At The Helm: Big shoes to fill at Tribune

Fortunately, I

made no plans to fill

his shoes. I simply set

out to be the best Bill

Helm that I could be.

on the job, I found

that the Lynden Tri-

bune was looking for

someone to join the

staff because of Cal's

pending retirement.

After eight years

On June 30, a living legend will retire from his post as editor here at the Lynden Tribune newspaper.

One of these days, I hope to be as good at my job as Cal Bratt has been the past four decades.

Hello. My name is Bill Helm, and I have huge shoes to fill.

Eight years and four months ago, my wife and I left our safety net in coastal southern California for the desert.

Thanks to corporate downsizing at the Los Angeles Times, I had been out of the newspaper business for 13 years.

After working a variety of soul-crushing jobs, an opportunity to be a reporter and photographer was available, an opportunity, my wife and I embraced it with every fiber of our collective

So, we moved to Camp Verde, Arizona. (Before you ask,

no, I didn't bring the recent heat wave with

My first day on the job - and for much of that first month - I was repeatedly told of the big shoes I had chosen to fill. The reporter I replaced had recently become the town's economic development director.

As a writer, Steve Ayers had been prolific, interesting and curious.

Today, he is a dear friend. We share a lot of things in common, not least of which our love for baseball.



Apparently, I like filling big shoes. Truth is, my wife and I were dying to Bill Helm return to the coast. If you've ever spent

a summer in the Arizona desert, you'd know the use of the word 'dying' is no exaggeration.

I applied for the position, had several conversations with Publisher Mike Lewis, and felt

at home with what he and the staff here are doing. Also, I felt at home before we had a formal

Thank you, Mike and thank you to everyone here at the Tribune and Record newspapers for making my wife and I feel welcome.

Thank you also to the Verde Independent newspaper and its staff, both past and present. Without you, I couldn't possibly be in Lynden preparing to fill another big pair of shoes.

Now that Washington is our home, I endeavor to serve Lynden and the surrounding areas the best way I know: accurately, honestly, with respect and with

However, I will make no effort to replace Cal. Nobody is replaceable, least of which this

kind, gentle, insightful man who is a bulldog of a journalist.

In recent years, folks in the newspaper business have taken a heap of heat, for various reasons.

In my line of work, I think we need to be held to just about the same standard as the clergy, or our fellow lawmen.

We're not perfect, however any error can prove catastrophic. So long as accuracy, honesty, respect and humility are our priorities as newspaper people, I believe we're in good shape.

The Lynden Tribune newspaper is in good shape, in very good shape, because of people like Cal Bratt.

Thank you, Cal for welcoming me to the community, and thank you for your unconditional support. I look forward to making you proud.

Bravo to Ferndale for summer events

By Brent Lindquist

brent@lyndentribune.com

The City of Ferndale held its first-ever "Summer of Fun" series in 2017, hosting a variety of events aimed at getting people out to the city's many parks.

For me, the most memorable event in the series was the solar eclipse viewing party held Aug. 21 of that year.

That partial solar eclipse was a once-ina-lifetime occurrence for people in Whatcom

County, and yet there weren't any events planned for people to take part in the celestial event together.

The city pulled something together, got 50 extra pairs of viewing glasses and brought in two former NASA employees (one of whom has been to space multiple times) to talk to visitors about the science of the solar eclipse.

This past Monday, the hottest day in Ferndale's recorded history, Whatcom County Fire District #7 and the City of Ferndale pulled another event together, this one aimed at combatting the remarkable heat seen around Western Washington over the course of several days.

They launched water from the fire department's ladder truck onto Ferndale residents and visitors hoping for a bit of refreshment on this blistering hot day.

One of the most striking facets of these events is the fact that they are free.

The city puts on an annual Summer of Fun just like the one in 2017, albeit without a historic solar eclipse, annually, and each year is packed full of events aimed at bringing people to Ferndale's parks to have fun.



Participants weren't asked to pay for the eclipse glasses or the water spewing forth from the ladder truck or the water bottles handed out by Mayor Greg Hansen.

These are purely to show people the magic and majesty right in their own backyards.

I like to imagine someone passing through Ferndale on the Interstate 5 corridor and deciding to turn off on the Main Street exit.

