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\$1.2

Welcome, friends



CANOE JOURNEY STOPS IN LA CONNER — A group of Native American rowers on the Paddle to Muckleshoot arrive to a warm welcome at the Swinomish Reservation on Tuesday. Canoe families from Washington and British Columbia are paddling canoes to Muckleshoot Reservation land in West Seattle for arrival on Sunday, July 30, with multiple overnight stops along the way.

— Photo by Kurt Batdorf

Channel Cove residents voice concerns over management

By Kurt Batdorf

Emotions ran high during a July 18 meeting of the Home Trust of Skagit board, its director and residents of its Channel Cove community.

Home Trust of Skagit Executive

Director Jodi Dean invited residents to the meeting to explain changes at Channel Cove related to the completion of five new housing units and parking revisions.

Some Channel Cove residents said the changes caught them by surprise, especially recently installed bollards that prevent residents from driving on the fire lane to access their units to drop off passengers, groceries and large items. Residents said it felt like punishment for their ongoing complaints about management's apparent inability to address longstanding concerns.

"We have heard some negative, not nice things specifically about Channel Cove," Home Trust Board Chairperson Mary Hudson said. "This will be a respectful dialog."

Channel Cove resident Jennifer
Martin addressed the board and offered possible solutions.

"Home Trust is amazing," Martin said. "I love my house, my neighbors, my community. We all look out for each other but it's important that we voice our concerns."

She said communication to residents has been poor and



NO MORE ENTRY — Home Trust of Skagit recently installed bollards to prohibit vehicle use of the fire lane at its Channel Cove property. Residents complained that they received no notice about the change.

— Photo by Ken Stern

claimed management favors some residents, ignores issues, makes arbitrary decisions and responds unprofessionally.

"We're disappointed the board is difficult to reach when management is unresponsive," Martin said.

One woman loudly interrupted Martin, before leaving the meeting. Martin then continued.

She said the bollards now restrict access to half the homes. She suggested gravel parking pullouts along the fire lane.

"I can't bring my (elderly) mother to my house now," Martin said. "Why didn't Jodi or the board come to the community and say, 'How can we fix this?"

Resident Connie Pommels concurred. She explained how she lugged a couch across the common area with her son after the bollards went up

She recounted, "Jodi told us we could drive to our house" when Pommels bought her Channel Cove home. "My mom can't come here either. Losing vehicle access has been huge."

"We ask that the bollards be removed and to find a solution that would work for the entire community," Martin said. "Schedule a time for the board of directors to visit Channel Cove and meet with the residents. Residents no longer have trust and do not feel comfortable dealing with current management. We ask that you reconsider her (Dean's) position."

"That's not going to happen," Hudson said in defense of Dean.

"I don't want to fight," Dean said.
She defended her management.
She insisted that all Channel Cove
residents get information from her by
email, postal mail or notes she tapes to
their doors, although some residents
claimed they didn't get a notice about

(continued on page 7)

Tight budget with tough choices for La Conner Schools

Across-the-board cuts come as student enrollment drops

By Bill Reynolds

Beset with declining student enrollment and the loss of federal emergency pandemic funding, La Conner Schools officials are bracing to adopt what finance chief David Cram has termed a "bare bones" budget July 31. A 9 a.m. public hearing in the campus administration building precedes the vote.

The fiscal plan is designed to rebuild the district's dwindling fund balance, shrunk in large measure by reduced state financial support resulting from a decreased student population.

But it comes at the cost of painful personnel cuts across the board – impacting classified, certified and administrative staff alike – and a major reshuffling of duties within the district.

Superintendent Will Nelson informed district employees of the most recent reductions in force (RIFs) in an email earlier this month. It stated that the budget will require additional cuts of \$700,000 entering the 2023-24 school year.

"You can imagine the huge deficit we were in and now the extreme situation where we have to continue reducing our expenses," he lamented. "This was achieved by making more staffing changes and further reducing expenditures in other areas.

(continued on page 4)

Swinomish gain federal internet service grant

By Bill Reynolds

The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community is one of two tribes in the state that will receive \$500,000 grants to secure high-speed, affordable internet service.

The Swinomish and Makah Tribes each received grants through the U.S. Department of Commerce's Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) announced Friday.

"This award," Cantwell said, "will help the Swinomish and Makah Tribes plan out and build broadband infrastructure so that over 300 more tribal households can access telehealth appointments, remote learning and other online services that require high-speed internet."

Swinomish received \$500,000 for a dual Broadband Use and Adoption and Planning, Engineering, Feasibility and Sustainability project.

The project will provide broadband subsidies for eligible tribal households and fund preconstruction activities to provide future broadband service to more than 250 tribal residences, nine tribally owned business and 31 tribal community anchor institutions.

After 20 years of Tulip Festival, Verge reflects on her time

By Anne Basye

After promoting the Valley's most famous flower gardens, Cindy Verge is looking forward to tending her own backyard.

Executive director of the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival for 20 years, Verge will retire this fall.

Verge was a journalist and editor when she joined the Festival as its Sponsorship Coordinator in 1999. When she became executive director in 2003, "I learned how to run a business," Verge told the Weekly News, "because it was payroll, accounts receivable, accounts payable, a budget and making our move from the Old Town Grainery building to our current spot happen."

She built the Festival's first website and sourced and sold unique tulip-themed merchandise in the Festival office and online "in the days before you could sign up with Shopify and pay a monthly fee to have them figure it out," she said. Today online sales of merchandise generate about 14% of the festival's gross income.

It was Verge who brought the official Tulip

Festival Parade to La Conner. After one too many rained-out parades at the Lefeber Bulb Company or Edgewater Park, Verge vowed to get the Festival parade out of the mud and onto pavement.

In those days, the La Conner Kiwanis' Not-So-Impromptu Tulip parade celebrated the topping of the tulips and the departure of the tourists. Turning the parade into an early April celebration of the tulips was a big ask, but Verge convinced the Kiwanis that the revamped parade would be good for the town.

Channel Drive resident Jeannette DeGoede is not surprised. The former Tulip Town owner says that the quiet, diplomatic Verge often brought together people with different ideas and agendas. In fact, she's not quite sure how the next director will be able to fill Verge's shoes.

At World Tulip Summits in Australia, England and Turkey, DeGoede saw Verge's talent for diplomacy in action. "You could just see her winning hearts. Everybody responded so well to

(continued on page 7)



LAST POSE IN THE TULIP FIELDS — Cindy Verge is about to become former executive director of the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival. Verge is retiring in September after 20 years of growing the Festival into a monthlong traffic jam and photo shoot for tourists and locals alike.

– Photo courtesy of Cindy Verge

From the editor —

Futures near and far

Next Monday, July 31, the La Conner school board will approve the school district's 2023-2024 budget. The vote will almost certainly be unanimous but it will not be an easy decision. Board members and staff have known about and been grappling with cutting millions of dollars and reducing teaching, support and administrative staff..

The ongoing decline in student enrollment and the district's despair at the low number of families with school-age children has been editorialized here before. The difficulty of little available and increasingly expensive housing stock is beyond the immediate control of local governments. Yes, they can make progress in moving the needle, but it will take years stretching into decades to vision, plan, decide and execute for the quantity of units needed. Patience, persistence and never taking eyes off the prize is needed. That and shouting from the rooftops and lobbying and arm twisting state and federal elected officials must take place session after legislative session at every level of

Years and decades of funding in support of apartment housing and the social infrastructure of government agencies and nonprofit organizations management will be the fertilizer and water that will sprout more families with school-age children in

Two days ago, July 24, members of the La Conner Town Council and staff met in an all-day retreat, starting the process for developing a five-year plan. That is an important step for facing the future. Council, staff and Mayor Ramon Hayes have long wor ried about aging water mains and the sewage treatment plant. This is a town government that has been diligently keeping things patched up and making sure residents get essential services. Now they are planning to be prepared for the future. But what

will that future contain? Five years ago no elected official or staff looked into a crystal ball and said plan for only 80 of the 490 school district aged children living in La Conner. No one predicted a pandemic, the

Swinomish Channel flooding or the Hedlin family selling their

Maple Avenue property. Neither record sales tax revenue nor unabashedly luxury homes were projected in 2018.

So, planning for emergencies and the unexpected is impossible. Considering a future that will stay between the lines or be without pain is to never get out of bed. But it is perhaps equally impossible for small town elected officials and the staff that counsel them to take, much less act, on the Reader Digest aphorism sound bite that the nine most important words ever advised were "Be bold and mighty forces will come to your aid."

Balance is certainly needed between determining the next year's budget and all the complex forces sometimes seemingly spinning endlessly out-of-control.

Planning against the next disaster is impossible. Planning for resiliency and sustainability and a future very different from the present moment is the oddly sound alternative. Cooperating with all local governments to jointly bring in an agreed upon number of workforce housing units requires committed vision. Envisioning a Valley – and therefore La Conner's downtown – without parking spaces or cars will take courage as well as foresight.

Council members are back from their Mount Vernon retreat. Soon they will be reviewing the 2024 annual budget. But it will be policy decisions they make after that, and budgets they craft after that will determine how the town will prepare for a future that will be more surprising than anyone can plan for.

Elected officials at every level represent citizens. Advocating for and speaking out for the community and future of your dreams not only helps town officials but is necessary to get them to stretch toward your hoped-for best ideas.

– Ken Stern

MEETING NOTICE

La Conner Planning Commission will meet at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 1, Lower Maple Center, 104 Commercial St., La Conner. By Zoom: phaudowudonline.zoom.us/j/87588605640?p wd=aXFzNkswNGxpMENNTm RCMFNRbG9KQT09, meeting ID 875 8860 5640, passcode 993636.

AGENDA Public Comment (topics not on

agenda, time limit 3 minutes) MINUTES

Approve minutes from July 18

OLD BUSINESS

- Status Report: Talmon Development
- Status Report: Public Participation Program
- Comprehensive Plan Update: Discussion of Transportation Element
- Ongoing Discussion: Short
- Term Rental Regulations
- High Density Housing

Discussion NEW BUSINESS

- Report on Legislative Actions:
- Part 2: Housing Impacts
- Closing Comments

water, please run your cold water The Town of La Conner Public

Works Department will be performing its annual fire hydrant flushing and valve exercising during the month of August from 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. If you notice any discolored

supply until it clears up.

