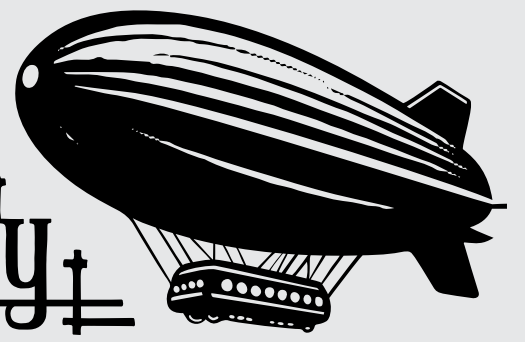




TERMINAL VELOCITY



The Langley Gazette

FEBRUARY 21 & 22, 2026

MYSTERY WEEKEND EDITION

VOLUME XLI

The Langley Chamber of Commerce presents the 41st Annual Mystery Weekend

TERMINAL VELOCITY

MANY THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEER CAST MEMBERS:

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BREAKING NEWS!

Wurzburg Has Falling Out Over Restaurant

Members of the Klik Klub had their pre-zooming late lunch at Restaurant Les Fondue Bouquet interrupted when Chief Financial Pirate Cashón d'Barlhed came in calling for Wolfram Wurzburg, the owner.

Würzburg handed Cashón an envelope that Cashón inspected before yelling "No IOUs!" at Wolfram. Cashón then politely told everyone they had to leave NOW. Witnesses recall hearing what was a large hook being inserted into a large eyelet on top of the restaurant, and everyone made a run for the door.

Witnesses heard Wolfram snarl, "You wouldn't dare!" to Cashón, who replied "Watch me," as he waited for the last patron to leave before exiting and closing the door.

Langley resident Frank Lee Madeer was across Second Street at Double Bluff Brewery

and witnessed the event.

"I was watching the big Zeppelin Jolly Cargo as it hovered about a thousand feet over the top of that smelly restaurant," said Madeer. "Big doors on the bottom of the zep opened up like a bomb bay and a big hook started lowering down toward that restaurant. I saw a crewman next to the hook, and when the hook clanged into the big eyelet on top of the restaurant, he made sure it was secure. That's when the door to the restaurant opened up and everyone spewed out in seconds. That pirate Cashón was the last one out, and he signaled to the guy on the hook to reel her in and up went the restaurant. What a sight!"

Antoinette Solange, co-chef with Wolfram at the restaurant, was asking where Wolfram was, and Cashón said he stayed in the restaurant, which was now several hundred feet in the air, being lifted up toward the Zeppelin Jolly Cargo. "Imbécile," was Antionette's response.



Surprised Langleyites watch in fascination as Le Fondue Bouquet is repossessed, but fascination quickly turned to horror when they saw a fight within the floating building. A moment later the crowd quickly scattered as Wolfram Wurzburg plummeted towards them. PHOTO FRANK LEE MADEER



PHOTO DETECTIVE COLUMBO SANTIAGO

Moments later Anthony Esquire, Klik Klub Member, shouted that there was activity at the front door of the ascending restaurant, now nearing the Zeppelin. Witnesses saw Wolfram was fighting with someone in a Klik Klub flying suit, who pushed Wolfram off the porch.

"Incoming! Everyone back!" Cashón yelled as Wolfram assumed terminal velocity before striking the ground his restaurant had just been setting on.

