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"We've reached a milestone."

United General signs lease agreement with PeaceHealth.



Public Hospital District No. 304 Board President Chuck Ruhl signs a lease agreement authorizing PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center to lease and operate what will become PeaceHealth United General Medical Center effective July 1, 2013. Looking on are Public Hospital District No. 304 Commissioners (standing, left to right) Bob Stanley, David Walker, Jeri Kaufman, and Gary Kent. Seated with Ruhl is Nancy Tieman, Vice President of Strategy, Innovation and Development at PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center.

See story, p. 17.

Tires LES SCHWAB

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Are you winter ready?

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Come see the team at
Pat Rimmer Les Schwab for
all your winter needs!

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Concrete Herald

The Voice of Eastern Skagit County

Jason K. Miller, publisher and editor 360.853.8213 / editor@concrete-herald.com

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From the editor

Good things coming in 2013

With 2013 just around the corner, I find myself looking ahead and wanting to share a few items with my readers.

First, I'm going to borrow a publishing method popularized by Charles Dickens during the Victorian period, and begin publishing a monthly serialized story by our own Upper Valley author and playwright, Nicola Pearson. She's been working on a new detective series, "The Callum Lange Mysteries," set in the Upper Skagit. Callum Lange is a retired New York City detective who moved to 80 acres on Sauk Mountain to get away from crime—only to find himself getting sucked right back in! Chapter One of the first mystery, *The Case of the Barking Dog*, will be published in the January issue of *Concrete Herald*, with a new chapter published in each of the next six or seven issues. You'll find it on page 38 of each issue. Let me know what you think!

In April 2013, *Concrete Herald* will celebrate its fourth year of existence after

See Editorial, p. 38

Opinion

Letters to the editor

Bark Park a worthy idea

I am a proud owner of a Min Pin and a mutt. Gibbs is my Min Pin and Ruby is our fluffy mutt, and we live in the beautiful city of Concrete. I am writing this letter to you in hopes that the city of Concrete will some day get a bark park.

Right now the nearest one is in Sedro-Woolley, and we drive downriver almost every weekend so that Gibbs and Ruby can have some free time off leash. I know that having a bark park would be a great thing for Concrete. There are a great number of people who walk their dogs in the field by the community garden. A bark park would be a great way for dog owners to socialize, as well as their dogs.

Tabitha Hicks
Concrete

YD staffers thank local merchants

It's that time of year again: Concrete Youth Dynamics is in full swing and the kids are loving it.

On behalf of our YD staff, we would like to thank our local merchants for their generous donations for our Harvest Party and Christmas Party. Their contributions are much appreciated!

The following merchants donated gift certificates or merchandise: Albert's Red Apple Market, Annie's Pizza Station, Cascade Burgers, Cascade Supply, Concrete Thrift Store, Java Zone, Loggers Landing, Matty's on Main, New 2 U Consignment, Perks Espresso, Secret Garden Styling Salon, and Wolf Hair Design.

Please give our local merchants a personal "thank-you" for supporting Youth Dynamics.

Also a big thank-you to the individuals who contribute food for our Monday night meetings, gas and maintenance for our vans, and financial support and

scholarships to help kids attend outings; e.g., raft trips. Your support of our high schoolers is much appreciated and keeps YD going here in Concrete!

Mary Jane Rensink
Concrete

Walters: Time to move forward

I want to thank those who supported and voted for me. I am honored and humbled by your trust.

Throughout the campaign I visited thousands of voters who were looking for a change to the status quo; for a more open, inclusive, honest, and responsive government. I happily ran my race to offer that kind of quality representation and I carried that message throughout the 39th.

See Letters, p. 3

Letters policy

Letters of 200 words or fewer may be e-mailed to letters@concrete-herald.com or sent to Concrete Herald, P.O. Box 682, Concrete, WA 98237. Writers must include their name and town or community for publication, plus a daytime telephone number for confirmation purposes. *Concrete Herald* reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity, accuracy, spelling, grammar, and potentially libelous statements. So be nice.

Corrections

In the November issue of *Concrete Herald*, an article on the Marblemount page incorrectly gave Sacha Buller's name as a contact person for a December event. The name should have been Sasa (who goes by her first name only).

Also in the November issue, the I-1183 article included a statement that the state markup will decrease by 17 percent in 2013. That won't be true unless it's voted out by the legislature. The current 10 percent fee that distributors have to pay (and that is passed on to retailers) will be reduced to 5 percent in 2013, however.

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Now it's about moving forward. We can't just retreat to our different corners. That's what creates gridlock. Stay involved. The government is yours. You can choose to participate or just stand by and watch. Either way, realize that your choice directly affects the outcome.

Finally, I wish you all good health and prosperity in the coming year. I am hopeful that the economy will continue to improve and for those who have persevered without, that you get that new job. It has been a long time coming.

Eleanor Walters
Snohomish

Brad and John live broadcast

We hope everyone in the region will help us celebrate the success of the Donate to Digital campaign for the Concrete Theatre by joining Brad and John (KISM 92.9 FM) for their live broadcast from the theater on Fri., Dec. 14. The show runs from 6 to 9:30 a.m.

It will be a party with refreshments and prizes, so be sure to come and bring a friend to take part in the festivities! If you haven't bought a seat yet, this is a good time to do it. If you can't afford the cost of a seat, any contribution in the collection

box in the lobby is greatly appreciated.

Bill Pfeifer
Concrete

Town seeks support letters

Town of Concrete seeks letters of support to include with a grant application for its proposed new Public Safety building.

Letters may be written by community members or public safety enforcement agencies, and should include an explanation of why the writer or organization supports the new facility.

The proposed building would be located between the Superior Building and the community garden on Main St. in Concrete, on the site of the old tennis courts.

The town's current public safety building is in a deteriorating state and also is not capable of housing the town's future emergency response equipment. The current building's location within the dam inundation zone also is cited as a reason to build a new structure.

Letters may be sent to:

Town of Concrete
 Attn: Public Safety Building
 P.O. Box 39
 Concrete, WA 98237

Applicants needed for scholarship fund

Town of Concrete is accepting applications for the Association of Washington Cities' Center for Quality Communities Scholarship fund.

The scholarship is available through a statewide competitive process for students who are actively engaged in their city or town government, and/or community and/or city government, and plan to attend post-secondary school in fall 2013.

To be eligible, a student must be graduating from high school, home school, or receiving a GED in spring/summer 2013; live and attend school within the Concrete School District; plan to continue his or her education at an accredited, post-secondary institution in

the 2013–14 academic year on a half-time or more basis; and have been involved with a city or town government or with a community/school leadership activity.

Information and application materials can be obtained at the Concrete High School office, the Concrete Town Hall, or at www.cfqc.org. Completed applications are due no later than 4:30 p.m. on Fri., Feb. 15. Submit completed materials to:

Town of Concrete
 Attention: Andrea Fichter
 P.O. Box 39
 Concrete, WA 98237

Applications also may be hand-delivered to Concrete Town Hall at 45672 Main St. in Concrete.

For more information, call 360.853.8401 or e-mail andrea@concretewa.gov.

Local family displaced by fire

Grasmere and Concrete firefighters responded to a blaze at 44975 Grasmere Rd. Nov. 17. The cause of the fire was structural wood igniting next to the chimney.

"Pretty much the whole attic was gone," said Grasmere Fire Chief Rod Coffell.

The single-family home was rendered unlivable, displacing a family of three and their dog.

The homeowners need to replace their clothing and food. Anyone wishing to donate these items or cash is asked to call 360.853.8004 or 360.202.5589.

Tickets \$5

All proceeds to benefit the Sedro-Woolley Museum

20th Anniversary

Holiday

HOME TOUR

Saturday, December 8

4 to 5 p.m. at the Sedro-Woolley Museum Homes open from 5 to 9 p.m.

Stroll the streets!

Visit historical homes!

Listen to Christmas music!

Get into the holiday spirit!

For more information, call 360.855.0203

Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Sedro-Woolley Museum at 725 Murdock St. or at Oliver-Hammer Clothing, downtown Sedro-Woolley. Tickets also available at the door. Nonguided tour; flashlight suggested.

This holiday season,

give a gift certificate from these local businesses

Cascade Burgers
 45292 State Route 20, Concrete
 (360) 853-7580

Perks Espresso & Deli
 44586 State Route 20, Concrete
 www.perksespresso.vpweb.com
 (360) 853-9006

Annie's Pizza Station
 44568 State Route 20, Concrete
 (360) 853-7227

Concrete Theatre
 45920 Main Street, Concrete
 www.concrete-theatre.com
 (360) 941-0403

Birdsview Brewing Company
 38302 St Rt 20, Concrete
 www.birdsviewbrewingcompany.com
 (360) 826-3406

Ovenell's Heritage Inn
 46276 Concrete Sauk Valley Rd, Concrete
 www.ovenells-inn.com
 (360) 853-8494

www.concrete-wa.com | 360.853.8784

Election 2012

General election results—in case you missed them.*

INITIATIVES

I-1185: Tax and fee increases

Yes 63.91 percent PASSED
 No 36.09 percent

I-1240: Public charter school system

Yes 50.69 percent PASSED
 No 49.31 percent

R-74: Same-sex marriage

Yes 53.7 percent PASSED
 No 46.3 percent

I-502: Marijuana

Yes 55.7 percent PASSED
 No 44.3 percent

R-8221: Washington's debt limit

Yes 62.91 percent PASSED
 No 37.09 percent

R-8223: Investments by UW and WSU

Yes 43.99 percent
 No 56.01 percent REJECTED

FEDERAL

President/Vice President

Barack Obama/Joe Biden 56.16 percent
 Mitt Romney/Paul Ryan 41.29 percent
 Gary Johnson/James Gray 1.35 percent

U.S. Senator

Maria Cantwell 60.45 percent
 Michael Baumgartner 39.55 percent

Congressional Dist. 1 - U.S. Rep.