If the problem does not clear up please call Todd Park, 360-770-4536, or Chip Sherman, 360-840-3684, for assistance. Source: Town of La Conner

LETTER POLICY

Please write! Letters up to 350 words are welcome as are longer analyses and statements. Write a 450 word guest column.

Town hydrant flushing weekdays in August

Deadline: 5 p.m. Sunday for next issue.

SEND TO: editor@laconnernews.com

So many great stories, whether old or new

If I ran the zoo

MEL DAMSKI

I just turned 77 years old, and as I write this, I feel older and wiser. Well, wiser in some ways as we can always learn from our own experiences, but also facing the challenges of short-term memory loss.

As the son of Holocaust survivors, I thank God for every moment I have on this planet and when I sit in my rooftop hot tub and look out at the vast Universe, I thank God that humans are an incredible and extremely rare species.

I was very close to Father William Treacy and he gave me a column to post in this newspaper a week before he died at the age of 103 last year. His brain was working well right until the end of his amazing life and he was living proof that age can be just a number.

I've had an amazing career first as a journalist and then directing movies and television shows while living most of the time near the Hollywood studios. I fell in love with the Northwest

while producing and directing my series "Psych" in Vancouver, B.C., and I decided to live out my life here, looking out at the bay and islands from my living room window at the edge of the

My mother Rachel barely escaped Hitler and lived until the age of 94 and her brother Harry Rosenfeld lived to 91. Both are shining examples of what a great country America can be. Harry was Woodward and Bernstein's editor at the Washington Post.

Journalism is obviously in my blood and the news stories ideas I have I pitch to my editor, Ken Stern, and he agrees I can cover them in addition to my monthly

column. I'm working on a pickleball story right now which will run in next week's paper.

I'm also becoming a karaoke star (in my own mind) and I'm inviting you to come see Melvis sing at the Big Lake Bar and Grill on Friday nights and the Longhorn Saloon in Edison on Sunday nights.

If you have a local story that you think is worthy of sharing, please contact me via Facebook and if I agree with you that it is a story to be told, I will pitch it to my editor.

Meanwhile, enjoy this wonderful weather in the amazing part of our country where we have wisely decided to settle.

A citizen's view —

Let me tell you my imaginative alternatives

By Glen Johnson

I read your editorial "La Conner needs to plan for more than just floods," (Weekly News July 12) with great interest, and your words raised my eyebrows more than once. You see, you made a blanket statement, "No one in La Conner, elected officials, town staff, activists, or this paper, saw, much less grasped the opportunity and possibilities for working family housing when Dave Hedlin offered to sell his family's Maple Avenue property in 2020." Now, I think of myself as an activist, and I did see an alternative plan, even went out of my way to attempt to dialogue with Landed Gentry about transferring those building lots to a more appropriate site; no response!

You quoted Albert Einstein,

"Imagination is more important than knowledge," I like to back up one with the other, you see, imagination is much more valuable when backed up by knowledge and wisdom.

For years I have begged for a bit of space for a legitimate story to be written about how I came up with something as imaginative as dike housing. Six years is a long time to maintain patience and persistence. I ran for town council and tried to get people to see that I'm not, "asleep at the switch." I've been pleading for the Port, town and county, for years, to help me get the right group of people in the room.

My plans are holistic and sound, from the physics, to the economics, to the psychology of our community. That "space for hundreds of apartments for those future workers, awaits the vision to unlock it."

I've written letter after letter, trying to maintain a certain sense of diplomacy, but it seems to just get harder every day. Just because I'm a bit eccentric, doesn't mean I'm dumb. On the contrary, I'm a knowledgeable, imaginative, visionary, inventor who is just trying to help his lifelong community. I have to ask, why are you afraid to interview me, do I come across too strident?

Maybe you didn't read my recent letter about the Jensen property. I've spent the time to study the place, invested time in designing the property, taken input from the mayor and other community members. Maybe I'm too ad hoc, maybe there's good reason for my being ignored. I'd sure like to know what it is.

Would you like to be paid to heat your water?

By Greg Whiting

New solar and wind electric generators are being installed at increasing rates because their costs are declining and utilities are getting better at integrating intermittent generation into their grids. New renewable generation plants are more economical than new coal or natural gas plants. Renewable generators are, therefore, displacing fossil or nuclear fueled plants when the old plants are retired.

However, generation from solar and wind sources doesn't necessarily happen at the exact same time electricity is being used. The inevitable result is that renewable generation is being overbuilt for some hours during the year. Some generation, including from solar and wind sources, is available when there isn't enough demand for it.

When that happens, the utility grid reacts in one of two ways (or both): Either wholesale prices fall below zero, and/or energy that could have been generated at no marginal cost without the use of fuel is curtailed (i.e., the grid operator prevents this essentially zero-cost electricity from being generated).

This is happening on a large scale now. The California Independent System Operators' April 2023 report on curtailed

renewable resources shows that

over a billion kilowatt-hours of wind and solar energy were curtailed in the first four months of this year. At La Conner retail energy rates, that's over \$100 million of zero-emission, nearly zero-cost energy that was not produced at all, because the grid didn't have enough instantaneous demand to take that electricity at the times it could have been produced. When the circumstances that

result in curtailment occur, energy prices on wholesale markets are very low. Sometimes, wholesale energy prices can even become negative - the utility has to pay customers to take electricity off the grid to keep the system balanced.

It is possible to create retail rates and systems that allow customers to participate in wholesale markets. In other words, if you had inexpensive energy storage systems that could absorb excess grid energy when it is being produced, the utility industry could actually

PAY YOU to take zero-cost, zero-emission electricity. In Scotland, individual

apartment residents have reduced their energy bills by installing thermal storage systems that capture "excess" wind energy and use it to heat a well-insulated box filled with bricks. When energy costs are high, stored heat from the bricks is released, reducing the need to either burn gas or use new electric resistance heat. These apartments are being heated with what would otherwise have been curtailed renewable energy.

To be paid to heat your water here, and reduce your propane, gas or electric costs, you would need a water heater that could receive a signal from the utility to start heating when wholesale prices are negative. You would need to be able to overheat your water, and mix cold water into it to be sure you could safely use the water if the water in your storage tank is too hot. The utility would need to have a retail rate that allowed customers to receive electricity at a lower price than your usual rate, at utility-specified times, for an amount up to the amount captured by your water heater.

None of this is difficult. It does require appropriate regulation and some easily-developed technology.

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SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Anna Fleischmann Jennings Lloyd Michael Jennings

Anna Fleischmann Jennings, 97, died peacefully on June 8, 2023, in Mount Vernon, Washington. Her husband Lloyd Michael Jennings, 86, died peacefully at home on November 28, 2021. There will be a Memorial Mass to honor the both of them at 12:15 p.m. on Tuesday, August 1, 2023, at Immaculate Conception Church, 400 N. 15th St., Mount Vernon, followed by a reception at 3:00 p.m. at the McLean Road Fire Department, 15452 Beaver Marsh Road, Mount Vernon.

Housing sale prices hold steady in June

By Ken Stern

The median price of the 137 homes that closed in Skagit County in June was \$560,000, almost unchanged over the four months since March. Fewer homes closed in most of the county's nine markets than a year ago but the number was about the same as sold in May. The 27 homes sold in Anacortes was six less than in May and seven fewer than in 2022. The median sold home price there dipped to \$765,000 after two months of being above \$800,000. Data are from the Kirkland-based Northwest Multiple Listing

A La Conner area broker shared a report that seven homes sold in the La Conner market had a median price of \$657.449. This included an unlisted house on Channel Lane that sold for \$942,340. Prices ranged from \$330,000 for a 648 square foot home built in 1950 off Pull and Be Damned Road to \$955,000 for a 2004-built 2,223 square foot home off Reservation Road facing the flats and the Cascades.

Three homes were on Maple Avenue, two of them in the Landed Gentry development. The home south of the Landed Gentry property reportedly sold for \$540,000.

The NWMLS reported 11 homes sold in the La Conner market had a \$485,000 median price. That was the most homes sold in a month in this market in 2023. Price has a general upward trend for the year.

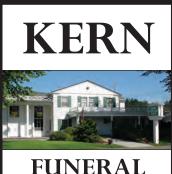
The months of inventory dropped slightly countywide to about seven weeks. Fewer homes for sale are probably keeping prices up.

There are 28 active listings in the La Conner market, down slightly from May but the second highest number this year and almost 50% above 2022.

A late June Landed Gentry display ad in a Seattle Time real estate section stated three homes remained for sale at the La Conner Maple Field development

And for sale signs have bloomed for the two homes under construction in the La Conner Heights development near Whatcom and Hill streets. In June, BYK Construction president Paul Woodmansee projected a fall 2024 completion

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"Since 1913"

Council honors longtime area UPS driver

By Bill Reynolds

Hector Soltero has made countless deliveries in La Conner during his years as a United Parcel Service driver.

Now it is his turn to be on the receiving end. And in a big way.

The La Conner Town Council unanimously approved a resolution July 11 honoring Soltero and expressing appreciation for the outstanding service he provides to his La Conner area customers.

"He's well loved by everybody in town," Councilmember Rick Dole said in proposing the resolution. "He's just a joy to be around." Council hopes to formally

recognize Soltero and his family in-person soon, perhaps at its July

Mayor Ramon Hayes, though not able to vote, expressed his

"I concur," said Hayes. "Hector always has a smile on his face. He has a very positive attitude." The resolution lauds Soltero for

a career "marked by professionalism and helpfulness." It further cites Soltero as "a great asset" to the town due to his "dedication and commitment to excellent customer service.' Dole also tossed bouquets to

the Skagit County Sheriff's Office and new La Conner Detachment Sgt. Brad Holmes. "We're getting quite a few

more (coverage) hours than what we're paying for," said Dole, who has seen positive engagement between deputies and local teens.

Aaron Reinstra, who dually serves as fire chief and code enforcement officer, has likewise



HAIL HECTOR - The La Conner Town Council honored UPS delivery driver Hector Soltero for his years of outstanding service to La Conner and surrounding residents. photo by Bill Reynolds

been busy with the fireworks, boating, commercial and recreational crabbing and tourist seasons aligning.

