



Artist transforms house into immersive experience

LIFE, D1



Day of the Dead: Event at Vancouver church celebrates Hispanic heritage

CLARK COUNTY, C1

The Columbian

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Leaders endorse minimum global tax

Yellen: Move by G-20 will benefit American businesses and workers

By DAVID McHUGH, FRANCES D'EMILIO and SYLVIE CORBET
Associated Press

ROME — Leaders of the world's biggest economies on Saturday endorsed a global minimum tax on corporations, a linchpin of new international tax rules aimed at blunting the edge of fiscal paradises amid skyrocketing profits of some multinational businesses.

The move by the Group of 20 summit in Rome was hailed by U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet L. Yellen as benefiting American businesses and workers.

G-20 finance ministers in July had already agreed on a 15 percent minimum tax. It awaited formal endorsement at the summit of the world's economic powerhouses Saturday in Rome.

Yellen predicted in a statement that the deal on new international tax rules, with a minimum global tax, "will end the damaging race to the bottom on corporate taxation."

The deal fell short of U.S. President Joe Biden's original call for a 21 percent minimum tax. Still, he tweeted his satisfaction.

"Here at the G20, leaders rep-
G20, Page A2



BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/Pool

President Joe Biden, right, is welcomed by Italian Premier Mario Draghi as he arrives at the La Nuvola conference center for the G-20 summit Saturday in Rome.

Thank you, E. coli

Vancouver's Absci uses bacteria to make 'exciting' drug discoveries



Photos by RANDY L. RASMUSSEN for The Columbian

Founder and CEO Sean McClain poses next to a mural in a lab at Absci Corp., headquartered in Vancouver, during a tour on Monday. The drug-discovery company, founded in Portland in 2011, moved to Vancouver in 2016.

By WILL CAMPBELL
The Columbian

The first thought to run through Sean McClain's head was something along the lines of: "We did it."

It was July 22 at the Nasdaq headquarters in New York. For hours, McClain had been in and out of meetings and interviews, awaiting the moment. The 32-year-old

entrepreneur, the founder and CEO of Absci Corp., had just witnessed his company's initial public offering.

Luckily for McClain, he was between interviews with national and international media when he saw the first trade. A stock trader who was analyzing the offerings and bids announced to him, his dad and his colleagues that Absci's stock price exceeded the initial \$16 price and was

first sold for \$21.

"I remember hugging my dad and getting a bug in my eye," McClain said.

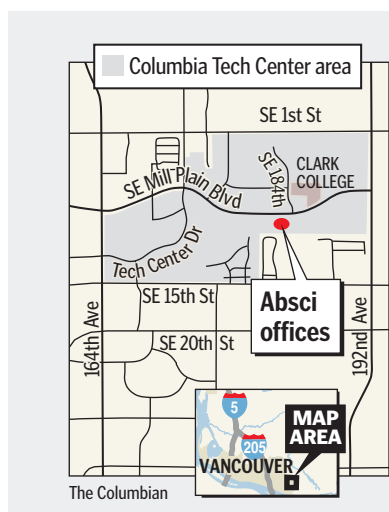
The moment immediately gave validation and a literal price of the worth of the company that McClain had built ever since he came up with the idea for Absci in college. The company now has 230 employees and is valued at roughly \$2 billion.

"We did it," he said as he sat

in his office at the new Absci headquarters in the Columbia Tech Center on Monday, reflecting on the experience. "It was an emotional day that was 10 years in the making."

On Tuesday, Absci will hold the grand opening for its new headquarters at 18105 S.E. Mill Plain Blvd., which holds the company that's now gained a world stage with its IPO.

ABSCI, Page A4



ABOUT ABSCI

A BIOTECH COMPANY

Headquarters: 18105 S.E. Mill Plain Blvd., Vancouver.

Founded: 2011.

Founder: Sean McClain, 32.

Employees: About 230.

IPO: July 22.

Estimated value: \$2 billion.



On Tuesday, Absci will hold the grand opening for its new headquarters at 18105 S.E. Mill Plain Blvd.