Suzan DelBene 53.94 percent
 John Koster 46.06 percent

Congressional Dist. 2 - U.S. Rep.

Rick Larsen 61.14 percent
 Dan Matthews 38.86 percent

STATE EXECUTIVE

Governor

Jay Inslee 51.54 percent
 Rob McKenna 48.46 percent

Lt. Governor

Brad Owen 53.68 percent
 Bill Finkbeiner 46.32 percent

Secretary of State

Kim Wyman 50.38 percent
 Kathleen Drew 49.62 percent

State Treasurer

Jim McIntire 58.71 percent
 Sharon Hanek 41.29 percent

Commissioner of Public Lands

Peter J. Goldmark 58.74 percent
 Clint Didier 41.26 percent

Superintendent of Public Instruction

Randy I. Dorn 100 percent

LEGISLATIVE

Dist. 10 - State Senator

Barbara Bailey 52.82 percent
 Mary Margaret Haugen 47.18 percent

Dist. 39 - State Senator

Kirk Pearson 57.62 percent
 Scott Olson 42.38 percent

Dist. 39 - State Rep. Pos. 1

Dan Kristiansen 55.4 percent
 Linda Wright 44.6 percent

Dist. 39 - State Rep. Pos. 2

Elizabeth Scott 53.45 percent
 Eleanor Walters 46.55 percent

SKAGIT COUNTY

Commissioner #1

Ron Wesen 59.08 percent
 Nick Petrish 40.92 percent

Commissioner #2

Kenneth A. Dahlstedt 51.02 percent
 April Axthelm 48.98 percent

Sedro-Woolley Prop. 1, Sales & Use Tax

Approved 60.76 percent
 Rejected 39.24 percent

Sedro-Woolley Rural Partial-County Library District

Yes 60.14 percent
 No 39.86 percent

Skagit PUD Commissioner 2

Robbie Robertson 55.57 percent
 Mike Newman 44.43 percent

Supreme Court Justice Pos. 9

Sheryl Gordon McCloud 53.14 percent
 Richard B. Sanders 46.86 percent

*Partial listing. Go to <http://vote.wa.gov/results/current/default.htm> for complete federal and state election results. Complete Skagit County election results are posted at <http://vote.wa.gov/results/current/skagit>.



Guests of honor at the Nov. 9 Veterans Day Assembly at Concrete High School, local retired veterans stood and were recognized during the ceremony. From left, Army Staff Sergeant Jerry Banks, Marine Corps Private First Class Adolph Nieshe, Air Force Staff Sergeant John Boggs, Marine Corps Sergeant E-5 Murle Brown, and Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Lynn Torset. Standing next to Torset is Carol, his wife.

Remembering our veterans

The Nov. 13 Veterans Day Parade in Concrete was preceded by a Nov. 9 assembly at Concrete High School.

Students packed the gym for the event, which featured musical numbers from a combined elementary and high school band, as well as the Concrete High School Choir.

Front-row seats were given to the event's guests of honor: local veterans who attended the emotional proceedings.

Former Concrete town councilman Paul Rider, a staff sergeant with the Washington Air National Guard, spoke with fervor to the audience. He focused on the core values of the U.S. Air Force and Washington Air National Guard—Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence In All We Do—and tied those values to the lives of veterans and high school students.

Rider mentioned local men Len Simpson and Robert Allen Fabrick, both veterans who passed away recently.

"These were humble men who served their nation well and then followed it up by serving their communities and their families with these same core values," said Rider.

Rider closed with an exhortation to the students: "This Veterans Day, honor the sacrifices of those who have passed away and those who stand among us, by marching with courage to the higher places your eyes long to gaze at, to blaze

trails for future generations to succeed upon, and to dream dreams that will make a difference for every boy and girl who has yet to see this place. In your lives, honor the past actions of our veterans by echoing in your heart the words of our great president Abraham Lincoln, who once said, 'Whatever you are, be a good one.'"



Concrete citizen Paul Rider, a staff sergeant with the Washington Air National Guard, speaks during the Veterans Day Assembly at Concrete High School Nov. 9.

Breakfast with Mrs. Claus

Saturday, December 15, 2012

Coho Cafe at United General Hospital

Two seatings: 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

\$10 each / adult

\$ 5 each / kids 12 & under

Join the United General Auxiliary for a festive holiday morning with Mrs. Claus. Enjoy a delicious breakfast that includes french toast, eggs, fruit, bacon and sausage. Table activities will include crafts and letters to Santa (which she promises to deliver!). Mrs. Claus will be happy to have her picture taken with each child. Photos will be printed and available onsite.

Seating is limited and tickets must be reserved in advance. Order your tickets by:

- Stopping at the United General Hospital main desk.
- Calling (360) 856-7245 to make a reservation to be held at Will Call.

www.unitedgeneral.org/MrsClaus

The United General Hospital Auxiliary raises funds for patients and programs at United General Hospital.



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www.skagitsownfishmarket.com
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Council summary

Concrete Town Council met for regular meetings Nov. 13 and 26. A Budget Workshop preceded the Nov. 13 meeting. Following are summaries of those meetings and the workshop. Complete minutes for every council meeting are posted on the town's Web site at www.townofconcrete.com/cminutes.php.

Nov. 13 Budget Workshop: 2013 Budget Proposals

- Certain revenue streams and expenditures will require close monitoring during 2013. With the additional decline in property tax assessments for 2013, the town will also see a decline in property tax revenues. With Puget Sound Energy finishing up its project, the town will see a decline in the sales tax revenues

received. Those two tax-base revenues are a major portion of the General Fund revenues and are used to pay the Sheriff's contract. When the Sheriff's contract comes up for negotiations and renewal toward the end of 2013, the town may want to research options for reducing the cost of this contract, either by reducing hours, reducing coverage, or not renewing the contract, but allowing the Sheriff's deputies to still use the office. Sewer fund utility rates should be reviewed throughout 2013 to ensure the rates are sufficient to support the sewer fund.

- Town Clerk Andrea Fichter reported on cost-saving research that is under way. Public Works director Alan Wilkins is looking at electrical costs at the wastewater treatment plant to see if those costs could possibly be

reduced. Corrina Koenig worked with Frontier to reduce the town's phone bills. Fichter reported that she is looking into switching banks for online banking and direct deposits for payroll, as well as canceling the rug service provided by Aramark, which also will reduce some costs.

- Mayor Wilson offered to eliminate his base pay. Jason Miller and Marla Reed both disagreed with this offer. They stated the mayor position requires making and answering phone calls, responding to e-mails, and attending additional meetings, all of which are paid for by the base pay.

Nov. 13 Regular Meeting

- Concrete citizen Bill Chamness inquired into the possibility of a culvert for Lorenzen Creek, where it passes beneath Superior Ave. South. Permit procedures and permit windows were discussed. The town is not within a permit window at this time. Wilkins is working with the county to resolve the creek issue. Other options—including rerouting the creek through Silo Park—are still being examined, but this strategy would be very expensive.

- Mayor Wilson reported on the meeting that was held regarding the planned new Public Safety Building. He stated that Representative Pearson, Congressman Larsen, a representative from Maria Cantwell's office, Skagit County DEM, and a few FEMA representatives were all in attendance at the meeting, as well as other staff, citizens, and town officials. He stated that it was reported that FEMA only has funding for the demolition of the old building and nothing to contribute to the new building. He reported a new letter of intent would need to be submitted to FEMA for the demolition of the old building. Mayor Wilson also reported that once awarded the funds from FEMA, the town would have three years to spend those funds. Mayor Wilson also reported that a \$3 million request has been submitted for funds from the State Capital Budget.

- Deputy Freddy Harrison reported on some issues at the quarry north of town. He reported the Sheriff's deputies have been in contact with Cal Portland and will have emphasis patrols in that area. He also reported they have received permission from Cal Portland to issue trespassing

See Council, p. 38

THIS AND THAT

By J. K. M.

Did you hear? For the second year in a row, our own **Annie's Pizza Station** was in the top five of the KING5 Best of Western Washington contest in the Pizza category of Cheap Eats. The hometown eatery placed fifth this year—out of more than 225 pizza nominees. “We thank our customers!” said owner Anne Bussiere.

