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Goblins on the loose



Goblins, ghosts, werewolves and more—Downtown La Conner was invaded by scary and not so scary creatures of the night during the annual Halloween parade on the afternoon of Oct. 31. —Photo by Nancy Crowell

306 Center Street permit problems

By Ken Stern

The application for the three-story condominiums and first floor rentals at 306 Center Street needs to be revised to meet the town's code height requirement, Town of La Conner Planning Director Michael Davolio wrote property owner Bandon Atkinson at 10:50 p.m. Oct. 24. "[Y]our design plans appears to show an elevator shaft that exceeds the town's 30' height limit. This drawing will not be approved."

Davolio's communication might have been prompted by questions at the town council meeting earlier that evening. Residents Linda Talman and Leslie Smith pointed out that the elevator shaft exceeded the 30-foot height restriction.

That afternoon Davolio wrote Atkinson that his permit application had five, not the six short-term rental units approved by the town's hearing examiner in 2022. Davolio quoted Town code: "Hotel, motel, or apartment hotel" means any building containing six or more guest rooms" and wrote that for the approval process to continue the application requires six first floor units.

Over 20 application documents for the project were submitted to the town Oct. 17.

Record frosts last week

Temperatures were record lows the mornings of Oct. 27-29 for their dates and have dipped below 32 degrees through Oct. 31, starting with Oct 25's 31.2 low temperature, the first frost this fall. Oct. 27 went down to 30.8 degrees; Saturday's 25.8 degrees was October's coldest recording. Temperatures dropped to 26.1 degree Sunday and 26.9 degrees Monday. High temperatures hovered around 50 degrees last week.

Measurements at Washington State University's Memorial Highway station.

Last week to vote

Vote by Nov. 7

Help get all ballots counted quickly:

- Vote and return your ballot now
- Sign your ballot envelope
- Use a county dropbox
- Mail your ballot by Nov. 3

Election drop boxes nearby:

La Conner Regional Library, 614 E. Morris Street
 Swinomish Indian Tribal Community: Social Services Building, 17337 Reservation Road
 Ballots must be in drop boxes by 8 p.m. Nov. 7.

You can register to vote on election day.
 Voting information and register to vote at

VoteWa.gov.
Skagit County Elections: 360-416-1702

Agritourism code changes will be a multi-year process

By Anne Basye

Nearly 1,400 individuals and organizations from inside and outside Skagit County submitted comments on proposed changes to county code regarding agritourism last summer.

During its Oct. 10 meeting, the Skagit County Planning Commission reviewed 1,367 written and oral comments (493 from people who do not live in Skagit County, 36% of total) and discussed next steps of the process.

Twenty five comments supported the county's Agricultural Advisory Board's recommendation to clarify existing restrictive code rather than open new allowances or new uses for agritourism. Among the clarifications: event businesses that go forward in Agricultural-Natural Resource Lands are intermittent and cannot operate as full-time event centers.

Friends of Skagit County submitted the most comprehensive comments in support of the AAB's proposal.

"Non-farm accessory uses threat-

en farming and farmland in Skagit County," said Ellen Bynum of FSC in nine pages of line-by-line explanation of county code and the Growth Management Act. "It's the responsibility of [Commissioners] to explain to the public how the code was written to conserve farmland and how it continues to do so the code is complicated and yes, the GMA and Comprehensive Plan (which reflects the local planning policies and decisions of the people of Skagit) was written 30 years ago, but this is the current law under which we operate."

Save Skagit Venues provided 973 comments (342 out-of-county) and 57 others opposed the AAB's changes and touted the economic benefits of existing venues.

Listed in the "opposed" category are the 5,641 people who signed the online Save Skagit Venues petition, 3,507 of them from outside the county.

Thirty six comments expressed multiple viewpoints. While Jenn Smith of S&B Farms wants to see existing code enforced, she would like to "allow

some venues to operate if they meet specific criteria for permits."

"Skagit County should be encouraging and supporting all farm operations, large, small and everything in between," she noted.

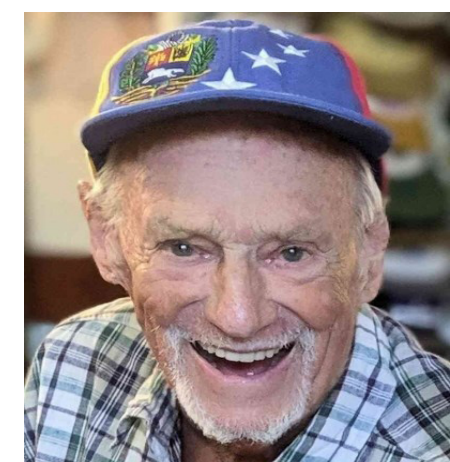
Smith and 39 others asked the county to take more time to engage stakeholders and find ways to help businesses coexist. "These issues will affect generations to come" and "the volume of comments indicates that this proposal misses the mark," were among comments Senior Planner Sarah Ruether summarized during the meeting.

Chris Dariotis of La Conner Gardens on Chilberg Road was among them. The proposed changes discourage rather than attract customers, he said and would prohibit activities like farm to table dinners, which he would like to host.

Those changes will "significantly diminish the value of my property and my ability to obtain the income

(continued on page 7)

La Conner blessed with lasting memories of iconic nonagenarians



Bruce McCormick

By Bill Reynolds

One was a true La Conner original, scion of a storied pioneer family, blessed with a bevy of talents – singing, strumming and storytelling among them.

The other was born on the other side of the country, in industrial Pittsburgh, and built an amazing career in southern California before bringing his myriad creative skills and good cheer to La Conner.

Both lived richly full lives, artists in their own way, each enjoying more than 90 trips around the sun before passing in recent weeks.

Bruce McCormick and Bob Abrams. So different, yet so much alike. And so dearly missed in La Conner and beyond.

McCormick was a regular at La Conner Barber Shop, which he frequented monthly, as much to regale others with a slew of entertaining stories – most focused on hunting and history, all sprinkled with humor – as for the haircuts.

"Bruce was a fun guy in here," barber Tony Holt recalled. "We loved all his hunting stories. He was a such a great guy."

Abrams, on the other hand, rarely – if ever – settled into a barber's chair. He let his silver hair grow long, pulled into a ponytail. His was a distinct appearance whether in a gallery, on a golf course or at Stompin' Grounds Coffee at Sixth and Morris.

"I loved listening to Bob's Disney stories during the morning sessions at the coffee shop," longtime La Conner area resident Linda Rumbolt told the Weekly News.

McCormick and Abrams each knew hardship growing up.

McCormick had just turned six-years-old when in January of 1937 the family house on the La Conner Flats was razed by fire. In a wide-ranging autobiographical video posted on social media, McCormick recalled being relieved that a favorite cattle-and-barn toy set had been salvaged from the blaze.

Abrams suffered a childhood illness that for a time confined him to a wheelchair. It was then, with his mobility limited,



Bob Abrams

that he spent hours honing his passion for illustration, creating images he would eventually submit to Disney and would lead to his acclaimed work in animation.

Both wore the Renaissance Man tag well.

McCormick was an outdoorsman, dairyman, commercial truck driver, musician, humorist, manager of an aquatic avian refuge and avid collector, be it baseball caps, waterfowl paintings, duck decoys, vintage firearms and most any kind of memorabilia with historical value. Especially items related to local history.

Holt said that among McCormick's collection of waterfowl art, believed to number more than 100 prints, were the works of famed naturalist and painter

David Hagerbaumer, a champion of worthy causes in La Conner through the years.

McCormick appreciated not only the scenes depicted by Hagerbaumer, but also the moments in time they represent.

"When La Conner lost Bruce," said Kay Frey, a second cousin of his, "it lost not just a legend, but it lost a lot of its history."

McCormick's paternal grandfather (Frey's great-grandfather) came west from Middle America by rail to San Francisco, then boarded a steamer to the Pacific Northwest and joined five other men to row their way to La Conner. The original plan was to stake gold claims in Whatcom County.

"My great-grandfather," Frey told the Weekly News, "ended up liking it so much here that he stayed. He met up with Mr. (Nelson) Chilberg and coincidentally Jim and I lived many years on Chilberg Road."

Though his roots were in the Keystone State, Abrams felt very much at home on the West Coast. He became a much in demand illustrator at Disney, Hanna-Barbera and other top-flight studios in the Los Angeles area and later taught his craft at the collegiate level in California and Washington state.

Like McCormick, Abrams continued to pursue varied interests as he aged. During

(continued on page 7)

From the editor—

Cooperating all the time, everywhere

October was National Co-op Month, the annual celebration of this alternative way to engage with each other in our business dealings and thus as people in relationship with each other.

National Co-op Month offers the time to reflect on and promote a more humane and sustainable way of living.

The 2023 theme, “Owning Our Identity,” is, its champions write, “a chance to lift up what makes cooperative businesses unique in the marketplace. Guided by a set of shared principles and values – among them democracy, equity and solidarity – co-ops are hardwired for economic and societal transformation.”

This year co-ops – owned equally by their members, with each member-owner having one voting share – are encouraged to look at internal policies, practices and relationships. Another co-op organization writes: “As communities tire of rhetoric, cooperatives are creating the meaningful diversity and equity at the heart of an inclusive economy.”

There is too much harsh rhetoric in every aspect of the public sphere. There is way too much combative, competitive rhetoric, meanspirited and unhelpful words that divide us within our communities as well as nationally and internationally. The theme of this year’s co-op month is a chance to own our societal identities, the collective persona we aspire to live into, whether as residents of Skagit County or of the United States.

Belonging to co-ops challenges its owner members to do more than be conscientious consumers. Co-op members are resting on the laurels and the hard work of staff and their boards of directors if they are satisfied with higher quality products and services, humane treatment of staff and perhaps reasonable pricing.