Councils, districts and measures: This off-year election is big

Ballots must be submitted by 8 p.m. Tuesday, Election Day

By SHARI PHIEL
The Columbian

There are just a few days left to cast your ballot in the Nov. 2 general election. With 35 city council and school, fire, cemetery, port and wastewater districts with open seats, along with 10 ballot measures, this year's ballot was especially long for an off-year election.

Here are some of the top races:

Vancouver mayor

Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle is being challenged for her seat by former Republican Party chair Earl Bowerman. The two candidates fundamentally disagree about what the job is and what it should entail.



McEnery-Ogle says her role is to represent the city council, as outlined by the city charter. Bowerman wants to adopt a form of local government that redistributes power from professional staff to elect-

ed officials.

Bowerman's top priority is clear-cut. If elected mayor, he said, he'll seek to provide more funding for law enforcement.

But increasing the ranks of police is more complicated than boosting funding, according to McEnery-Ogle. Finding good officers is difficult, she said, noting that the department has failed to fill its budgeted capac-

ity of officers since Police Chief James McElvain was hired nearly a decade ago.

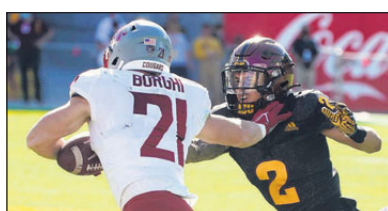
Bowerman also wants the city to stop supporting homeless programs, something he said is beyond its purview. McEnery-Ogle said she and the entire council support the plan to create three supported

ELECTION, Page A4



Ghostbusters: Slime, stars, scary fun is back

PARADE



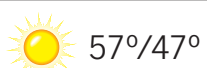
Washington State makes most of turnovers in beating Arizona State

SPORTS, B1



Greg Jayne: Inslee should count on Kimsey

OPINION, B4



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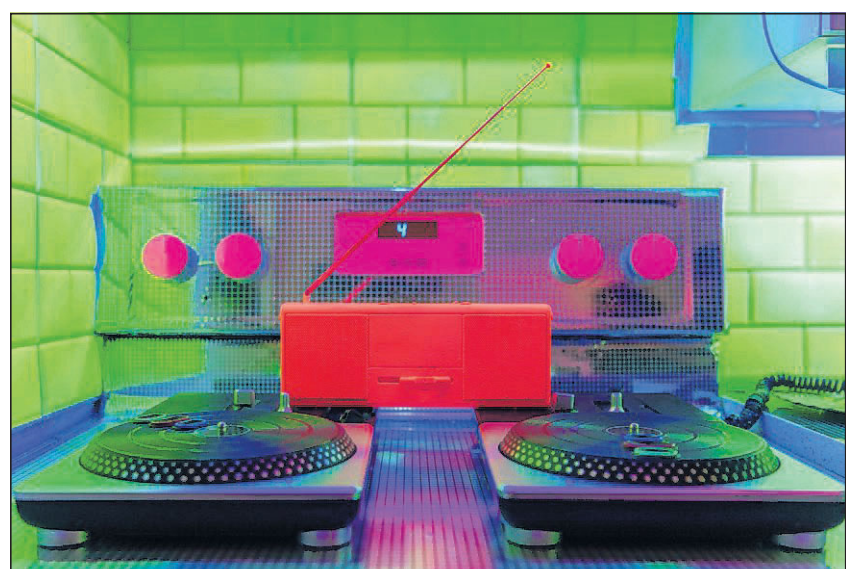
SUNDAY: \$3.00
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Photos by TAYLOR BALKOM/The Columbian

Installation artist Sol Cejas in The Haus of Luna's Gold Room, which is where she first started envisioning her future as an artist, she said. The Haus of Luna features seven strange rooms visitors can walk through in a journey of self-discovery that Cejas hopes will be both fun and meaningful.



What's cooking in the Haus of Luna kitchen? A neon orange radio sits atop "DJ Hero" turntables on the stove.

A neon "wow" and the smiling Mona Lisa prompt visitors to prepare themselves for a whimsical tour of The Haus of Luna art installation.



