfare)
 - 4 Expanded
 - 5 Sedgwick of Warhol films
 - 6 Marilyn of "Niagara"
 - 7 In — (pronto)
 - 8 Desktop illuminator
 - 9 No longer being detained
 - 10 Sax celebrity
 - 11 Soulful Redding
 - 12 Really tiny
 - 13 "Saturday Night Fever" star
 - 14 Hard Italian cheese
 - 15 "Sure, put me down"
 - 16 Toenail treatment, informally
 - 17 Astral bear
 - 18 Coffee holder
 - 21 Rambled
 - 27 Mexican city due south of Dallas
 - 28 Elevate
 - 32 Waiting with — breath
 - 33 2013 Grammy winner for "Royals"
 - 34 Dunne of classic films
 - 35 Lieu
 - 36 Chinese ideal
 - 37 California county whose seat is Fairfield
 - 38 Sign word after "Ye"
 - 39 Stocking stuffer
 - 40 Worked on a leaf collection?
 - 41 "You beat me"
 - 42 Tennis tie
 - 43 Up and about
 - 46 Gained access to
 - 50 Refrigeration fluid
 - 51 Workers with shingles, maybe
 - 52 Kofi, once of the U.N.
 - 54 Caveman's weapon
 - 58 Scrub nurses' sites, in brief
 - 61 Be hammy
 - 63 Tribal pole emblem
 - 65 — Mountain (Vermont ski resort)
 - 67 Two fives
 - 68 — Marymount University
 - 69 Stadium's kin
 - 70 Britcom of the '90s
 - 71 Pope before Paul V
 - 72 Coors offering
 - 73 Trade group
 - 76 GPS calculation
 - 77 1941 Oscar winner Mary
 - 78 Scottish title
 - 79 Emitted a contented sigh
 - 82 Ending for golden or New
 - 83 Arnaz of TV
 - 85 Decide on
 - 88 Toned down
 - 90 Outside clearance event, of a sort
 - 91 Quite chubby
 - 94 Bert with lion lines
 - 98 Not delayed
 - 99 Diamond substitute
 - 100 Baseball pioneer Buck
 - 102 Came closer
 - 105 One way to fry food
 - 106 Chunky slice
 - 107 Gall of films
 - 108 Spellbound
 - 109 Flair
 - 110 Cocooned insect
 - 111 Son of Seth
 - 112 Head, in Haiti
 - 113 Classroom Apple, often
 - 114 Glen
 - 115 Bard's Ireland
 - 116 Revue sketch
 - 117 Pill-OK'ing agcy.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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Sudoku, Crossword answers on page 7

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King for a Day Spam carving and costume contest winners

By Ken Stern

Twelve carvers, 12 sponsors, 12 prizes and 12 carvings from 24 cans of Spam. Way too much information to get into this space. Briefly, the winners are, “not written in any kind of order.” Everyone got a Spam T shirt.

Better than the Seattle carving contest

Spam Dunk: Peregrine O’Gormley, “Roasted Pig.”
 Weird and Wonderful: “Playing with Fire (your brain on Tom Robbins).”
 Pearl Spam: Mandy Turner, “Hot Trash: Spam jewelry displayed on Spam.”
 YOWZER: Chris Theis, “Stacked geometric sculpture.”
 Spam for the Masses: Pieter VanZanden: “Tom Robbins, the King of Crabs.”
 Spamalot: Lucy VanZanden, “King for a Day, and

a Lifetime”
 Spamster: Kathleen Faulkner, “Elephant and Orb.”
 I am Unispan: Eve McCauley, “T is for Turtle.”
 Why So Weird: Becky Fletcher, “Tom Robbins Sandwiches”
 Strawberry Spam: Sue Roberts, “Spam Man.”
 SOCKIT2ME: Steve Klein, “Man in the Spam Can.”
 Pig in a Splanket: Kevin Paul, “Canoe”

Best costumes in any contest, ever

Yes, intrepid costume designers were awarded prizes for displaying their creativity through their outfits. 5Sue Roberts, in tin peaks, won the grand prize. Joan Cross and Mike Thuot, as beet and perfume bottle, respectively, won the Sissy Hankshaw award for the most insistently individualist costume. Meg Holgate as a pony rode to the giant panda prize for the most persistently preposterous costume.

