

Aqiimuk's Kitchen

By Patricia Aqiimuk Paul, Esq.
Food Editor

What makes this soup so delicious is the leek cooked gently in butter. The milk added at the end adds sweetness.

Halibut Soup



Ingredients

Leek, 1 medium
Salted butter, 4 to 5 tablespoons
Russet potatoes, 5 to 6 medium
Fresh parsley, $\frac{3}{4}$ cup minced
Water, 2 cups
Baked halibut, 1 cup
Milk, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup

Preparation

Start with one leek, thinly sliced. I used a very large deep fry pan. Cut 4 to 5 tablespoons of butter into the pan. Set temp on medium low. As the butter starts to melt, pull apart the leek into rings, using your fingers. Stir. Peel 5 to 6 medium russet potatoes. Chop into 1/2 inch pieces. Mix into the buttery leeks. Stir. Throw in a handful of chopped fresh parsley. Cook one minute. Add 2 cups of water, scrape bottom of the pan. Put lid on pan. You want this to simmer on medium low. Cook 5 minutes. Then use the baked halibut. Pull it apart with your hands, removing any bones and skin. Use about a cup of shredded halibut, sprinkle over top. Gently stir in. Cover and cook another 5 minutes. Add 1/2 cup of milk. Gently simmer until potatoes are done.

Skagit County Sheriff's Office

POLICE BLOTTER

Monday, May 13

4:10 p.m.: Only words – Report of a verbal domestic. Deputies determined there was no crime. Beaver Marsh Rd., Greater La Conner.

7:31 p.m.: Keeping bodies out – Caller requesting extra patrol of the Pleasant Ridge Cemetery. Valentine Rd., Greater La Conner.

8:28 p.m.: A likely story – Called to report a suspicious person hiding in his driveway. The person said they were hiding from a patrol car. There were no patrol units in the area at the time of the call. Young Rd., Greater La Conner.

Tuesday, May 14

1:34 a.m.: Got away – Report of an erratically driven vehicle. Deputies could not locate the vehicle. Beaver Marsh / McLean Rds., Greater La Conner.

10:17 a.m.: Hard times – Deputies contacted a person living in their car. The car had just broke down and he was waiting for his wife to arrive to get the car fixed. Maple Ave. / Park St., La Conner.

10:45 a.m.: Bad check – Deputies are investigating a check fraud. Investigation continuing. Bradshaw Rd., Greater La Conner.

4:47 p.m.: Lean meat – Report of malnourished cows at this residence. Animal Control Office investigation continuing.. Moore Rd., Conway.

8:26 p.m.: All's well – Caller reported his weed eater stolen. The caller said he believed he located it on "offer up." The caller was able to get his weed eater back and did not want to press charges on the person. Beaver Marsh Rd., Greater La Conner.

11:32 p.m.: False alarm – Deputies responded to an alarm at the La Conner High School. K-9 Deputy checked the school; nothing found. N. 6th St., La Conner.

Wednesday, May 15

12:28 a.m.: Smelling trouble – K9 deputy conducted a drug sniff for Swinomish Tribal Police. Morris St. / La Conner Whitney Rd., La Conner.

2:54 p.m.: Good neighbor – Caller was requesting extra patrols of a vacant house. N. 3rd St., La Conner.

Thursday, May 16

7:25 a.m.: Surface mail – Deputies responded to a report of found mail on the roadway. Deputies were able to return the mail to the owners. No suspects at this time. Moore / Fir Island Rds., Conway.

12:00 p.m.: Vanished – Deputies responded to a suspicious male loitering in the area. Deputies were unable to locate the male. Farm to Market Rd., Greater La Conner.

2:15 p.m.: Ever vigilant – Caller wanted to report a phone scam. There was no crime at this time. McLean Rd., Greater La Conner.

7:33 p.m.: Hitting has consequences – Deputies responded to a domestic. Deputies determined a male had assaulted his wife. The male was arrested for assault 4th degree Domestic Violence Prevention Act and booked into jail. Beaver Marsh Rd., Greater La Conner.

7:44 p.m.: Van vanished – Deputies responded to a suspicious vehicle. Deputies checked the area and were unable to locate the van. Morris St., La Conner.

Friday, May 17

11:42 a.m.: Hit and ran – Deputies investigated a hit and run MVA. There was no suspect information to follow up on at this time. A bar. S. 1st St., La Conner.