Maybe they want to explore or see a new place, and as they head for the visitor center at the Ferndale Chamber of Com-

merce, they see a field full of people preparing to view an eclipse, or getting soaked by gallons and gallons of refreshingly cold water.

What a sight that would be, and what a draw to such a lovely little city!

I hail from Lynden originally, but Ferndale is in my blood. My mom attended Custer Elementary School and stayed in the Ferndale School District until she graduated from Ferndale High

My grandma lives right on my route from Lynden to Ferndale, a drive I make at least three times each week.

I feel inexorably connected to Ferndale, and in that connection I find a strange sense of pride for a city that makes such strong efforts year in and year out to simply bring some joy to its

I hope other cities around the county and elsewhere can implement similar events to the ones seen in Ferndale each

They brighten the season and bring with them a great deal of joy, and you can never have too much of those.



Looking Back 70 Years Ago

Date uncertain, a military unit leads a parade down Lynden's Front Street. A 76 gasoline station is at the corner of Sixth and Front. To make guesses on the year, email to editor@lyndentribune.com.

News snippets from The Lynden Tribune: Thursday, June 21, 1951, as compiled by Tribune publisher Michael Lewis:

From the Front Page

Tel-E-Types Replace Tel-E-Phones for Tel-E-Graph Service at Lynden Office

When Father's Day telegrams, "Love and kisses to dear old dad," came clicking into Lynden last Sunday, they arrived by a new method.

The Farmers Mutual Telephone

Company has installed a teletype machine with a direct wire to Western Union in Bellingham. Miss Evangeline Ketel, daughter of

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Ketel, was one of the first telephone employees to learn to operate the teletype.

The new method saves copying telegrams because the addressee is given the original message when it is received.

New Druggist to Work Here

Calvin Longstreth Jr., of Bellingham, is now employed in the prescription department of McLain's Drug Store, owner Stanley McLain announced recently. Longstreth is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Calvin Longstreth of Bellingham.

He attended Bellingham High School, graduating in 1942, before receiving pharmacy training at the University of Washington.

Tribune Graduates from College Clinic with Highest Magna Cum Laude Honor

Along with the Lynden graduates who were given honor degrees from universities this month, the Tribune also received a high citation from the

faculty at Pullman. A survey by the Better Newspaper Clinic at the State College of Washington has been sent over from the campus on the work done by the Tribune staff.

'The Lynden Tribune is one of the few newspapers remaining in the United States that entertains as well as informs. We spent the majority of our criticism period just reading and chuckling. Obviously, it is most difficult to take time out to criticize a paper of this type," the report concluded.

Sumas Stores Stop Thursday Closing

A Sumas Chamber of Commerce committee was recently appointed to make a survey on the Thursday afternoon business closing of some Sumas businesses which has been a practice for a number of years.

It reported that a majority of business houses believe that the best interests of the town will now be served by abandoning such closing. It has been agreed by the majority that, effective July 1, the Thursday closing on a cooperative basis will be discontinued.

Only Soda Crackers Allowed in City on **Glorious 4th**

This is the time of year to remind all good Lynden residents that the 4th of July is drawing near. And Fire Chief Chauncey Weidkamp says it is also the time of year to remind said residents that Lynden City Ordinance 223 bans the sale and discharge of fireworks in the city limits.

Both parents and children will face arrest and a stiff fine for violation of the ordinance, and any fireworks found by police will be seized as evidence for prosecution.



A family heads out to enjoy one of the "Summer of Fun" events in Ferndale.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More discussion needed for Lynden police cameras Cameras protect officers and help prove

the bad guys were bad. Kudos!

Please ensure the data is kept for a significant period of time, as accusations can flare up much later.

I believe the best policy is that cameras need to be activated for any interaction with the public, from traffic stops to sporting events to parades and while at the fair.

Having the activation policy being at officer's discretion is bound to backfire. (Lynden Police) Please discuss this important issue as we wait for cameras to arrive.

- G. Todd Williams, Lynden

Thank God for Cal Bratt

Cal, it always was such pleasure to get in a letter to the editor or a column. You were so helpful and gracious.

The articles close to my heart and which you gave such beautiful coverage of were the ones about the Seafarers and local BP seaport and ones on the liberation from World War II of the Netherlands.

I must also say that you surely know our community, far and wide. Enjoy the change of pace and life. Do not go too far away and see us all now and then. Thank you and we thank God for you.

