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Renaissance Faire opens for August



Sam Cooley photo

A girl at the Midsummer Renaissance Faire looks up close at a lanner falcon held by a member of the company Raptor Events during events Sunday, Aug. 6 on the grounds of Sky Meadows Park near Monroe. Raptor Events cares for, trains and presents birds of prey such as falcons and owls, as well as reptiles. General admission tickets for the Faire were sold out for the remaining weekends as of press time. Other events are also happening at the Faire. You can check at www.washingtonfaire.com

School board primaries full of twists



Adams Larkin Weber

By TRIBUNE STAFF

Three Snohomish School Board candidates are neck-and-neck-and-neck, while an interesting set of circumstances in Monroe's school board race emerged in the August primary. The primary narrows the field to a two-way shootout for November.

On Snohomish's school board, the split of three school board candidates is mere votes between them, as Sherri Larkin, Sarah Adams and Monica Weber sit with 35%, 31.9% and 31.8% of the vote respectively as of Thursday's results for the primary. Larkin tops the field with a 438-vote gap. Adams led Weber by 20 as of latest available results Aug. 4.

Meanwhile, in the sole Monroe school board primary, incumbent Jeremiah Campbell and Tiana Armstrong currently are the top two.

One hitch: Armstrong dropped out in July. Whereas Crystal Blakely, who as of Friday was 577 votes behind Armstrong in third, is running a campaign.

Amstrong dropped out because she said she moved out of her district area. She's poised to go on.

"The top two candidates from the primary move

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Bob's Corn's future as a farm assured permanently

By NATHAN WHALEN contributing writer

SNOHOMISH — As the Ricci family prepares for the harvest and designing their popular corn maze at Bob's Corn and Pumpkin Farm, they have the comfort of knowing their farm will remain in agriculture.

Bob and Sarah Ricci worked with the Washington Farmland Trust to place a conservation easement on their more than 200-acre farm nestled near the Snohomish River

off Highway 9. "We want this to be a farm for forever," Sarah Ricci said. The family has owned the farm since 1888. Bob and Sarah are fourth generation of the family to farm on the land. Four of their five daughters work on the farm.

The easement places restrictions on the property that will allow agriculture activities to continue.

Robin Fay, conservation director for the Washington Farmland Trust, explained: "We're essentially buying

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Nathan Whalen photo

Sarah and Bob Ricci, owners of Bob's Corn near Snohomish now have a conservation easement on their 207-acre farm to ensure the land will always be used for farming.

Waits Motel condemnation given formal OK

By MICHAEL WHITNEY

EVERETT — A 5-1 City Council vote last week to formally condemn the Waits Motel now leaves the site with few ways to avoid being repurposed.

The city may file in superior court seeking to have a judge grant Everett the right to use eminent domain to acquire the motel property if it can't convince the owner to voluntarily sell. It had negotiated to buy the motel previously, and will continue to do so, lines in the condemnation ordinance say.

The property at 1301 Lombard Ave. was assessed this year at \$2 million, county records show.

The city labeled the Waits as a neighborhood blight as its reason to condemn for its crime-ridden past.

Manager Emily Simpson and husband Doug Modig have a contract to buy the Waits, which the condemnation shoved a wedge into.

They said last week they are thinking of going to court to appeal.

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