2:51 p.m.: Under control – Deputies responded to a requested removal of a suspended student. The principal called back and requested deputies disregard. A school. N. 6th St., La Conner.

3:48 p.m.: Court assist – Deputies assisted Children Protective Services in serving a protection order. Beaver Marsh Rd., Greater La Conner.

6:14 p.m.: Claim this – Deputies took custody of a found hedge trimmer. The trimmer was placed into found property. Road St. / Maple Ave., La Conner.

Saturday, May 18

11:53 a.m.: Yellers – Verbal domestic, no crime. S. 4th St., La Conner.

11:48 p.m.: Not Brodie – Dog was found in the area of the La Conner Tavern. The owner was located. S. 1st St., La Conner.

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WALKING TOWARD THE START OF A NEW YEAR ON THE WATER – Swinomish Tribal Indian Community members honored their fishermen, their fleet and the salmon in the Salish Sea that make all life possible in our ecosystem. Tribal members, special guests and visitors gathered by the Channel shore for the annual Blessing of the Fleet and First Salmon Ceremony last Thursday.

– Photo by Ken Stern

Blessing of Tribal fleet links history and future

By Bill Reynolds

Though living in the moment, hundreds paid tribute to the past as they literally stepped into the future during annual Swinomish Blessing of the Fleet and First Salmon ceremonies Thursday.

Following a seafood feast enjoyed by a large crowd that spilled over from the Tribal gym and youth center to an outdoor tent in the adjacent parking lot, a procession stretching across Pioneer Parkway walked to Swinomish Channel off Moorage Way for an honored ritual marking the start of fishing season.

The day's many guests included a handful of state lawmakers who joined with Rep. Debra Lekanoff, the Swinomish government affairs director, as well as Seattle City Light general manager and CEO Debra Smith.

"We've been doing it for years," Tribal Senate Chair Brian Cladoosby said afterward, "and we're handing this tradition down to our kids."

Elders and youth alike – the latter group including Native members of the La Conner High Class of 2019 – were formally recognized as part of the shoreline gathering, one steeped in spirituality and aimed at preserving for future generations links between the sea and table that have long defined Swinomish culture and its economy.

For La Conner Elementary fourth graders, who were special guests at the event, it was an opportunity to see lessons from the pages of their textbooks come to life.

"We're studying Washington state history, learning about our first peoples," said teacher Cammy Alumbres. "So we're very,

very fortunate to have this experience."

Students in the La Conner High Culture Through Cuisine class also attended.

"There's no better tie-in for us locally," said teacher Peter Voorhees, who along with Smith was selected to officially witness the blessing ceremony.

"This is my first Blessing of the Fleet," said Voorhees. "I've wanted to come for a long time. I'm so honored to be here and be part of this. The generosity to feed all these people is amazing."

The afternoon walking procession was led by the Swinomish Canoe Family and members of the Edwards family, who sang and drummed the entire route. Cedar boughs and four salmon carcasses, integral parts of the ceremony, were carried to the blessing site.

Tribal elder and retired La Conner Middle School Principal Ray Mitchell explained through the Salmon People Story the importance of returning salmon to the water, a point other speakers reinforced, noting it demonstrates honor and assures continuation of

the migratory cycle.

"When we go out on the water," said Tribal Senate Vice-Chair Brian Porter, "we can't just take. We have to give back."

A spirit of sharing was evident throughout.

First, there was the bountiful luncheon, coordinated by Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission Chair Lorraine Loomis and prepared and served by members of various Tribal departments.

"Some of our fishermen," added Tribal Senator J.J. Wilbur, "were the ones who went out and got this food that's on the tables before you."

There were also repeated references to the Swinomish custom of passing down to its youth lessons on how to fish well and safely on local waters.

"I started fishing at the age of seven," Swinomish Senator Joe Williams said. "That's when I was taught."

Swinomish Senator Steve Edwards, who chairs the Tribal Community's Fisheries and Game Commission, echoed Williams,

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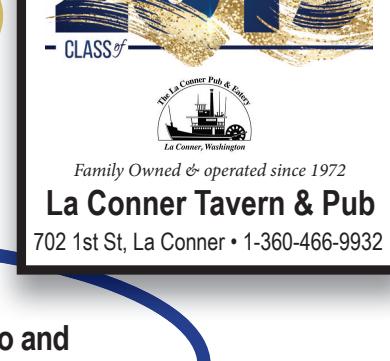
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