

From the editor —

Shop local, shop late

Town Councilmember Don Leaver, citizen Rick Dole are leading a group that gets an E for effort for their ad hoc rallying of merchants and residents to shop — and eat — locally and late Friday, Sept. 4. Let's rally around our merchants to kick-off the Labor Day weekend. We can all take some of the monies we are not spending traveling and recreating and buy ourselves or families or friends a gift and treat ourselves to dinner out. Make it a weekend-long pleasure to walk First and Morris Streets and keep our local dollars local.

Let's put on our local masks and keep our local germs in the community while visiting the tourist destination that makes our little town a must see for visitors throughout the state and region.

Gov. Inslee's Safe Start reopening plan limits travel to essential trips. Our merchants know that every out-of-town tourist entering their shops is essential to their economic health. Every Everett, Arlington, Bellevue, Marysville or Seattle visitor believes their trip to La Conner is essential to their mental, emotional and physical health. Their coming here obviously makes them happy even if their smiles are hidden by their masks.

The number of COVID-19 cases in the La Conner zip code has remained below 20 for months, even after the seven cases reported on the Swinomish Reservation. Our residents are mostly masking up along with the tourists. Maybe community members are refraining from large social gatherings, even within families. We are even doing ok with social distancing, though it can't be true that all the groups walking on First Street or folks sitting at restaurant tables inside are all family members, as the Safe Start guidelines require.

So wear your masks, make liberal use of the hand sanitizer when you enter a business, spend money and pray, if you think that helps, that our town, our county, our state and our nation will not find ourselves counting, or be part of the count, new coronavirus cases come the end of September. — ken stern

Musings — on the editor's mind

President Donald Trump was re-nominated for the 2020 election by his Republican Party in Charlotte, North Carolina Monday. May be that is because he:

Puts others first.
Brings the nation together.
Brings other nations together.
Protects and promotes children.
Honors and defends women.
Sacrifices his time and fortune.
Has a good word for everyone.

Toxic algae now in Pass Lake

Toxic algae in Pass Lake means people should not swim, allow pets to access or drink the lake water until further notice. Avoid areas of scum. Pass Lake continues to be a catch-and-release only lake.

In recent weeks, Skagit County lakes have been showing evidence of significant blue green algae blooms. Water samples at Pass Lake show the presence of blue green algae toxins, including Anatoxin-a and Microcystin. Anatoxin-a is an acute neurotoxin and Microcystin can cause liver damage.

For information on cyanobacteria and their toxins see the US. EPA website: <https://www.epa.gov/cyanobacteria>

For local monitoring efforts, examples of harmful algae blooms or to report a bloom: <https://www.nwtoxics.org/Default.aspx>

Questions, call Skagit County Public Health: 360-464-1800.

Source: Skagit County Public Health

Takes responsibility.

Inspires confidence.

Respects the rule of law.

Provides stability.

Plays fair.

Is kind.

Is reverent.

Is trusted.

Is trustworthy.

Is respected by his foes.

Is quiet and self-effacing.

Is humble and full of humility.

Instills confidence in his leadership.

Steers the legislative ship of state with a sure hand.

This is a president of whom we can say the buck stops with him.

What other characteristics of President Trump can you add to this list, traits that make us proud that he is our president?

Who would not want this man to represent our nation? And why only four more years?

I am glad I can reflect on all this about President Donald Trump.

Planning . . .

(Continued from Page 3)

Ironically, commissioners suggested COVID-19 might be spurring the present demand for local housing. Persons working for Seattle area firms can now tele-commute from homes here rather than fight daily traffic snarls on I-5, they noted.

"People realize they can tele-commute," commissioner Marna Hanneman said. "That puts Skagit (County) in play."

With the housing market heating up, Hanneman said there are also signs the business district is rebounding from the virus crisis.

An avid walker, Hanneman has seen evidence of recovery as she laps the town.