Co-ops are significant because their institutional structure demands – that is, requires – the democratic control of electing the leadership that sets policies and is fiscally responsible. The ownership shares disbursed equally among all members is democratic but also obligates equity. And co-ops contribute to healthier communities when boards drive inclusiveness and solidarity into operational policies that staff carry out.

Co-ops reach toward inclusion when they make operational the principles of cooperation among cooperatives and concern for community. Institutionally and individually, our local communities and society at large benefit when we cooperate and share, when we show concern for our larger community beyond the boundaries of the municipality, county or nation and insist that our decisions are based on concern for the ecosystem, whether that be fresh or saltwater, farm field or forest or plants and animals.

A scientist speaking at the opening of the “Surge” exhibit at MoNA pulled out a sandwich bag with a bit of soil in it and informed the audience that she held billions more bacteria in her hand than the number of people on the planet. A healthy concern for community would have us making decisions small and large that took a much larger view of the ground under our feet and what is in the sky over our heads.

Many of us are co-op members, most visible locally with the Skagit Valley Food Co-op. Farmers and residents alike own as well as shop at Skagit Farmers Supply. Credit unions are cooperatively owned; locally prominent are BECU and North Coast Credit Union. Each and all of these are small steps at economic cooperation among those deciding to involve themselves economically in those institutions.

Needed beyond October and beyond our co-op memberships are owning our identities as residents and citizens and realizing the relationships we have in every aspect of our lives offer a choice to be more cooperative, concerned and more involved in the social fabric desperately needing our care and repair.

—Ken Stern

Musings—On the editor’s mind

Listening to and watching the devastated residents of Mariupol after the Russians began bombardment of the city in February 2022 in the film “20 Days in Mariupol,” the pain and incomprehension – the entire scene – could have been labeled Gaza, October 2023. The Israeli war on Gaza is the start of the 2022 Russian invasion all over again – the complete destruction and total terror on an entire population, making almost no distinction between the military and civilians.

The language is the same, from the term “siege” to Russian President Putin telling his nation that his actions are necessary to protect their soldiers, to calling Ukrainians less than human. And of course the disproportionate size and might of the Israeli army matches the Russian military.

But for three weeks I have been thinking of a history closer to home and the actions of the U.S. government on its own soil. President Biden and the U.S. military know about overwhelming force and striking terror by wantonly attacking women and children – whom we used to call innocents – even as American soldiers massacred them in cold blood.

It took me no time at all to call up the 19th century massacres at Sand Creek in Colorado or Wounded Knee in South Dakota, or the hoped for triumph by George Armstrong Custer as he sought the destruction of the Lakota at the Little Big Horn River.

And I thought, if warrior leaders in those decades proclaimed the need to drive the Europeans off the continent, shouted the goal of eliminating the white man, would anyone, looking at the size of the populations and the difference in the cultures and technologies have taken that literally? Would the U.S. enlist Great Britain, the dominant world power, to not only put down but destroy the Native uprisings? Would that support be necessary?

The call for the destruction of American Indians in the last half of the 19th century and today’s destruction of Hamas seem very similar to me.

The powerful are always threatened by the powerless. Those with all the advantages too often seem to lack perspective and an honest reckoning with themselves and their own involvement in affairs, current, recent, decades old or ancient, that have brought them to what seems to be a crisis that comes from the outside and seems sudden and out of proportion.

LETTERS

No weapons for Israel

I read your recent editorial (No military aid to Israel, Oct. 25) with a mix of agreement and sorrow. The horror and inhumanity around the Israel/Palestine conflict seems to defy solution. The many players repeat the same moves over and over, expecting a different result, but just continuing the nightmare.

Fifty years ago I met a young man on the train going from Libya to Egypt. He had been born and spent his whole life in the camps in Gaza. I was relatively unversed on what had been going on in the Middle East and he was a fountain of firsthand information. Since then, I have tried to keep myself informed of current events there and learn the history.

It appears that feelings of guilt in the West influenced the establishment of Israel in 1948, guilt for centuries of antisemitism, the Holocaust, and, in the case of the United States and others, the refusal to accept Jewish asylum seekers, many of who ended up victims of the Nazis. Where Jews and Arabs had coexisted in relative harmony, the partition of the British colony of Palestine into two states created political turmoil.

Looking at the map, one can see why. Israel was contiguous while the Palestinian areas were not connected. The result was the first Arab-Israel war. And so it goes, on and on, with Israel, far more powerful and backed by the West, overpowering, out-killing, and continuing to take territory.

This is a simplified version of the drama. If you really want to get a handle on it you would have to spend a large amount of time, going back hundreds of years, to get a better grasp of the situation. Most of us don’t have the time for that. Relying on the media, commercial or social, is not all that helpful. They tend to encourage emotions over understanding. But summoning our basic humanity is simple. Stop the killing. No more billions of dollars for weapons of war. All we are saying is give peace a chance.

Jai Boreen
La Conner

Voter pamphlet omission

Gale Fiege was correct in asking about the failure to submit a profile for the Skagit voter pamphlet. I apologize for my failure to do so; I missed the deadline and I take responsibility for that. I did provide one when I first ran for a school board director position four years ago and should have this year.

On a related note, my opponent (Janie Beasley) and I both attended the candidate forum put on by the Skagit League of Women Voters. Their website: skagitlvw.org. Once you find the correct forum, Janie and I are after the Sedro Woolley and Mt. Vernon school board candidates. You may wish to scroll the video to the 1 hour 10 minute mark. Additionally, the Oct. 18 Weekly News ran a series of questions which Janie and I answered.

I hope you will consider the influence I have had over the past four years:

I worked to repair the relationship between the board and staff, as they had struggled with prior leadership.

I identified the need for a new math curriculum and supported funding to secure it.

I have listened intently to staff and community, in the interest of improvement for all students and staff.

John T Agen
Greater La Conner

A citizen’s view—

Faith without borders: Reflections after a spring tour of Israel and Palestine

By Rev. Don Robinson

The current Israel / Hamas war is tragic. The scenes of devastation and destruction in the Gaza strip and the reports of those killed and injured is heartbreaking. The continuing loss of human life and growing humanitarian crisis is overwhelming in the reality of little or no promise of reconciliation or peace.

This past May my wife and I were able to join a group of people in a religious study tour of Israel and Palestine (also called the West Bank, Judea and Samaria) visiting the historical sites. It was good to see the land and to walk the streets that have been there for thousands of years. But for me, the highlight of the trip was to travel into areas of Palestine and meet the people, to hear their stories of what it is like to live in a land whose borders are contested and for generations has been in conflict.

We visited a 100-acre farm in Palestine and heard the story of a family that is desperately trying to hold on to a farm that has been in their family for over 100 years. In recent years that property has come under siege. One-night bulldozers broke through fences and removed 1,500 olive trees. Despite that attack and the continuing opposition to this family, a sign at the entrance to the farm reads, “We refuse to be enemies.” This family seeks to live a faith without borders.

As I walked on this small farm, heard and saw this family’s efforts to hold on to property that had been part of this family for generations, I was reminded of Psalm 16:6, “The boundary lines have

fallen for me in pleasant places; / surely I have a delightful inheritance.” Like this family from Palestine, I too inherited with my sister a small farm on Pleasant Ridge that our parents bought 60 years ago. For me, “The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places / surely I have a delightful inheritance.”

That is an inheritance I am called to “live into.” I pray for peace. And while the Israel / Palestine war is half a world away, I need to work for peace and reconciliation in my own relationships, particularly where there are strong differences and conflicts. As a person of faith, I too seek to live a faith without borders. Jesus, in one of his beatitudes expressed it this way, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” When we seek peace with all people, when we refuse to be enemies, we live a faith without borders embracing our inheritance as a child of God.

I recently read, “Peacemaking doesn’t mean passivity. It is the act of interrupting injustice without mirroring injustice, the act of disarming evil without destroying the evildoer, the act of finding a third way that is neither fight nor flight, but the careful, arduous pursuit of reconciliation and justice. It is about a revolution of love that is big enough to set both the oppressed and oppressors free.” (“Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals.”)

Don and his wife live in the La Conner community. He is a graduate of La Conner High School. Weekly News Editor Ken Stern asked Robinson to share his reflections of his trip to Israel and Palestine last spring.

High power EV chargers needed to keep tourists coming

By Greg Whiting

Last week I talked about electric vehicle chargers in rural British Columbia. Charger availability there is still improving. Flo.com’s map shows that the charger in Woss, BC (population about 200), has been upgraded since Jenelle and I traveled there about a year ago. Woss now has a Level 3 (fast, 50 kilowatt) charger, with two Level 3 plugs. It’s about 40 miles from the nearest larger town, Port McNeill (population about 2,000). Port McNeill also has a public Level 3 charger.

For reference, Level 3 chargers have a charging rate of at least 25 kilowatt-hours/hour, but usually 50 or more. They can charge an EV battery from empty to full in an hour or two, depending on the specific charger and EV. Level 2 chargers are slower –around 4-7 kilowatt-hours/hour – but even they fully charge an EV overnight. Level 2 chargers can be public or private. We have one in our garage.

La Conner and the Swinomish Reservation have six public Level 2 chargers – two at Pier 7, two behind the library, and two across the street from the Swinomish Market. There are several Level 2 chargers at the Swinomish Casino. La Conner doesn’t have a Level 3 charger.

It’s easy to drive an EV to La Conner on a side trip to another destination if you know you can plug it in briefly and “fill the tank” while you’re shopping here. If you are staying overnight, you don’t need a fast charger. However, for overnight visitors, as EV market share increases, it would be desirable for La Conner to add more Level 2 chargers, either at public or lodging locations. More and better chargers make it possible for

EV owners to stay here without thinking about charging.