Thank you for 40 years. - John Van Hemert, Lynden

Cal Bratt excelled, made community better place

Cal, I read in the paper recently that you are bound for new adventures, and felt compelled to say congratulations and thank you. Thanks for all the time you spent listening to us and providing us with solid, trustworthy

news. It's such a comfort to read a paper and feel like you can believe every word. I enjoyed my time, long ago, as a cor-

respondent for the Ferndale Record-Journal and often wish that I had stayed in that profession.

Even though I might earn a better living for my family today, it feels like a personal misstep, like I'm not feeding something inside myself. I'm glad you chose to stick with it; you've excelled and made our community a better place. What else is there?

I wish you well, and hope to see your byline again somewhere.

- Shawn Northouse, Ferndale

Lynden Tribune

The Lynden Tribune is the official community newspaper for Lynden, Everson, Nooksack and Sumas. Published weekly every Wednesday by Lewis Publishing, Co., Inc. 113 Sixth Street, Lynden, Washington, 98264. USPS 323-160

Postmaster: Send address changes to: Lynden Tribune, P.O. Box 153 Lynden, Washington, 98264.

Lewis Family Legacy Michael D. Lewis, Publisher 1992-Present,

Julian M. Lewis, Publisher 1948-1991 William R. Lewis. Publisher 1944-1984 Sol H. Lewis, Publisher 1914-1953

Senior Staff Calvin Bratt, Editor,

mitze@lyndentribune.com

editor@lvndentribune.com Mary Jo Lewis, Director of Sales

advertising@lyndentribune.com Mitze Kester Advertising Manager

Subscriptions

Snowbird • \$48

No refunds, payments in advance Standard • \$42 per year; \$72 for two years

Outside County/In-state • \$55 Out-of-state • \$60

Senior • \$38 per year; \$64 for two years Student (nine months) • \$28

News/advertising deadline: 12 noon Monday

Contents copyrighted © 2021 by Lewis Publishing Company, Inc. All rights reserved

Email addresses

 $\textbf{News:} \ \textbf{Brent Lindquist, reporter, brent@lyndentribune.com; Hailey Palmer, sports}$ reporter, hailey@lyndentribune.com; obits@lyndentribune.com

Advertising: Laurie Palmer, laurie@lyndentribune.com

Prepress: Melanie Fair, graphicart@lyndentribune.com

Commercial Printing: Aaron Schiffman, general manager, aarons@lyndentribune.

Office: Sharon O'Shaughnessy, circulation manager, subscribe@lyndentribune. com; Carol Griffin, bookkeeper, acct@lyndentribune.com; office@lyndentribune

Life's about picking up the pieces

Saturday, I played baseball for the first time since my father died.

On that field, on that day. I considered that maybe we were more

alike than I had thought. A baseball is a round object, no doubt, and so is the circle of life, if only figuratively.

I remembered the times my father and I would play catch, not only as I was a child but also after my mother died in

Bill Helm My father was never one to throw the ball particularly hard, although when I was a lot younger, it sure seemed to sting. What stood out as my father tossed the ball to me was its lack of rotation, and its ability to dance even in a slight wind. He was so proud of that, always managed to point out to me what I could see as clear as can be.

My father threw a knuckleball. When I pitch, so do I.

The purpose of the knuckler, as with most pitches, is to deceive the batter. You see, batting is about timing. Pitching is about upsetting

Of course that's when you're playing hardball, baseball, the modern game. Professional batters these days set their swing based on pitches hovering around 100 miles an hour. The knuckleball, in most every case, is coming in at a robust 60 miles an

Sure, 60 is fast enough to strike both you and I out if we were to dust our not-so-young selves off and step into a Major League batters box. However, imagine balls are coming at you fast, that's what you get used to. Then, a pitch suddenly comes at you like a feather out of a pillow. Oftentimes, whiff ...

Problem with throwing a knuckler in my pre-Civil War baseball games, well, all pitches are coming at you at a blinding 10 miles an hour. The knuckleball is just another meatball, a ball with 'hit me hard' written all over it.

I throw the knuckler because it's the only way I can pitch underhand and get the ball where I want it. Problem is, at such a slow speed, it's incredibly hittable.