Take a 'trip to wonderland'

Art installation house offers seven rooms, journey of self-discovery

By SCOTT HEWITT
The Columbian

Walk in the door and you're face to face with "wow." Literally. The neon word glows beside the sly eyes of Mona Lisa, who's grinning at your surprise from a poster on the wall.

After that, "Wow!" might just keep coming out of your own mouth as you make the rounds of seven strange rooms in a house that feels like it's been surreally haunted for Halloween and beyond.

Open for 30-minute visits on most evenings through mid-December, The Haus of Luna is the artistic transformation of Sol Cejas' normal little house, just west of Clark College, into what she's subtitled "A Trip to Wonderland." Heads sprout

from the ceiling, CDs pop from the toaster, polka dots infect the bathroom and a spiky coronavirus the size of a soccer ball hangs out in a disco-mirrored room.

The virus is what gave birth to this journey through Cejas' house, she said. Visitors will notice lots of mirrors, emphasizing that the past 18 months have been a time of isolation and self-reflection for many. But visitors also have opportunities to play and laugh at all the colorful invention.

"Grab your shadow," Cejas said in a sprayed-white room where you can make colorful shadows by fooling around with toys in front of a light projector. "In life we fear shadows, but this is a way to make them more fun."

Installation art
Cejas grew up in Buenos Aires, Argentina. When she was
LUNA, Page D6

IF YOU GO

What: The Haus of Luna: A Trip to Wonderland
When: Most evenings, now through Dec. 13. Times vary, but 30-minute visiting periods generally begin at 6:30 p.m. and end at 8 p.m.
Where: Address provided to ticket holders; all visitors must have mask and proof of vaccination. Temperatures checked at the door.
Price: \$15
Information: www.solcejas.com

Learning new tricks after 30

By CARL STEINWACHS
Woodland

Young people today may not know that there was a certain amount of consternation among my fellow baby boomers about turning 30.

Some were freaking out about it, in the parlance of the day. I like to think I took the aging process in stride, even though I found myself a single dad raising a young daughter. Because of a Michael Keaton movie, men like myself were referred to as Mr. Mom.

But I also remember feeling a certain relief when I learned two new tricks after turning 30.

The first trick I learned was roller skating backward. I took my daughter roller skating so many times (cheap, fun family recreation) that, I think during the Hokey-Pokey ("You

EVERYBODY HAS A STORY

put your whole self in, you take your whole self out"), I realized I could skate in reverse. I quickly learned that stopping in reverse was the real trick.

The second trick I learned, post-30, was when someone showed me the basic three-ball juggle. Take this new skill and couple it with the fact I had learned to play a little guitar and harmonica when I was in my 20s in the 1970s, and I found I could entertain my daughter and her young friends and classmates.

I performed for them on numerous occasions, starting with kindergarten and also at Girl Scouts meetings and camp. I even won the

STORY, Page D3

INSIDE

Dear Annie

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Photos from the Attic

Page D3



Ron Howard's brother doing fine for himself

Page D4

Check It Out: Forget pumpkins — let's talk turkey



Page D6

What's new with Wonder Woman as she turns 80?

By ANDREW A. SMITH
Tribune News Service

Thursday, Oct. 21 was the very first Wonder Woman Day, as decreed by DC Comics. And all I can say is that it's about time.

Thursday is an odd day for a "Day." Comics arrive at comic shops on Tuesdays (DC Comics) and Wednesdays (everybody else), and Saturdays have a lot of foot traffic (so Free Comic Book Days are always scheduled on Saturdays). Those three days would be more of a natural "Day" than a Thursday.

But Oct. 21, 2021, is exactly 80 years from Oct. 21, 1941, when the Amazing Amazon made her first appearance. A nine-page preview depicting Wonder Woman's origin was published in the back of "All-Star Comics" #8, cover dated December 1941-Janu-

ary 1942, but appearing on newsstands in October.



COVER ART BY H.G. PETER/DC Comics

"Wonder Woman" the comic book debuted in 1942, but the character had already appeared in "Sensation Comics" earlier in the year and "All-Star Comics" in 1941.