EV battery ranges are fast improving. The most expensive EVs can now travel as far as gasoline cars between “fills.” It won’t take much longer for range parity to reach lower-cost EVs. EV prices will continue to come down, too. With the exception of the motive force components, EVs are mostly the same as internal combustion engine vehicles. As EV components and batteries continue to benefit from both mass production and R&D on lower-cost materials, costs will fall further. First-cost parity is probably only about five years away. As I’ve explained before, total cost of ownership is already at parity over 10 years if gasoline averages more than \$4.50 a gallon.

Internal combustion engine vehicles aren’t going to disappear overnight, but their market share is diminishing. The transition to electric vehicles is happening fast. About 6% of new cars sold here are electric – up from roughly zero ten years ago. That’s comparable to the amount of time it took for personal computers to reach 6% of U.S. households. Over the next ten years, computers reached about half of households. It’s likely that EV adoption will continue to accelerate. They may even get to 50% market share faster than personal computers did.

Even when EVs reach parity with ICE ranges, people will still want to have the convenience of charging while shopping and lodging overnight.

Being without adequate charging infrastructure is somewhat like being in the middle of the transition from U.S. highways to interstate highways without an interstate exit.

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Town council Oct. 24 meeting

Paid downtown parking an option

By Bill Reynolds

Historic First Street could look different in the future as Town officials ponder proposals ranging from one-way traffic flow, occasional pedestrian only access and angled and paid parking downtown.

Those are options being discussed in the review and update of the transportation element of La Conner's comprehensive plan.

A presentation on paid parking infrastructure will be made at a joint town council-planning commission meeting Nov. 28 at Maple Hall.

Staff from at least one firm marketing metered parking are expected to attend.

"There should be some ideas presented on how to install payment devices on First Street and potentially Morris Street, to encourage turnover and better use of our parking (spaces)," Town Administrator Scott Thomas explained at the Oct. 24 hybrid session.

Interestingly, Planning Director Michael Davolio conducted a parking survey earlier this year that concluded there are enough spaces available on First Street to meet municipal code requirements.

Longtime resident and former planning commissioner Linda Talman questioned why paid parking is being considered given

the results of Davolio's survey.

Efficiency and economics were the response.

Davolio said parking scarcity occurs during peak tourist season. Traffic congestion becomes an issue then, he and others said.

"The parking issue," said Mayor Ramon Hayes, "ebbs and flows with tourist season."

Hayes added that former council member Bill Stokes undertook a study that determined metered parking would generate significant Town revenue.

Another argument is charging fees will free up spaces that merchant employees take.

Councilor Rick Dole said merchants have complained to him about parking spaces being blocked off or filled with commercial dumpsters.

Davolio noted that he had seen a vehicle covered with canvas parked for several days on First Street.

Hayes stressed caution.

"We need to be as thoughtful as possible on this," he insisted, "to avoid unanticipated consequences. With any solution, you end up with other problems that hadn't been anticipated."

Talmon predicted that "people who don't want to pay will go to side streets. It just moves the parking."

"There are issues," noted Hayes, "whenever you implement something new."

Councilmember MaryLee

Chamberlain revisited the possibility of one-way downtown traffic.

"It would solve a lot of problems, I think," she said. "It seems a little unsafe to me at times on First Street."

Other solutions floated are the combination of one-way traffic with angled parking, installation of flood barriers and laying of new street surface material conducive to pedestrian traffic.

"There are lots of ideas," said Councilmember Mary Wohleb, volunteering one for the immediate future: that the council work with the emergency management commission to communicate where residents should relocate in case of a natural disaster.

306 Center Street

Talman and her neighbor, Leslie Smith, questioned if plans for the controversial 19-unit apartment/condo building at 306 Center conform to Hearing Examiner David Lowell's conditions. They asked if an elevator shaft for the three-story structure will exceed the 30-foot height restriction.

Davolio said the building's plans comply, though Hayes said the Town will follow up on residents' concerns.

"We will look into whether the elevator shaft exceeds the height limit," Hayes vowed.

During the confab, a dog near the back of the meeting room

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Long-term strategies for emergencies discussed

By Bill Reynolds

The Town's saltwater flood barriers are nearly all in place ahead of king tide season, but for La Conner's six-member Emergency Management Commission the heavy lifting is just getting started.

The panel has focused primarily on short-term flood mitigation this year. It shifted attention during the second half of its one-hour Oct. 24 hybrid session at Maple Hall to long-range preparedness strategies along the waterfront.

The commission endorsed a potential cooperative venture between the Town, Port of Skagit and Swinomish Tribal Community to install a tide gauge and weather station at the La Conner Marina fuel dock.

Commissioner Duane Carpenter, a retired National Weather Service meteorologist discussed two weather station instruments that could be placed at the fuel dock, located between the marina's two boat basins.

A survey will be done prior to the Nov. 28 meeting.

Threats posed by earthquakes and tsunamis were also addressed.

Jerry George, whose background includes volcanic studies, reviewed the perils La Conner faces if struck by a major quake.

"If we have a (magnitude) nine earthquake," George said, "the planning folks are saying we have to plan for a six-week power outage for the entire area, including Seattle. A six-point earthquake would cause significant damage in La Conner."

George summed up the dynamics of the recent 4.3 quake centered south of Port Townsend.

"A couple weeks ago," he reminded, "La Conner had an earthquake that was hardly felt. But if it had been a surface quake, it would've been a big one. In

this case, though, the earthquake was deep – 35 miles below the surface. By the time it got to us, there wasn't a lot of shake left."

In addition to power issues, George cautioned that a severe earthquake could knock out the main water conveyance line from the Skagit River.

Town Councilmember MaryLee Chamberlain attended the meeting as a member of the Skagit Valley Clean Energy Cooperative. She cited examples of outreach efforts and grants pursued to solarize public buildings.

"This ties in with the same campaign you're doing to prepare the town for an emergency," she said.

George agreed. "We'll need a backup for power (in the event of an emergency or natural disaster)," he said. "Solar is crucial."

The focus returned to concerns over possible autumn and winter flooding from Swinomish Channel.

"The first round of high tides will be at the end of November," Public Works Director Brian Lease said. "Even today's tide was 1.1 feet above what was predicted. And we have a minor low-pressure system moving over town."

Lease has obtained verbal approval to place flood barriers on private property along the La Conner waterfront. The town council has entered into an agreement with the Upper Skagit Tribe to site barriers on its south end lots on Sherman Street.

"Everything's pretty much in place," Lease said. "The flood threat on the south end is pretty much wrapped up. On the north end, there are a couple places that still have to be filled in."

"Please be aware," Lease conceded, "that what we're putting up won't stop 100% of the water, but it will be manageable."

Rep. Larson hosting veterans forums

The week of Nov. 6 U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen (D-Everett) will host a series of five in-person veterans forums and one veterans telephone town hall. The forums and telephone town hall are opportunities for veterans to receive updates on legislation benefiting them and their families and to get answers to questions about the Department

of Veterans Affairs (VA), health care, job training, housing and more. The forums are in Anacortes, Bellingham, Camano Island, Eastsound and Everett.

Larsen served as a member of the Armed Services Committee for 22 years. He is taking a leave of absence to serve as the lead Democrat on the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee.

The Anacortes forum is 4:30-6 p.m. Nov. 6 at the Depot Arts Center, 611 R Avenue 98221.

The veterans telephone town hall is Nov. 9, 5-6:30 p.m.

Phone: 855-962-0954. Register: larsen.house.gov/live/.


Source: Rep. Rick Larsen's office

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November Soroptimist student

Meet Morgan Huizenga, Soroptimist International of La Conner honored Student of the Month for November.

Morgan, a senior participating in Running Start at Skagit Valley College, views her life as focused on school and volleyball. She started playing as a fourth grader and has become a valuable team leader. She also runs track and discovered that she could excel at throwing the javelin as well. While she was recovering from an injury she wanted to try the javelin and ended up fourth in the state tournament! She stated that felt amazing!

Morgan describes herself as a good student who has loved reading her whole life. She participates in the leadership classes in high school, her favorite subject, and has benefitted tremendously from it, as those around her have as well.

She feels her strengths are leadership and she is a very positive person. She aspires to be her best person at all times. She volunteers for the Booster Club, working with younger students. She supports the Booster Club by helping prepare Ragnar dinners. She fits babysitting in weekly as well.

Her post high school goals include studying to be a firefighter like her father, with EMT and paramedicine experience. Or she may become a pediatric oncologist.



Morgan Huizenga

After Skagit Valley College she plans to transfer to Western Washington University. Her leadership experiences will translate to these careers. She plans to serve her community and stay in La Conner.

She is the daughter of Kristin and Jason Huizenga and has a younger brother, Flint, a sophomore.

Morgan will receive a gift certificate to Vintage of La Conner Thrift, the shop run by the La Conner Soroptimists whose mission is to support local women and girls in the community, enabled by generous donations from this community. She will also receive a gift card from a local coffee shop. Congratulations Morgan!

La Conner High School volleyball team vies for state tourney berth today

By Bill Reynolds

This year's La Conner High School volleyball team, with its several underclassmen – including eighth graders – playing key roles, has taken a different route to reach a familiar destination this fall.

That being the Northwest 2B Bi-District Tournament.

The Lady Braves tuned up for a postseason run with an impressive 3-1 victory at Mount Vernon High Thursday. Monday they were paired against Auburn Adventist in a first-round bi-district clash at Landy James Gym.

On the opposite side of Monday's bi-district bracket, NW-2B/1B rival Coupeville faced Northwest Christian in Lacey.

All four teams will be at Landy James Gym today (Nov. 1) for the second half of the double elimination bi-district tourney. Two state tournament berths will be decided. Play begins at 3:30 p.m.

The Lady Braves finished the regular season with an 11-7 mark and 7-1 conference ledger. The team has won nine of its past 12 matches.

Recent non-conference victories over 3A programs Mount Vernon and Marysville-Getchell could bode well for the playoffs, an indication that the Lady Braves are peaking at the right time.