Concrete Lions Club Annual Christmas Tree Sale returns this month. Trees will be sold on a sliding scale: \$20, \$30, and up. You'll find Lions Club members in George Theodoratus' field immediately west of Loggers Landing in Concrete, on Dec. 8–9, and 15. The lot will be set up by 8 a.m. each day, with Lions Club members waiting to help you pick out the perfect tree.

All proceeds go back into the community. The Lions Club is known for its help with eyeglasses, hearing aids, school needs, and many other efforts.

The “**Sharing Tree**” is back at the Concrete Resource Center. Stop by and choose an “angel” ornament from the tree, which will tell you the type of recipient for which you can buy a gift (boy/girl, age).

Pick up your angel by Dec. 14 and return your wrapped gift to the Resource Center by Dec. 18. It's just that easy! Questions? Call 360.853.7009.

Next month the **Fourth Annual Recycled Art Contest** returns for another round of reused creations. Artistic crafters of all ages are invited to submit entries for the event, which is held as part of the Skagit Eagle Festival Jan. 12–13 at Concrete Community Center.

Entries must be at least 60 percent recycled or repurposed materials, and should be easily portable. Complete entry forms are available at Annie's Pizza Station or Northwest Garden Bling. There is no fee for entries, and prizes will be presented to winners chosen by popular vote from viewers. Deadline for entries is January 10.

For more information, call 360.708.3279 or e-mail pizzaannieb@netscape.net.

A note of condolence for **Carol Fabrick** on the passing of her dear husband, Allen. He was a good, kind man who believed in engaging in his community and was one of the regulars at meetings and events. We will miss him greatly and wish peace and comfort for Carol in his absence.



Remembering Allen ...

Members of the Concrete Planning Commission paused during their Nov. 6 meeting to remember one of their own. Robert Allen Fabrick—known as Allen to most in the area—was a member of the Planning Commission and actively involved in the Concrete community. He passed away Oct. 29 in Reno, Nev., after a valiant fight against cancer. Shown from left are Planning Commission members George Theodoratus, Bruce Newburn, Don Payne, and Jason Driver. *Photo by Jeroldine Hallberg.*

Master Gardener Program seeks volunteer educators

The WSU Skagit County Extension Master Gardener Program is accepting applications for its 2013 Master Gardener Annual Training. Master Gardener volunteer educators will receive WSU computer-based course work, along with 10 weeks of classroom meetings for hands-on activities in home horticulture, integrated pest management, and plant problem diagnosis from WSU specialists and other experts.

The Master Gardener online coursework with weekly assignments is done on the student's own schedule, with group meetings each Tuesday at Padilla Bay Interpretive Center in Bay View beginning Jan. 8. The cost of the Master Gardener training is \$400. A refund of \$100 will be given to those Master Gardener interns completing their 60 hours of volunteer work in their first year. Every following year, 25 volunteer hours are required to remain in the Master Gardener program.

Master Gardener volunteers provide the Skagit County community with unbiased, research-based information relating to home horticulture through approved

Master Gardener projects.

Those unable to commit to Master Gardener volunteer hours can sign up as a “Pro Hort” participant. The “Pro Hort” fee is \$500 for educational materials and training with no commitment to give back the required volunteer hours. The Pro Hort certificate will not include Master Gardener designation.

To request an application, call 360.428.4270, ext. 0, go online to <http://www.skagit.wsu.edu/MG/apply.htm>, or write to WSU Skagit County Extension Master Gardener Program, 11768 Westar Lane, Ste. A, Burlington, WA 98233.

Did you hear?

The Concrete Theatre “Donate to Digital” campaign has reached \$46,517!

Find out how you can help reach the goal of \$50,000: www.concrete-theatre.com.



Skagit Farmers Supply
915 Moore St. • Sedro Woolley
(360) 856-6567

Get ready for the holidays at Skagit Farmers Supply!

\$5 off* any purchase



\$5.00 COUPON



Offer valid through December 31, 2012 at Skagit Farmers Supply in Sedro Woolley, WA only.

*Ace stores are independently owned and operated. This coupon is good only in-store at Skagit Farmers Supply Ace. Limit one coupon per customer. Must present this coupon to receive offer. Discount applies to regular priced, in-stock merchandise only. May not be combined with other promotional offers. If a minimum purchase is required, such minimum is calculated after Rewards redemption is applied and before tax. Not valid online or for sale or clearance priced merchandise, in-store services, Ace Gift Cards, grills, Weber® branded products, lumber and building materials, fuel, previously purchased merchandise, livestock feed, kibble, canned and raw pet foods, live cut trees, hay or fencing. Additional exclusions may apply. See store for details. Coupon void if copied, transferred and where prohibited. No cash value.

Get ready for the holidays at Skagit Farmers Supply!

50% off* any one item under \$30



Promotion 70



Offer valid through December 31, 2012 at Skagit Farmers Supply in Sedro Woolley, WA only.

*Ace stores are independently owned and operated. This coupon is good only in-store at Skagit Farmers Supply Ace. Limit one coupon per customer. Must present this coupon to receive offer. Discount applies to regular priced, in-stock merchandise only. May not be combined with other promotional offers. If a minimum purchase is required, such minimum is calculated after Rewards redemption is applied and before tax. Not valid online or for sale or clearance priced merchandise, in-store services, Ace Gift Cards, grills, Weber® branded products, lumber and building materials, fuel, previously purchased merchandise, livestock feed, kibble, canned and raw pet foods, live cut trees, hay or fencing. Additional exclusions may apply. See store for details. Coupon void if copied, transferred and where prohibited. No cash value.

Get ready for the holidays at Skagit Farmers Supply!

\$7 off* any purchase of \$20 or more



\$7.00



Offer valid through December 31, 2012 at Skagit Farmers Supply in Sedro Woolley, WA only.

*Ace stores are independently owned and operated. This coupon is good only in-store at Skagit Farmers Supply Ace. Limit one coupon per customer. Must present this coupon to receive offer. Discount applies to regular priced, in-stock merchandise only. May not be combined with other promotional offers. If a minimum purchase is required, such minimum is calculated after Rewards redemption is applied and before tax. Not valid online or for sale or clearance priced merchandise, in-store services, Ace Gift Cards, grills, Weber® branded products, lumber and building materials, fuel, previously purchased merchandise, livestock feed, kibble, canned and raw pet foods, live cut trees, hay or fencing. Additional exclusions may apply. See store for details. Coupon void if copied, transferred and where prohibited. No cash value.



Services Offered:

- Delivery • Gift Card • Key Cutting
- Paint Color Matching • Propane
- Special Order 65,000 items

Hours:

- Mon. – Fri. 8 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- Sat. 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Sun. 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.



Sports



Athletes of the Month

Women's hoops in overdrive

By Kevik Rensink, head coach

Last season the Concrete High School women's basketball team had to wait until mid-December to play their first game, and they were thrust into league play from the very beginning. That is not the case this year. By Dec. 1 we'd already played three games, and we'll have eight nonleague games before we host Orcas for our first league game on Wed., Dec. 19.

This season is moving fast. If you haven't been to one of the games yet, you've missed out. They are fun, exciting, nerve-wracking, and, as one parent put it, "an edge-of-your-seat good time."

We have a great group of young ladies playing basketball this season. Each year is a little different and brings new challenges, and this year is no exception.

We have a solid core group of returning varsity letterers, including seniors Jessica Filtz, Frankie Rohweder, and Kylee Warner; and sophomore Taylor Warner. Joining them on the varsity team are senior Christina Prater, junior Kaitlyn Smith, sophomore Kelse Cargile, and freshman Cassidy Cargile.

There is an interesting mix of experience on this year's team, and the players are learning who they are and what role they play. These young women work hard every day in practice, and they have brought it to the court in typical Concrete women's basketball fashion.

On Nov. 27, our first game of the season, we traveled to Blaine to gain experience for our inexperienced players and to learn. And learn we did—a lot.

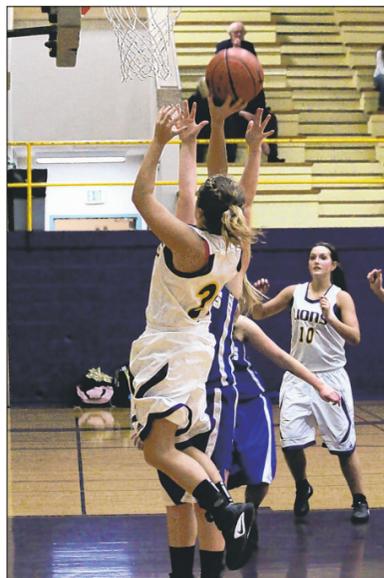
Blaine, a big school coming off a top eight finish at the State Tournament last season, had some very good teachers. They returned four of their five starters and almost all of their scoring. The Concrete players held tough for all 32 minutes, but we were outmatched, eventually falling 71–30. Filtz finished the game with 11 points, eight rebounds, and seven steals. It was a great learning experience against a very good basketball team.