He told Council that he had monitored the Sherman Street boat ramp to help prevent delays and backups there. He said the boat launch area and town's floats have undergone excessive use over the past couple weeks given the extended warm weather

The downside to such usage is facilities maintenance, Hayes

"We're seeing some damage to the floats," he said.

Above the boat launch, in Pioneer Park, an arborist has identified trees that pose risks to public safety, but the chance remains one of those trees perhaps part of an eagle habitat can be saved.

Public Works Director Brian Lease said there is no active nest on that tree but that sparing it from removal is an option. The arborist has indicated seven trees of more immediate concern. "Those are hazard trees," Lease

Resident Linda Talman earlier informed Council that habitat trees are protected internationally by migratory bird legislation. An avid birder, Talman has noted that bird populations are diminishing dramatically and efforts must be made to save them.

"The bottom line," she said in a letter last week, "is that removing habitat for these birds is damaging to the bird populations."

Another town resident, Rosalinda Guillen, has suggested passage of a tree census ordinance that includes ages of trees and mandates protection for them

given their role in providing both habitat and heat relief.

Relief from speeding motorists is being provided by portable speed cushions placed on side streets with heavy traffic volumes, most notably Talbott Street, a link between Whatcom Street and Maple Avenue.

"We've budgeted for two of them," Hayes said. "I've heard that they're needed in more locations. But we're faced with fiscal restraints so for now we'll rotate them between locations."

The meeting began with a rapid round of public comments.

Center Street resident Leslie Smith cautioned against approval of Airbnbs, stating that they reduce La Conner's already limited housing stock.

Debbie Aldrich, also a Center Street resident, said she enjoys the Sunday outdoor live music concerts at Gilkey Square but noted they are so popular that parking on those afternoons backs up into residential neighborhoods. She said construction of the proposed three-story Center Street residential project will create even more parking pressures.

"Parking will be a problem if that building gets built," Aldrich predicted. "I don't know where these people will park."

Gary Nelson, who resides across Fourth Street from the proposed Center Street project, echoed Aldrich's parking concerns. He said there is already parking congestion in front and alongside homes by people frequenting commercial ventures on Morris Street.

"The Center Street project will exasperate that," he said.

Planning Commission hears high-density housing options "The school district is in

By Bill Reynolds

Tiny houses were a big topic at the La Conner Town Planning Commission meeting July 18.

Planning Director Michael Davolio shared a revised draft proposal that would amend Town regulations to allow high density residential development as a conditional use with commissioners at their hybrid meeting in Maple Hall. The amendment is in response to developer Greg Ellis wanting to site 44 tiny home units on Whatcom and Washington streets behind Pioneer Market. It will be considered separately.

He said he will continue tweaking the draft proposal and offer revisions in August.

Ellis attended the 75-minute meeting. He said he has shifted from building regular-sized dwellings to tiny homes due to market conditions and to provide a more affordable housing option in La Conner.

"I had houses for sale there that were approved," Ellis reminded commissioners. "I was

equal.

MKT-5894N-A

Kittens do best when

Before leaping to the

are truly abandoned.

will return to care for

rescue make sure they

scrounging for food and

they are with their mama.

Edward Jones

Scott A Price

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Financial Advisor

708 E Morris St Ste C

La Conner, WA 98257

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unable to sell one house. I tried. I designed seven houses there." Staff will determine placement

and wording in the code. "We wouldn't be amending the code," commissioner Summer

Holt said midway through the discussion. "We'd be adding a new definition to the code. We'd be adding a definition for high density residential units.' Davolio stressed that the proposal's draft requires applicants

to obtain a conditional use permit prior to development. "It can be done in any residential zone in town provided it's approved," he explained. Second Street resident Jean Wharton offered several cau-

tionary notes. As the comprehensive plan is updated, housing for families and protection and preservation of trees should be emphasized, she said.

We're in deep, serious trouble," she said. "When the Town says it wants to plan for the next 20, 30, 40 years, it's ludicrous if you don't protect trees."

Wharton was critical of restrictions preventing the Town from

> edwardjones.com

addressing ivy-engulfed and diseased trees on private property.

"Heat isn't private," she said. "Carbon isn't private. I want the Town to look into ways water can be given to trees even on private property. She would like to see trees included as part of the landscape approved for all new construction.

Assistant Planner Ajah Eills said the parks commission is committed to planting trees along Center and Morris streets.

"I agree with you," Eills assured Wharton. "Carbon and heat aren't private."

Wharton urged commissioners to consider the plight of La Conner Schools, facing a decline in student enrollment and state funding support resulting in painful staff and program cutbacks.

trouble," Wharton said. "When you're considering this, think of families with children."

Davolio suggested that high-density housing be limited to short-term rentals to spaces abutting commercial zones.

Holt said residents are leery of having short-term rentals in neighborhoods, especially if high-density housing was also included. Some have told her they fear short-term rentals can negatively impact the fabric and makeup of neighborhoods while reducing an already limited local housing stock.

"They want to keep it in the commercial zone," she said, "as it is presently. Commercial with short-term rentals is perfectly acceptable."



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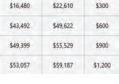
- · Lived in Washington a minimum of 183 days. Are at least 25 and under 65 years of age OR
- have a qualifying child in 2022. Filed a 2022 federal tax return with a SSN or
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If the kiftens appear to be well fed and in good health and mama seems to be nearby or has obviously been there recently, then wait and try to see if you can bring mama in as well. If she's friendly scoop them up, and give us a call. If she isn't keen on contact, again, call us at 360–757–0445 for advice on trapping so you can bring them all in together safely. A trap might be necessary and it's important to get mom first, so you don't scoop up the babies and then realize you can't get mama.

Observe from a safe distance to see if mama is present.

If kittens are clean and sleeping in a heap, then mama is likely out looking for food and

If kittens are cold, dirty, thin, making a lot of noise or appear sick or hurt, mama might be MIA and possibly gone for good. If you have observed for 12 to 24 hrs and mama still

hasn't returned, she's probably not coming back.

MAKE A GAME PLAN
If kittens are in obvious distress and mama is

clearly not coming back, call HSSV at 360– 757–0445 to discuss bringing them into us for

If the kittens appear to be well fed and in good

360-757-0445 shelter@skagithumane.org www.skagithumane.org



By Jean Markert, Library Director

Summer is quickly coming to a close, but we still have lots of exciting things happening at the library. We have several weeks of summer reading to keep everyone busy. Keep buzzing through those books so you can turn in your completed packet for a prize.

Thank you to drummer Ray Soriano for a great drumming workshop. Those who attended had a wonderful time.

Thank you also to La Conner firefighter Natalie, who took time to let us explore and learn about a fire truck. Everyone who came got a chance to sit in the truck and explore all the cool knobs and gadgets; they even got to see Firefighter Natalie with her firefighting gear on. Everyone who came went home with a cool water bottle courtesy of the fire department. Thank you to the La Conner Fire Department for sharing your truck with us.

Thank you also to Jeanette DeGoede for sharing her memoir, Remembering Tulip Town, with us, Mrs. DeGoede shared the story of its founding and took time to answer questions from the audience. Her presentation was a delight.

Summer Reading kids, watch your mailboxes for a letter and a surprise. Letters were mailed out last week, so you should receive them any day!

We have more great summer goup events coming up:

July 26 at 11 a.m., come for an old-fashioned campfire sing along. Come sit around the "campfire" and enjoy great songs.

Aug. 2 at 11 a.m., join for rock painting. We will create beautiful pieces of art on rocks. Be sure you wear your painting clothes for this event. It might get messy.

Aug. 9 at 11 a.m., we will create art with felting. This is a fun, creative way to create 3-dimensional art out of wool. This event will be fun for all ages

Our final summer reading program event will be on Wednesday, Aug. 16 at 11 a.m. Michelle Calvin and Tony Cladoosby from

Beaver Tails coffee will share canoe stories with us. This is the perfect way to end our summer reading program, so don't miss

For the young and young at heart be sure to come to the interactive ukulele concert on Aug. 7. This is a fun, interactive event for all ages. Bring your ukulele to play along or come clap or sing along or just listen. This event is fun for all ages!

Local cozy mystery author Gail Noble-Smith will be at the library on Aug. 17 at 2 p.m. to talk about her novels and her writing process. This will be a wonderful way to spend an afternoon.

On Aug.24 at 4:30 p.m. we welcome women's chorale group, The Harmonairs. Their beautiful harmonies will make your day.

Finally, don't miss Tom Robbins Day Saturday, Sept 2. This fun, town-wide event will feature a parade, raffle, and many other fun events. Be sure to dress up as your favorite Tom Robbins character and join in the fun.

As summer draws to a close, be sure to stay tuned to our library website: laconnerswinomishlibrary.org for all the fun events coming this fall.

School budget . . . (from page 1)

"This required us to, unfortunately, reduce in force our Director of Operations, Bobby Vaughn and not to hire our assistant principal position," Nelson wrote.

Vaughn has overseen district facilities initiatives and in the second half of the school year helped administer the transportation department after its longtime director Kim Pedroza (now a board member) took a similar assignment with the Stanwood School District.

La Conner Middle and High School Principal Tanya Houle, also director of the district's career and technology education program, resigned at the end of the school year, reportedly to return home to North Dakota.

C.J. Woods, the athletics director and high school boys' basketball coach, recently resigned to accept a coaching-A.D. position in Arizona.

Christine Tripp, the middle and high school principal, will add the athletics director role to her workload. Technology director Ryan Hiller will likely assume the CTE post vacated by Houle's resignation.

"Additionally," said Nelson, "we had to create another split (classroom) at the elementary

The changes don't end there. Teaching and Learning Director Beth Clothier will handle federal grant programs. Cram will take on district operations and Nelson will pick up the special programs portfolio that had been administered by Andy Wheeler, who retired in June.

Nelson's website letter states "valued teachers, impacting 8 individuals, received notification that their contracts with the La Conner School District for the 2023-2024 academic year will not be renewed or will be reduced." That "equals 4.18 FTEs, not 8 FTE positions," the website stated. An FTE is a full-timeequivalency, or one position.

Nelson, however, closed his

missive with some good news.

He confirmed that the district has received a \$39,000 small rural schools achievement program grant and funding through the regional educational services district and the Stronger Together Connections program for two staff positions, one of which would be a mental health counselor.