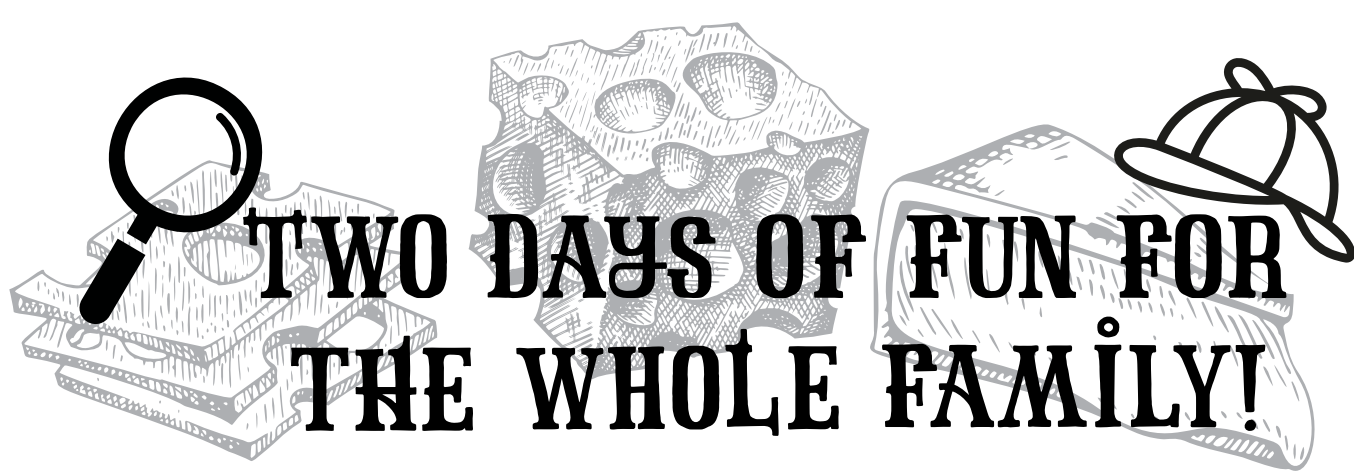
Everyone was stunned, until Anthony yelled, "They're getting away!" as the assailant jumped off the porch and zoomed toward the Fairgrounds. Earlier witness Frank Lee Madeer confirmed seeing someone in a flying suit zooming over the Post Office, heading west.

A subsequent search of the area resulted in the discovery of a discarded flying suit, which is now at the Island County CSI facilities in Coupeville. ■

TICKETS

Scan the QR code or purchase day of event at the Langley Visitors Information Center, 208 Anthes Avenue





TWO DAYS OF FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Pick up your Clue Map, Program, and Gazette then get ready to visit the crime scene!

- Pick up clues from participating merchants
- Interact with costumed suspects
- See the Program & Langley locations for suspect photos
- HAVE FUN!

Porta-Structures Prove Profitable



Mayor Josh DeFaz and wealthy businessman Ray Lux prepare for City Hall meeting.

Ray Lux has hit pay dirt in Langley. When his pre-fab building, built at his facility next to the Zeppelin Works in Saratoga, was delivered by zeppelin and installed at its current location next to City Hall, it proved his concept of zeppelin-delivered structures was both feasible and profitable. “I have always believed in delivering more than the customer expects,” Lux was quoted last November as the new Restaurant Les Fondue Bouquet was delivered on time and at the right location.

His Porta-Structure works have been

very busy since then, delivering various structures to hard-to-drive-to locations throughout the Sound.

“Using the zeps to deliver my structures have proven quite profitable for us,” Lux was quoted recently. “The quiet electric motors driving the zeps do not annoy anyone on the ground and we can make our deliveries day or night.”

Mr. Lux also commented that with the mounting hookups permanently installed in each structure, relocation is not a problem.

“You call, we haul,” Mr. Lux winked. ■

City Psychic Sees Solution



Horace Scope listens carefully to the ghosts within Mike's.

Horace Scope, appointed psychic for the City of Langley, has been working hard to solve a local haunting. Both customers and shop owners have been complaining about strange voices and objects moving or disappearing altogether around the building most recently known as Mike's Place.

The building, which sits on the corner of First and Anthes, has a long and storied history, including being one of the oldest buildings in town, the first gas station, and most recently a favorite restaurant. Mike's was known for its breakfast menu and the jovial proprietor/cook. The community mourned when Mike retired in 2012 and the building's owner has allowed it to stand empty since then.

Horace Scope has determined that the spirits of those who long enjoyed Mike's have become angry.

“I'm having trouble focusing on their main complaint,” Scope said. The spirits are aggrieved by the horrendous smell drifting from Le Fondue Bouquet, as are many of the living. However, I believe they are primarily angry that both the history and the usefulness of this great community asset is being lost with each day it stands empty.

Mike's Place isn't the first Langley building to be haunted. The Dog House spirits were active off and on for years before the building was sold and renovations began.