My father never got to see me play what we in the vernacular call vintage base ball. Although he'd been pleased, he'd wonder why I held the ball differently than he would. In many ways, my father and I seemed to start at around the same point, but to say we travelled parallel to each other would not be accurate. We were

not opposed, mind you, just not nearly the same.

The First Time

It was a weeknight in September 1973. It was the day my father created a

It was either Sept. 10 or Sept. 11 when my father took me to my first baseball game.

I'd like to think it was Sept. 11 because two Hall of Famers played that day. Maybe I'd also like to think it was Sept. 11 because my father served in the army,

and we all know what happened 20 years ago on Sept. 11.

Actually, it really doesn't matter who played or where the game was played, or even when it happened. What matters, looking back, is that my father shared with me the game he played as a young man.

It was clear my father enjoyed the game. But me, well, he planted a seed in me that day. Since that day, I have loved baseball, and I could spend 16 hours telling you why.

I was 7 when I went to that first game. So I don't actually remember the date. Thanks to research, I have been able to narrow down that it was one of those two days.

My father and his mother's brother - my great uncle - took me to see the Chicago White Sox in Anaheim against the Angels. If the game was indeed on Sept. 11, then Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan pitched for the Angels, and Hall of Famer Frank Robinson was the Angels' designated hitter.

Unbeknownst to me at the time, and really, also to my father, is that the White Sox third baseman that day, Brian Downing, would one day be my father's favorite player on the Angels.

The reason I was able to narrow down when we went to the game is that I remember the scorecard my father kept that night. I recall seeing an unusual name, Orta, in the middle of the Chicago lineup. As it turns out, a young player named Jorge Orta batted near the bottom of the lineup earlier in the year. By September, he was one of the team's better hitters. By September, Orta batted in the middle of the lineup.

Funny how you can have snapshot memories, not necessarily full-length

I also remember that uncle, wow, less than two years later, dying of

disease, something she'd had since I

My mother died at age 65 of a lung

was about 12. Her parents, my maternal grandparents, lived to be in their 90s. Both of her parents were razorsharp in the mind up until the end.

My father's side, things are different. His father, my paternal grandfather, died of tuberculosis in 1935. My father and his mother, my paternal grandmother, died in their 80s, no longer razor-sharp.

I suppose only time will tell whether I favor my mother or my father. There's a 50/50 chance I won't know the difference.

North of Green Bay, my sister lives about five minutes from where my father had lived the past several years. Which is good, because the two of them were like, as they used to say, peas in a pod. Once my father died, on Aug. 6, she's been making the arrangements for his memorial service, a service which will also be broadcast online. With family scattered across California, Wisconsin, Texas and now Washington, I'm glad she has the foresight to consider the pandemic and the multiple ways we now can communicate, even if in some cases, those communications are for the last

Five-plus years ago, my father was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. Not only a death sentence, but one without a cure - or treatment.

I think most of us have seen enough death by now to know that the end of life affects the living more than those who die. Although my father would never be the person to say he was ready to go, truth is he was ready once my mother died.

Born in 1932, my father grew up in the depression. Lost his father at age 3, his baby sister by age 9, his oldest sister married at 17, it was my father and his mother pretty much until he married my mother at age 30. Which means my father was always, the way he saw it, the man of the house.

Of course anyone paying close enough attention knows the woman is the one who runs the house. She cooks, cleans, births, nurtures, disciplines, balances the budget, the list goes on and on. Dad may have been the boss, but if you needed something, you went to mom. Whenever dad needed something, he also went

Truth is, my father was a lost soul the moment my mother died. Sure, he put up a brave face the past 17 years. Honestly, I don't know how he did it.

Although my father is no longer lost, we who remain are left picking up the pieces, as best as we can. Because that's what life is, essentially. We live, until it's our turn to no longer live. Then, other people pick up the



A record 28,461 persons attended the 1961 Northwest Washington Fair in Lynden, Wednesday through Saturday.

Looking Back 60 Years Ago

News Snippets from the The Lynden Tribune: Thursday, Aug. 24, 1961, as compiled by Tribune Publisher Michael Lewis.

From the front page ...

NW Fair attendance sets all-time record

A record 28,461 persons attended the 1961 Northwest Washington Fair in Lynden, Wednesday through Saturday.

Pete Enfield, treasurer of the fair board, said the record attendance topped last year's mark of 27,795. This was reached despite rain Wednesday and overcast skies Thursday.