La Conner has captured top honors at the past four state tournaments dating to 2018 – there was no post-season competition in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Lady Braves, under first-year head coach Pam Keller, are paced by seniors Morgan Huizenga and Abi Udlock, with several younger teammates providing key support.

Huizenga recorded a team-high 258 kills (4.3 kills per set) going into this week's bi-district format. Sophomore Maeve McCormick had delivered 60 kills for La Conner, an average of about one per set. Her stat line also included 384 digs and 23 service aces.

Udlock led the Lady Braves in assists (395), aces (35) and blocks (31). She had totaled 318 digs as well.

Sophomore Addison Keller

(continued on page 6)

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Football—

Braves beat Tacoma handily in finale

By Bill Reynolds

The La Conner High School football team saved its best for last, closing out the campaign with a convincing 26-13 non-league victory over Annie Wright Academy of Tacoma on Senior Night at Whittaker Field last Friday.

Versatile junior C.J. Edwards paced the La Conner attack – doing damage as a runner, passer and receiver – while the Braves stop unit forced Gator freshman quarterback Charlie Finch to flee the pocket much of the night, often resulting in tackles for loss.

Edwards rushed for two scores, reeled in two touchdown passes from Ivory Damien and threw a two-point conversion pass to Tommy Murdock.

“It’s sad to see the season end,” La Conner coach Charlie Edwards told the Weekly News afterward, “but I’m happy for the seniors and the team, that they went out with a win.”

La Conner won the game much as it had in an earlier triumph over Mabton – by controlling the line of scrimmage with a ground-and-pound attack

featuring Edwards and Kenai Zimmerman.

Zimmerman set the tone running between the tackles, often adding yards after contact and Edwards recorded long gains with nifty cutbacks and by getting to the edge.

Damien, meanwhile, kept the Gators off-balance with designed scrambles and roll-out passes to Edwards, Logan Burks and Brent Bobb.

Coach Edwards and his staff praised the defense for keeping a big-play Annie Wright offense in check.

“It was a solid defensive game from the entire team,” Edwards said, citing Chas James, Marlon Edwards, Isaiah Miller, Damien and Murdock for their ability to fight off blocks and make plays.

The visitors, however, kept within striking distance thanks to Finch’s ability to throw long and power running by sophomore Eli Weir.

“They had good athletes,” Braves’ assistant coach Aaron Reinstra said. “We were in good position on the couple of long passes they completed but they were still able to come down

with the ball.”

Wil James, another La Conner assistant, agreed.

“During pregame warmups,” said James, “they didn’t drop a pass. They probably would’ve thrown more except they had trouble protecting their quarterback against our pass rush.”

Assistant John Agen said a key factor was the run game that put together time-consuming marches and kept the Gator offense off the field for extended periods.

“It was great to get that kind of sustained drive,” Agen, who quarterbacked the 1973 La Conner team that went undefeated in regular season play and reached the state playoffs, said of the early series that was capped by Edwards’ first TD blast.

The mood for home team fans was festive throughout the evening.

In addition to senior recognition ceremonies prior to kickoff, there was a heartfelt halftime tribute honoring retiring La Conner cheerleading coach Theresa James that lauded her tireless devotion to local youth.

The Braves finished with a 2-6 record, splitting their final four games.

Both sides are the home team at final high school soccer match

By Bill Reynolds

There was no way La Conner wouldn’t win its soccer match at Whittaker Field last Wednesday.

But the question afterward was which of the two teams the Braves or Lady Braves won the impromptu home finale match.

A paper tally, including post-game penalty kicks, had the Braves posting an 11-4 triumph.

The scoreboard told a different story. It indicated the Lady Braves had recorded a lopsided 50-11 victory.

“Look, we won!” exclaimed a member of the girls’ team, who recorded the electronic final score with her phone camera.

The afternoon pairing was the definition of a soccer friendly, an exhibition game with no bearing on won-loss standings.

“The girls hadn’t had a home game since the beginning of October,” Lady Braves head coach Maddie Huscher told the Weekly News prior to the start, “and they wanted to play one more home game. So, they asked the boys’ team if they would play

a match.”

The Braves and head coach Galen McKnight were game.

The contest began innocently enough with Lady Braves goalkeeper Olive Klinger making several nice saves before Reuben Hall, displaying nifty footwork throughout, found the net with a header seven minutes into the first half.

Then the rule book was cast aside. Kim Williams of the Lady Braves advanced the ball up the pitch by stuffing it under her jersey and running several yards before being stopped with a soft tackle.

McKnight, meanwhile, turned over coaching duties to Braves’ team captains and assumed duties as a side judge. That didn’t go unnoticed by Huscher.

“I think they have to forfeit,” she suggested.

With the boys’ team leading 5-0 at intermission, Huscher pulled out all the stops. She recruited a couple “transfers” in Braves’ alums Isa Gonzales-Rojas and Finn Hakenson and donned a jersey herself for second half action.

With Huscher in the lineup, Kellie Cayou-Lockrem took over coaching duties; her team fared well in the penalty kick round with Kendall Lee, Kailey Carlson and Iris Turner scoring. But it was too little to offset Braves’ penalty kicks delivered by Hall, Simon Bouwens, Hadden Zimmerman, Sammy Williams and Corran Eisen.

Or was it?

Moments after the penalty kick period concluded, the scoreboard showed a Lady Braves’ 50-11 final score.

And it’s the result that will appear forever in cyberspace.

McKnight sought the high road. He was already looking to the Braves’ season finale at Cedar Park Christian the following afternoon. The team wrapped up its season winning 1-0, on the road in Bothell Oct. 26. The Braves went 2-6 in NW2B/1B matches and were 3-11 overall.

“We’ve shown we can play with anybody,” McKnight said. “We’ve had a lot of very close losses.”

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Film festival included '20 Days in Mariupol'

By Ken Stern

The eleventh annual Friday Harbor Film Festival showed 25 feature and 14 short documentary films last week, Oct. 27-29. The volunteer staff and festival volunteers once again offered a well organized and smooth running experience, with screenings at three venues throughout the weekend.

A journalist attending a film festival has an obligation to report on films that interest the community and a responsibility to cover films that interest him. For that I viewed "20 Days in Mariupol," an AP - FRONTLINE/PBS film of journalists providing video reports to the outside world at the start of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. That war suddenly seems ancient and distance but the devastation, total destruction, death, personal pain and ruining of the social fabric is as immediate as today's news coming out or of Gaza, if facts are allowed out. Good films connect people to their current world.

Director Mstyslav Chernov and his crew are Ukrainian Associated Press reporters at the beginning of Russia's invasion. Like all journalism, the film was edited, but it unfolds as a day-by-day, sometimes moment-by-moment account, from shelling in the distance at first till the last couple of days when the Ukrainian military takes the initiative to escort the AP team out of the country through the Red Cross negotiated safe corridor. The government recognized that journalists getting the news to the outside world was as critically important as firing weapons.

Viewers see dramatic footage as the reporters films show up days later on TV news in countries around the world, including the bombing of a maternity hospital and the aftermath: a pregnant woman dies, as does her unborn baby. The footage directly refuted Russian misinformation.

Well before Day 20 the city looks like a hurricane ripped

through it, except the journalists have reported missiles striking apartment complexes and hospitals and buildings in flames.

Buffy Sainte-Marie in the news

Film festivals offer filmmaker question and answer sessions and audience voting for best-of-show awards. That live dynamic was best seen when Kyle Irving, an executive producer of "Buffy Sainte-Marie: Carry It On," was asked about a just released Canadian documentary's findings that Sainte-Marie was not Indigenous. Irving called her "one of the most highly regarded Indigenous activists in North American history," which his 90-minute film amply documented. Archival footage emphasizes her decades of singing and activism, going back to 1960s New York City folk singing days and her early antiwar hit, "Universal Soldier." There are numerous TV interviews and news footage of her at the 197. occupation at Wounded Knee.

The film amply documents, as it summarizes, that "Sainte-Marie changed perceptions of Indigenous people in music, film, and television." It shows that before playing a lead role in a 1968 episode of "The Virginian," she famously demanded that all Indigenous roles be played by Indigenous peoples. During her five-years on Sesame Street, she helped create segments based on her experiences as an Indigenous woman in North America.

The film is from Eagle Vision, an Indigenous Canadian studio.

The Salmon People

"Covenant of the Salmon People" and the shorter "Call of the Orcas," "Into the Stillaguamish" and "Our Sacred Obligation" emphasized that tribes of the Salmon People, as cultures throughout the Pacific Northwest name themselves, are dependent on salmon for their existential identity. As a Stillaguamish tribal member and fisheries biologist said, she was 30 years old and had never fished for

salmon with her grandparents. "A lot of tribal members struggle with an identity crisis," she said, and an entire generation has lost the connection to their historic way of life.

Every film showed iconic black and white photographs and film of historic abundant native fishing. "Covenant" follows the Nez Perce in Idaho. Dams on the Columbia and Snake river systems have broken their "ancient covenant with salmon." Tribal members come back from fishing on the Columbia with a handful of salmon to distribute a token amount among their members.

But salmon as a food source is only a small part of the basis of their civilization historically. The film shows that salmon have been the cornerstone of their creation story and woven into their culture. As with every salmon-focused film, rituals and community interaction with children and elders are central, but with so few salmon the fabric is strained.

All our western rivers run with salmon, and the documentaries filmed by and of the Indigenous people show the similarity and consistency of those who have lived with salmon since time immemorial from the Elwa River on the Olympic peninsula to the Snake River on the Washington Idaho border and the Columbia River to California's Klamath River.

"Our Sacred Obligation" documents the Yurok Tribe's progress toward having a Klamath River dam taken down. It shows women in several tribes from California to Washington coming together to share their strategies and progress in their home watersheds.