Nelson noted the district has submitted its application for a 21st Century Community Learning Center grant that enables expansion of the Braves Club program. Nelson said the district will learn the status of its application by Aug. 31.

The school board has a policy of maintaining a fund balance equal to 10 per cent of the district budget. That translates to just over \$1 million. Even with sweeping budget cuts, Cram forecasts an ending fund balance for 2023-24 at around \$100,000. He expects it will take two to three years to again reach the 10 per cent threshold.

He has told the board that school districts across the state and nation are grappling with similar enrollment and budget issues in the aftermath of the pandemic.

One national study has found that there are two million fewer students in America's public schools than was the case prior to COVID-19. Here, the fulltime student count has fallen from 600 in grades K-12 at the outset of the pandemic to an estimated 490 pupils this fall.

Cram has repeatedly pointed out that student enrollment is the main driver of state funding support of the public schools.

A La Conner alum who has served as finance director at several larger school districts in the Puget Sound region, Cram began his career here a generation ago when the district flirted with a student population of 700.

Cram returned for a second tour on the schools administration team in March.

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Student-built tiny home delivered to Burlington house in mid-November, makneed was a major factor inspir-

By Bill Reynolds

When given a real-world assignment last school year, La Conner High School students nailed it. Both literally and figuratively.

The school's construction class, taught by Daniel Castillo, built a tiny house as part of career and technology curriculum and the finished product was recently delivered to the tiny home village on Pease Road in Burlington.

Burlington Mayor Steve Sexton and representatives of the Low Income Housing Institute, which paid for the materials used on the project, were present when the student-built house

"My only regret after this fabulous experience with the students," Castillo told the Weekly News on Thursday, "is that the tiny home was only able to be delivered from the La Conner High School woodshop to its location after the school year concluded, thus making it nigh impossible for our students to attend the delivery.'

Castillo named the project's builders: Brandon Mireless, Zachary Miller, Floyd Dent Andrew Villard, Robbie George, Jacob Pommels, Alex Martin, Bradley Williams, Shawn Sampson and Mason Groesbeck.

They began work on the tiny

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class periods to meet a June 1 completion deadline. Castillo said at the time that

ing the most of daily 48-minute

construction of the home would introduce students to key skill sets - from measuring and marking to accurate cutting to fastening, framing and finish Above all, he said, the stu-

dents knew they were doing something to help alleviate the housing crunch in Skagit County, which has the state's lowest rental vacancy rate at less than one percent. The lack of affordable housing

is the biggest factor driving

homelessness in Skagit County, according to outreach workers who toil on the front lines of the

Providing shelter for people in

ing the student construction project, Castillo said.

Castillo also designed the tiny house assignment so that students could rub elbows with professional builders in the La Conner area. He issued an open invitation for local carpenters to lend a hand and share their

"It's valuable for the students," he explained, "to see people other than me who are in the trades."

Castillo said the 10-member class took part in something tangible that will define their school days for a long time to come.

"(It was) a chance," he reflected, "to serve our community while affording the students a chance to build their carpentry skills."











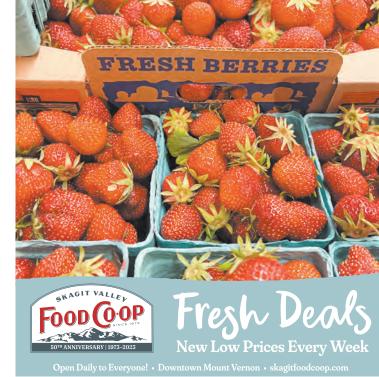
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Theatre review —

'The Tempest' is stormy, but ends well

By Ken Stern

Two outstanding performances of two fantastical characters are sound reasons for blowing into the Rexville Blackrock Amphitheater to see Shakespeare Northwest's production of "The Tempest." It is not an island but the outdoor theater is the natural setting for this play. Nate Wheeler's Caliban scurrying out of the woods, snorting and babbling and Ariel (Maia Newell-Large), flitting and swooning as she darts on and off the stage and up and down the aisle, are way worth the price of admission.

This is almost a fairy tale and starts with a violent storm and a shipwreck. Reading the play or a detailed summary will help in following the many backstories. Prospero (Carolyn Travis, a bit low key last Friday, but with a great gold-trimmed black robe) narrates her tale to her daughter, Miranda (Arabella Rose). When Miranda was a babe Prospero was betrayed by her brother, Antonio (Raido McComas), and Alonso (Morgan Loftus) the King of Naples.

Prospero ends up on an island, which is magical, and masters magic and plots vengeance. She creates the storm to blow her brother and entourage onto shore. Prospero learns wizardry and seems to know all. She is master and manipulative of every relationship.

Listen carefully and closely watch the characters interactions, for this play is about relationships and thus about power, dominance, control, retaliation – and also love and forgiveness.

But more enjoyable than listening to Prospero's plotting her vengeance is watching the winged and rainbowed-costumed Ariel dash and prance about. She is almost never still. More, she is invisible to everyone but the audience.

Caliban demands similar attention. He is also constantly on the move, slinking and crouching, grunting and howling. He is made more animated and vocal by his

introduction to and fondness for drink, which he shares in copious quantities with Stephano (Jaime Mastromonica) and Trinculo (Derick Dong), the former a lost butler and the later a Jester. Both turn in fine performances as casual and constant drunks.

Pay attention to the plotting and alliances and the shifts in perception characters have for each other. Is Caliban a monster as well as a slave? Is Prospero only cold and calculating?

This is Shakespeare done on an almost bare stage and its foreground in front of the audience. The players are well costumed by Miriam Smith. Bjorn Anders directs.

The production and the audience are challenged by the troupe's commitment to gender blind and age-independent casting. The summer season is a tremendous opportunity to be introduced to acting in a supportive environment but it is a challenge to everyone to ask so much from such young performers. King Alonso's lavish costume and made up beard cannot disguise a small voice or timid movements.

And while 17th century actors were all men even as some were cast in women's roles, gender switching without signaling cast changes may be especially difficult to follow for those not familiar with the plays.

The audience needs the consideration of directors and producers and have them improve this.

Still, praise the heavens for the gift of summer Shakespeare in the Pacific Northwest.

"The Tempest" plays weekends, rotating with "The Taming of the Shrew" through Aug. 12. Times and tickets: shakesnw.org/.

Have you seen our new website?

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Enjoy movies from the seat of your car

By Kurt Batdorf

Should you want to watch a first-run movie or two (or possibly three) from the comfort of your own car as Americans did decades ago, you'll need to hit the road for the Blue Fox Drive-In, just south of Oak Harbor on Highway 20 at Moore Landing Road.

Used to be that many American towns had a drive-in movie theater. Today, the Blue Fox is one of just five drive-ins left in all of Washington.

The Blue Fox Drive-In has been a Whidbey Island entertainment mainstay since 1960. In some ways, it still feels like 1960. The pre-movie film reels feature animated cups of soda and candy bars dancing happily out of the lobby, followed by "The Star Spangled Banner" featuring a rocket flying to the moon. Everyone honks and flashes headlights at the finale.

Thankfully, the hard-wired, staticky speakers your elders hung in the driver's window in 1960 are long gone, replaced by a clear FM broadcast. If your vehicle battery is dead at the end of the show, the staff will give you a jump start.

The Blue Fox weathered the destruction of its screen during a windstorm in the 1990s and survived the transition from film reels to digital projection. Film fans flocked to the Blue Fox during the pandemic when brickand-mortar theaters had to stay closed for social distancing.

You don't have to be stuck in your car for hours while you wait for the first show to start after sunset. Kids run around beneath the screen to burn off sugar-fueled energy. Families and friends gather and laugh, then bundle up and sit in lawn chairs in pickup beds or leave the minivan's rear hatch open.

The Blue Fox has a go-kart track with karts that seat two (parent and child bonding!). It recently expanded its video-game arcade. The snack bar has a full kitchen and often has weekend menu specials. There's an outdoor patio with adult beverages. Get warm with Blue Fox hoodies



SUDDENLY, IT'S 1960 — As my wife and I settle in for the first showing of a double feature, the Blue Fox Drive-In plays "The Star Spangled Banner" to kick off the night's entertainment at sundown. The animated rocket to the moon certainly makes it feel like you're reliving the Space Age of the early 1960s. — photo by Kurt Batdorf

and onesies. You can even bring your RV or camper and spend the night, provided you plan to arrive when the gate opens at 4 p.m. and use the supplied voucher to eat at the snack bar.

My wife, Christine Valdez, and I have been hitting the Blue Fox a few times a season for the last 20 years. Usually it's on a Friday or Saturday night, and it's always busy. Even when we get there early, parking as we do in the first three rows with the other "small cars" to get a decent view of the screen can be a challenge.

This time, we went Thursday night for "Barbie" and the latest "Mission: Impossible" installment. We expected it to be crowded as usual, because of the two wildly popular movie titles.

Oddly, it wasn't crowded at all. Maybe because it was a "work night" for most people. For the first time ever, we parked dead center of the screen in the second row. I didn't have to slouch uncomfortably to see the whole screen.

Lots of people left after "Barbie," leaving us all alone down front with only two other cars and a smattering of pickups and SUVs behind us.

I don't need to provide you with a review of the movies, other than to say, "Wow!"

A night at the Blue Fox does require some time management on your part. When the first feature doesn't start until 9:30 p.m. or so, you're in for a late, late night. After about five hours of screen time, we got home at 2:45 a.m.

"The best advice I can give is to take a nap first," Christine said.

As usual, my wife is correct.

La Conner Classic Boat & Car Show Aug. 5

Like classic cars or classic boats? Hit the La Conner Chamber of Commerce's 23rd Annual La Conner Classic Boat & Car Show at the La Conner Marina Aug. 5.

Cars from almost all the decades of the past 100 years will fill the parking lot behind the Swinomish Yacht Club. So will motorcycles and tractors. The boats on trailers parked there will be vintage, as well: fiberglass or wood boats made before 1979.

Just north and west, at the Marina's dock, will be classic and vintage boats that will moor overnight Friday and Saturday.

Awards for a variety of categories will be announced at 3 p.m.

DJ spun music will play throughout the day and food vendors will offer their wares.