We have some quick learners, because we hosted South Whidbey—another big school—the next night in our home opener and won 60–46. Filtz and Kylee Warner each had 21 points in the huge win! Next, we faced the Lopez Lobos, another team coming off a remarkable season that took them to the State Tournament. After a sluggish start, we put the pedal down in the second half and came away with a dramatic 49–48 win. Kylee Warner had the best game of her career so far, finishing with 28 points and 17 rebounds. Filtz also helped in leading the comeback with eight points, 18 rebounds, eight assists, and nine steals.

We are happy to be where we are right now. We are 2–1 heading into another very tough, three-game week with games at Granite Falls on Dec. 3, home versus Mount Vernon Christian Dec. 4, and then traveling to Seattle to play Seattle Lutheran on Dec. 8. Check the schedule and come on out and support these young ladies.



Concrete Lady Lions basketball team took on South Whidbey at home Nov. 28, notching a 60–46 win against the larger school. **Clockwise from above:** Taylor Warner shoots over an opponent. Frankie Rohweder puts on the brakes after a sprint down the court. Kylee Warner attempts to shoot from a crowd. Jessica Filtz goes up and over for two points.



Sports schedules are online
Updated schedules for all Concrete School District sports teams are online and updated regularly. Go here:
www.concrete.k12.wa.us/sports.html

"I have really high goals"

Men's basketball coach demands consistent output regardless of opposing team's ability.

Concrete basketball Head Coach Larry Tyndall doesn't flinch when players from bigger schools take the court against his Lions—and that attitude is rubbing off on his players. This season his JV and Varsity squads number 17 combined, and he's impressed with his core group.

"They have good attitudes. They're all talented. They're all working hard. I see a well-rounded group for whom the sky's the limit," he said.

Tyndall is reaching for that sky, and doesn't see any reason why his players can't soar into it.

"I have really high goals for the team," he said. "When the season started, I told them I didn't care what division schools we played—four out of our eight nonleague games are 1A or 2A teams—I expected them to do really well."

Tyndall asked for ferocity and he got it. During the team's season opener Nov. 28 against the 1A South Whidbey Falcons, the Lions brought their trademark full-court press against their opponent and earned their respect. The Lions lost the game 59–40, but Tyndall focused on his players' strengths and was pleased with the result.

"South Whidbey was a big team, but for us to come out and fight the way we did, I was very pleased. I wasn't sure if we could run our press against their defense; I wasn't sure if they would step up. The rebounds and turnovers weren't good—and those are big categories—but I was pleased with their fight. I overheard the other coaches talking after the game: They were impressed with our defense.

"It was a well-rounded scoring game for everybody. Our guards—Cody Jarmin, Dallas Newby, Hayden Holbrook, Dylan Clark, Joey Solomon, and the others—you can see how they are blossoming into great players."

The Lions found vindication Nov. 30 when they hosted Lopez Island and trounced them 62–25. Newby shone that day, racking up 12 points, nine steals, and eight assists. Jarmin tossed in 25 points.

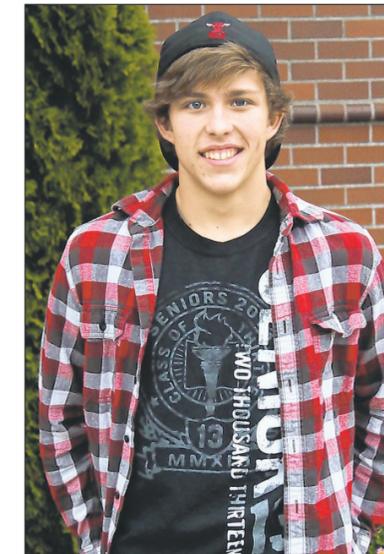
"This team could do really really well or have a mediocre year," said Tyndall. "It comes down to little things—blocking out, turnovers. I think they should and could go to state—it just depends on little things: paying attention, giving everything they have at all times."

—J. K. M.



Above: Concrete's Josh Rogge attempts to push a shot past a South Whidbey defender as the Lions took on the Falcons Nov. 28. Despite the Lions' fierce play, South Whidbey got the win that day 59–40.

Below: Lion Cody Jarmin tosses one up during the Nov. 28 game against the South Whidbey Falcons.



Athletes of the Month are Kylee Warner and Dilyn Stidman

Kylee Warner, a senior middle blocker for Concrete's volleyball team, saw her net play improve tremendously during the second month of the season. "In October she nearly doubled her output of blocks and again led the team in that category, as well as kills," said Head Coach Matthew Williams.

Senior Dilyn Stidman played offensive guard and defensive linebacker for the Concrete Lions football team this year, earning all-league honors as well as being named to the *Skagit Valley Herald's* All-Skagit County Offensive Football Team as an offensive lineman. As the only senior on the line, Stidman was "the leader of the linemen," said Head Coach Ron Rood. "He's a good player and demonstrated really good leadership."

Warner and Stidman were selected by Concrete Lions Booster Club members based on their leadership, being team players, and demonstrating sportsmanship and character.



Cole Meacham (right) looks to pass against teammate Michael Filtz during a Nov. 26 practice for the 7th and 8th grade boys basketball team. The team's season began with a Nov. 29 game against Conway. The boys are coached by Jesse Howell and Paul Bianchini.

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Football season ends with playoff loss

By Ron Rood, head coach

The Concrete Lions battled tough competition in their last two November games and came out on the short end both times to end their season with an 8-3 record. The Lions were proud of the effort and success they had this season, and see a promising future in the next few seasons.

Concrete battled La Conner Nov. 1 for the second time this season—with the league title on the line this time—but lost to the Braves 47-20. La Conner went on to finish third in state this year.

The Lions' second-place finish in league earned them a trip to the state playoffs, where they faced a tough Mossyrock

squad on Nov. 10 and were soundly beaten 50-17. The Vikings' size and experience proved too much for the young Lions.

The Lions will miss their six graduating seniors, including All League and All County seniors James Luttrell and Dilyn Stidman. Luttrell was one of two 1,000-yard rushers for Concrete this year.

The team returns a strong group of underclassmen that saw a lot of playing time this season, including First Team All Leaguers Gibson Fichter (1,300 yards rushing) and safety Josh Rogge and Second Team All Leaguers Don Olmstead and Robert Nevin.

Concrete Football will celebrate the season on Thur., Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. with an awards dessert at the high school. Everyone is welcome for team awards, a highlight DVD, and refreshments.

Above right: James Luttrell stays focused upfield during a punt return while being upended by a Mossyrock defender Nov. 10. The Lions' first playoff game ended in a 50-17 defeat at the hands of the Vikings.

Right: Dallas Newby times his sprint to bring down Mossyrock's Kyler Hazen during the Nov. 10 game. The Concrete Lions football team finished its 2012 season with an 8-3 record.



Spencer Hindsley forces teammate Justin Medlock into the mat during wrestling practice Nov. 26.

Wrestling squad opens with wins

By Jason Miller

This year's wrestling squad is a young group, with several freshmen moving into the high school ranks. For that reason, Concrete wrestling coaches David Dellinger and John Koenig went over all the basics during the first two weeks of practice. That hard work is paying off, said Koenig.

"I think our boys this year are in better condition than they've ever been," he said. "They've told me this new body weight calisthenics I have them on is helping them feel stronger than they've ever felt."

Concrete's Lady Lion wrestlers proved themselves out of the starting gate Dec. 1, heading to Emerald Ridge High School in Puyallup for the Emerald Ridge Tournament, and bringing home ribbons.

At the tourney, Anjelika Koenig took first in the 124-lb. weight class, Emilee

Fenley took first at 106 lbs., and Melissa Clontz took second at 190-20 lbs. above her weight class.

"I was so proud of them," said Koenig. "Emilee's been working so hard on her take-downs—so has Anjelika. And Melissa. She wants it bad this year—to go to States. She's been wrestling with a sprained ankle; she sprained it the first week of the season."

The Lions will launch into their full schedule in December, with their first home match on Dec. 5, a scrimmage against Anacortes and one other school. The team's current schedule and stats can be found on Facebook; search "Concrete Lions Wrestling."

Koenig sees only one thing standing in the way of every Concrete wrestler and the state tournament this year: themselves. "All the kids have an opportunity to make it to States—if they want it bad enough," he said. "But I see Gibson Fichter and Kyle Nushart there for sure."

CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

The Concrete Heritage Museum is closed for the season. Until next Memorial Day weekend you can **make an appointment** to visit the museum or do research in our library; just call Robin at 360.826.3075 or e-mail us at concreteheritagemuseum@stumpranchonline.com.

Monthly meetings are held year-round on the second Thursday of each month, at 7 p.m. at the museum. Meetings are open to the public.

Museum Christmas Party and Potluck is planned for Thur., Dec. 13, at 6 p.m. at Kathy Manzoor Huntley's home in Concrete. Everyone is welcome. If you need directions, contact Robin at the phone number above. Kathy will provide the beverages; bring your favorite dish. Enjoy good company and food and celebrate the holiday season and New Year with us.

Happy New Year!