“It seems our spirits are not fond of empty storefronts,” Scope told us. “It seems whenever a building is empty for more than a few months the spirits become agitated until it's sold and re-opened.”

Does he see a solution?

“Perhaps,” Scope opined. “Right now, Ray Lux is purchasing all the buildings and work spaces that the owners swear are haunted and keeping them open, keeping downtown alive but it aggravates many locals when prices are so high only rich out-of-towners like Lux can afford them – but that's another story.” ■

Klik Klub Still Seeks New Members

The “Klik Klub” was established last year by zeppelin crew members who enjoyed jumping out of the stationary zeps and flying down to earth in the flying suits developed to aid escaping crew from disabled zeps.

“A crashing zep has a very wide footprint,” Captain Corrigan said in an interview. “The flying suits attached to our coveralls allow us to zoom out past that footprint before opening our parachutes. We have to practice this, so once a month we take a zep up to a thousand feet altitude and hold her stationary as the off-duty crew practice abandoning the zeppelin and clearing her footprint before parachuting down.”

“When we started taking passengers on the North Pole run, then overseas, we felt they needed to know how to escape also, so passing the Zoom Test became essential to be a passenger,” said Corrigan. “Well, needless to say, it became a hit within the local community. We had people who wanted to take the Zoom Test who were not passengers, and soon we had a Klub.”

Lux Enterprises agreed to sponsor the Klub, allowing the zeppelins to continue their commercial enterprises while Lux Inc. took over the Klub and Safety Classes. Passengers are still required to pass the Zoom Test before departure, but non-passengers can purchase the required Orange Coveralls (Passenger Issue) and Flying Suits at the Zeppelin Works on Saratoga Road. ■



Zeppelin Passenger Escape Suit

Obituary Wolfram Würzburg

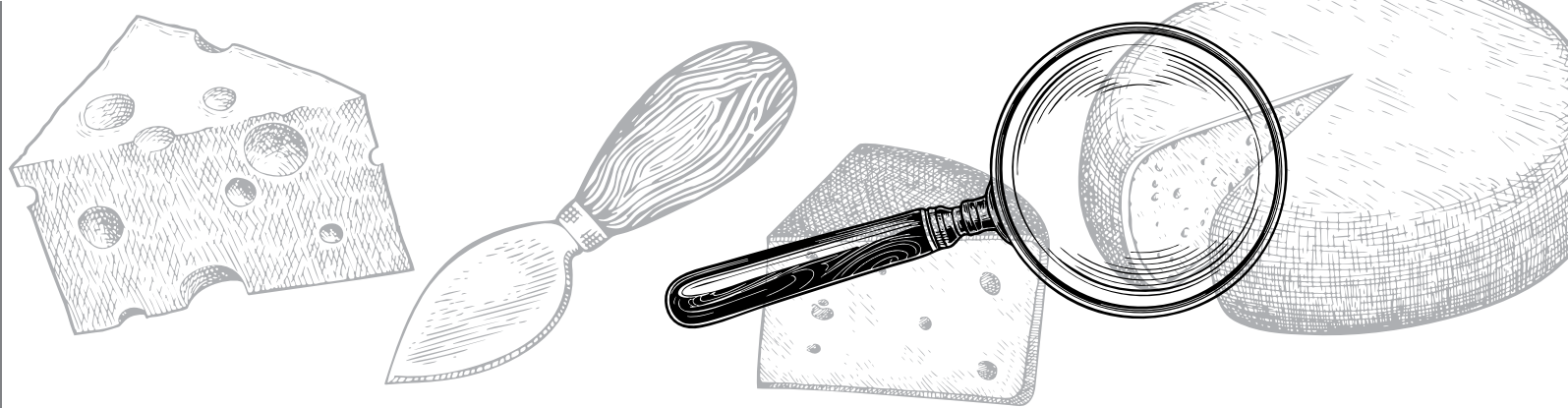
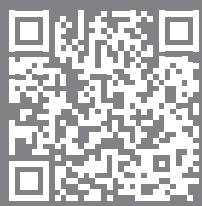
Wolfram Würzburg (1978-2026) died violently after falling out of his restaurant Les Fondue Bouquet, from an altitude of a thousand feet over the spot the restaurant had been moments before. Wolfram's wife of two years, Petit Fromage Würzburg, was not at the scene of the accident, but his business partner, Antoinette Solange, was and identified the body to authorities.