It is exactly the same with "A Cedar Is Life," woven, literally, into every part of West Coast First Nations culture. The filmmakers speak with elders, artists, educators and go into schools and forest to show the ongoing relationship between the people and "The Tree of Life," and the threats to its continued existence.

Alzheimer's Awareness Month benefit

Skagit Adult Day Program, a local nonprofit which cares for dementia clients, is showing the Academy Award winning movie "The Father" 7 p.m. Wednesday Nov. 15 at the Lincoln Theatre in Mount Vernon. This is a community awareness opportunity, in honor of Alzheimer's Awareness Month and Caregiver Month and a fundraiser. The public is invited.

Anthony Hopkins, who won the Best Actor Award in 2020 for this role, heartbreakingly portrays the father experiencing dementia. Olivia Colman, who was nominated for Best Supporting Actress, is his caregiving daughter. Their relationship struggles as his world disintegrates into a labyrinth of experiences and her exhaustion increases.

Admission is by donation at the door. The movie is 97 minutes long and will be followed by a short video "A Day in the Life of Bradford House," highlighting the work of Skagit Adult Day

Program.

There are over six million people in the United States currently dealing with this diagnosis and just as many caregivers struggling with the obligations of the journey.

Skagit Adult Day Program provides socialization, therapeutic exercise, meals, games and music to allow their clients a safe home-like setting for up to five hours a day. At the same time, their caregivers receive respite during which they can tend to their own health and well-being. In addition, SADP offers two caregiver support groups at the Burlington Senior Center on the second and fourth Wednesdays, 1:30-3 p.m. and a Lunch & Learn opportunity the last Monday of the month at 12 p.m. Providing support and education to caregivers is vital for their survival.

Contact leighann@skagitadultdayprogram.org for information about the availability for care or financial support opportunities.

Sweet Adelines sing with red lips

Harmony Northwest Chorus, Skagit County's only Sweet Adelines International acapella group, entertained the residents at the La Conner Retirement Inn last week with a fun twist in their patriotic segment honoring veterans.

"When we perform, it incorporates more than singing," explained chorus director Cheryl Isaac. "We often add stories, jokes, and even history lessons." She related how each chorus member held bright red embroidered lips to their mouths, as their emcee related a patriotic story about how red lipstick was so abhorred by Hitler during



World War II that in response cosmetic companies began boosting morale by producing varieties with names such as "Victory Red," "Patriot Red," "Regimental Red," and more.

The group will return to the Retirement Inn in December.

Source: Harmony Northwest Chorus

'Wizard of Oz' opening at Lincoln

The Theater Arts Guild's production of "The Wizard of Oz," opens Friday, Nov. 3 at the Lincoln theatre in Mount Vernon. This stage adaptation of L. Frank Baum's beloved tale features the iconic musical score from the MGM film. Watch as young Dorothy travels from Kansas

over the rainbow to the magical Land of Oz.

Shows are then Thursday-Sunday through Nov. 19. It is co-directed by Myles Doorn and Abigail Hanson.

Times and tickets information: lincolnthatre.org/.

Government & Resiliency Panel at MoNA Saturday

Attend the Government & Resiliency Panel, part of the "Surge" exhibit, at the Museum of Northwest Art Nov. 4, 1 p.m.. The program is part of the education programming for the exhibition "Surge: Mapping Transition, Displacement, and Agency in Times of Climate Change."

The public is invited to meet critical players in a moderated discussion about how our local governmental organizations

respond to climate change. This question will be addressed: "Are there opportunities to increase the resiliency of communities, natural resources, and infrastructure in anticipation of climate change effects and socioeconomic change?"

Dave Peterson will moderate. He is a professor of forest biology at the University of Washington and emeritus senior scientist with the U.S. Forest Service.

Panelists are: Richard Brocksmith, Mount Vernon councilmember; Peter Browning, Skagit County commissioner; Karlee Deatherage, Sr., community affairs representative for Puget Sound Energy in Skagit & Snohomish counties; Heather Spore, Environmental policy analyst for Swinomish Indian Tribal Community; and Ronda Strauch, Seattle City Light

Source: MoNA

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The boys are back in town



A TRIO OF TRUMPETERS—Migrating swans started arriving in Skagit Valley last week and flocking to fields to replenish calories expended during their long flight to their winter home. Swans mate for life and families can often be seen together.

—Photo by Nancy Crowell

Volleyball

■ ■ ■ (from page 4)

contributed 26 assists and 27 aces while leading La Conner with 509 digs.

Huizenga (443), eighth grader Reese Bird (307), junior Addie Wigal (213) and Nora McCormick (106) have all reached triple digits in digs on the campaign.

Eighth graders Abi Poulton and Nora McCormick had chipped in 19 and 16 blocks, respectively, prior to Monday's meeting with Auburn Adventist.

As a team, La Conner entered the matchup with Auburn boasting a 92 per cent service rate.

The winners of Monday's opening round bi-district matches square off here today at 5:15 p.m. for a spot in the state tournament. That follows a 3:30 p.m. elimination contest between the first-round losers.

The survivor of the loser-out match will play the loser of the 5:15 p.m. winner's bracket clash at 7 p.m. to determine who will advance as the bi-district's second state qualifier.

Witches and warlocks on boards



Kendra Emerson, Bob Meade, Jim Barrett, Kat Ulrich, Naomi Stanfill, Madeleine Volum, Allison Ulrich, Mo Olason celebrated Halloween with a Witch's paddleboard event.



Jennifer Peters paddling with her furry friend.

—Photos courtesy of Kat Ulrich

E-bike rebates provide another reason to ride

By Mel Damski

Electric bikes are getting more popular and are getting strong support as a very healthy means of transportation.

Washington Governor Jay Inslee is a strong advocate of electric bikes and the Washington state Legislature recently approved an appropriation up to \$7 million in the next two years to support the purchase of e-bikes and create e-bike "lending libraries."

The incentive program provides e-bike buyers a \$300 point of sale rebate regardless of their income and people with lower incomes will be eligible for rebates of up to \$1,200.

Shelter Bay recently had an electric car with bike event with 10 electric cars and four electric bikes participating. Shelter Bay Board of Director Lawson Earl noted the event was mostly social with discussions touting the fact that electric bikes offer a much lower-carbon footprint than a pedal bike. He encouraged the riders to get much more exercise than they would on a regular bike "It spurs more activity and exercise and covers much more ground," he said.

The new law allots \$5 million for rebates. Purchases have to be made at brick and mortar bike shops, not online. An additional \$2 million is to create e-bike lending programs managed by municipalities, businesses and non-profits.

These incentives are a top priority for the advocacy group Washington Bikes, which champions e-bikes as an affordable and equitable way to reduce climate pollution.

"This state investment in e-bike accessibility means that many

more Washingtonians will have the opportunity to own or borrow an e-bike, whatever their income level," said Vicky Clarke, policy director.

Washington has joined California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont with its statewide incentive program.

E-bikes have grown drastically in popularity and in some cities, e-bikes increased nine-fold since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 because of fear of infection with public transit states the Washington Bikes website. It explains that there are three different types of electric bikes. Class 1 bikes can reach 20 mph and require the rider to pedal. Class 2 bikes can reach 20 mph and do not require the rider to pedal. Class 3 bikes can reach 28 mph and do not require the rider to pedal.

There are safety concerns because of the increased speed of e-bikes. A recent national study found that e-bike riders are more likely to suffer from internal injuries, that e-bike riding injuries are three times more likely to involve a crash with a pedestrian and e-bike riders are more likely to suffer from concussions.

E-bike accident victims have a 17% risk of internal injury compared to a 7.5% risk for the same type of injury on pedal-bikes, because of the increased speed. There are other risk factors and defective e-bikes can result in catastrophic injuries and accidents, such as battery fires and tire blowouts, so if you operate an e-bike, check for defects before every ride.

If you are an e-biker, be very thorough and enjoy the ride.

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Rotary plants 'Ethan Smiles' tulip bulbs in roundabout

By Ollie Iversen

La Conner Rotary Club members and La Conner parks commissioners joined forces the morning of Oct. 19, planting tulip bulbs in nine wine barrels inside the roundabout east of town. Special care was used as some of the bulbs planted are individually donated "Ethan Smiles" bulbs. They are in the three barrels located at the points of the roundabout as you drive into it from any direction. The remainder of the six barrels were planted using bulbs purchased from the Roozens at Washington Bulb Company. This coming April, we will see our hard work explode into many beautiful colors as a wonderful tribute to Ethan Chapin.

The Rotary volunteers were Lori Buher, Carol Yaw, Marty Pease, Randy Goembel and Ollie Iversen. Pease and Iversen are also on the parks commission.



PROMISES OF SPRING IN THIS FALL'S PLANTING -- Lori Buher and Carol Yaw helped make the roundabout bloom -- next April.

— Photo courtesy of Marty Pease

Code

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

required to maintain my property and to continue to live on it," he said.

Dariotis was among many at the July 25 public hearing who expressed surprise that the results of the January 2021 public survey conducted by BERK Consulting seemed to have been set aside. Many of its 600 responses supported expanding agritourism activities.

Commissioner Joe Woodmansee wanted to know why that was during the October 10 meeting. "[It] just struck me like we're just writing off all this effort and like it has, you know, very little meaning to the process. And it was quite a bit of effort and it

cost a few dollars."

"It was not statistical," replied Ruether, who was hired after the survey was conducted. She said the "planneresque" survey was a tool for public outreach, meant to raise awareness and start the conversation.

The Skagit Agritourism Stakeholder Group's four-page counterproposal was developed collaboratively by 15 groups, including Skagitians to Preserve Farmland, Christianson's Nursery, Gordon Skagit Farms and the county Farm and Tourism bureaus.

It would add new definitions for agritourism and farm event venues to county code and make agritourism a permissible agricultural accessory use. It recommends a permitting process

for large event venues and a path for small farms to offer on-farm classes, workshops and training without a permit.