"All-Star" was an appropriate place for WW's first appearance, because it starred the Justice Society of America. Wonder Woman joined that seminal superteam three issues later in 1942, as a "guest star during a national emergency" (this was the first issue written after Pearl Harbor), and as a member of the largely ceremonial "Justice Battalion," basically just another name for the JSA during the war (but giving them an official U.S. Army designation, to excuse them all from enlisting).

She formally joined the team in the next issue, as "secretary." Yes, secretary. Initially all she did was show up at the beginning and end and take notes, even though

COMICS, Page D6

Comics

From Page D1

she was one of the most powerful characters in the book! That bit was eventually dropped, and the Amazing Amazon joined the JSA on its adventures. But as a sign of the times, retirement of the “secretary” label took an unconscionably long time.

Meanwhile, Wonder Woman was a smash hit with readers.

A month after “All-Star” No. 8, a new anthology named “Sensation Comics” launched with Wonder Woman as its lead — which would remain true for the bulk of the title’s existence. A few months after that, “Wonder Woman” No. 1 debuted — one of the few titles in the ‘40s dedicated to a single character, and one of the even fewer that has continued to this day. She gained a fourth platform when “Comic Cavalcade” premiered near the end of 1942, an anthology headlined by Diana, Flash and Green Lantern.

The Princess of Power has had her ups and downs since then, but she is undoubtedly the most famous female superhero on Earth. And she’s finally getting her due, as DC celebrates not just Wonder Woman Day, but essentially Wonder Woman Month, and if you squint at it just right, Wonder Woman Year.

On Wonder Woman Day proper, DC released three free comics, samplers which may still be available at your local comic shop. They include:

- A reprint of “Wonder Woman” No. 1 from 2016, which was the beginning of the story that revealed her demigod nature. The rest of the story is available in collections such as “Wonder Woman: Lies” and “Wonder Woman: Rebirth Deluxe Edition”;

- An excerpt of “Diana: Princess of the Amazons,” a middle school graphic novel from January about the young Diana learning to fit in on an island of adults; and

- An excerpt from “Tempest Tossed,” a YA graphic novel from July with a very modern version of Diana’s introduction to “Man’s World,” one without Steve Trevor. Joining the usual set of problems — war, patriarchy, crime — are issues such as immigration, refugee camps, gentrification, poverty, human trafficking and the prison system.

On the comics publishing front, DC scheduled seven Wonder Woman titles in October (though one will be delayed to November). They include:

- “Nubia and the Amazons” No. 1, a new series starring the Black Wonder Woman, now queen of Themyscira;

- “Wonder Girl” No. 4, starring the first nonwhite



ART BY JULIAN TOTINO/DC Comics

“Wonder Woman: Black and Gold” No. 5 is one of the seven Amazon-centric comics titles from DC in October.

character of that name, a teenage Brazilian Amazon from, literally, the Amazon basin;

- “Wonder Woman” No. 780, written as a jumping-on point;

- “Wonder Woman 80th Anniversary 100-Page Super-Spectacular” No. 1, an anthology with stories set in different eras of the character’s eight decades;

- “Wonder Woman: Black and Gold” No. 5 (of 6), an anthology miniseries with stories colored only in black and gold;

- “Wonder Woman: The Adventures of Young Diana,” collecting a series of backup stories depicting an early coming-of-age adventure; and

- “Wonder Woman Historia: The Amazons” No. 1, an open-ended series of one-shots telling the history of the Amazons, beginning with the origin of Hippolyta.

Only four of these will be ongoing, one of which is the evergreen “Wonder Woman.” There are high hopes for “Wonder Girl,” written and drawn by the astonishingly talented Joelle Jones (“Lady Killer”), a character whose unconventional origin and infectious enthusiasm should be a springboard for a wealth of stories. “Nubia” is a long-awaited spotlight on a neglected member of the Wonder cast, and there isn’t anyone in the comics community who isn’t intrigued by “Historia” — a blank canvas on which anything can be written.

Wonder Woman is also well represented in hardback collections.