—Dan Royal

At the Upper Skagit Library

We are pleased to announce that we have received 64 books through a grant from the Libri Foundation. These books will be displayed and available for checkout at a Dec. 15 celebration sponsored by the Friends of the Upper Skagit Library, from 1-3 p.m.

During the past 20 years, the Libri Foundation has awarded grants to more than 3,000 rural libraries in 49 states, sending out nearly \$4.9 million worth of books. During the foundation's first 10 years, there had been 1,000 grants sponsored, worth more than \$1 million, which shows how the program has grown. Using contributions from a bake sale, the Friends of the Upper Skagit Library contributed \$350, which the Libri Foundation matched 2:1.

If anyone is interested in contributing, the Libri Foundation accepts money donations directly and donations in other

ways: through a Wish List at Amazon.com, employer matching gift programs, and United Way's Donor Choice programs by designating the Libri Foundation. Go to www.librifoundation.org to shop online at more than 700 stores that will donate a percentage of your purchase to Libri—no cost to you; it's anonymous and the foundation benefits.

If you wish to know more about the Libri Foundation, go to its Web site or read the annual report available at the library.

The new face at the circulation desk is Kim Mitchell. She once worked at Scott's Bookstore in Mount Vernon, so she's no stranger to the area.

The next board meeting is Dec. 13 at 5 p.m. Remember, the meeting changes to the third Thursday of the month in January.

Also scheduled is LEGOS on Dec. 28 at 3 p.m.

—Aimee Hirschel, director

December at the Darrington Library

Children

- LEGO Club, Thur., Dec. 6, 3 p.m.
- Winter Extravaganza: Take a Bite out of Sharks, Wed., Dec. 19, 2 p.m.
- Frogs A-Plenty, Frogs Galore, Thur., Dec. 20, 2 p.m.
- Make Your Own Puppets, Fri., Dec. 21, 2 p.m.
- Caw! Caw! Wed., Dec. 26, 2 p.m.
- Dream Big: Read, Thur., Dec. 27, 2 p.m.
- Things That Go Bump in the Night, Fri., Dec. 28, 2 p.m.

Adults

- Bibliophiles: *Gilead*, by Marilynne Robinson, Wed., Dec. 5, 6:30-8 p.m.
- Help with eReaders, iPods, and MP3 Players, Wed., Dec. 26, and Sat., Dec. 29, all day.
- Darrington Library will close at 3 p.m. on Mon., Dec. 24, and at 5 p.m. on Mon., Dec. 31. The library will be closed on Christmas Day and on New Year's Day.

For more information, go to www.sno-isle.org?ID=1194.

—Bryan Stratton, branch manager

CASCADE SUPPLY



Home Deals!

While Supplies Last!

9⁹⁹

Two 16 oz. Stainless Steel Insulated Mugs

628212 Sale ends 12/31/12

Manager's Special!

While Supplies Last!

2⁴⁹ Your Choice

12" 16/2 Brown or White Extension Cord

509086, 509094 Sale ends 12/31/12

Merry Christmas!

Best wishes for the coming year ...

All regular Christmas lights and all Christmas decorations, 50% off*

*LED lights regular price

Special Buy!

While Supplies Last!

21⁹⁷

Ceramic Heater

428272 Sale ends 12/31/12

Special of the Month!

While Supplies Last!

9⁹⁷ Your Choice

5 Pc. Hobby Pliers Set or 10 Pc. Screwdriver Set

306428, 319391 Sale ends 12/31/12

45900 Main St., Concrete • 360.853.8811 • Mon.—Sat., 8:30 to 5:30



Academics



Students of the Quarter



Students of the quarter are (above, from left)

Kevin McLaughlin, Hannah Kononen, Morgan Hazel, and Dallas Newby

Each quarter, Concrete High School honors two high school young men and two young women for maintaining academic excellence and demonstrating good citizenship. Kevin McLaughlin, Hannah Kononen, Morgan Hazel, and Dallas Newby were selected as the top students for the first quarter of the 2012–13 school year. Congratulations to these students for showing their Lion pride!

Concrete School District December calendar

Dec. 7
Grades K–8 Academics Awards, 11 a.m., gymnasium.

Dec. 9
Winter Ballet and Dance performance, elementary school gym, 4 p.m.

Dec. 13
Music Department Band Concert, high school gymnasium. Middle school students start at 6 p.m.; high school students perform at 7 p.m.

Community Education classes in December:
Dec. 11: Candy making
Dec. 18: Cookie decorating

Community Education classes are held from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the high school home economics room 217. Call Lisa Fenley at 360.853.8125 to register and get a supply list.

Lyman Elementary calendar

Dec. 7
Trimester awards ceremony.

Dec. 13
Winter program. People who are able to donate are asked to consider bringing a nonperishable food item to be donated to the Sedro-Woolley School District Transportation Food Drive. Doors will open at 6 p.m. Students should report to their classrooms as soon as they arrive. The show will start at 6:30.

Dec. 24–Jan. 4
No school, winter break.

Jan. 7
Booster Group meeting, 6:30 p.m., library

Jan. 10
Booster Group-Sponsored Skate Night, 6:30–8:30 p.m.

Caitlin says hi

I am Caitlin Moore and I lived in Concrete for seven years. I just wanted to see if you can give a shout out to all my friends in the paper. Can you please tell them Caitlin Moore says hey and I miss them all?
And a special shout out to Yolonda and Zach Allard.

—Caitlin Moore

YD update

We have an amazing group of young people in this community! I am so encouraged this year, not just by the number of faces we see at our Youth Dynamics meetings every Monday, but by the attitude of the high school students who attend.

We have already had so much fun this school year, and we are just getting started! Since the last Concrete YD update, we have had several events, so let me give you the lowdown to what's been going down.

On Oct. 29 we had our Annual Harvest Party at the Harrison Farm. It was a blast! Colton Maloney, a former YDer himself, gave his testimony and talked about the difference Concrete YD had on his life. Awesome! Jon Kucera and Jessica Filtz took first place in the “pumpkin toss” (yes, we really do toss pumpkins). Kyle Warner, Jonnie Rohweder, and Taylor Warner all took home prizes for their mad pumpkin-carving skills. Ricky Powell was voted “best costume” and Dallas Newby won an entire bowl of Kandy Korn for guessing how many candy corns were in a jar. But there always has to be a party pooper, and that prize went to Mat Baird (you will have to ask him about it). We had a bonfire, played musical hay bales, and passed out many door prizes. Thanks to our many local vendors who donated this year!

On Nov. 5 we had a “Minute to Win It” night, which included many of the same games you would see on the television show. Sarah Spaeth spoke on “trust.” She told the story of how she jumped out of a plane for her birthday recently, and how she trusted this man she was strapped to with her life after only knowing him for five minutes. She related this to how little we trust the One who made us sometimes, and how we need to trust Him more. Good stuff!

We then loaded up both of our vans on Sat., Nov. 10 and headed to Bellis Fair Mall to conduct a human scavenger hunt. The students had to track down nine adults in costume, and get them to sign their paper before time was up. Congratulations to Jessica Filtz and

See YD, p. 13

CASCADE MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

The following 7th and 8th grade students at Cascade Middle School received honors for high marks for the first quarter of the 2012–13 school year. An asterisk denotes a student with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Grade 7 Honor Roll

Drew Adams, Noah E. Adams, Tayah S. Aldridge, Monica Anderson, Cole J. Applehans, Marshall R. Auckland, Jacquelyne E. Ayala-Cerna*, Zoey Bailey, Bryson J. Bartlett, Jacob N. Baumgardner, Daniil V. Baydak, Tiana A. Benham, Rebekah J. Benjamin, Miranda A. Bingle*, Samantha L. Bliss*, Kyra Bowers, Zoie L. Breeding, Ryan J. Buchanan, Emily J. Burdick, Margo P. Callis, Angela J. Chavez Gutierrez, Eli R. Chevez, Nicholas Q. Childress, Ethan A. Chu, Matthew L. Clark, Emma R. Claybo, Dustyn L. Coker, Danyelle L. Counley, Samantha M. Cox*, Jovan A. Cuevas, Si Dejong*, Dakota W. Delam, Andrea Delgado, Madison N. Denney, Alaina Dowhaniuk, Tavia M. Dunlap*, Emily R. Eacret, Arron R. Elder, Dayne T. Erks, Morgan F. Erks, Lydia Ershig, Katie C. Fair, Giselle S. Flores, Dawna Fowler, Brianna L. Frye, Maleea E. Gahan, Kiana R. Gaines, Melissa Galvan, Riley C. Gamson, Janet D. Garcia, Kristen E. Garcia, Trevor J. Giddings, Leu A. Gifford, Georgia Gilbert, Erica Gomez, Josh J. Good, Kyla H. Graham, Megan R. Green, Jillian S. Guffie*, Dakota B. Gummere, Demetria Haigh*, Dawson J. Hailey, Eileen Hall*, Kamira M. Hamilton, Trenton C. Handy, Bryce E. Hansen, Grace T. Hoffman, Destiny D. Holmes, Ilyanna M. Honea, Emma A. Hoover, Tyler N. Hovater, Isaac Howell, Samuel N. Hull, Sarah J. Hull, Emily R. Hurlbutt, Devon R. Hutchison*, Cade B. Isakson, Grace L. Johnson*, Megan M. Jones, Dymond M. Joynor, Jacenta M. Kearney-Elder, Ian D. Kennison, Bogdan Khrushch, Jessica P. Kirchgesser, Grace Klaus, Dylan C. Lantis, Madison E. Lanuza-Ortiz, Dakota M. Larabee, Hannah Lea*, Russell Litke, Marshall T. Lowell-Gonzales, Patricia Y. Malang*, Taylor Y. Manning*, Makella Marshall, Primo F. Martinez, Lafe A. Martinson*, Madison McCandless*, Paityn L. MCutcheon-Delaney, Tristan J. McIntyre, Lillian G. Messick, Davis Mihelich*, Trinity K. Miller, Bailey Jo Minne, Myranda R. Mitchell, Haley B. Moore, Alicia Morales Sanchez*, Adith A. Navarro, Alex Nelson, Anthony M. Nelson, Brandon Nelson, Allison R. Nichols, Kristina E. Norris, Megan E. Olson, Justin T. Packard, Madeline R. Parks, Muriel Pepper, Natalya J. Perkins, Dylan C. Peterson, Payton Peterson*, Jasmine M. Picken, Merik L. Powell, Christian Quevedo, Callista E. Quigley, Chantel Randall, Jalen Rantschler-Lucas, Gage W. Rapp, Kacie N. Rexroth, Christian Roberson, Alicia A. Roberts, Justice M. Robinette, Selena M. Rodriguez, Madisyn L. Roppel, Sonja K. Rusch, Emily M. Rusnak, Stephanie R. Salgado, Juan M. Sanchez, Esperanza L.