Ruether clarified that because the counterproposal entails making changes to the County's comprehensive plan, it must be submitted to the annual docket, through which Skagit County accepts petitions for amendments or revisions to its plan. The 2024 docket deadline has passed.

In other words, this proposal and any other alternative to the Agricultural Advisory Board proposal now on the table, would not be considered until 2025.

Meanwhile, planning commissioners "would move forward with what's already been proposed or minor changes to that," said Ruether.

Memories

■ ■ ■ (from page 1)

his La Conner years he branched out into photography and painting, particularly drawn to images of regional bird life.

Former La Conner gallery owner Rebecca Strong, now based on Lopez Island, marketed Abrams' art, two pieces of which were selected for the 2022 Museum of

Northwest Art auction fundraiser.

"The paintings I showed of Bob Abrams were his favorites in his collection," Strong reflected. "He told me he needed to let go and share the things that brought him joy.

"I will miss him very much," Strong said of Abrams. "He was an absolute joy to work with and represent his fine artwork."

Strong said Abrams produced artwork until the spring of 2021,

when his hands would no longer allow him to paint or draw. Earlier this year he shared with a standing room only crowd at La Conner Swinomish Library his experiences as a professional animator, independent artist and instructor.

"It was such a cool event," said library director Jean Markert.

McCormick graduated from La Conner High School in 1949 and often joked that legendary coach and administrator Jack Whittaker

seemed pleased at graduation that he was moving on.

But McCormick hardly severed his ties to La Conner Schools. Quite the contrary, it turned out. He was often called upon to play guitar and sing at La Conner's annual alumni banquet. McCormick was occasionally joined there by his oldest son, Darrell, also a gifted musician and who in a cruel irony passed away just days before his dad.

up time and time again ... It's just the nature of the beast."

Commissioner Kathy Mitchell confirmed that the county must abide by state regulations and deadlines when making changes to its comprehensive plan.

"If I was one of these people, I would say, you know, well, we're too late to the party so we're going to have to start this process all over again if we want these thoughts to be entertained," said Woodmansee.

The planning commissioners will meet December 12 for deliberations on the proposal.

Hulst

■ ■ ■ (from page 10)

our business community and the ability to work with local officials and department heads to impact business in a positive way."

Hulst says he plays "an active role assisting residents with concerns affecting individuals and the community as a whole while working with the community on long-term planning for growth and development," and his campaign has focused on public safety, property taxes and housing.

The candidates have received significant endorsements, with Hulst's including the North Puget Sound Association of Realtors, the Mount Vernon Police Guild,

County Commissioners Peter Browning and Lisa Janicki, as well as outgoing and incoming mayors of Mount Vernon Jill Boudreau and Peter Donovan.

Vander Stoep has been endorsed by Democratic area state legislators Liz Lovelett, Dave Paul, Alex Ramel and Clyde Shavers, the Skagit County Democratic Party, the Teamsters, several unions and Planned Parenthood, to name a few. The race is likely to be much more competitive than Hulst's previous elections since he has not faced an opponent since his first campaign.

While the outcome of his race is unclear, Hulst continues to work at the Chamber for the priorities he sees as ways to better

the economy and well-being of La Conner's community. He has been a business owner here almost a decade, noting he has "been a part of the La Conner business community since 2015, when we opened Skagit Cellars in the Pier 7 building." He immediately became involved and a member of the Chamber of Commerce. Skagit Cellars, now at the Seaport Landing building on Gilkey Square, has been commercially producing wine since 2012. Hulst has expanded to a location in Manson, WA, on Lake Chelan.

Hulst began his work as the Chamber's director in September 2022 after he sold an automotive repair business he had owned and

operated for 14 years. When the director position became available, Hulst "thought it would be a great opportunity to be more involved with our local business community." As director, he has targeted five priorities for the Chamber of Commerce more broadly, which he detailed in speaking with the Weekly News. Those priorities include economic development, promoting the La Conner community, advocating for the interests of local business owners, community engagement

and networking.

Hulst defines his role as to "work with the local business community to create an environment that is beneficial to our local economy ... including television and print advertising, working with ... publications featuring La Conner as a travel destination, sponsoring and supporting local events that attract visitors," to name a few. He continues to operate his wine business, balancing his time with the Chamber and as a council member.

LINCOLN THEATRE 712 S. 1st St. • Mount Vernon, WA

Dervish November 8 Wednesday 7:30 PM

360.336.8955
lincolnthatre.org

Paid. . . (from page 3)

grew continuously.

"Somebody," quipped Hayes, "isn't happy about 306 Center."

A technology snafu forced postponement of a presentation by former La Conner Mayor Dan O'Donnell on water overcharges to La Conner by the City of Anacortes. A projector lined up for O'Donnell's presentation went kaput.

So, O'Donnell laid out his case with a brief yet emphatic sentence.

"The City of Anacortes," he contended, "owes \$13,800 for water from 2021."

His presentation will roll over to the council's Nov. 14 meeting.

With repairs to the salmon slide at Conner Waterfront Park scheduled in the spring, the Town has covered the iconic structure for the winter. Wohleb, council liaison to the Town Parks Commission, also reported that its commissioners are looking at alternate means of funding installation of trees on Morris Street following denial of a state grant application.

THE REX BAR & GRILL
Featuring gourmet sandwiches, local beer and homemade treats!

TACO TUESDAY • BIKE NIGHT ON WEDNESDAY
HAND-DIPPED FISH & CHIPS ON THURSDAYS
FRIDAY - SUNDAY: We have delicious burgers featuring Mesman's organic beef

19271 Best Rd., Mount Vernon
Hours: Tues.-Sun.: 9 to 8 • Fri. & Sat.: 9 to 9 • Mon.: 11 to 5
Give us a call for orders to go: 360-466-5522
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Raven's Cup Coffee & Art Gallery

Candles from La Conner, India, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Iceland, Quebec AND OREGON!

Gourmet Pumpkin Spice Lattes. We've been working on the perfect formula and we've found it. Start with delicious pumpkin-infused genuine maple syrup. Add delectable La Colombe espresso shots. Add one of eight varieties of steamed milk (see below). Sprinkle with a hint of real nutmeg.

So many milk options! The cows can take an occasional break.

Dairy: Whole milk, 1%, breve, or heavy cream.
Plant milks: Oat, Almond, Macadamia, Cashew, Walnut or even Pistachio!

106 S 1st St., La Conner
Open at 7 am daily!

Aqimuk's Kitchen

By Patricia Aqimuk Paul, Esq., Food Editor.

Green salad with herbs

We grow many herbs and edible flowers perfect for salad in our garden raised beds. The younger leaves are tender, and I use red leaf lettuce as my base. Eating fresh salads is a must for a healthy lifestyle. Dressing to your liking. .

Ingredients

- Red Leaf Lettuce, 2 leaves per serving
- Nasturtium flowers, 2 or more
- Borage flowers, 4 or more
- Italian parsley, 4 to 5 stems
- Amaranth, 4 small leaves
- Burnett, 1 stem
- Horseradish, 2 small leaves

Preparation

Rinse and pat dry the lettuce and herbs. Remove the parsley and burnett leaves from their stems. Cut or hand tear the lettuce and herbs. Cutting the nasturtium flowers is optional. Leave the borage flowers whole. Gently mix.

Aqimuk's Kitchen

Aqimuk'sKitchen@outlook.com

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town of La Conner will hold four (4) Public Hearings on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 to consider each of the following: 1. Formation of the Transportation Benefit District. 2. 20 Year TIP Updates. 3. 2024 Preliminary Budget. 4. 2024 Property Tax Levy. The Public Hearings will be held during the 6:00 PM regular city council meeting located at 204 Commercial Street (Upper Maple Center). The Public Hearings shall be for the purpose of receiving public comments, written or oral. Written comments are to be submitted by email prior to the meeting, no later than 12:00 PM on Monday November 13, 2023, to financedirector@townoflaconner.org. This meeting will be held in person with remote option available. All materials and remote access will be available at www.townoflaconner.org/Calendar by November 10, 2023. By: /s/ Maria DeGoede Finance Director Published November 1, 2023 La Conner Weekly News.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

In the Matter of the Estate of Daralene Youngquist, 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: October 18, 2023 Brent W. Tenborg 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 La Conner Weekly News Oct. 18, 25 and Nov. 1 2023

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF

Weekly SUDOKU Answer

4x9 grid for a Sudoku puzzle with numbers 1-9 and blacked-out cells.

Super Crossword

Answers for a crossword puzzle, showing words like MATZO, SAPP, OPUS, RAMPO, DRAMMYMARE, FALLETO, BEES, CEROLA, REA, MUSICDI, IMMEDI, ROE, ROO, OPIATE, IONS, NOR, DIC, SKI, MING, REX, SLEUTH, ERA, AAH, PEACE, IDEA, SUMMIT, OF, ARMOR, PAY, WMD, DOI, ELI, POE, CLAMMY, PI, GEONS, AVOW, SAMOA, MCA, IT, O, EXACTA, DNA, TRIMM, EDD, TO, OH, H, ARD, ESS, SE, TEA, TRO, REV, REO, SUMMING, THE, PAINTS, OFF, FLOF, OLE, LOGE, S, OS, HULU, BLANK, CD, CHOP, PHRASAL, EIRE, ORDAINE, DP, PRIMME, EST, SEES, SOUR, CE, CODE, ABLE, ER, ODDS, TPE, D, STEAK, NESTS

WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SKAGIT

In re the Estate of CAROLINE E. GENT., Deceased.