“Wonder Woman: 80 Years of the Amazon Warrior” and “Wonder Woman: Through the Years” both collect special stories from the last eight decades, usually first appearances, origins or significant events. Somehow, the two books manage to cover many of the same important topics without duplication.

The third book, a YA anthology, shifts focus from Wonder Woman to trailblazing women IRL. “Wonderful Women of the World” features profiles and portraits of 23 influential women.

Luna

From Page D1

a kid, she said, her parents saw her artistic passion as a pleasant distraction, nothing more.

“Art wasn’t fostered where I grew up. It was, ‘That’s cute. What a nice hobby,’” she said.

Cejas pursued the path she felt she was supposed to by studying accounting in college, but it never felt right.

“Something was missing,” Cejas recalled. She added with a laugh, “I was not fit for accounting.”

Cejas came to Vancouver with her now-ex-husband in 2006, and bought the little house near Clark College in 2012, she said. She has since moved elsewhere, but kept this property as a rental.

“I put a lot of energy into it and I have so many good memories of working on the house,” Cejas said, adding that she rediscovered and renewed her artistic self in the process. Eventually Cejas enrolled in art and design classes at Clark.

“Clark gave me the foundation,” she said. “It is a great school.”

After a couple of years there, she transferred to Portland State University and obtained a degree in graphic design in spring 2020, just as the pandemic was revving up. Her last PSU class was online only, she said.

Since then, Cejas has worked in design and branding for businesses including salons, spas and magazines, as well as pursuing her own painting projects. But, she said, there’s a special place in her heart for what’s called installation art — that is, large-scale, three-dimensional art that’s intended to transform a place.

Installation art is the opposite of an image inside a frame. It tends to be interactive and immersive, beckoning visitors to explore and experience with all their senses. Most top 10 lists of great art installations include Dale Chihuly’s Garden and Glass in



Photo by TAYLOR BALKOM/The Columbian

The bathroom is not usually anyone’s favorite room, artist Sol Cejas said, but stepping into this one is like stepping into a cartoon.

Seattle. The Grant Street Pier and the Vancouver Land Bridge are local examples of permanent installation art.

“Space has always influenced me so much,” Cejas said. “It influences how all people feel, more than they realize. Your energy and mood can change, depending on the space, in very big ways — but also in small ways you don’t consciously notice.”

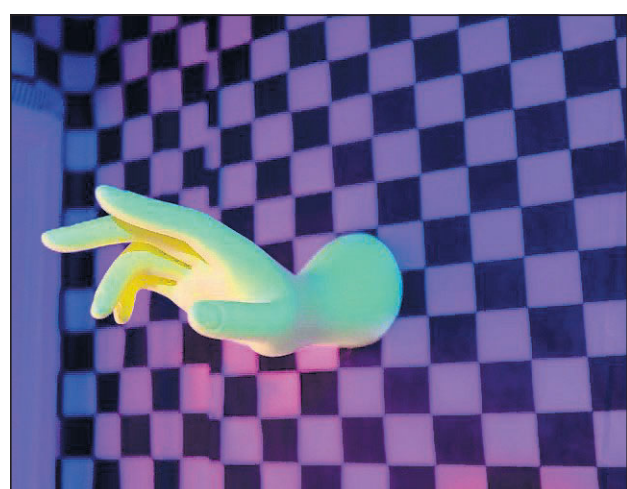
Free association

Cejas dreamed up an installation art project for her little house just as the coronavirus pandemic was hitting hard in early 2020, so the idea had to wait. This year, Cejas spent \$2,000 and about five months shopping for colored lights, spray paint (as hard to find these days as toilet paper, she said) and strange decorations like the many heroic busts that seem to meet your gaze wherever you go inside the Haus.

“I used intentionally jarring and surprising imagery as a way to speak directly to the subconscious,” Cejas writes in an online artist’s statement.

“Bright neon colors, shiny surfaces, and varied textures were implemented to stimulate and enhance the senses, as well as to play tricks on the mind with unexpected and illogical juxtapositions.”