Sandoval, Faith M. Sanford, Shylah B. Schaefer, Adrian S. Schmidt, Kenzi A. Schrader, Colton S. Schwetz, Haiden A. Shannon-Appell*, William J. Sims, Brooklynn D. Smith, Gunnar M. Stenseth, Marcus J. Stewart*, Sophie Stewart, Heather R. Stratton, Alec J. Tanner Mason*, Kristi J. Thomas, Emma E. Torgeson, Tanner J. Trammell, Shaylee B. Utter*, Wyatt R. Wahlgren, Bailey Walker, Shilo L. Walters, Heather A. Warner, Michael R. Washington, Joseph M. Watson, Morgan A. Weiler-Starck, Ellis Weppler, Brianna M. Werner, Malachi A. Werner*, Chance S. Whipple, Kayla M. Whitney, Kailey E. Willard*, Brenna R. Wilson, Logan J. Wise, Juliana Wood, Angel C. Wright, Kaitlyn A. Wright, Violet Wyckoff-Novak, Elvira Zavala Guillen.

Grade 8 Honor Roll

Jacy G. Ammons, Phoebe R. Anderson, Celeste Arellano-Reyes, Colton R. Austin, Gabrielle M. Aven, Andrew W. Backstrom, Tristan M. Barley, Jeffrey T. Barnhart, Ryan Berg, Alexander M. Bertrand, Bryson K. Blouin, Christian E. Braaten, Ulrich R. Brasche, Keelan D. Bryan, Emalee K. Cassidy, Elizabeth Chandler, Ekaterina M. Clark, Jordyn N. Clark, Bailey A. Corfe, Madisen E. Cork, Holly M. Crawford, Saige R. Cullup, Alexander M. Danger, Kortnee M. Davidson, Halie N. Davis, Alexis M. Denney*, Janae B. Dills, Jarryd L. Dressor, Grae L. Eason, Emily Eastman, Jayden A. Eaton-Cortez, Austin C. Edson, Emily B. Evans, Ashley I. Fair, Katrin M. Ferrall, Michael D. Fox, Dalton Friend, Michael D. Gant, Dana N. Geary, Elihu S. Gonzalez Silva, Susana G. Guillen Lara, Leo H. Hanna, Karly R. Hatch, Olivia K. Helinski*, Kyleigh M. Herrera, Shelby L. Hoffman, Payton Holmgren, Bryce C. Hornbeck, Treyton C. Howell*, Orabell R. Howland, Amanda J. Hubbard, Bryce D. Humerickhouse, Jessica E. Hyatt, Matthew O. Insonia, Gabrielle Jann, Baylee C. Jones, Amy M. Joyce, Alexis J. Kelley*, Bailey N. Kelley, Tess Lally, Hannah M. Lennox, Abby N. Leopard, Grant S. Lloyd, Ashley O. Longfellow-Davis, Alexis O. Magana, Victoria H. Mahle, Alyssa A. Martini, Laura L. Mata, Sonny A. Mauricio, Carli A. Mayo, Elizabeth K. Melton, Loreli Mendoza, Troy J. Mesman, William G. Mitchell, Jasmine Montes*, Elizabeth H. Moore, Emily L. Moore, Kathrine F. Morgan, Madeline Moser, Sean D. Olsen, Rebekah J. Ormesher, Jordan E. Parker, Darrell A. Payton, Jared J. Peterson, Hazel B. Pleasant, Madison N. Queen, John Jacob Reyes, Anise E. Robles, Daniella Rodriguez, Inez Santos Flores, Allison R. Segura, Amelita D. Smith, Sierra A. Smith, Dawson W. Snyder, Sergio Soto Lopez, Fabian St. Germain, Jordan L. Stapleton, Janice M. Stewart, Noah J. Stroosma*, Jacob R. Swenson, Alexander L. Thomas, Christian Tjeerdsma, Taylor S. Torgeson, Abril C. Torres, Reid M. Trammell*, Savannah L. Treadway, Arden S. Vanden Heuvel, Monique Velasco Rocha, Chloe N. Waldrip, Hannah M. Waldrop, Mariah L. Waldrop, Morgan J. Warren, Braden D. Washington, Vanessa Whidden, Ireland K. Wienker, Corey Wilson, Hope E. Wimer, Ashley N. Wood, Benjamin A. Workman Smith, Kelly A. Wright.

YD, cont. from p. 12

Jon Kucera for being the first team to complete this task.

On Nov. 19 we had “Jeopardy Night,” and Caleb Harrison, Kimberly Torheim, and Rebecca Torheim proved to have their thinking caps on, and squeaked out the win. Paul Rider spoke on choices, and Mat Baird made the biggest decision of his life that night (again, ask him about it)!

We had movie night on Nov. 26, along with the “Barn Party” at the Filtz’s on Dec. 1. Still to come is the Christmas

Party on Dec. 10, and Christmas caroling around town on Dec. 17. So if you have already been part of the action at YD, keep on coming! If you haven’t, then hurry up and show up, so you can get in on this! Contact Kevik and Marta Rensink if you have any questions. Thanks, and a very Merry Christmas and an incredible New Year!

—Kevik Rensink

Concrete Herald
The Voice of Eastern Skagit County

Christmas services and events

DECEMBER

- 9, 16, 23, 30 “Promises of Christmas,” Inspire Church, 805 Township St., downtown Sedro-Woolley, 10:30 a.m.; info at www.icskagitvalley.org
- 7 “Sleigh Bells Bling, Are You Listening?” a Christmas event for women, Day Creek Chapel, 6:30 p.m.; see notice, p. 19; RSVP to 360.826.3696; \$10 admission
- 8 Santa’s Breakfast, Sedro-Woolley Community Center, 9 to 11 a.m.; see article, p. 16
- 8 Christmas Parade in Concrete, Concrete Town Center, 6 p.m.; starts at PSE building, ends at Concrete Center with gifts for kids; info at 360.826.4848
- 8 Holiday Home Tour, Sedro-Woolley; 4 to 9 p.m.; see article, p. 16, and ad, p. 2
- 8–9 Concrete Lions Club Christmas Tree Sale, in field immediately west of Loggers Landing, Concrete, 8 a.m. start; trees for \$20, \$30, and up
- 9 Boy Scout fundraiser: PartyLite Open House, 7273 C Ave., Concrete, 11:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; info at 360.540.0587 or becka_and_kids@juno.com
- 13 “The Kind Christmas Visitors,” a play by Community Bible Church, Concrete Theatre, 7 p.m.; free admission; info at 360.853.8511
- 14 Deadline for picking up “angel” at Angel Tree in Concrete Resource Center (see “This and That,” p. 6); info at 360.853.7009
- 15 Concrete Lions Club Christmas Tree Sale, in field immediately west of Loggers Landing, Concrete, 8 a.m. start; trees for \$20, \$30, and up
- 15 Breakfast with Mrs. Claus, United General Hospital (Coho Cafe), Sedro-Woolley, 8:30 or 10:30 a.m.; \$5 for kids under 12, \$10 for adults, includes photo with Mrs. Claus; tickets at United General front desk or call 360.856.7615
- 15 Holiday Open House, Grasmere Village, 44574 SR 20, Concrete, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- 15 Kids Christmas Store and Party, Concrete American Legion, Concrete Town Center, 1 to 4 p.m.
- 16 Annual Breakfast with Chef Becky Snyder, followed by Christmas message, singing, and drawing for Christmas gifts, North Cascade Community Church, 59850 SR 20, Marblemount, 10 a.m.; free will offering will be taken; info at 360.873.2504
- 16 “The Kind Christmas Visitors,” a play by Community Bible Church, Community Bible Church, 45672 Limestone, Concrete; 6 p.m.; free admission; info at 360.853.8511
- 18 Deadline for returning wrapped gifts to Concrete Resource Center’s Angel Tree; (see “This and That,” p. 6); info at 360.853.7009
- 19 Christmas Senior Dinner at The Washington Cafe and Bakery, Concrete Town Center, 4:30 p.m.; free admission, RSVP required to washingtongrillnbakery@gmail.com or 360.853.7723
- 23 Regularly scheduled services at North Cascade Community Church, 59850 SR 20, Marblemount, 10 a.m.; info at 360.873.2504
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Pastor Chris Anderson, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 46372 E. Main St., Concrete, 7 p.m.; info at 360.770.2053
- 24 CandleLight Christmas Eve Service, Community Bible Church, 45672 Limestone, Concrete, 6 p.m.; info at 360.853.8511
- 24 Christmas Eve gathering with Christmas homily, songs, and prayer, North Cascade Community Church, 59850 SR 20, Marblemount, 10 a.m.; info at 360.873.2504