Case No.: 23-4-00546-29 NOTICE TO CREDITORS The personal representative named below has been appointed as personal representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the personal representative or the personal representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets. Date of First Publication: October 18, 2023 Personal Representative: Robert S. Gent, Jr. Attorney for the Personal Representative: Rachelle Eason Address for Mailing or Service: 401 Pioneer Drive, Burlington, WA 98233 Court of Probate proceedings: Skagit County Superior Court Cause number: 23-4-00546-29 SIGNED this 10th day of October, 2023. /s/ Robert S. Gent, Jr. Robert S. Gent, Jr., Petitioner Personal Representative of the Estate of Caroline E. Gent Prepared by: /s/ Rachelle Marie Eason Rachelle Marie Eason, WSBA # 29922 Attorney for Petitioner Published in La Conner Weekly News Oct. 18, 25 and Nov. 1 2023.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SPOKANE

In the Matter of the Estate of: PATRICIA ANN HAMILTON, Deceased.

NON-PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW § 11.28.240)

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

Any person having a claim against the Decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limita-

tions, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW § 11.40.070.

The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) thirty (30) days after the claimant served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW § 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four (4) months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the Decedent's probate and non-probate assets.

Date of First Publication: October 18, 2023

The notice agent declares under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated this 9th day of October, 2023

LAURENCE P. SOLSNES, JR. Notice agent GRAVIS LAW, PLLC

By: JONAS J. HEMENWAY, WSBA #50866 Attorney for notice agent Address for mailing or service: 1309 W. Dean Avenue, Suite 100 Spokane, WA 99201 Published in La Conner Weekly News Oct. 18, 25 and Nov. 1

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY In Re the Estate of: GERALDINE BELL JACKSON, Deceased.

No. 23-4-00465-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030) (NTPCRD) DON JACKSON has been appointed as Personal Representative of this Estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the Personal Representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets. Date of First Publication: Oct. 18 2023.

Personal Representative Print Name: Don Jackson Attorneys for Personal Representative Print Name and Bar #: Heather Ledgerwood #56238 Address for Mailing or Service: Heather Ledgerwood Wade Law Offices 6100 219th St SW, Suite 480 Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043 800-835-2634 Court of probate proceedings and cause number: Skagit County Superior Court Case No. 23-4-00465-29 Published in La Conner Weekly News Oct. 18, 25 and Nov. 1 2023

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY

Estate of BETTY JEAN VAN DUSEN, Deceased.

NO. 23-4-00543-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

The above Court has appointed me as Personal Representative of the 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: October 25, 2023

/s/ John Edwin Ruthford, Jr. Personal Representative c/o Jayne Marsh Gilbert, WSBA #24656

Attorney for Personal Representative 314 Pine Street, Suite 211 Mount Vernon, WA 98273 Published in La Conner Weekly News Oct. 25, Nov. 1, Nov. 8 2023

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY In Re The Estate of: SALVATORE J PALUMBO, Deceased.

No. 23-4-00509-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030) (NTPCRD)

The person 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 at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the Personal Representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets. Date of First Publication: Oct. 25, 2023 Personal Representative Print Name: Jeffrey M McKee Address for Mailing or Service: Jeffrey M McKee 31624 N 122nd Ln, Peoria, AZ, 85383 425-533-1356 Court of probate proceedings and cause number: Skagit County Superior Court Case No. 23-4-00509-29 Published in La Conner Weekly News Oct. 25, Nov. 1 and 8, 2023.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KING

In the Matter of the Estate of JOHN R. GOSS, Deceased.

NO.23-4-06988-6 SEA PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS

MALLORY A. DAY, the Administrator (PR), has been appointed as PR of this estate. Any person having a claim against the Decedent that arose before the Decedent's death 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 PR or the PR's attorney(s) 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) 30 days after the PR 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 or RCW 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the Decedent's probate and non-probate assets.

Date of first publication of

Notice to Creditors: October 25, 2023

Name of Administrator: Mallory A. Day Attorneys for Administrator: Douglas L. Phillips, WSBA No. 17278 Aaron D. Phillips, WSBA No. 46691

PHILLIPS ESTATE LAW Address for Mailing or Service: Douglas L. Phillips, Esq. PHILLIPS ESTATE LAW 170 120th Ave NE, Suite E204 Bellevue, Washington 98005

Court of probate proceedings and cause number:

King County Superior Court Cause No. 23-4-06988-6 SEA Published in La Conner Weekly News Oct. 25, Nov. 1 and 8, 2023.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SKAGIT IN PROBATE

No. 23-4-00559-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.40.030

In the Matter of the Estates of SAMUEL W. HANNA III and JANICE BETTY HANNA, Deceased.

The personal representative named below has been appointed as personal representative of these estates. Any person having a claim against the decedents 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 nonprobate assets. Date of filing copy of NOTICE TO CREDITORS with Clerk of Court: 10/19/2023. Date of first publication: October 25, 2023. Michelle L. Miller Personal Representative LAW OFFICE OF COLE & GILDAY, P.C. By Gregory L. Gilday WSBA #36608 Attorney for Personal Representative 10101 270th St NW Stanwood, WA 98292 Office: 360-629-2900 or FAX 360-629-0220 NOTICE TO CREDITORS PUBLISHED IN THE LA CONNER WEEKLY NEWS: October 25, November 1 and 8.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KING

In re the Estate of VANCE WAYNE STROBEL Deceased

Case No.:23-4-06919-3 SEA 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

tive as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.

Date of First Publication: Personal Representative: Kelly Bradford

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 La Conner Weekly News Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, 2023.

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KING

ESTATE OF M. JAMES HANSON, DECEASED NO. 23-4-06785-9SEA PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

THE Co-PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES NAMED BELOW have been appointed as co-personal representatives 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 co-personal representatives or the co-personal representatives' 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 RCW 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.

Date of First Publication: October 25, 2023.

/s/ Brit L. Kramer Brit L. Kramer, Personal Representative

/s/ Laura J. Morgan Laura J. Morgan, Personal Representative

/s/Sarah E. Smith SARAH E. SMITH WSBA #39605

MULLAVEY, PROUT, GRENLEY & FOE, LLP Attorneys for Personal Representative

Address for Mailing or Service: P. O. Box 70567, Seattle, Washington 98127

Published in La Conner Weekly News Oct. 25, Nov. 1 and Nov. 8, 2023.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WHATCOM

IN RE THE ESTATE OF MARTIN SPEEDY, DECEASED.

NO. 23-4-00986-37 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

JUDGE: LEE GROCHMAL 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

LEGAL NOTICES

(from page 8)

claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets. Date of First Publication: November 1, 2023 Personal Representative: Sandra Speedy 2004 N 35th Street Mount Vernon, WA 98273 Attorney for the Personal KATTI ESP Representative: 301 Prospect Street Bellingham, WA 98225 Address for Mailing or Service: KATTI ESP 301 Prospect Street Bellingham, WA 98225 Court of Probate Proceedings Superior Court of Whatcom County and Cause Number: Cause No. 23-4-00986-37 Published in La Conner Weekly News Nov. 1, 8, 15, 2023.

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 RCW 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets.

DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION: November 1, 2023.
Dayton Bissell
Personal Representative
Attorney for Personal Representative: Steven J. Peiffle, WSBA #14704
Address for Mailing or Service: P.O. Box 188 103 North Street Arlington, WA 98223
Court of probate proceedings and cause number: Snohomish County Superior Court, Cause No. 23-4-02020-31.
Published in La Conner Weekly News Nov. 1, 8, 15, 2023.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SNOHOMISH COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: BRIAN DANIEL BISSELL, Deceased.
NO. 23-4-02020-31
PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS
RCW 11.40.030
THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE NAMED BELOW has been appointed as personal representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the

COMMUNITY CALENDAR
Complete Events Calendar on laconnerweeklynews.com

NOT TO BE MISSED

Free Master Gardener Know & Grow: How to grow iris Tue. Nov. 4 1:00-2:30 p.m. An in-depth discussion on the best practices to ensure your irises perform an their very best year after year. NWREC Sakuma Auditorium, 16650 Washington 536, Mount Vernon, WA 98273, USA

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.

Town of La Conner Planning Commission Meeting
Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.
For a current Agenda go to www.townoflaconner.org Sign up for "Notify Me" to get current Town Information

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.

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: .
• 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: "More than just a little off the top: barber-shop historians."

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 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 Joan at 360-941-7507.

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 on-

line at skagithumane.org.

MEETINGS

La Conner Swinomish Regional Library. Library board of trustees meets at 5 p.m. the 2nd 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 4th Wednesday.

Rotary Club of La Conner. laconnerrotary.org. Meeting 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.

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

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads now in print and online * same low price
Submit your ad by Sunday noon for next issue publishing • laconnerweeklynews.com/classifiedads or 360-466-3315

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

DONATE YOUR CAR TO CHARITY. Receive maximum value of write off for your taxes. Running or not! All conditions accepted. Free pickup. Call for details, 855-635-4229.

BE KIND TO YOUR BODY— Get a massage from Jo's Healing Hands LMT. Call for appt. 360-708-2022.

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STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS
ADVERTISE STATEWIDE with a \$325 classified listing or \$1,600 for a display ad. Call this newspaper or 360-344-2938 for details.

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Sudoku, Crossword answers on page 8

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

4				6				5
	3		8					6
		1	2		7	3		
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Super Crossword "MM, GOOD!"