You can take a guided



A neon yellow hand reaches out from a checkerboard wall at Sol Cejas’ Haus of Luna art installation.

tour with the artist, who enjoys describing how the rooms line up with artistic themes as well as her own life story. For example, you’d never know unless she told you that the raw, cavelike “Gold Room” where the tour begins is where Cejas first began envisioning her own shiny artistic future.

Next is the kitchen, that classic too-small family gathering place, overstuffed with joy and energy: pink-and-black checkerboard on the floor, turntables on the stovetop, disco balls on the counter.

“I’m a child of the ‘80s,” said Cejas, pointing out the rotary wall phone.

While the experience may get serious if you try, just plain fun is clearly the heart of the Haus of Luna.

Look no further than the polka-dotted bathroom. Cejas applied every single dot by hand, she said.

“A bathroom is not seen as so glamorous, so I wanted to make it very fun,” she said. “Now it’s more like being inside a comic strip.”

But Cejas need not narrate your experience, she said. Visitors who want to find their own meanings and private insights are welcome to explore the Haus of Luna on their own, she said.

“You can see different versions of yourself in different ways,” she said. “It’s a journey of self-discovery and free association.”

Scott Hewitt: 360-735-4525; scott.hewitt@columbian.com

Take break from pumpkin and let’s talk turkey

Happy pumpkin day! Or not? I read an article recently about the explosion of pumpkin-flavored products available to consumers, and it made me wonder if food marketing executives have finally gone over the edge with pumpkin promotions. How do you feel about it? Have you had your fill of pumpkins for 2021?

I have a solution: let’s talk turkey. In this case, turkey-themed picture books. There is something quite wonderful about fictional gobblers going to school, making friends and eating blackberries. My fondness for real turkeys blossomed several years ago when a neighbor brought two turkeys to his property. I had never lived next door to turkeys, so I had no idea how chatty they could be — not just with each other but anyone who cared to engage in conversation. They gobbled, I gobbled, and merrily did I chat with my fowl-mouthed friends.

Here’s to everything turkey!

- “How to Catch a Turkey” written by Adam Wallace, illustrated by Andy Elkerton.

A school play about Thanksgiving instills a case of stage fright in one of the play’s key characters — yes, you guessed it, a turkey. Will there be a curtain call for our feathered friend?

- “There Was a Turkey on the Farm” written and illustrated by Valeri Gorbachev.

At first glance, farm friends are difficult to come by for a lonely turkey. Hens — too busy; roosters — too loud; goats — those

horns! But when the turkey ventures outside of the farm and meets a “friendly” fox, her barnyard companions come to her rescue.

- “Turkey Goes to School” written by Wendi Silvano, illustrated by Lee Harper.

Before the school year starts, Turkey and his farm pals practice reading, writing and arithmetic skills. But when they try to ride the school bus, they find themselves firmly booted off — no animals allowed! You can’t keep ‘em down on the farm forever with scholastic chops like that, so leave it to clever Turkey to find a way for nonhuman students to get an education.

- “Turkey Tot” written by George Shannon, illustrated by Jennifer K. Mann.

Did you know that Turkey Tot has figured out how a way to eat out-of-reach blackberries? Goats may be the answer when it comes to blackberry vine eradication, but high-hanging berries need Turkey Tot’s creativity (and engineering skills) for tasty consumption.

- “The Very Stuffed Turkey” written by Katharine Kenah, illustrated by Binny Talib.

A turkey turns the table on the traditional Thanksgiving story by indulging in five dinners served by his barnyard friends. That’s one plump gobbler.

Jan Johnston is the collection development coordinator for the Fort Vancouver Regional Libraries. Email her at readingforfun@fvrl.org.