"I'm seeing a lot of jockeying around," she said. "There are new businesses coming into town regardless of COVID. The new businesses want to come in and be well-positioned."

Statistics confirm sustained residential and commercial interest in La Conner.

"A lot of stuff is going to be happening in La Conner," Manville-Ailles said on Thursday. "We've passed the number of permits that we had this time last year, and last year was a busy year for us."

Place your ad in the At Your Service or Marine Directory for only \$175 for 12 weeks!

• LETTERS •

Making town sparkle

Five folks from each of two service clubs in La Conner, led by Rotarian Marty Pease, met at Gilkey Square to wash the Town's Park picnic tables, trash containers and benches Aug. 17. They were from our local Kiwanis and Rotary clubs who together saw a need and stepped up to make sure our town sparkles for everyone here in town and for people visiting, especially on these warm weekends.

Public Works Brian Lease and Todd Parks were a great help to make sure we had water and hoses with proper connections. When you see anyone from any local service club or Public Works, please take a moment to thank them for their community service. After finishing this chore, the workers started looking for other projects which would benefit our town during these difficult times, so more to come, and thanks to you all.

Ollie Iversen

Trump t' ruly decent man"

My friend said she is going to vote for a decent man, Joe Biden. He has been in national politics for 4 years and has been a racist, voting against bussing and saying he did not want his kids to go to school in a jungle. He had 4 years in the Senate and as vice president to build America better and failed. If decent is sex accusations, there are plenty of those in both parties.

I plan to vote for the truly decent man, Donald Trump. He opposes late term abortion, where a soon to be born child is cut into pieces in the womb. His administration supports Israel, our Middle East ally, and brokered an historic peace agreement between them and United Arab Emirates. He is ending our longest war in Afghanistan. He supports charter schools that give the inner city poor in Democrat run cities with failing schools a chance at a good education. He donates his presidential salary to support veterans causes. He gave the US universal prosperity and the lowest unemployment rates in modern times for people of all races and ethnicities until the pandemic hit and stalled the progress. He got us out of NAFTA, started the USMCA, imposed tariffs to correct unfair practices and protect US jobs. He closed Russian embassies and deported diplomats accused of spying. He opposes biological men competing in your female children's sports. He opposes riots and property destruction in our struggling cities. He is endorsed by the National Association of Police Officers. He is limiting illegal immigration that takes jobs from citizens.

I could go on but do not have the space. Vote for jobs and continued prosperity.

Mike Morrell

Shelter Bay

For Electoral College

The Electoral College in our Constitution, Article 2, Section 1. We voters need to be informed why it exists and why it is still necessary. It gives the smaller and/or less populated states a fair representation when voting for our president and vice president.

It makes it harder to steal an election. It encourages the candidates to campaign nationally, in order to win every state, not just the heavily populated states. It protects Americans from the tyranny of the majority.

Our Founding Fathers were far more than what the word politician may bring to mind today. These were men of integrity. Men who were wise because they were God fearing. Men who were willing to sacrifice their all in order to

protect Americans from the tyranny of the majority.

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Editorial –

Where our loyalty lies

Loyalty. What and who are we loyal to? The U.S. Constitution is the bedrock document upon which everything within the United States of America stands. Elected officials, from the president, through the Congress, down to this and every district's school board members, start their terms with an oath to the U.S. Constitution. Our elected officials serve us, in service to the Constitution. Our government starts and ends with the Constitution.

Those loyal to President Trump over their nation are revolutionaries against our government. They, as in every battle, showed their true colors. The insurrectionists storming the Capitol Wednesday raised Trump and Confederate flags, so their America is not the United States.

Their destruction starts with this fact: President Trump incited insurrection against the Constitution he took an oath to defend. Trump is a traitor to his oath and his country.

With two weeks left in his term he incited a mob that he had invited to the capital and instructed them to storm Congress, Congress's crime? Their act for which Trump sent his hordes to attack? Congress was conducting its constitutional duty to certify the Electoral College ballots sent by the 50 states.