***This list will be updated online at www.concrete-herald.com throughout December.**

“His Kids” Fun Nights
Community Bible Church, 45672 Limestone, Concrete
Children ages 5th–8th grade // separate group for 6th–8th grades
Meets the first and third Sunday of each month, through June 2013
5 to 7 p.m. (dinner at 5 p.m.) // 360.873.4348 or debkayr@hotmail.com



Clear Lake



Second community forum further solidifies vision for Clear Lake Beach Park

A second public forum to discuss a new site plan for Clear Lake Beach Park was held Nov. 29 at Clear Lake Elementary School.

The November meeting followed a Sept. 20 forum that began the process of gathering ideas from community members. At that meeting, attendees voiced their ideas for park improvements and upgrades.

A draft site plan developed by Mount Vernon-based Eccos Design Principal Patrik Dylan took center stage during the November meeting, with Dylan pointing out numerous design elements and their intent to respond to residents' feedback on the current site.

Dylan's design divided the site into two parts, with one side more built out and the other containing more open space (see image at right).

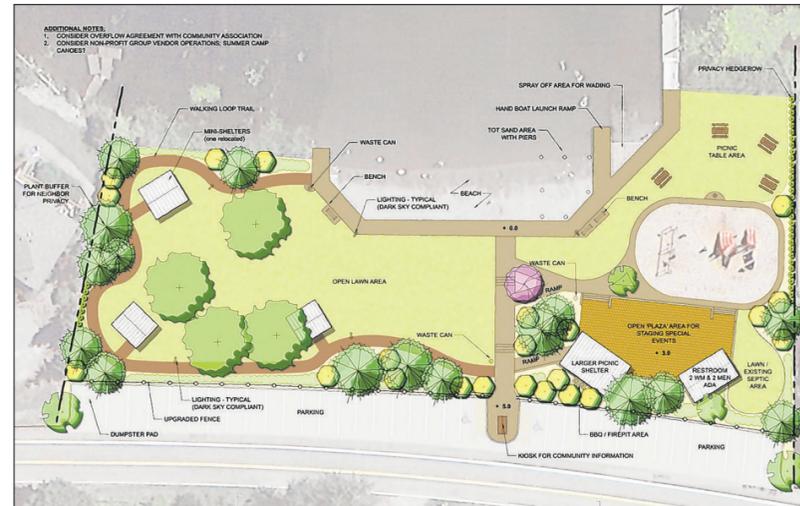
The southern half of the redesigned park could include more hardscaping, such as a raised platform with two buildings on its edges. That section also could include a large picnic shelter with a built-in barbecue grill, a playground with an ADA-compliant path around it, and hedgerow screening along the south edge to buffer the active area from the adjoining private property.

The northern half of the park included a major change: the removal of the existing volleyball court and conversion of that space to grass. Dylan and Skagit County Parks and Recreation Director Brian Adams agreed that use patterns justified the volleyball court removal.

A loop trail traveling the perimeter of the northern half of the park would provide a hard surface so people in wheelchairs could access the three picnic shelters envisioned—up from one.

Adams discussed short- and long-term options for the park, and asked residents for feedback on the draft site plan. Additional ideas generated included:

- A path encircling the lake.
- Recycling bins.
- A management plan in place to discourage inappropriate or illegal behavior.
- Parking plan.
- Turning Front St. into a one-way northbound street, with angled, back-in parking in front of the park.



This draft site plan for a redesigned Clear Lake Beach Park was on display during the Nov. 29 community forum in Clear Lake. The site plan is being developed by landscape architect Patrik Dylan of Mount Vernon-based Eccos Design, based on feedback from Clear Lake residents. In early 2013, Dylan will present a "final draft" of the site plan to residents, with adjustments made based on their Nov. 29 comments. *Image courtesy of Eccos Design LLC.*

A third meeting is planned for early 2013, during which a "final" site plan based upon the Nov. 29 feedback will be available for comments and additional feedback.

For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 360.336.9414.

—J. K. M.

2013 calendars

Clear Lake Historical Association is selling 2013 calendars. The calendars showcase 12 historic photos from Clear Lake and are available for \$15 each.

To purchase a calendar, call Clear Lake historian Deanna Ammons at 360.856.6798.



Clear Lake residents, county commissioners, and Skagit County Parks and Recreation board members listen Nov. 29 as Parks and Recreation Director Brian Adams explains progress made toward developing a new Clear Lake Beach Park site plan.

The 2012 Magic of Christmas

Saturday December 8th
Santa's Breakfast
 S-W Community Center
 703 Pacific St 9am-11am

Holiday Home Tour
 S-W Museum
 4pm - 9pm

Saturday December 15th
Breakfast with Mrs. Claus
 8:30 & 10:30
Coho Cafe @ UGH
 Must be pre-ordered (360) 856-7245

Info: 855-1841 www.sedro-woolley.com

Community Calendar

DECEMBER

- 1 Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center opens weekends through January; see ad, p. 6; see article, p. 24; info at 360.853.7626
- 6 Celtic Christmas Celebration with electric violinist Geoffrey Castle, Concrete Theatre, 7 p.m.; all seats \$20, available online; info at www.concrete-theatre.com or 360.941.0403
- 8 Darrington Holiday Bazaar, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; see notice, p. 25
- 15 Upper Skagit Library and Friends of Upper Skagit Library party at the library to celebrate new book acquisitions, 1 to 3 p.m. (see notice, p. 11)
- 15 Community Contra Dance, Mansford Grange, 1265 Railroad Rd., Darrington; potluck at 5:30 p.m., dance lesson at 7 p.m., dance at 7:30 p.m.; suggested donation \$7; info at 206.402.8646
- 18 Day Creek Christmas Progressive Dinner, 6:30 p.m. start; see notice, p. 19; info at 360.826.3003
- 19 Sedro-Woolley High School Alumni Assn. meeting, S-W Senior Center, 1 p.m.; info at www.swhsalumni.blogspot.com
- 20 "It's a Wonderful Life" plays at Concrete Theatre, Concrete Town Center, 7 p.m.; info at www.concrete-theatre.com
- 31 Deadline for ads submitted for 2013 North Cascadian Travelers' Guide; info at editor@concrete-herald.com or 360.853.8213
- 31 Watch Night service at North Cascade Community Church to welcome the new year, 59850 SR 20, Marblemount, 8 p.m.; info at 360.873.2504
- 31 New Year's Eve Dinner and Music, Concrete American Legion, Concrete Town Center; dinner at 6 p.m. (\$25 tickets, reserve by Dec. 15), live music at 8 p.m. (\$5 cover charge), New Year's celebration at 9 p.m.; info at 360.333.0576

JANUARY

- 5-6 Skagit Eagle Festival begins, running every weekend in January; info at www.concrete-wa.com
- 10 Deadline for entries into Fourth Annual Recycled Art Contest, to be held Jan. 12-13; see notice, p. 6; info at 360.708.3279 or pizzaannieb@netscape.net
- 12-13 Fourth Annual Recycled Art Contest, Concrete Center, Concrete; see notice, p. 6; info at 360.708.3279 or pizzaannieb@netscape.net

*Community Calendar is updated daily at www.concrete-herald.com/calendar

Community meetings

Coffee Talk, a casual conversation about Concrete's transformation, meets the third Fri. of each month at 8 a.m. at The Washington Cafe and Bakery, Concrete Town Center. 360.853.8213.

Concrete American Legion Post and Auxiliary meet the second Tue. of each month, Sept. through May, at 5:30 p.m. in the American Legion Building. 360.853.8940.

Concrete Chamber of Commerce meets the second Thur. of each month at 8 a.m. Meetings usually are held at Concrete Center in Concrete. 360.466.8754 or concretechamber@mac.com.