More than \$13,000 in prizes were awarded to participants in the big show.

Groth relieved as Darigold general manager By majority action of the board of trustees of

the Whatcom County Dairymen's Association, Arthur Groth, general manager since 1953, was relieved of his duties Aug. 21, 1961.

Henry Polinder, president of the Association, opposed the removal of Groth, saying that the county association had enjoyed its "golden years" under his management. Numerous improvement in the Lynden plant and operating procedure were made during Groth's term of management, Polinder said.

20,000 Swim in Lynde Pool during Season

With the closing of the swimming season nearby on Labor Day, Sept. 4, the Lynden Community Pool is preparing for shutdown as the start of school nears.

It is estimated that more than 20,000 swim-

See **Looking Back** on A5

LETTERS

Study, learn, respect Editor,

I apologize to Interim Lynden School Superintendent Stromme. He must be shaking his head in wonder at the nature of his welcome after being confronted by those asking the district to flout the law because of their assumed superior medical and mental health knowledge.

I thank the member of that group who wrote a letter to the editor explaining why they think masks are harmful to physical and mental health. It helps me

better understand their thinking. We do need to listen to one another more.

I commend the doctors and nurses who wear masks all day every day, as well as the clerks and servers who protect the rest of us by following the advice of 99% of the best virologists and epidemiologists in the world.

I salute the vast majority of citizens who are loving their neighbor by taking every possible precaution to avoid unknowingly infecting those they come into contact with.

As a person classified as COVID vulnerable, I thank each of you who has taken precautions to protect me, and others

To my fellow citizens, all of

whom I'm convinced are acting out of best intentions and goodwill: I encourage each of us to study, to learn, to respect the work of those who know more about this that we do.

Roger Van Dyken Lynden

False claims not protected by First Amendment Editor,

Are newspaper editors and publishers obligated to reject or warn readers when misleading information threatening the well-being of the public is committed to print?

The First Amendment of the Constitution ensures the right to express personal opinions.

It does not ensure the right to make false claims that threaten the well-being of the community.

Editors of the Tribune should consider steps to inform readers when misleading claims threaten the health of the public.

In the Aug. 18 edition of the Tribune, editors published a letter entitled "Making Kids Wear Masks 'Not Good Science."

The letter assumes the imprimatur of science but is filled with misleading and false information that threatens the

well-being of the public, in particular children.

In rebuttal to the misleading claims:

• Children are experiencing increased stress, anxiety and challenges with learning during the COVID pandemic. There is no evidence, however, that wearing a mask is a significant cause for these outcomes.

 The overwhelming body of evidence demonstrates the benefits of proper masking for mitigating the spread of COVID. This includes evidence that the risk of transmitting COVID in schools was significantly reduced when children were properly masked and distanced compared with schools that failed to implement precautions.

• As the Delta variant of CO-VID assaults a community, there are alarming increases in the number of infections, hospitalizations and deaths among children.

• As of July 2021, accumulated scientific studies provide no convincing evidence that vitamin D or zinc prevents or improves treatment outcomes for COVID.

· As of July 2021, accumulated scientific studies provide no convincing evidence that Ivermectin prevents or improves treatment outcomes for COVID.

For the well-being of our

children, please, wear a mask

The author will be happy to provide legitimate scientific references for claims made in this letter.

R. Michael Massanari Lynden

Baron makes great fair out of lemons Editor,

I am writing to express how well Jim Baron did with the Northwest Washington Fair this year. He was handed lemons and made a great tasting lemonade

Every time I saw Jim at the fair, and every time he was smiling and friendly.

He was constantly out on the grounds making sure everyone was having a good time and had the resources they needed to make sure the visitors were having a good time.

In short, Jim Baron did a bang-up job, and if you see him, give him a hearty handshake and say thank you.

I would also like to give a shout out to the community and volunteers at the fair. Once again, Lynden has stepped up and put its best foot forward.

I know that many long-time volunteers worked very hard to make it a great fair and that there were a number of new volunteers that stepped up as well.

I am proud of our community for making a situation that could have been bad into a great fair and I look forward to next year's Northwest Washington

Troy Luginbill Lynden

Submitting letters to the editor

The Lynden Tribune gladly accepts letters to the editor.

Letters should not exceed 300 words and may be edited for length, grammar, accuracy, legal issues and clarity.