Trump has fought and denied our system of government. He had challenged state election systems and lost. He lost in the courts. Whether delusional as well as a denier of facts, he is a liar determined to break the system. Trump is loyal only to himself. He has again broken his oath.

On Wednesday Trump incited his minions to stop the actions of Congress. Government is a process. Trump's process is to break democracy. He sent his mob that he called to gather, that he incited, that he instructed and that he then directed to march on the Capitol.

The last time the Capitol building was defaced, British troops did it in 1814. Until Wednesday, the Confederate battle flag – the flag of traitors, states that rose in rebellion against the United States – has never been carried into our nation's Capitol. That is the flag of our nation's sworn enemies.

In this Trump-created crisis, his supporters rioted against their government – our government. They used flagpoles attached to the American flag to break windows and batter doors to break into the halls of Congress. They call themselves patriots, but the flags they carried read Trump and included the stars and bars of the Confederacy.

If we are patriots and do not adhere to the Constitution, what are we patriotic about?

Some in the hordes claimed they were defending the Constitution, but they were as delusional and wrong and treasonous as Trump. They waved their flags. They pledged their allegiance. They are traitors all.

Now we, our neighbors and all our fellow citizens have to choose: will we be citizens of the United States or citizens of Trump world? Two flags waved over the Capitol last Wednesday. One was the American flag.

Are we loyal to the United States or to a president that has taken his lies over the cliff and is a traitor to his oath and country?

Who, and what are we loyal to? Loyalties don't lie. Time to choose.

— ken stern

Musings – on the editor's mind

A catechism is a set of, typically, religious instruction framed in the form of questions and answers to instruct the young, to win converts, and to testify to the faith. A Trumpian catechism follows.

Why do you support President Trump?

The president puts America first. He calls for law and order. He is against immigrants, socialists and homosexuals and criticizes protesters who loot and riot.

How do you support the president?

We follow him on Twitter. We organize, practice and prepare to follow his instructions. We stand down and stand by as he instructs. We vote. We gather before him. When he tells us to not be weak, we act, showing our strength.

Why did you come to the capitol?

President Trump called us. He said the fraudulent election could

not stand. We came to show we are patriots and to show our allegiance to the president. We brought a hangman's noose and set up gallows for traitors to Trump.

Why did you march on the Capitol?

President Trump told us to not show weakness. He said some Republicans and Vice President Pence needed encouragement to be bold. We showed our strength in our united, forceful action.

What did you do?

We raised our flag, the flag of President Trump. We raised the Confederate flag. We broke windows and battered doors using flagpoles holding the American flag. We called on the Capitol Police to join us and overpowered them when they did not. We climbed the porticos and entered the halls of Congress to find traitors to President Trump.

What comes next?

We go home. We wait. We organize and recruit others. We plan and we train. We vote out weak Republicans not strong enough to support President Trump.

How do you know the president supports you?

He told us he loves us and that we are very special.

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At Your Service
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A citizen's view –

Trump-ed up: Assessing the president's words and motives

To the editor:

For the first time in American history we have not had a peaceful transfer of power after a presidential election. Because on Jan. 6, 2021, a career conman, who, to our lasting shame, happens to be president of the United States, attempted his biggest con – reversing the outcome of an election he lost convincingly. Even with the help of his lap dogs in the administration and Congress, with the endless stream of lies on Fox News, talk radio, and far-right websites, with the power of social media platforms to spread these lies