Pioneer Picnic honors La Conner coach and Benson/Berentson family Aug. 3

By Bill Reynolds

La Conner High School championship volleyball coach Suzanne Marble, a member of two separate state-level halls of fame, is about to add another honor to a

Having retired after 30 years from the coaching ranks and on a leave of absence, Marble will receive the 2023 Skagit County Pioneer Association Spirit Award.

She will be recognized Aug. 3 during the business meeting segment of the 119th annual Skagit County Pioneer Picnic in La Conner.

Marble led teams to seven state crowns – a likely eighth title was denied when COVID-19 forced cancellation of the 2020 tourna-

The 2023 Skagit County Pioneer Family of the Year, whose members will also be honored at the Picnic, sport two different names. Some go by Benson, others Berentson.

"We really are one family," notes Laura Matthews, "only the names are changed."

Descendants of Atlag Bernsten Dragaland and Anton Bernsten Dragaland have distinguished themselves in Skagit County for more than a century through ventures ranging from agriculture and public service to entrepreneurship and publications to commercial photography and graphic arts.

"Like many who came to this country," Matthews explained, "names were changed or modified for convenience. In Norway, the naming conventions were to name sons after fathers and daughters after mothers, with the addition of

County

the place name."

Thus, through the decades, family members bore the names Bernsten, Benson and Berentson.

Matthews said Berent Anton (Big Ben) Benson was first in the family to emigrate to Skagit

"His first refuge, of course, was the home of his uncle Anton in Minnesota, where he found farm work and later fishing and farming," said Matthews.

"He eventually came to the Pacific Northwest," she said and became the patriarch of a fine family and responsible for many other family members who settled in this area."

Berent Andrew Benson, known as Little Ben Benson, was born in Minnesota in 1879.

"He migrated to the Edison area in 1888," Matthews told the Weekly News.

Generations later, Duane Berentson, who grew up in Anacortes, served as a teacher and coach at Burlington-Edison High School and gained election to the state legislature, became Speaker of the Washington State House of Representatives and the state's transportation secretary. The twin span bridge over Swinomish Channel on Highway 20 was named in his honor.

The name of the game on Pioneer Picnic Day is fellowship.

The public is welcome to attend and enjoy lunch, the program saluting coach Marble and the Bensons/Berentsons, live music by John Anderson & Friends and the opportunity to reminisce with old friends and strike up conversations with new acquaintances.

The day begins at 11:15 a.m.

with a salmon barbecue luncheon prepared by the "Good Girls" and served by the La Conner Civic Garden Club.

Cost of the meal is \$20, which helps support the Skagit County Historical Museum in La Conner, and includes a commemorative ribbon enabling free admission to the museum through the weekend.

Pioneer Association President Peggy Stowe will open the business meeting following lunch.

Anacortes Arts Fest starts Aug. 6

The 62nd Anacortes Art Festival starts Aug. 4-6 on Commercial Avenue, stretching to the Port dock. Along the way are artist booths; music on main, jazz and waterfront stages; three beer and wine gardens; food trucks and vendors; a kids discovery area; an art dash and artist demonstrations. The Juried Fine Art Show at the Port features 82 regional artists representing a wide range of mediums and perspectives. Among the La Conner area artists are Craig Barber, Dee Doyle, Tracy Powell and Maggie Wilder. It opens July 29, 5:30-8 p.m. at the Port Transit Shed and runs Monday-Thursday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and is open during festival hours Friday-Sunday.

This is one of the oldest and largest festivals in the Northwest, annually attracting an estimated 90,000 visitors.



TIME FOR AN UPGRADE - Workers have been rebuilding the original roof at the La Conner post office since July 22, giving it a steeper pitch to improve drainage. Getting big equipment off the roof with a lift means closure of the parking lot, likely through this week. Otherwise, there hasn't been any impact on customers. - Photo by Ken Stern

Viva Farms opens for free tour

By Chloe Peterson

"I just think food people are the best people," said Danielle Halstead, Viva Farms development manager, when asked about her favorite thing about working with the organization. "People who grow food in the dirt are authentic and inspiring and anything I can do to help them is wonderful."

Executive Director Michael Frazier, shares that enthusiasm. It was visible as they led a tour last Wednesday evening. Attendees came from all parts of the Skagit Valley to learn more about Viva Farms and getting involved.

Viva Farms was founded in 2009 to provide farming essentials, including training, land, infrastructure, equipment, marketing and capital to aspiring farmers through holistic practice. The nonprofit organization supports 33 farms on 119 acres of land. Each farm is managed by those who have either gone through, or are currently going through Viva's Farm Business Incubator program.

Their Practicum in Sustainable Agriculture course introduces the program. Attendees go through a whole farming season in a cohort, learning basics from land management to pest control to bookkeeping. From there, participants apply to be a part of the incubator program, Once accepted, they maintain their own farms in conjunction with

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Viva acting as support during a five year apprenticeship.

Viva Farms doesn't just operate their practicum and incubator programs. It is also heavily involved in the future of agriculture through numerous studies with the Washington State University Bread Lab. The Bread Lab is working to reshape people's approach to bread to make it healthier, better tasting and affordable.

Viva Farms farmers sell to the community with programs such as Community Supported Agriculture. Its CSA distributes weekly boxes to subscribers, guaranteeing fresh produce to participants and sales to their farmers.

To make produce more accessible the CSA operates on a sliding scale,

As the tour group walked past different farms, the community Viva fosters became clear. Frazier noted that there are no fences between plots. Facilities, tools and space are shared, leading to collaboration between participants in the Practicum plot and program farmers. Halstead remarked that it wasn't uncommon for farmers to create joint efforts in their work as the years went by.

The next tour is 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept 19.

For information on the CSA program or getting involved with Viva Farms: vivafarms.org.

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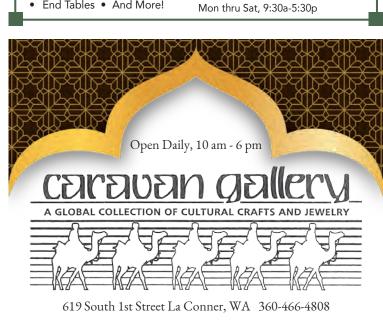
















Chris Eger Band and July 7: the Powerhouse Horns

Herding Kats July 12:

Free Rain July 14:

Cascadia Groove July 19:

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July 28: **Point of Sail**

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Channel Cove

■ ■ (from page 1)

this meeting. Dean said she visits Channel Cove regularly and talks to residents.

"I have addressed a lot of people about a lot of different things," Dean said. "I have empathy, but I have been beat and beat and beat. I respect what you're telling me and the board of directors.'

Dean said Home Trust consulted with Fire District 13 and the La Conner town administrator to install the bollards and restrict the fire lane to emergency vehicles after some residents parked on it. She said Martin's suggestion for parking pullouts would have to go to the Town of

Verge . . (from page 1)

her," said DeGoede.

Verge also hosted the 2019 World Tulip Summit here in Skagit County. "It was pretty cool to meet delegates from all over the world, from China, South America, England, Turkey, Australia and find out how they operate," Verge said. Much was familiar. "In agriculture, best practices are still best practices wherever you are."

Every year's Festival was "a giant puzzle," she said and she loved putting it together. "Half of my job is getting visitors here, getting them information and getting them to the venues they want to see," she said. "The other half is encouraging community groups to host events like the Kiwanis Salmon Barbeque, the street fair and art shows." In addition, there are Festivalsponsored events like the parade, annual gala, Tulip Ambassador contest and the poster unveiling.

"I learned how to be flexible," she said. "One of the cool things about my job is that while some things stayed the same - there will be tulips and people will come – within those parameters every day it changed. You make plans and you do the best you can. You have to know that those plans are going to change along

She laughed when someone once asked her what she did if something went wrong: "It's not if, it's when."

She also loved getting to know people like Jeannette DeGoede. 'Some of them transcend those business relationships and become your friends," she said. "It's been a delight."

And Verge's next chapter? She plans to take it slowly and not commit to anything during her first year of retirement besides spending time with her family.

With no Festival responsibilities next spring, she and her husband Tom may attend a Mariner's spring training week. And she can garden.

"I look forward to having my flower beds not full of weeds in the middle of May!" she said.

Shelter Bay board officers

Rod Proctor is the new president of Shelter Bay board of directors, elected at the board'se special July 5 meeting. The officers are: Vice President Rick Parnell, Secretary Monte Hicks, Treasurer Jan Paul and Secretary Pro Tem Nancy

Paul takes the seat vacated when Joe Hurley resigned. She came in fourth in May's elections.

Hurley, Proctor and Parnell were elected in May. Lawson Earl was appointed in May to fill the seat Judy Kontos lost when recalled.

La Conner for consideration.

"They said it's a poor design," Dean said of the fire lane. "We made the right decision."

Martin, Pommel and others complained that contractor vehicles repeatedly blocked the fire lane during recent construction, before the bollards were installed.

Channel Cove "went through hell" during the pandemic, Dean said. It made life more complicated for residents as repairs took

Resident Al Williams said the thermostats in his unit have been malfunctioning for two years and he had to pay to have a fan installed to deal with moisture problems.

"There are a lot of excuses and

justifications," he said. "The bottom line is, nothing gets done."

Dean promised to look into his problems. "This is the first I'm hearing of it," she said.

"I know it's not quick enough for everyone's liking," Dean Hudson said the board would

install a bulletin board to improve communication with Channel Cove residents. Incoming Home Trust of

Skagit board member Justin Barnes is a new Channel Cove resident. He helped calm the group when discussions turned

"This was a healthy exchange," Barnes said. "It's a good idea to have community meetings."

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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8		6		7			2	
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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆ ◀

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging

♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Puzzle Answers Page 8



By Patricia Agiimuk Paul, Esq., Food Editor.

Watermelon Lime Juice

This is a refreshing juice made with fruit and no added sugar. Often someone will reflect on my recipes about their simplicity. They appreciate the short list of ingredients and the simple instructions. Others appreciate how my recipes use ingredients they currently have on-hand. From Aqiimuk's kitchen to yours, I wish you health and happiness.



Thank you for being with me on this journey as we discover together the value of a simple life.