Include your full name, city and state you live in, and if applicable, the headline date of the article on which you are commenting.

Please email letters to editor@lyndentribune.com.

You also may hand-deliver or mail letters to our office at 113 6th St.

Please include your name, complete address and phone number to allow verification of authorship.

Any hand-written letters must be double spaced and printed for ease of reading.

Unsigned letters will not be published.

Lynden Tribune

The Lynden Tribune is the official community newspaper for Lynden, Everson, Nooksack and Sumas. Published weekly every Wednesday by Lewis Publishing, Co., Inc. 113 Sixth Street, Lynden, Washington, 98264. USPS 323-160

Postmaster: Send address changes to: Lynden Tribune, P.O. Box 153 Lynden, Washington 98264.

Website: www.lyndentribune.com

Lewis Family Legacy

Michael D. Lewis, Publisher 1992-Present, No refunds, payments in advance mdlewis@lvndentribune.com

Julian M. Lewis. Publisher 1948-1991 William R. Lewis, Publisher 1944-1984 Sol H. Lewis. Publisher 1914-1953

Bill Helm. Editor. bill@lyndentribune.com Mary Jo Lewis, Director of Sales

Senior Staff

advertising@lyndentribune.com Mitze Kester, Advertising Manager mitze@lvndentribune.com

Subscriptions

Standard • \$42 per year; \$72 for two years

Outside County/In-state • \$55

Out-of-state • \$60 Senior • \$38 per year;

\$64 for two years Student (nine months) • \$28

Snowbird • \$48

News/advertising deadline: Contents copyrighted © 2021 by Lewis Publishing Company, Inc. All rights reserved

Email addresses

Commercial Printing:

 $Brent\ Lindquist, reporter, brent@lyndentribune.com$ Hailey Palmer, sports reporter, hailey@lyndentribune.com

Advertising: Laurie Palmer, laurie@lyndentribune.com

Prepress: Melanie Fair, graphicart@lyndentribune.com

$Len\,Vander\,Stelt,\,gen\, \bar{e}ral\,\,manager,\,len@lyndentribune.com$

Sharon O'Shaughnessy, circulation manager, subscribe@lyndentribune.com Carol Griffin, bookkeeper, acct@lyndentribune.com

AT THE HELM

Heaven gained a real ace

Some people are just so special, you could have known them your entire life and it still wouldn't have been enough time.

For me, Mike Adrian has been one of those people.

The evening of Dec. 11, a friend called to tell me Mike had lost his battle with cancer. Mike had been fighting it since earlier in the year, and although it was a real struggle, he seemingly beat the disease. But his 75-yearold body finally gave out.

I remember the first time I met the man called Ace. The 1860-era baseball team I played on while in Arizona hosted a recruiting event for our upcoming season. This was back in 2016.

Mike was relatively new to the desert, having arrived earlier in the year from Illinois where he had founded and played on a team.

In his short time in Arizona, Mike founded another team and was looking for players. To find players, and to make friends, Mike visited us that day.

Lo and behold, Mike found a slew



Bill Helm

of prospective vintage base ball players for his team. Such a friendly, kind, funny and generous man, Mike and I quickly became friends.

The team he built was a pleasure to play against. They understood the game, they respected the game, they were sportsmanlike. Winning is great and all, but if you can't win or

lose without being uber-competitive, what's the use?

From time to time, I also had the pleasure of playing on Mike's team, on days my team didn't play for example.

So often, Mike and I would talk about the modern and the vintage game of baseball, and about life.

It didn't take long to figure out how much of a treasure Mike Adrian was. You know, using that word, was,

really hurts. Because I still cannot believe my friend is gone.

Since I moved to Washington in May, I'd call Mike pretty regularly. Rarely, however, he was able to take calls, those cancer treatments really took a lot out of him.

A 15-minute telephone conversation generally meant he'd need a good long nap afterward.

Although we'd text more often, Mike and I actually talked maybe three or four times after my wife and I left Arizona.

Last time we spoke, in November, he gave me some advice on how to stain and finish a bat a mutual acquaintance had made for me. Mike was so excited to see the bat finished, so excited to play ball again, was so excited to live life to its fullest.

I'd like to believe my friend Mike is up in the heavens right now, playing ball with all the people he read about, watched on television and at the ballpark, and even played vintage base ball with back in the day.