The names of the honorable mention winners were not captured, judges Jennifer Bowman, Christine Hill (mom) and Jessie Hill (daughter, emcee) lament.

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BEAUTIFUL BOUQUETS

Headlin's

FAMILY FARM

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WORTH CROSSING THE OCEAN FOR —Gerri Roche. came from Wexford, Ireland with her stuffed green parrot to celebrate Tom Robbins King for a Day festivities in La Conner on Sept. 2. — Photo by Nancy Crowell

Inspired by celebrating Tom Robbins

By The Birds

To Tom Robbins: your Kingly glow persists.

Seasonally inspired, birds deposited seeds where no one could not see their timely forthcoming. First ever to proclaim your first King of the Day parade.

Open kitchen blind, eyes getting bigger each day. Disbelief morphing to winged wonder. Dutifully aimed berry-washing-breakfast water to where thicker and thicker stems flaunted all green larger, five-pronged huge leaves. How big could they get?

Then came their royal salute to you, King Tom:
 A string of crown jewels ev-

ident in a perfectly edged pure gold rim on the grandest leaf.

And days later a golden trumpet of a flower. Mother Earth bending sunlight to her will. Blossom shriveled by the next morning. A whimsy. Days later another. Pause. Another. Three visible in all.

Leticia said, “Some people take the big flowers. They fold them into a sort of pastry.” Adding, “Very expensive to buy.”

Food followed. Vertical green irregular lines on a white squash, another form of manuscript for those who can read. Three in all.

Not done yet. Smaller plant. All green. Hidden requiring a deep bend to find a round, pure gold little squash.

The Irish parrot faithfully abided with you all Parade Day, courtesy of a globe-winging spirit manifested in human form.

Let those who have inner eyes to see, and senses extended by King Tom’s prose, rejoice.

The “Still Life with Woodpecker” author’s inspirations already seed another King Tom parade, all in due season.

The birds and other species thank the Maker of us all for the coincidence of time and place, here and now.

Little wonder, Mel Damski wrote on birds and habitat for King Tom’s parade issue of the La Conner Weekly News.

King for a Day

■ ■ ■ (from page 2)

woman who’d read them all and had fought her way through Seattle traffic to get here just after the parade. Of course I met

a few folks who knew not of this wizard of words; they didn’t quite know what to think.

Mayor Hayes gave a ceremonial gift to the “King,” who’s known for being reclusive, a character who likes his seclusion. He likes to craft sentences that

could melt the minds of his readers. I read one once that I have yet to fully comprehend, but then that could just be me, not him. I’ve been known to be more than a bit dim.

Along came the Meow Mix van, the one that looks like Garfield. I couldn’t help myself, the music that emanated from the thing caused my feet to flutter and my arms to fling. Complete with notebook in hand, I kept time to the rhythm as we paraded down the street. Nobody threw rocks, so I had a smile a mile wide.

I didn’t see any pileated woodpeckers, but I did see a big beet, so seeing my favorite vegetable was a real treat. When I once asked Tom what his favorite vegetable was! He quickly responded “cigars!” Yeah, he’s like that. I thought he might say Spam! His sentences are sensible in a sobering sort of way, they cause thoughts to sprout out your ears and laughter to leap from your tears that assuage your fears as you read the works of a sage.

The bubble blowing nerf-mobile “Toynota” made an appearance and I think the driver was more psycho than the skateboarder! He looked like he just flew in from bubble land, his grizzled, frizzly beard covered his face, but it couldn’t hide his wide smile.

At first I thought it might be a bust, but now I’m thinking we need to commission one instead, complete with a mussed up head of hair and a cigar. Maybe we could carve him in a big ol’ can of Spam, now that would really be another roadside attraction, or distraction, whichever you prefer, actually most of us would agree to it being both!

Yeah, we’re all here for a season, some of us for teasing, some for tweezing, some for tearing up an eye. King Tom Robbins, what a day, what a guy.

In *UG* len Johnson won the *B & t* Cout y Historich *Mu em* ’s *unh* *essu* contest.

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Raven's Cup Coffee & Art Gallery

It's PSL season! The joyful PSL possum with the pumpkin is one of several new pieces available here, by La Conner artist Alisha!

It's PSL season! Stop in for a delicious Raven's Cup Pumpkin Spice Latte, made with pumpkin spice-infused maple syrup

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