The Würzburg's had no children, and Wolfram's parents (Lengfeld and Franconia Würzburg) passed prior to their only son.

Wolfram Würzburg's remains are at Island County CSI Facilities, being separated from evidence of his encounter with the City of Langley.

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Members of Les Grassouillet Finnian Haddle, Natty Cumberbund, Antoinette Solange and Gusty Swank argue over possible solutions.

Local Critics Armed to the Teeth

Victoria Caviare, President of Les Grassouillet Langley Gourmand, is looking forward to the next City Council Meeting.

“The resolution we are presenting will show that Les Fondue Bouquet is far exceeding the EPA limits on air pollution,” Ms. Caviare stated earlier, “Herr Würzburg and his evil creation have to go!”

Natty Cumberbund, Chairman of the Gourmand’s Heave-Ho Committee also stated, “Those fondues smell vile!”

Gusty Swank, Chairwoman of the Gourmand’s Give ‘em a Break Committee retorted, “But they taste great!”

The City Council Meeting is shaping up to be a lively one. ■

Santa Claus Deal

Local entrepreneur Ray Lux has secured a contract with Christmas Gift Giant Santa Claus to supply pre-seasonal workers for Santa’s construction and assembly facilities at the North Pole. Starting in April, Mr. Lux will send at least fifty tech-savvy and artistically gifted young volunteers by zeppelin to assist the Santa Claus elves with their toy and accessory creations. These volunteers will be rotated in every thirty days until mid-November, weather permitting.

These all-volunteer flights will not be replacing the regularly scheduled zeppelin flights to tour the same Santa’s Village scheduled to be operating at the same time.

Also, please remember all zeppelin passengers will have to show proof of passing the zeppelin flying suit escape class prior to boarding.

Those interested can sign up at the Lux Enterprise facility off Saratoga Road starting on March first. True Believers given preference!

The zeppelin crews already take tourists to various tropical destinations and now they are also considering adding local whale watching tours. Since the zepps are silent there will be zero impact on the magnificent creatures or their environment. ■



Captain John Smith, Mysty Fairhaven and Cashion d’Barlhed discuss tour and trade routes for the coming season.

Heiress’s New Venture

After a year of legal battles, Sandy Francisco and her husband Anthony Esquire finally have clear legal ownership of the land known as the Ghirardelli Estate.

The Ghirardelli family hasn’t lived on the estate in decades but leased the land to the 49ers Men’s Club for most of that time. When the final original Ghirardelli passed away, Sandy’s claim that she inherited through her aunt was questioned by the 49ers who maintained that the land should be theirs. The disagreement became a public issue when former Mayor and the 49ers President, C.Z. Cash, was killed a year ago.

Sandy was eventually declared the legal owner and she and Tony moved into the

old club house. Although they’ve found the place run down they’ve revived the 49ers slug farm and are producing an assortment of Banana Slug products.


“Tony has developed some amazing recipes. We have powders which you can mix into liquids for all kinds of health benefits, and we are working on slug jerky and of course canned slugs. Who knew a lawyer could be so creative?” Sandy said.

Tony added “We really need a bigger space, our kitchen isn’t sufficient for the purging, slaughtering, processing and dehydration process. The old barn works well for ranching the slugs, but we need to be able to make more products if we will ever be able to give up our other jobs.” ■



Anthony Esquire and Sandy Francisco have revived the 49ers slug farm at the former Ghirardelli estate.