But here, for his wife, his sons, his extended family and all of his friends, Mike Adrian is no longer with us. And that makes me very said.

I miss my friend.

Looking Back 40 Years Ago

News Snippets from the Lynden Tribune: Wednesday, Dec. 23, 1981, as compiled by Tribune Publisher Michael Lewis.

From the front page ...

City denies rezone request

The Lynden City Council, Monday, denied a rezone needed to build 50 apartment units on Bender Road.

The council voted 5-0 against changing two acres from R-100 to R-20. In making the decision, several councilmen said they felt an obligation to provide "zoning protec-

property owners. The rezone was sought by Ron DeBoer and Martin Ruiter on property just east of Lynden Christian's athletic field.

They wanted to build five 10-unit apartment buildings there.

Midwest-based CENEX buys out Western Farmers

CENEX has agreed to purchase substantially all the assets of Western Farmers Association, according to CENEX president Darrell Moseson and O. Roy Wiebe, Western Farmers president.

A Midwest-based regional supply cooperative, CENEX serves 1,500 local cooperatives in a 13-state area. They had sales of \$1.3 billion last year while reporting \$38 million in net earnings.

Last year WFA had revenue of \$207 million and reported net earnings of \$3.8 million. Headquartered in Seattle, WFA has been in reorganization under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code since 1979.

'At Deadline,' by

Lynden's Clown Prince Dr. John Cook is hanging up his drills the end of this month after 46 years of dentistry.

John came with his parents to Lynden as a small child and attended school here and was early noted for his humor. He was a yell leader for the Lynden Lions before the electronic era and he used to advertise the games standing on the corner with a big megaphone.

He opened his office in



Dr. John Cook came with his parents to Lynden as a small child and attended school here and was early noted for his humor.

(Tribune photo)

1946 in the Dyk building upstairs above McLain Drug Store after serving in the army. John and his neighbor Dr. Rowe joined forces to build the medical building at the northeast corner of 6th and Grover in 1955.

Doctors in business in new building

Three Lynden physicians - Dr. Dana Peterson, Dr. Bruce Pederson and Dr. Greg Anderson — moved into their new offices in the Lynden Professional Plaza medical building last week Saturday.

Bellingham surgeon Orville VanderGriend was expecting to set up the equipment for a rotating specialists' clinic in another part of the building.

The clinic will be ready for use by Jan. 1.

GUEST OPINION

Sharing one's Christmas memories



Elisa Claassen

By Elisa Claassen For the Tribune

WHATCOM — In a few days, it will again be Christmas. It is happening so fast. Once upon a time, I made my own cards and gifts, decorated inside and outside the house, baked up a storm — and didn't sleep. That's been a while ago. Now I enjoy looking at the lights on homes, looking at craft fairs, singing Christmas carols, and watching corny holiday shows.

I turned to friends in my sector of Whatcom County, aka Nooksack Neighbors, for their favorite Christmas memories. It was a mix of family, food, the innocence of childhood, and crossing the border. This is what they shared.

Shannon Cramer Smith: "Going to Intalco to watch a Christmas show and getting a present afterward from Santa. We went for several years. My grandfather worked there. So my siblings and cousins went ... I was amazed by all the gifts they gave."

Adam Elzer: "It's hard to pick just one. I grew up in Sumas and Nooksack. All of my Christmases growing up were good, just seeing family that you don't see except for maybe Christmas. Christmas Eve was with my dad's family in Chilliwack, BC, going to a candlelight service and Christmas was with my mom's usually at the Christian

Subscriptions

Out-of-state • \$60

Senior • \$38 per year;

Standard • \$42 per year;

Outside County/In-state • \$55

\$64 for two years

Student (nine months) • \$28

See **Sharing** on A5

LETTERS

Reader thankful for Lynden Hop

Thanksgiving blessings continue through Lynden Hop bus services.

On Oct. 30, on my 102nd birthday, I woke up and considered how to plan my day. My birthday party, which my two daughters had planned was canceled two days prior due to circumstances that developed.

My thoughts went to my only surviving sister, Nettie, who is 105 years old and living at the Christian Health Care Center in Lynden and confined to a wheelchair.

I suddenly remembered the Lynden Hop bus service, which is such a blessing to myself and others who may need wheelchair assistance.