- we'd get tired of all the winning
- he'd build the wall, Mexico would pay for it
- the Mexican children separated from their parents at the border would get great treatment, like at summer camp
- he'd bring back manufacturing, steelmaking, and coal mining
- he'd spend trillions on infrastructure, creating more great jobs
- he'd shut down North Korea's nuclear bomb program
- COVID was under control, only 15 people were infected, it would disappear like magic, by Easter
- COVID was a hoax by Democrats to hurt his re-election chances
- hydroxychloroquine was a great treatment for COVID, bleach too
- his big donor and new Postmaster General was making the Post Office more efficient ahead of the election, although most mail-in ballots would be fraudulent
- his election was stolen, the Republican governors and election officials, and the scores of Republican judges who rejected his lies were all corrupt weaklings
- he'd march alongside his fellow patriots to the Capitol to take back the country
- he'd take no responsibility at all. This promise he kept.

the events of last week should cause them to reconsider that decision. It is way past time to recognize that Donald Trump is and always has been a conman and wannabe mob boss. He cares exclusively about himself and getting away with his con of the moment. He doesn't care about you or me or Mike Pence or the people he sent on the march to the Capitol. He doesn't know or care about America. To benefit himself, he simply makes promises to us marks with no thought of keeping them. Here are a few of the things the conman-in-chief promised:

Jim Airy
La Conner

• LETTERS •

Trump's life a long con

The Republican Party used to stand for strong American values. The character and morality of their candidates was important to voters.

I ask you to compare John McCain to Donald Trump. John McCain was a war hero and an honest man. He understood political compromise as a necessity for functional government. John McCain and Joe Biden were best buddies even though they fought like cats and dogs on the floor of the Senate for their ideals and their constituents.

Take a step back and look at the draft-dodger Trump. Which of the seven deadly sins does he not exhibit? Pride, greed, lust, envy, gluttony, wrath and sloth are on display for all to see. John McCain devoted his life in service to his fellow Americans. Donald Trump serves only himself.

Donald Trump is not a Republican. He is certainly not a conservative. He is not really even a politician. He is a con man and a charlatan, a life-long tax cheat, a sexual predator, a base and vile liar and a creature of Vladimir Putin.

Yet 74 million Americans voted for him. This number terrifies me.

I believe that all Americans now live in the shadow of fascism and totalitarianism. Trump's efforts to overturn this election are unprecedented in American history. Our constitutional safeguards stopped his naked power grab. But make no mistake this was an attempted coup d'état.

The proper dwelling for Donald Trump is not the White House or his garish faux palace Mar-a-Lago, but a prison cell.

James Winchester

La Conner

Response to insurrection

Today I was asked to share my feelings about the events in our nation's capital this past week. As I thought about the behavior of those involved in the movement that led to the insurrection on what has always been a traditionally honorable event in our national election process, four words immediately came to mind: despicable, disgust, disappointment and disgrace.

I am extremely disappointed in the behavior of a number of citizens to be so degrading to such an important part of our nation's Capitol building, to force illegal entry with no respect for the historical sacredness of it. In addition to the physical damage, I cannot imagine the emotional trauma experienced by so many – the police and security officers, reporters and the members of Congress and their staff. It must have been terrifying.

The violent, deadly, shameful exhibit of so many sends shock, anger and worry to our citizens, as well as a confused and troubled message to the global community.

At this time, to help heal the hearts of our nation, we need peace, hope and leadership. We will make it through this together if we stay positive and take a step closer to each other.

Tricia Longworth
La Conner

The gift of Jesus

I am remembering and reflecting on Christmas, 2020. There is only One whom I care to mention in this letter. He is Immanuel, God with us. I met Him personally, that is I put my full trust in Him as my Savior and Lord at the age of 22. So He is my foundation of truth. His word, the Bible, is my guide book in all aspects of my life; and I find the truth of scripture will let me discern what is true and what is false in our world.

I can recommend turning from one's own way, to Him, not to a religion, but to a relationship, but to a living God, through Jesus, His only Son. He is the Forgiver, Redeemer, Friend, Prince of Peace, the giver of life, the hope, the eternal God, and never have I regretted giving my life to Him 56 years ago.

He is our gift, first in a manner. He is our gift on a tree – the Cross, where He took our place. This is Jesus. He is Christmas. Nancy Burlison
Shelter Bay

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