Ingredients

- · Seedless watermelon, 5 pounds
- Lime, 1

Preparation

Rinse the watermelon and lime. Set up an electric blender. Half and quarter the watermelon. Slice. Remove the rind. Add just enough slices into the blender to reach the top of the blade. When consistency is of a slushy, pour into a large container. Repeat until all the watermelon is blended. Then pour the blended watermelon back into the blender. Add the squeezed lime and blend thoroughly. Pour and drink immediately. Will keep for an hour in the refrigerator. Makes 4 to 5 cups.

AqiimuksKitchen@outlook.com

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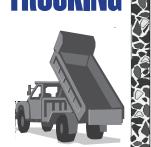
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LEGAL NOTICES

La Conner School District No. 311 NOTICE OF MEETING TO ADOPT 2023-24 BUDGET AND CONDUCT PUBLIC **HEARING**

NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to RCW 28A.505.050 and RCW 28A.505.060, that the Board of Directors of La Conner School District No. 311, Skagit County, Washington will hold a regular meeting on July 31, 2023 commencing at 9:15 a.m. in the District Office Board Room, located at 305 North Sixth St. La Conner, Washington or via remote tele- and video-conference. The meeting is called for the purpose of fixing and adopting the budget of the District for the ensuing 2023-24 fiscal year. Prior to adoption of the 2023-24 budget, the Board will hold a hearing on July 31, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., for the purpose of receiving comments from the public on the 2023-24 budget. Any person may appear at the hearing and be heard for or against any part of the 2023-24 budget. Those interested in participating in the budget hearing and/or offering public comment on the proposed budget should contact David Cram at 360-466-3171 or dcram@lc.k12.wa.us. A copy of the 2023-2024 Budget is on file at the Administration

Dr. Will Nelson

quest.

Secretary, Board of Directors Published in the La Conner Weekly News July 19 and 26,

Office, 305 North Sixth St, La

Conner, Washington, and is

available for review upon re-

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR WHATCOM COUNTY. In re the Estate of: JEFFREY WAYNE SALMON,

Deceased. Cause No. 23-4-00663-37. NOTICE TO CREDITORS

RCW 11.40.030 The Personal Representative

named below has been appointed and has qualified as Personal Representative of the above estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the



- in London was interrupted by, of all things, flying ants. The obnoxious critters didn't just annoy athletes, but encroached on people's kitchen pantries and piled up on their doorsteps. Authorities called it the worst pestilential attack in 25 years.
- On Aug. 8, 1921, the ship Alaska, which was headed for San Francisco, hit a rocky ledge twice off the coast of Alaska during a fog, causing the ship's boilers to explode. A number of passengers were thrown into the ocean. While 166 people were rescued by the while 160 people what restaud by the ship Anyox, 31 remained missing and 28 lost their lives.

 • On Aug. 9, 1979, the seaside town of Brighton became the first major
- resort in Britain to set aside a 200-yard stretch of its beach for nudists. When it officially opened the following year, Councillor Eileen Jakes told the attendant media: "There are 2,000 naturists in Sussex and millions of other people fly to the South of France each year to strip off. I would like to see them come here instead."
- On Aug. 10, 2008, singer-songwriter/actor/composer

 Isaac Hayes died of a stroke at the age of 65. Hayes cofounded the Southern soul-music label Stax Records and was best known for his work on the soundtrack of the movie "Shaft," including singing its theme song. He was also the first Black musician to win an Oscar (for that film).
- On Aug. 11, 2021, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advised all pregnant women to get the COVID-19 vaccine, as hospitals in hot spots around America noted a disturbing number of unvaccinated mothersto-be coming down with serious cases of the virus.
- On Aug. 12, 1990, three huge bones jutting out of a cliff near Faith, South Dakota, turned out to be part of the largest Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton ever discovered. Astonishingly, the 65-million-year-old specimen, which was dubbed Sue after its discoverer, fossil hunter Susan Hendrickson, was more than 90% complete **Super** Crossword -

M A I N I D E A

AUREVOIR

A M O N G

A D I M

CINE

RAKESREA

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 probated 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: July 12, 2023

Name of Personal Repre-MICHELLE SALMON

Attorneys for Personal Representative: David M. Neubeck, WSBA #31321: Sara LC Hulford, WSBA #52098; Todd L. Sliva, WSBA #54298

Address for Mailing or Service: Elder Law Offices of Meyers, Neubeck & Hulford, P.S., 2828 Northwest Avenue, Bellingham WA 98225-2335

DATED this 12th day of July, 2023.

ELDER LAW OFFICES OF MEYERS, NEUBECK & HULFORD, P.S. DAVID M. NEUBECK,

WSBA #31321 SARA LC HULFORD,

WSBA #52098 TODD L. SLIVA, WSBA

#54298 Attorneys for Personal Representative

Published in the La Conner Weekly News July 12, 19, 26,

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR WHATCOM **COUNTY** In re the Estate of:

BRUCE LEONARD BAMESBERGER, Deceased. Cause No. 23-4-00666-37 NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.40.030

The Personal Representative named below has been appointed and has qualified as Personal Representative of the above 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 probated 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: July 12, 2023

Name of Personal Represen-

SLRPUNTA

SAUNA

DONA

I V O R

SERF

Answers

E L Y D O R A P I N A S S E S S O R HOPCREDFORTAKEOFF

Y E N B R O B B A I O T S A A G E N T

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B I L K C I A O C A N T L O S E

SRO

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D A E M O N S G R E E N T E A A L D E N T E G O N E G I R L

T S A D E A L T E L L E W E S

PROCEEDINGASPLED

F A L L O N T U B E S L I P S F L A T A R B O R B A N

EEC

BRONCOS ACHIEVA

tative: Marisa Bamesberger

Attorneys for Personal Representative: David M. Neubeck, WSBA #31321; Sara LC Hulford, WSBA #52098; Todd L. Sliva, WSBA #54298

Address for Mailing or Service: Elder Law Offices of Meyers, Neubeck & Hulford, P.S., 2828 Northwest Avenue, Bellingham WA 98225-2335

DATED this 12th day of July,

ELDER LAW OFFICES OF MEYERS, NEUBECK & HULFORD, P.S.

DAVID M. NEUBECK, WSBA #31321 SARA LC HULFORD,

WSBA #52098 TODD L. SLIVA, WSBA

Attorneys for Personal Representative

Published in the La Conner Weekly News July 12, 19, 26,

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

Wheelis, Deceased. NO. 23-4-00661-18 Probate Notice to Creditors (RCW 11.40.030) The Personal Representative

In re the Estate of Roger F.

named below has been appointed as personal representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the deceased 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 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 (30) days after the personal representative served mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(3); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the deceased's probate and nonprobate assets. **FIRST** DATE OF

PUBLICATION: July 12, 2023 Personal Representative: Marc Shor

Attorney for Estate: Lincoln J.

Address for Service/Mailing: 4566 Flying Goat Ave NE #C120, Bainbridge Island, WA

Marc Shor, Personal Representative

Published in the La Conner Weekly News July 12, 19, 26,

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON COUNTY OF KING Estate of: NANCY ELLEN FOX, Deceased. No. 23-4-04699-1 SEA.

PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.40.030 The Personal Representative named below Personal Representative has been appointed and has qualified as the Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by: (1) 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 (2) 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 $11.40.0\overline{20}(1)(c)$; 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 publication in Skagit County: July 19, 2023

Personal Representative: Nicholas Hart Allison

Attorney for the Personal Representative: Denelle G. Reilly

Address for Mailing or Service: Denelle G. Reilly, Somers Tamblyn Isenhour Bleck, P.L.L.C., 701 Pike Street, Suite 1510, Seattle, WA 98101

DATED: July 11, 2023. SOMERS TAMBLYN ISEN-HOUR BLECK, P.L.L.C.

Denelle G. Reilly, WSBA No 38372, Attorney for Personal Representative

Somers Tamblyn Isenhour Bleck, P.L.L.C., 701 Pike Street, Suite 1510, Seattle, Washington 98101. Telephone: (206) 340-2200. Fax: (206) 232-4049

Published in the La Conner Weekly News July 19, 26, Aug. 2, 2023.

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

OF SNOHOMISH In re the Estate of: CLARA B. THISIUS,

Deceased. No. 23-4-01295-31 NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.40.030

The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having claims against decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the Personal Representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(3); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets. Date of first publication: July

19, 2023

KAREN E. WINCHELL, Personal Representative c/o Maren Benedetti, Attorney for Estate

3128 Colby Avenue Everett, WA 98201 425-339-8556

Published in the La Conner Weekly News July 19, 26, Aug. 2, 2023.

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY

ESTATE OF LYDIA IRENE PRICE, Deceased. No. 23-4-00309-29 NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Bonnie Price has been appointed as personal representative of this estate. Any perdecedent 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 attornev 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: (A) 30 days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020 (1)(c); (B) or 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 RCW 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate assets.

son having a claim against the

Date of First Publication: July 19, 2023. DATED: July 17, 2023

Bonnie Price

Personal Representative Attorney for Personal Representative

Andrew C. Schuh, WSBA #47724 Law Offices of Andrew C.

Schuh PLLC 1204 Cleveland Avenue Mount Vernon, WA 98273

360-503-1043 Published in the La Conner Weekly News July 19, 26, Aug. 2, 2023.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR SKAGIT **COUNTY** In re the Estate of: MARTHA

E. POLSON, Deceased. NOTICE TO CREDITORS RCW 11.40.030

The personal representative named below has been appointed as personal representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the personal representative or the personal representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court in which the probate proceedings were commenced. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(1)(c); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims July 19, 2023 Personal Representative:

against both the decedent's probate and nonprobate assets. Date of First Publication:

Marsha A. Belmont and Alfred G. Polson Attorney for the Personal

Representative: Jayne Gilbert Address for Mailing or Service: Jayne Gilbert, 314 Pine St., Mount Vernon, WA 98273 Published in the La Conner Weekly News July 19, 26, Aug. 2, 2023.