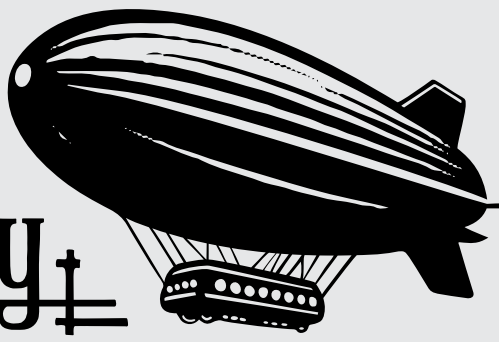
**THERE ARE
NO DILEMMAS
TOO PERPLEXING
FOR LANGLEY’S
TOP DETECTIVES
NOT TO SOLVE.**



Todd Moler and Delilah Sulkey of the Trench Coat Detective Agency have recently added Detective Inspector Bertrand Scuttles, his able assistant Clarice Darling, and Columbo Santiago for more problem solving. These detectives have what it takes to take what you have and run with it.

DON’T BE INTIMIDATED! BE VINDICATED!





Who's Where When?

On both Saturday and Sunday suspects might be found as scheduled below. They may be held up by other sleuths or police questioning and weather may be a factor. Look around: they may be hiding under a nearby awning or behind something that blocks the wind.

11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M. THE VILLAGE
Tony & Sandy with Mysty & Cashon

12- 1 P.M. CRIME SCENE
Ranger Ketchum with the Trench Coat Detectives

12:30 – 1:30 P.M. FOOD TENTS
Finnan, Antoinette, Victoria, Petit, Natty

1-2 P.M. – DOUBLE BLUFF BREWERY
All pirates & Zep Captains

1:30 – 2:30 P.M. – BOY AND DOG PARK
Ray, Josh, Natty and Horace

Captain Smith and perhaps other suspects at COMFORTS WINERY AFTER 5 P.M. SATURDAY.
 He tends to stay a while.

LOOK FOR SUSPECTS OFF SIDEWALKS AT:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| LANGLEY PARK | THE COMMONS |
| WHALE BELL PARK | THE VILLAGE |
| BOY AND DOG PARK | DOUBLE BLUFF BREWERY |
| THE CRIME SCENE | and near THE FOOD TENTS |

Coroner's Report

The body of Wolfram Würzburg was scooped up from the scene of the accident on the afternoon of 20 February 2026. The condition of the body was explained by eyewitnesses who saw the deceased fall from his restaurant front door as the restaurant was being attached to the cargo zeppelin Jolly Cargo as it hovered a thousand feet over the city.

A second body jumped from the same door a second later, but was seen to be wearing a Zeppelin Flying Suit and zoomed down, heading in the direction of Whidbey Island Center for the Arts (WICA), and disappeared from view.

As the deceased was not wearing a parachute nor a flying suit, it has been determined he had reached terminal velocity when he reached the ground. He was also not wearing a restraining device, so his impact on the city was terminal and instantaneous, albeit painless.

Witnesses agree he had moved his body to an erect position prior to impact and that he evidently knew his assailant as he had his arms raised upwards and fists clenched. Initial examination of the body corroborated this impression as he

was indeed giving someone the "last act of defiance" gesture.

Three items from the deceased were found next to the body. One was his wallet which contained his identification. The second was a partially torn piece of paper with the typed message "Be at your restaurant at 14:50 on Friday if you..." and the rest is missing. The third item was an envelope with currency, consisting of Euros, pounds, bucks, loonies and an IOU backed by 400 shares of Chevrier Fromage, which is evidently the company owned by his wife, Petit Fromage Würzburg.

All this evidence is now safely being analyzed by Island County Criminal Investigations in downtown Coupeville for anything incriminating.



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EMPLOYMENT

RESTAURANT NEEDS RELIABLE STAFF TO PACKAGE, SERVE AND DELIVER PRODUCTS REQUIRING SPECIAL HANDLING. CANDIDATES WITH ANOSMIA WILL RECEIVE PREFERENCE. CONTACT WOLFRUM WURZBERG.

SEEKING PERSONAL ASSISTANT. EASYGOING MAYOR AND BUSINESSWOMAN SEEKS HIGHLY ORGANIZED ASSISTANT. PRIMARY TASK IS KEEPING MY HIGHLY PACKED CALENDAR ORGANIZED AND KEEPING ME MEETING THE RIGHT PEOPLE AT THE RIGHT TIMES. CONTACT MAYOR JOSH DEFAX.

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 OF COURT RELEASED EVIDENCE AND LOST ITEMS.
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