



REACH 102 AND ANGELS VISIT YOU. – Father William Treacy is glad but not surprised that an angel made an appearance during the drive by and stop and greet for the 102-year-old Catholic priest at Immaculate Conception Church in Arlington Sunday. Sister Emma Haufbauer, left, and Father Jim Dalton were not surprised, either. Norma Jean Young dressed up. – Photo by Ken Stern

## A book review — Where women journalists are most needed

By Ken Stern  
Our soldiers fight to protect the nation's freedom.

Journalists report on war so families and the public back home know the facts and truth of the soldiers experience. Journalists tell what is actually happening, as opposed to what the military and the government say.

Journalists in wars are protecting democracy – as much as our soldiers.

In 1960 no newspaper had women war correspondents. The U.S. military had rules regulating all journalists coverage during war. Since President Johnson refused to declare war in Vietnam, regulations limiting reporter access did not apply. That is why coverage was so thorough and why Frances FitzGerald, Catherine Leroy and Kate Webb became pioneering war correspondents in the late 1960s.

Elizabeth Becker, who flew from Seattle to Phnom Penh, went later, in 1973. Her groundbreaking reporting from Cambodia is also part of her book "You Don't Belong Here: How Three Women Rewrote the Story of War."

Becker, like Leroy and Webb, started the same way: with a one way ticket to southeast Asia.

FitzGerald, is best known for her seminal book, "Fire in the Lake," which won the 1972 Pulitzer Prize. She is an important American writer. She was born into extreme privilege, her parents rich, accomplished and well known. Her father was a CIA deputy director in the 1960s.

"Without her advantages it is hard to imagine how FitzGerald could have beaten the odds against a woman becoming a war correspondent in Vietnam, enduring the snub, the refusal to take her seriously or acknowledge her accomplishments," Becker writes.

Her vantage point allowed her

## Eat First in La Conner Saturday

Come downtown Saturday afternoon and eat your way through the town's food establishments on Morris and First Streets. "Eat Your way Through La Conner!" is the June 5 theme of the First on First group promoting the business community.

Some 25 eateries are participating, "Each eatery has a featured item so we know there is something for your craving!" the flyer listing and locating the businesses proclaim. Find a map in town or just walk in and ask what the featured item is.

Staffs will seat you gladly whatever time you walk in.

Promoted by the Weekly News.

to understand, when she arrived in March 1966, that she was covering the most important story in the world.

In Atlantic Monthly, New York Times and other magazines reporting, she emphasized Vietnamese history, culture and its people. Becker's summary: "Her key thesis was there was no moral, political or practical reason for the United States to wage the Vietnam War when the U.S. had no chance of victory."

Leroy was French. Her country had colonized Indochina and was defeated in Vietnam in 1954.

While learning to skydive in 1965, she met both a French Foreign Legionnaire and a journalist. That was her introduction to the war. Becker quotes her: "I persuaded myself that if I could not be a blues singer like Billie Holiday, I would be a photographer."

She also saw that "The biggest story in the world right now is the Vietnam War." She flew to Saigon in February 1966 and convinced the AP photography editor to give her press credentials. A year later she was accompanying U.S. troops in the first and only offensive airborne assault as the only photographer with parachuting qualifications.

Her photographs from the day became historic.

Throughout, she captured soldiers and civilians with an up

## Free drive-in movies in Mount Vernon

Introducing Mount Vernon Drive-In Movie Nights: free movies monthly. Load up the car and head for Skagit Valley College for a safe and fun family movie experience the first Friday of the month through September.

Tickets are required and must be reserved one week in advance through the Mount Vernon Chamber.

The schedule:  
June 4: "Jurassic Park," 9:35 p.m.

July 2: "Independence Day," 9:45 p.m.

August 6: "Coco" (In Spanish), 9 p.m.

September 3: "The Wizard of Oz", 8:10 p.m.

Screening are at the Skagit Valley College east parking lot. Parking opens 90 minutes before start time.