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY No. 23-4-00387-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO **CREDITORS** (RCW 11.40.030)

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In the Matter of the Estate of Gunnar Pedersen, 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 as-Date of first publication: July

26, 2023

Rune O. Pedersen Personal Representative SKAGIT LAW GROUP,

PLLC KATE SZUREK, WSBA #26723

Attorneys for Personal Representative P.O. Box 336/227 Freeway Drive, Suite B, Mount Vernon,

WA 98273 Published in the La Conner Weekly News July 26, Aug. 2,

IN THE SUPERIOR

COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SKAGIT In Re: the Estate of Buddy

Fritz PARTRIDGE, Deceased, Amber SORIA, Petitioner. NO. 23-4-00344-29

NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO: ALL CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT

YOU AND EACH OF YOU TAKE NOTE that the Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this Estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the Court. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) Thirty days after the Personal Representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(3); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This

probate and nonprobate assets. Date of First Publication: July 26, 2023

bar is effective as to claims

against both the decedent's

Personal Representative: Amber Soria Address for Mailing or Ser-

vice: JOSEPH D. BOWEN, ATTORNEY AT LAW, 401 South Second Street, Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Published in the La Conner Weekly News July 26, Aug. 2, 9, 2023.

MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:30-5:30

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LEGAL NOTICES

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY In the Matter of the Estate of Joseph P. Souza, Deceased. Cause No. 23-4-00392-29 PROBATE NOTICE TO CREDITORS (RCW 11.40.030)

The Personal Representative named below has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Any person having a claim against the decedent must, before the time the claim would be barred by any otherwise applicable statute of limitations, present the claim in the manner as provided in RCW 11.40.070 by serving on or mailing to the Personal Representative or the Personal Representative's attorney at the address stated below a copy of the claim and filing the original of the claim with the court. The claim must be presented within the later of: (1) thirty days after the personal representative served or mailed the notice to the creditor as provided under RCW 11.40.020(3); or (2) four months after the date of first publication of the notice. If the claim is not presented within this time frame, the claim is forever barred, except as otherwise provided in RCW 11.40.051 and 11.40.060. This bar is effective as to claims against both the decedent's probate and non-probate as-

Date of First Publication: July 26, 2023 Representative: Personal

sets.

Michael E. Souza

Attorney for Personal Representative: Aaron M. Rasmussen, WSBA #29496

Address for Mailing or Service: North Sound Law Group, PLLC, 300 N. Commercial St., Bellingham, WA 98225; Phone: 360-671-7700 Published in the La Conner Weekly News July 26, Aug. 2, 9, 2023.

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

The Plaintiffs Kevin Paul and Patricia Paul are initiating a Quiet Title action on the building located at the following address: 17544 Pioneer Parkway, La Conner, WA 98257. Ouiet Title actions are used

to determine the ownership interests in homes and other buildings. The Quiet Title action has been filed in the Swinomish Tribal Court. The matter has been set for hearing on September 12, 2023, at 3:00 p.m., at the location below. Any person wishing to assert a right, title, or interest in any of the buildings at the address listed above should contact the Swinomish Tribal Court to obtain the necessary paperwork to file a claim.

QUIET TITLE HEARING LOCATION

Swinomish Tribal Court Social Services Building, 17337 Reservation Road La Conner, WA, 98257 CONTACT FOR QUIET TI-TLE HEARING SCHEDULE Blair Page, Swinomish Tribal Court Clerk

Phone: (360) 466.7217 Email: bpage@swinomish. nsn.us

Date of first publication of this notice: July 26, 2023. Published in the La Conner Weekly News July 26, and Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 2023.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SKAGIT COUNTY

CHRISTINA EGERER, as Successor Trustee of the Wilson Family Trust dated June 19th, 1997 Plaintiff

THE HEIRS & DEVISEES OF JOHN JOHNSON & WILHEMINA JOHNSON. h/w; AND, ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN CLAIMING ANY INTEREST IN OR TO THE SUBJECT REAL

PROPERTY Defendants No. 23-2-00565-29 SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF WASHINGTON TO: ALL PERSONS UNKNOWN

CLAIMING ANY INTEREST IN OR TO THE SUBJECT REAL PROPERTY, Defendants: You are hereby summoned to

appear within sixty days after the date of the first publication of this summons, to wit, within sixty days after the 26th day of July, 2023, and defend the above entitled action in the above entitled court, and answer the complaint of the plaintiffs, and serve a copy of your answer upon the undersigned attorney for plaintiffs at his office below stated; and in case of your failure so to do, judgment will be rendered against you according to the demand of the complaint, which has been filed with the clerk of said court.

The object of this action is to quiet title to certain real property, located in Skagit County, Washington, and described as

That portion of the Northeast 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 14, Township 35 North, Range 3 East, W.M., lying East of the Pacific Highway;

EXCEPT one acre, also showing as one acre square, also showing as the North 208.7 feet of the East 208.7

DATED: July 26, 2023. CRAIG SJOSTROM #21149

Attorney for Plaintiff 1204 Cleveland Ave Mount Vernon, WA 98273

(360) 848-0339 Published in the La Conner Weekly News July 26, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Complete Events Calendar on laconnerweeklynews.com

NOT TO BE MISSED

Skagit Symphony's Art in the Garden Bash, 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 20, in the Lavone Newell Reim Destination Garden. Admire works by well-known Skagit artists while surrounded by the sounds of Skagit Symphony & Friends Music Ensembles. Ages 21 and over and service animals only. Tickets \$30 at ssartin thegarden23.bpt.me/.

ART & THEATRE

Anacortes Community Theatre. Live productions. 918 M Ave., Anacortes. acttheatre.com.

"On Golden Pond." July 7-29. Thursday, Friday, Saturday shows at 7:30

LIBRARIES

La Conner Swinomish Library. 520 Morris St., La Conner. 360-466-3352. lclib.wa.us. Open 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday.

- Storytime. Every Friday at 11 a.m.
- Tech Help. Every Monday, 4-6 p.m. One-onone technical support.
- **Dungeons & Dragons** Club. Every Tuesday, 3-5 p.m. No previous gaming experience necessary.

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

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

Anacortes Public Library.

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

Burlington Public Library. 820 E. Washington Ave., Burlington. 360-755-0760,

burlingtonwa.gov/library. Knitting Club. All ages, Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

MUSIC

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

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

Shelter Bay Chorus.

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

Live musical theatre: Skagit Theatre Camp's **Broadway Junior Revue** - Pure Imagination. 10 a.m. and noon Saturday, July 29. General admission is \$10 adults; \$5 students and children ages 6 -17; children 5 and under are free. Skagit Theatre is presented by the Lincoln Theatre.

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

Burlington Summer Nights. Live music from 6-8 p.m. every Friday at the

Burlington Visitor Center Amphitheater, 520 E. Fairhaven Ave., Burlington.

Port of Anacortes. Free Summer Concert Series. Live music from 6-8 p.m. every Wednesday and Friday at Seafarers' Memorial Park, 601 Seafarers Way, Anacortes.

MUSEUMS

Museum of Northwest Art. Closed through Aug. 4. Museum store open during regular hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, noon-5 p.m. Sunday and Monday. monamuseum.org, 360-466-4446.

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.

 Exhibit: "Life in the Mountain West," through July 30.

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

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

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 Snee 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-

MEETINGS

line at skagithumane.org.

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

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

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

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

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

SHE'S OUT

77 "To be," to

Augustus

80 Cuzco native

82 "Behold," to

Augustus

83 "- never fly!"

85 Tribal bunch

86 Holliday-Earp

88 Lee of Marvel

89 Some ancient

warships

90 Pen fillers

87 Docile

gunfight site

Super Crossword **85** Bit of change **122** Saloon casks 35 March day to

ACROSS 48 Late-night host Jimmy's

collection

of TVs?

[Zadora]

52 Martini liquor

56 Leafy recess

58 Hot-air bath

60 Tokyo cash

61 Family guy

64 Luggage-

short

67 Headline

after a

71 Waits on

foot

[Meyers]

hand and

73 Not yet final,

legally

74 Family guy

75 Lincoln-to-

Topeka dir.

62 "Happy Days"

actor Scott

screening

official, for

55 Tire trouble

57 Proscribe

50 Kissing

target

- 1 Crux 9 Denver
- gridders **16** Butte relative
- 20 "Later!" **21** 1990s Oldsmobile
- 22 "Downhill" star Novello
- 23 Going just the way one begged for it to go? [Curry]
- 25 Medieval peon
- 26 Scrawny 27 Former Common
- Market abbr. **28** 35mm
- camera abbr. 29 Uruguay's del Este
- 30 Tarzan actor Ron
- 31 Palme (prize at Cannes)
- 33 "You could hear — drop'
- 37 Property appraiser
- 39 Rabbit action 40 Reputation
- pilot? [Salonga]
- 42 "You're on!" 46 Be a snitch 47 Fleeceable

females

100

106

112

119

122

- as a great site
 - 81 Group of sub-83 Retort to

78 Surrounded

by

84 Tear

- 79 16 Olympics
- sub-athletes
- - theater "You weren't!"
- 119 French film 120 Demigods
- 121 Traditional

Chinese drink

10

11

89 Bamboozle 91 "Later!" 93 Guaranteed-

87 Comparably

one here?