Nettie's daughter Arlene, and husband, were on their way from Olympia to visit Nettie in a private room scheduled for 4 p.m. in that afternoon at the care center.

Thanks to the Hop bus they were delighted to find out that they were finally able to take Nettie out after being confined to her room for almost two years because of COVID-19 restrictions (and lack of transportation).

We were thrilled to be able to gather at the Fairway Café, where we enjoyed a delightful dinner together and celebrated the long-waited

Our celebration evidently extended to the table next to us as they came over and mentioned how blessed and joyful they felt because of our celebration happiness.

They, in turn, blessed us because as we went to pay for our meal, we were informed that our unknown neighbors picked up our entire tab. I am so thankful and encouraged by this service made available to our community by Lynden Hop bus service.

Tina Navis Lynden

Better to display no flag than tattered flag?

Custer

The flag of the United States is a tangible representation of our country. Representing the United States of America, it is entitled to respect. It is so entitled to respect, in fact, that it is accorded its own section within the U.S. Code.

Section 1, Title 4, of the U.S. Code concerns the flag, it's treatment, and display. One of those elements of display concerns the condition of the flag. It says, "When a flag is so tattered that it can no longer serve as a symbol of the United States, it should be destroyed in a dignified manner, preferably by burning ...'

Looking around the county, even before the recent bad weather, I saw many flags, both on poles outside homes, businesses and in the backs of pickup trucks, which were tattered, torn, or stained.

Those flags should be taken down, and if desired, replaced by clean and well-kept flags. People wanting to turn flags in for disposal should contact a local veterans' organization, such as VFW, American Legion, DAV, or Vietnam Veterans of America.

Some of those organizations can also recommend a source for replacement.

Other contacts for disposal would include scouting groups.

It would be better to have no flag at all displayed than to have one that is tattered. I.G. Phillips MSG, USA (Ret)

Submitting letters or commentaries

Opinions expressed on the *Lynden Tribune* and Ferndale Record's opinion pages are just that, they are opinions.

This includes editorials, commentaries, columns, and letters to the editor. They are not to be treated or viewed as news, as articles, nor necessarily as fact.

They are one person's opinion, and they should be treated as such.

Short of libel, opinions from all points of view may be sent to us.

If you are sending a commentary, please email to editor@lyndentribune.com and include your name, complete address and phone number, and if applicable, the headline date of the article on which you are commenting.

You also may hand-deliver or mail letters to our office at 113 6th St. Please include your name, complete address and phone number to allow verification of authorship.

Any hand-written letters must be double spaced and printed.

Unsigned letters will not be published. Submissions longer than 300 words will be edited for length. Submissions will be also edited for clarity, syntax and grammar.

Lynden Tribune

The Lynden Tribune is the official community newspaper for Lynden, Everson, Nooksack and Sumas. Published weekly every Wednesday by Lewis Publishing, Co., Inc. 113 Sixth Street, Lynden, Washington, 98264. USPS 323-160

Postmaster: Send address changes to: Lynden Tribune, P.O. Box 153 Lynden, Washington 98264.

Website: www.lyndentribune.com

Lewis Family Legacy

Michael D. Lewis, Publisher 1992-Present, No refunds, payments in advance mdlewis@lvndentribune.com Julian M. Lewis, Publisher 1948-1991

William R. Lewis, Publisher 1944-1984 Sol H. Lewis. Publisher 1914-1953

Senior Staff Bill Helm, Editor bill@lyndentribune.com

mitze@lvndentribune.com

Mary Jo Lewis, Director of Sales advertising@lyndentribune.com Mitze Kester, Advertising Manager

News/advertising deadline: Contents copyrighted © 2021 by Lewis

Publishing Company, Inc. All rights reserved

Snowbird • \$48

\$72 for two years

Email addresses

Leora Watson, reporter, leora@lyndentribune.com Connor Benintendi, sports reporter, connor@lyndentribune.com

Advertising: Laurie Palmer, laurie@lyndentribune.com

Prepress: Melanie Fair, graphicart@lyndentribune.com

Commercial Printing:

 $Len\,Vander\,Stelt,\,gen\, \bar{e}ral\,\,manager,\,len@lyndentribune.com$

Sharon O'Shaughnessy, circulation manager, subscribe@lyndentribune.com Carol Griffin, bookkeeper, acct@lyndentribune.com