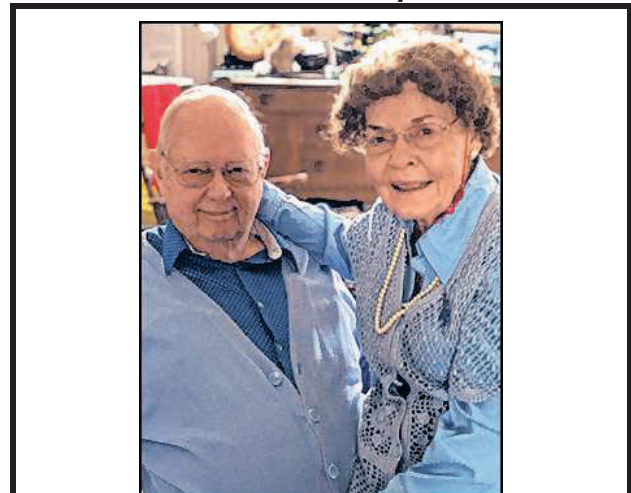


Jan Johnston

Check It Out

Milestones
The Columbian
www.columbian.com/milestones

66th Anniversary!



LYLE AND PHYLLIS JEAN SPEARS 66TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY!

Lyle and Phyllis Jean Spears of Vancouver, Washington, will be celebrating their 66th wedding anniversary on November 3rd, 2021. The couple married in 1955 in Eugene, Oregon, and moved to Vancouver in 1967. They have three children: Gordon (Betty) Spears, Jeff Spears, and Mark (Megan) Spears. They have five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

NEW AT THE LIBRARY

This is just a small sampling of the many new titles added each week to the Fort Vancouver Regional Library District collection. Visit the district’s 15 locations, our website at www.fvrl.org, or call 360-906-5000 to reserve titles or find additional listings.

FICTION

“The Healing of Natalie Curtis” by Jane Kirkpatrick.

“Hyde” by Craig Russell.
“Love, Chai, and Other Four-Letter Words” by Annika Sharma.

NONFICTION

“Liberty is Sweet: The Hidden History of the American Revolution” by Woody Holton.
“Lidia’s a Pot, a Pan, and a Bowl: Simple Recipes for Perfect Meals” by Lidia Bastianich.
“Ultimate Guide to Furniture Repair & Refinishing: Restore, Rebuild,

and Renew Wooden Furniture” by Brian D. Hingley.

CHILDREN

“The Complete Cookbook for Young Scientists: Good Science Makes Great Food” by America’s Test Kitchen.
“Minecraft: Mob Squad” by Delilah S. Dawson.
“Olwen Finds Her Wings” written by Nora Surojegin, illustrated by Pirkko-Liisa Surojegin.

BEST-SELLERS

The Pacific Northwest Independent bestseller list is brought to you by IndieBound and Pacific Northwest Booksellers Association for the week ending Oct. 24. It is based on reporting from the independent booksellers of the PNBA and IndieBound. Titles shown with an asterisk mark before the name are not listed on the comparable National Independent Bestseller list for the same week.

HARDCOVER FICTION

1. “The Lincoln Highway” by Amor Towles, Viking.
2. “Cloud Cuckoo Land” by Anthony Doerr, Scribner.
3. “State of Terror” by Louise Penny, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Simon & Schuster/St. Martin’s Press.
4. “The Judge’s List” by John Grisham, Doubleday.
5. “Oh William!” by Elizabeth Strout, Random House.
6. “Bewilderment” by Richard Powers, Norton.
7. “Under the Whispering Door” by TJ Klune, Tor.
8. “Crossroads” by Jonathan Franzen, FSG.
9. “The Madness of Crowds” by Louise Penny, Minotaur.
10. “Harlem Shuffle” by Colson Whitehead, Doubleday.

HARDCOVER NONFICTION

1. “The Book of Hope” by Jane Goodall, Douglas Abrams, Gail Hudson, Celadon Books.
2. “Peril” by Bob Woodward, Robert Costa, Simon & Schuster.
3. “The Storyteller” by Dave Grohl, Dey Street Books.
4. “Where the Deer and the Antelope Play” by Nick Offerman, Dutton.
5. “Orwell’s Roses” by Rebecca Solnit, Viking.
6. “Facing the Mountain” by Daniel James Brown, Viking.
7. “Crying in H Mart” by Michelle Zauner, Knopf.
8. “The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse” by Charlie Mackesy, HarperOne.
9. “Finding the Mother Tree” by Suzanne Simard, Knopf.
10. “A Carnival of Snackery” by David Sedaris, Little, Brown.