[Arden]

dense to the

excavating fossil fuel? [Ortiz] 99 Ballplayer

to-succeed

94 Weep while

- Ripken 100 It's turned to go in and
- out 101 Designer Saarinen
- 102 Buddhist sect 103 Rep.'s rival Harley stalls? 106 Tools with
 - teeth 107 "Angie" actor Stephen
 - **109** "No more
 - seats" abbr. **111** Mrs., in
 - Madrid 112 Take — view of (frown on)
 - 113 Cook another egg after cooking
 - a dozen? [Tarbell]

123 Not too soft, as pasta 124 2014 Ben Affleck thriller

that would

- make a good alternate title for this puzzle
- DOWN 1 Cabinet wood 2 Ear-relevant
- 3 Twisted wit 4 Nape's place **5** "— found it!"
- 7 Marine duck 8 R&B singer India.—
- 9 Valise, e.g.
- 10 Rival of LG 11 "Ex's & -
- (Elle King hit)
- 12 Light bites **13** Bottom level
- 14 Exceed, as a proper limit 15 Bummed out
- 16 Treats badly
- 17 Nevertheless 18 In a sense

- 32 Sign of total acceptance
- 19 Kennel noise 24 Raleigh loc. 29 Certain toy dog, for short 31 Knucklehead
- 114 Sweetums 115 Suffix with
- Lao-

53 | 54

103 104 105

111

117 | 118

20 21 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 33 36 32 34 35 38 39 40 41 44 46 47 42 43 45 48 49 50 55 56 58 62 60 61 64 63 65 66 67 68 69 70 74 76 77 72 73 75 71 79 81 82 84 86 85 87 88 93 90 91 94 95 97 99

96 98

101

114 |115 |116

108

109 | 110

121

124

107

113

120

123

49 1930s-'40s 92 Dot in la mer pitcher 94 Dated music 6 Female rabbit Newsom 51 The "I" of 96 Joining, as ILO: Abbr. 52 Question oxen asked while 97 Fell in line covering 98 Light bite someone's eyes 53 Hotel cousin 104 Set foot in 54 "King" Cole **57** Singing group **105** Taj for lads 58 Verbalized 110 Diana of 59 Get riper "The Avengers" 61 Arctic floater 63 French "here" 111 China's -65 Crooner Neil Xiaoping 66 Unwillingness 113 Rx org. to vield 68 Cackling bird **69** Singer Amos **70** — Field (Mets' home) 34 Longtime 71 Uber arrival 72 Pal. in Paris New Yorker 118 Wide shoe cartoonist **76** Je ne — quoi width 12 13 14 15 18 16 22

"beware"

38 Tools with

41 Pueblo pot

42 Uncertain

43 Narrative

44 Like desks

covers

45 Intrinsically

with sloping

teeth

40 League

36 Packers' org.

39 Go no further

display case 95 Band gofer 102 Mark-leaving swordsman 103 "- know it!" 108 "Look - now!" exist or differ 116 Philosopher 117 Half of twenty

SKAGIT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sunday, July 16

5:47 a.m. Backyard intruder, maybe - Reporting person called in for the homeowner after learning that someone may have been walking on her property behind her house. Deputies arrived but did not locate anvone. This may have been a previous event and not currently happening. Whatcom St., La Conner.

Monday, July 17

3:05 a.m. Loud car early morn - Complaint of a loud vehicle in the area of the La Conner Marina. Deputies were on a priority call and the area was checked by Swinomish Police. No issues found and reporting person believes vehicle had left the area. N 2nd St; La Conner.

11:12 a.m. Real animal problem A dog got loose and killed chickens and ducks belonging to the neighbor. The issue was worked out with the owner and law was requested to disregard. Main St., Conway

2:42 p.m. Animal problem, maybe – Reporting person concerned for the horses at local polo club. Deputies are aware

of the property and have always found food and water available for the horses. All animals appear to be in good health. La Conner Whitney Rd., Greater La Conner.

Thursday, July 20

8:51 a.m. Serious malicious mischief - More damage done to Padilla Bay Interpretive Center. Vehicle tires slashed, broken fence, and hole in roof. Suspect is teenage boys seen on camera. Deputies still investigating. Bay View Edison Rd., Bay View.

Friday, July 21

1:44 p.m. Drivers distracting -More concerns over horses on La Conner Whitney road not having water. Deputies were there several times, and the food and water were always full but not always in view of those driving by. McLean / La Conner Whitney Rds., Greater La Conner.

Saturday, July 22

1:02 p.m. Guns not needed -Vintage La Conner had stun guns donated to the business and was requesting information on how to destroy them as they were not a product they wanted to sell. A deputy was able to assist with the information. Morris St., La Conner

MARINA MOORINGS

Port of Skagit

We count "boat nights" as a measure of how busy the marina is over any given time period. Each boat that spends a single night on one of our guest docks counts, so a boat that is here for a week will count as a stay of seven boat nights. Over the past week, we have hosted 124 boat nights, or just over 30 boats per night on F and G docks. That is a lot of visitors coming to our town and for more than just a few hours. The boats that come in for lunch and shopping and then depart for home are counted separately and we get a good number of those as well.

The other place we use "boat nights" is in counting RVs, which are not, of course, boats, but the principle is the same. Over the same past week we hosted 291 "boat nights" of RVs, an average of just over 40 RVs per night. Again, that is a significant number of visitors coming to our charming town, by water and by land.

Maintenance tip: As I write this edition of Marina Moorings, I can hear an alarm sounding on a 20 foot boat on F Dock. When this happens, we call the boat owner to check what might be happening. In this case, the owner does not have her phone number listed with her registration information, nor does she have a card in the window giving a contact number.

It is a great idea to have a "call me" number in the window of vessels at the marina. When your boat is moored in a marina, there is a community of caring boaters who walk past boats all the time and can let the boater or marina office know if they see something wrong or hear an alarm sounding before anything worse happens. We have a great boating community here in La Conner and it's one of many reasons people love it here.

Mark your calendar: The Chamber of Commerce's Classic Car and Boat Show will be Aug.5 at the marina. Be sure to come by to see these fabulous cars and boats! I was blown away last year by the quality of vehicles and boats that showed up for this event and there's no reason to expect this year will fall short.

See you on the Channel!

- Chris Omdal, harbormaster

Radio story on Weekly News heard nationally

By Bill Reynolds

The plight of independent community newspapers has become a national story.

And last week that story's dateline was LA CONNER, WA.

A five-minute segment crafted by Jeanie Lindsay, statehouse reporter for KUOW Public Radio and the Northwest News Network, chronicling the struggles of newspapers in small towns focused on efforts by Weekly News publisher Ken Stern to find a buyer for the paper he purchased six years ago. It was heard nationally.

Stern received a phone call Thursday from a "between jobs" 24-year-old photojournalist who heard Lindsay's report in New Mexico while dialed into National Public Radio.

Lindsay, a University of Washington graduate who worked for the Seattle Times before landing her KUOW broadcast gig, visited La Conner July 5 to interview Stern and several residents here on the status of community journalism in general and the Weekly News specifically.

"The folks I talked to probably said it the best," Lindsay told the Weekly News afterward. "Community papers act as a connector. During the reporting for this story, I learned a lot about the role beyond just connecting people to their community, too, though.

"Local newspapers provide a resource, a historical record of their area that people just can't get anywhere else," she added. "Plus, not having a local paper covering local government can contribute to political polarization which isn't really helpful to having productive conversa-

Lindsay spoke with Mit and Maureen Harlan at the couple's North First Street home and included Sally Cram, whose father, the late Pat O'Leary, edited and published the Puget Sound Mail downtown for nearly four decades after buying it at a sheriff's

All three conveyed to Lindsay the importance of having had newspapers in La Conner since

"I felt it was important that she know La Conner is in such a unique geographic location, midway between cosmopolitan Vancouver and metropolitan Seattle," said Maureen Harlan, a retired La Conner Schools teacher and administrator, "and that



SPREADING THE NEWS - Publisher of the La Conner Weekly News Ken Stern became the poster child for small town newspapers maintaining their viability in the digital age when Northwest News Network reporter Jeanie Lindsay came to La Conner July 5. Her story aired July - Photo courtesy of Jeanie Lindsay

we don't need any more national, state or county news. We need community news."

Cram and Mit Harlan each alluded to changing economic trends and evolving technology that have conspired to hamstring the traditional advertising-based hometown print journalism business model.

They harkened back to when La Conner had two grocery stores, both of which advertised in the paper. Cram remembered that when her dad ran the Puget Sound Mail there was a distinct "shop local" mindset in place to support La Conner businesses, including the weekly newspaper.

Much of what Cram and the Harlans shared with Lindsay was echoed by Joan Cross, a 45-year town resident who started a successful physical therapy venture in La Conner.

Lindsay said Cross is among a group of people Stern has approached about purchasing the Weekly News and acting as a board of directors that would hire a managing editor to operate the

"We don't go to the La Conner Weekly News to find out what's going on in the world," Cross told Lindsay, "but what's going on in our little corner of the world – it's important. Nobody covers that except the local newspaper."

Stern hopes to sell the Weekly News for \$265,000, notes Lindsay.

Lindsay said she and her editor knew the story is a compelling

The La Conner Weekly News:

Your community newspaper

"So," she said, "I reached out to Ken to learn more.

"I read about a couple of other papers in the region looking or new ownership," said Lindsay, "but ultimately decided to focus primarily on La Conner because Ken was so energetic and excited to talk to me that it was an opportunity that would have been hard to pass up."

Stern provided Lindsay an up-close and personal vantage point from which to view how news is gathered and published in the paper he is fond of saying he owns, but belongs to the community – from the weekly story assignment meeting to delivering the Wednesday edition hot off the press.

"I didn't stay long," Lindsay said, "but it really did feel like a close-knit community as I witnessed Ken interact with folks we bumped into along the paper delivery route.

"I'm eager to return," she insisted, "so I can learn even more about the history and culture of the place on a deeper level. Because just scratching the surface certainly piqued my interest even more."

The same, no doubt, can be said by her listeners.

Hear it yourself: nwnewsnetwork.org/arts-media-and-entertainment/2023-07-20/ its-really-a-crisis-why-smalltowns-are-fighting-to-save-theirlocal-newspapers.

CONNER WEEKLY NEW

Testify on state plan for refinery safety

The Washington Department of Labor & Industries invites the public to attend hearings in Bellingham and Anacortes on updates to Process Safety Management requirements for petroleum refineries.

Six workers at an Anacortes oil refinery died in 1998 in one incident and seven more died in 2010 in an explosion and fire. Hearings will be held:

Tuesday, Aug. 15: Virtual via

Passcode: 43800387. Join by phone (audio only): 253-215-8782. Pre-hearing overview at 12:30 p.m., public hearing at 1:30 p.m.

Meeting ID: 879 4704 9101.

Wednesday, Aug. 16, at Majestic Inn & Spa, 419 Commercial Ave., Anacortes. Pre-hearing overview at 5:30 p.m., public hearing at 6:30 p.m.

Source: Washington



Zoom Passcode: PSM@1230. Department of Labor, Industries WHATCOM MUSEUM HISTORY SUNSET CRUISES



Join local writer and historian Brian Griffin each Tuesday and sail away with us on our summer sunset cruises

cocktails | beer | wine | snacks

Tuesdays, July 11 - September 12 6 - 8 PM

\$40 General/\$35 Members

children 5 and younger sail free





ONLINE GO TO:

www.laconnerweeklynews.com

Tickets and details at whatcommuseum.org/history-sunset-cruise