Pre-order concessions from the Lincoln Theatre. Items must be picked up at the Lincoln.

Hosted by The City of Mount Vernon, the Mount Vernon Chamber and Skagit Valley College.

Reserve tickets at: [mountvernonwa.gov/1064/Drive-In-Movie-Nights](http://mountvernonwa.gov/1064/Drive-In-Movie-Nights).

Source: City of Mount Vernon

close, personal quality. She was a success.

But journalists and photographers ostracized her. Some filed complaints with the military, lying about her behavior and conduct. Her press credentials were pulled. No journalist defended her.

Leroy got staff of the hospital ship, where her alleged bad behavior took place, to refute the charges, their writing she had a "warm invitation to return."

Webb, an Australian, went from being a "news cadet" at the Mirror in Sydney to Vietnam, prompted by Johnson's October 1966 state visit. The Mirror's editors were content to print wire service stories. Webb flew to Vietnam with her typewriter but without a job. There she bought her own combat gear and freelanced until hired by UPI in 1968. Her reporting focused on the South Vietnamese army. She wanted to know if a democratic and competent government could develop independently of the Americans.

Webb went to Cambodia after President Nixon expanded the war in 1970. A year later, covering a patrol of Cambodian soldiers, she was one of six journalists captured by North Vietnamese troops. They were held as prisoners of war for 24 days.

These three journalists, along with Becker and a handful of other women covering the war, were told by male journalists and the military that they did not belong there.

Each of them would have been hired, trained and mentored if they were men. Instead, they made their own way. Their determination opened up war reporting to women. Critically, their work changed the way the public, sees, hears, reads and understands war then and now.

## Memorial Day . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

war. This is a solemn occasion. We pray a blessing over all the graves, but a special blessing over the graves of those who stood up nobly to face danger and war head on."

Former Tribal Senate Chairman Brian Cladoosby said taking time to honor veterans has long been a Swinomish tradition.

"We come here," he said, "because this is what our elders taught us. Now, when we look in the mirror and ask where the elders are, they're right in front of us."

In related notes:

- Retiring Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Commissioner Curt Buher was recognized for his 13 years of service and presented with a card and gift certificate following the service. "It's been great working with him," Commissioner Tim Goodman said.

- Pleasant Ridge Cemetery Secretary Lori Buher said that despite the pandemic the district has been able to install a new water line and remove dead trees from the grounds, terming that work "a huge accomplishment."

- Former Tribal Senator Kevin Paul performed "Soldier Boy," a 1980 Blackfeet Singers composition, as a tribute to Swinomish veterans.

**Saturday, June 6**  
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Crescent Moon parking lot  
606 Morris St.  
Sponsored by La Conner United & Rotary Club of La Conner

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**Skagit Valley Farmers Market**  
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May 30 - September 26

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Christianson's Nursery  
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## Caravan Gallery

Saturday Market  
June 5 1-6 pm  
619 S. First St.

Antique Trade Bead Jewelry  
Dorothy Bird • Mel Leibold

## MoNA

Museum of Northwest Art

**Auction Art Preview at MoNA Galleries**  
May 27 - June 9

Preview in person over 300+ artworks that will be part of **MoNA's 2021 Online Art Auction, June 10 - June 9.**

**Golden Raffle tickets** will be available for purchase **until June 9** at the MoNA store for \$100 each, for a chance to win a **Silent Auction artwork of your choice!** Choose your favorite from +200 pieces available!

Learn more at: [monamuseum.org/2021-art-auction](http://monamuseum.org/2021-art-auction)

Kevin Paul, Wolf, 2021, Western Red Cedar, acrylic paints, lemon oil, 33" x 11" x 1," courtesy of the Artist

**Eat Your Way Through La Conner!**

**Saturday, June 5th - 1st on First**

Local eateries have featured items so we know there is something for your craving!

Promoted by La Conner Weekly News