- ACROSS**
1 Kiddie-lit elephant
6 Seder bread
11 Warren in the Pro Football Hall of Fame
15 Numbered work of a composer
19 "I'd love to help"
20 Fictional town in an Edgar Lee Masters title
22 Intensity, with "up"
23 Aged female horse that has won lots of singing awards?
25 Dog food brand
26 Flimsy
27 Hive swarm
28 "Lie Down With Lions" novelist Ken
30 Romanov royal
31 — -fi film
33 Michael of "Superbad"
34 Stephen of the screen
35 Time when everybody turned down their radios all at once?
41 — v. Wade
42 Aussie critter
43 Soporific drug
44 Electrolysis particles
45 Reading quickly in the Scandinavian manner?
50 Novelist Stout
52 Hammer or Spade
53 History topic
54 Hot tub sigh
56 Tranquility
60 Brainchild
62 Big meeting to discuss protective metal gear?
66 Foot the bill
69 A-bomb, e.g.
71 "— dare?"
72 — Lilly
73 "Tamerlane" poet
74 Cold, damp park birds?
79 Declare
82 Apia locale
83 Elton John's '70s label
84 Figure skater Midori —
86 Bet to win and place
90 Cloning stuff
92 Was an overly aggressive barber?
96 Cato's "to be"
99 — alla Scala
101 Intensify, with "up"
102 Antique auto
103 Trouncing in a number-adding contest?
109 Bullring call
110 Balcony box
111 "Send help!"
112 Netflix rival
113 Medium for burning data
115 Pork serving
118 Of sentence units
121 Cork's land
122 Decreed to be the most prudish?
126 Observes
127 Computer programming output
128 More skillful
129 Chances
130 Covered with bathroom rolls, slangily
131 Outback food
132 Fliers' homes
DOWN
1 Strike with the horns
2 Court champ Arthur
3 Lead-in to "done that"
4 "Eek!"
5 Add ammo to
6 Emails or texts: Abbr.
7 Wet mo.
8 Come — halt
9 Body not staying at rest?
10 "My treat!"
11 Family in computer games
12 DuVernay of "Queen Sugar"
13 Flawless
14 Request in advance, in a way
15 Spoken exam
16 Sicily's capital
17 A gazillion
18 Brief plugs for political candidates
21 Bread variety
24 — Lube (STP alternative)
29 Chou En-
31 Add fuel to
32 Groups on church risers
33 The Plame affair, informally
35 Hammer or spade
36 52-wk. units
37 Dad's partner
38 Longtime wire svc.
39 Moses' peak
40 Seltzer, e.g.
41 ICU VIPs
46 Imbiber's hwy. offense
47 "— be nice if ..."
48 Like taffy
49 Bea Arthur sitcom
51 Air-testing gp.
55 Hispanic "hello"
57 Intensify, with "up"
58 Loving sound
59 Previous to, poetically
61 12-hour clock toggle
63 Lowing sound
64 Fluid dram fraction
65 "Hawaii —" (Jack Lord series)
66 Acer offerings
67 Styled after
68 Orange tuber
70 Say aloud for transcription
75 Net access provider
76 Groom, e.g.
77 "The Dance" singer Brooks
78 Canned heat
80 Good Grips brand
81 Nursery cry
85 Dramatist Clifford
87 Merry-go-rounds
88 Not kosher
89 Hurry-scurry
91 For free
93 Furious state
94 Spill cleaner
95 Sony products
96 1962 Paul Anka hit
97 Tarnished
98 Tarnished
100 Chinese soup
104 Sort
105 Facet
106 "Surprised to run into you!"
107 University in Greenville, South Carolina
108 In a blazing brandy sauce
114 Fed Eliot
115 Ace or queen
116 Fruit drink brand
117 Tip jar bills
118 Nursery school, briefly
119 Play — (perform some songs)
120 Env. items
123 Receivable
124 John in court cases
125 High-tech organizer

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POLICE BLOTTER

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Monday October 23

9:41 p.m. Could he be right?
—Caller reported that a semi-truck driver had thrown what appeared to be human waste out the window and onto the side of the road. No plate was obtained and a deputy did not respond. Edison.

12:45 p.m. Cat call—Caller located feral cats living in a building and wanted them removed. County animal control provided the number for La Conner code enforcement and advised they would be responsible for in-town animal issues. Morris St., La Conner.

Tuesday October 24

4:45 p.m. Misplaced car—Caller reported her vehicle stolen which was signed stolen and put into the system by a deputy. The caller later called back to report that she had actually forgot she parked in a different location and had located her car. Maple Ave. La Conner

Wednesday October 25

8:36 a.m. Car prowl—Caller reported that her vehicle had been prowled the night before and low value items had been taken. Items included a phone charger and some change. No damage and car was unlocked. First St. La Conner.

3:18 p.m. Thanks for the dance — Two vehicles stopped at the intersection of Chilberg and Best. The first car started to go but stopped for traffic. The second car saw the movement and went forward but did not see the first car stop and rear-ended them.

4:54 p.m. Pyrotechnics— Caller reported that some of her Halloween decorations had been burned. There were other items in the area that were set on fire, and it appeared that possibly a kid with a lighter was doing it. No serious damage and unknown who the suspect is. Park St., La Conner

5:38p.m. Street race—Two vehicles racing on McLean Road towards Mount Vernon. The caller was not following and it is unknown where the cars ended up. No other complaints on these cars.

Saturday October 28

6:30 p.m. No luck— Caller reported that he lost his wallet and thought it might be at the Rexville Grocery. The store was contacted but the wallet was not found.

8:36 p.m. Hit and run—Serious injury hit and run collision on La-Conner Whitney Road just north of the roundabout. One patient was seriously injured and transported to the hospital. WSP was taking the case and doing follow up on possible suspects.

Jeanie Hertz puts wrap on career as stylist

By Bill Reynolds

After 42 years on the job in La Conner, Jeanie Hertz ended her career Thursday the way it started – with style.

The buoyant and cheery cosmetologist, who began styling hair when shaggy bobs and wispy bangs were all the rage, has handed over the keys to La Conner Hair Design on Maple Avenue to Katrina Brumley, ending what has literally been a colorful four-decade tenure at the local salon.

The transition, as might be expected, has been bittersweet. “I cried for three days when I made the decision,” Hertz, who had originally planned to retire in April, told the Weekly News. “I feel like I’m leaving all my friends. How am I going to keep up with everyone if I don’t see them?”

Brumley, who has been onboard for about a year, isn’t about to let those long-standing friendships go by the wayside. Her plan is to retain Hertz, if only on an unofficial basis, as a “consultant.”

That sounded good to those who greeted Hertz on her last day.

“For us,” said Janie Beasley, a client at the salon for more than 25 years, “she’s our therapist. Or, rather, our ‘hairapist.’”

Sally Starnes of Anacortes, who like Beasley had a Thursday appointment, felt the same way.

“I met Jeanie during COVID,” Starnes recalled. “She said she couldn’t take anyone then but that she would take me as soon as she could open again. I was afraid I’d be at the bottom of the list. I figured she had about 50 women ahead of me. So, I was excited when she called me to come in.”

Hertz said her new routine will involve some travel and paying more attention to her dogs, ages 13 and 15, respectively.

“My dogs are going to be very happy,” she said. “They’re needy.”

Other factors came into play as well.

“I just decided that it was time to play more instead of working more,” Hertz said.



END OF A CAREER – Jeanie Hertz on her last day at La Conner Hair Design with client Janie Beasley. — Photo courtesy of Karla Reynolds

As she worked through one last perm, Hertz reflected on her years as a stylist here. She started in 1981 working at a salon owned by the late Donna Blades in the Pier 7 Building on First Street. A year later Hertz and Loree Yonally christened La Conner Hair Design in the north half of a then-new building on Maple shared with Dick Holt’s La Conner Barber Shop.

“Dad really wanted them here,” recalled Holt’s son, Tony, who has followed his father into the family business.

The senior Holt’s clientele, at that point, had outgrown his former location at Maple and Morris. It seemed the ideal time to merge under one roof – a new one, at that – with a hair salon.

The arrangement has worked out handsomely.

“I don’t think Tony believes I’m leaving,” laughed Hertz, who trained in cosmetology at Bellingham Technical College, embarking on a career requiring mastery of math and chemistry – the latter becoming even more important as vivid hair coloring came into vogue.

“In a way,” quipped Brumley, “we’re like modern day alchemists.”

Hertz smiled as she figuratively climbed into the Way Back Machine to revisit when brightly colored hair appeared on the scene.

“I remember when they first started coming out with those colors,” Hertz said. “Loree and I decided we’d try them out.”

Their husbands gave the experiment mixed reviews.

“Loree went home and Larry said she kind of looked like a peacock,” chuckled Hertz. “I went home and Butch said: ‘We’re going to be having family pictures done soon. Do you really want purple hair?’”

It was a moment of levity in a profession that Hertz and Yonally, who worked together for 36 years, took quite seriously. They logged countless continuing education hours to keep pace with new trends, ones often inspired by celebrities.

“You have to be willing to change or you’ll get lost in the shuffle,” Hertz explained. “We were always evolving, doing different things and learning new techniques.”

One change in the industry has involved the frequency of appointments.

“I really have no idea how many style sessions I’ve done,” said Hertz. “What I do know is we saw more people in the old days. People came in every week. Now, people don’t come in as often, but they have more done when they’re here.”

Hertz has been a stylist long enough to see trends burst on the scene, fall out of favor and then return to the forefront.

But regardless of what was in fashion at a given time, Hertz always strived to do her best to help La Conner Hair Design clients look their best.

Looking back, she wouldn’t have done it any other way.

“As the saying goes,” she posted on social media last Friday, “if you love what you do, you will never ‘work’ a day in your life. I’ve been blessed, that’s for sure.”

Chamber Director Hulst in Mount Vernon council reelection race

By Sayer Theiss

For years, La Conner has been a thriving center of small-business commerce in the Skagit Valley. For Mark Hulst, director of the La Conner Chamber of Commerce, who has also served on the Mount Vernon City Council since 2011, it is his job to attempt to foster growth for not just La Conner, but

for the prosperity of the wider community as well.

Hulst is contested in his bid for a fourth term on the Mount Vernon City Council by progressive candidate Andrew Vander Stoep. Hulst sees being both a council member and the director of the La Conner Chamber as having given him “the knowledge and the skill set to understand the needs of

(continued on page 7)



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