Concrete Heritage Museum Board meets the second Thur. of each month, at 7 p.m. at the museum. Meetings are open to the public. 360.826.3075 or concreteheritagemuseum@stumpranchonline.com

Concrete Lions Club meets the first and third Wed. of each month, at Annie's Pizza Station, Concrete. Social at 6 p.m.; meeting at 6:30.

Concrete School Board will meet Dec. 20 at 6 p.m. in the high school Commons. The board will hold a workshop on Dec. 17, at 6 p.m. in the high school Commons. 360.853.8141.

Concrete Town Council meets the second and fourth Monday of each month at Town Hall, 45672 Main St., Concrete, at 7 p.m. 360.853.8401 or andrea@concretewa.gov.

Darrington Area Business Assn (DABA) meets the third Wed. of each month, 7 p.m., at Cascade Senior Center, 1115 Darrington St., Darrington. 360.436.2167.

Darrington Town Council meets the second Wed. of each month at Town Hall, 1005 Cascade St., at 7 p.m. 360.436.1131 or darrcityhall@glacierview.net.

Forest Park Cemetery District No. 5 meets the second Wed. of each month at the cemetery office on Compton Lane in Concrete, at 8 a.m. 360.708.3656.

Friends of Upper Skagit Library (FOUSL) Board meets the third Tuesday of odd-numbered months at the East County

Resource Center in Concrete, at 1 p.m. Public welcome to attend. uslfriends@gmail.com.

Hamilton Town Council meets the second Tue. of each month at Town Hall, 584 Maple St., Hamilton, at 7 p.m. 360.826.3027.

Imagine Concrete meets the second Wed. of each month in the Pilots' Lounge at Mears Field in Concrete, at 6 p.m. 360.853.8213 or goodwords@frontier.com.

KSVU 90.1 FM hosts free trainings and a studio open house every Wed. from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Concrete studio in Portable B behind Concrete Elementary School. Monthly radio staff and volunteer meetings are held the last Thur. of each month at the same location. 360.853.8588.

Lyman Town Council meets the second Tue. of each month at Lyman Town Hall (Minkler Mansion), 8405 S. Main St., Lyman, at 7 p.m. 360.826.3033 or clerk_lyman@msn.com.

PFLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Skagit County Chapter, meets the second Monday of each month at The Safe Haven Room, Central United Methodist Church, 1013 Polte Rd. Sedro-Woolley, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. 360.856.4676, www.pflagskagit.org.

Saukrates Cafe meets the first Thur. of each month at Annie's Pizza Station in Concrete, at 5 p.m. Conversation topics are posted at Upper Skagit Library and <http://saukratescafe.wordpress.com>.

Sedro-Woolley Town Council meets the second and fourth Wed. of each month, at 7 p.m., in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 325 Metcalf St. 360.855.1661.

Sedro-Woolley School District Board meets for its regular meeting only once this month, Dec. 10, at the Good Beginnings Preschool in the Support Service building at 7 p.m. 360.855.3500 or rmiller@sbsd.k12.wa.us.

Upper Skagit Library District (USLD) Board meets the second Thur. of each month at 5 p.m. in the library, located in the Ted Anderson building on Main St. in Concrete. Public is welcome. 360.853.7939 or info@upperskagit.lib.wa.us.

FREE Christmas Dinner for Seniors

Dec. 19, 4:30 p.m.

The Washington Cafe and Bakery
 Concrete Town Center

RSVP required!

RSVP to washingtongrillnbakery@gmail.com or 360.853.7723

SAVE CONCRETE THEATRE!

Concrete Theatre
 Established 1923

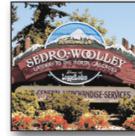
Donate to Digital Campaign!

The movie industry will convert to digital in 2013. Concrete Theatre won't be able to show new movies unless it converts to a digital system -- a \$50,000 hurdle. **Please donate to help keep Concrete Theatre alive!**

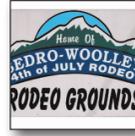
- Donate at the theater during weekend movie times
- Mail a check payable to Concrete Theatre to: Concrete Theatre, P.O. Box 954, Concrete, WA 98237
- Make a credit card or PayPal donation at www.concrete-theatre.com
- Donate at Columbia Bank in Concrete (designate check for "Digital Projector Fund")

For more info on ways to help, call 360.941.0403 or e-mail info@concrete-theatre.com.

*Advertisement paid for by an anonymous donor.



Sedro-Woolley



Parade, Holiday Home Tour headline Magic of Christmas

Magic of Christmas festivities kicked off Dec. 1 with the annual tree-lighting ceremony and parade through downtown Sedro-Woolley. The popular event drew the usual crowds, who braved fitful weather and cheered on the parade participants. Prior to the parade, children's activities included free pony and train rides.

More events are schedule through December.

Santa's Breakfast

Hosted by Beta Sigma Phi, Santa's Breakfast is scheduled for Sat., Dec. 8, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Sedro-Woolley Community Center, 703 Pacific St. Kids can enjoy a free breakfast of waffles, sausage links, orange slices, and milk or apple juice. Parents—how about a donation? Kids will meet Santa and get

their photo snapped with him.

Holiday Home Tour

The annual tour of historic homes is back for its 20th year. Hosted by the Sedro-Woolley Museum, the tour begins with an open house at the museum at 4 p.m. The homes open for visitors from 5 to 9 p.m.

Tour coordinator Stacy Penno—whose own home is on the list—said this year's theme is the "12 Days of Christmas"—a nod to the first tour 20 years ago, which shared the same theme. "I was trying to recreate the first tour," said Penno.

The tour is self-guided; participants are encouraged to dress for the weather and bring flashlights. Tickets are \$5; proceeds benefit the museum. Tickets may be purchased in advance at the museum or Oliver-Hammer Clothing, or at the museum the day of the tour.

For more information, call 360.855.0203.

Breakfast with Mrs. Claus

On Sat., Dec. 15, adults and children are invited to have breakfast with Santa's wife in the Coho Cafe at United General Hospital.

The menu includes French toast, eggs, fruit, bacon, and sausage. Table activities will include crafts and letters to Santa. Mrs. Claus will take pictures with each child, which they can take home.

Two seatings are scheduled for the breakfast, at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Admission is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child 12 and under.

Seating is limited; tickets must be reserved in advance. Tickets may be ordered:

- At the front desk at United General
- By mailing a check payable to United General Auxiliary, with a note about number of adult and child tickets, to United General Hospital, Communications Dept., 2000 Hospital Dr., Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284. Mail check no later than Dec. 3.
- By calling 360.856.7245 to pay with a credit card or make a reservation to be held at Will Call.



The Cecil and Stacy Penno home at 335 Warner St. in Sedro-Woolley is just one stop along a tour of 12 homes that comprise the Holiday Home Tour, one of many events that fill the Magic of Christmas dance ticket this year. Stacy Penno is coordinating this year's tour, which is celebrating its 20th year with a nod to its first theme: "The 12 Days of Christmas." Penno said the same theme will run through this year's tour. *Photo by Stacy Penno.*

Trial book exchange program begins

On Nov. 14, the Sedro-Woolley Lions Club with the help of Helping Hands Food Bank Director Michael Frazier began a trial book exchange program for food bank patrons. The program allows patrons to select a book or two to take home and read, and bring back when finished.

The first day went very well, with more than 350 books borrowed. The book selection includes a variety of books for children and adults, all donated by community members. The program is scheduled to run through December, when it will be re-evaluated to see if it merits continuation.

Lions Club members are collecting books from community members for the program. Children's books, novels, and other lightly used books are needed. Early requests from the patrons were for more western books and for books written in Spanish.

To donate books, contact the Sedro-Woolley Lions Club at 360.856.2410.

—Carol Torset

SWHS Alumni Association to meet

The Sedro-Woolley High School Alumni Association will meet Wed., Dec. 19, at 1 p.m. at the Sedro-Woolley Senior Center.

Planning for the popular 2013 All-Class Picnic is well under way. The Association encourages all classes to send representatives to each monthly meeting.

For more information, go to www.swhsalumni.blogspot.com.

Not advertising in Concrete Herald is like winking in the dark*

***You're the only one who knows what you're doing.**

Call 360.853.8213 today to be seen in Concrete Herald, the Voice of Eastern Skagit County.

United General, PeaceHealth boards sign off on proposed alliance

For Public Hospital District No. 304 commissioners, Christmas came in November. At their Nov. 15 meeting, the commissioners voted unanimously to form an alliance with PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center. The proposed alliance had been approved earlier in November by PeaceHealth's community board, the PeaceHealth Northwest Network Board, and the PeaceHealthSystem Governing Board.

Two years in the making, the decision brought applause from the commissioners and the small audience attending the meeting.

Under the alliance, PeaceHealth will enter into a long-term agreement with the hospital district to lease and operate what will become PeaceHealth United General Medical Center effective July 1, 2013. United General would remain a critical access hospital and the hospital district would retain ownership of its facilities.

"This is a lease agreement in a very broad sense, since United General retains its assets and properties, and PeaceHealth assumes the operation of those assets," said United General CEO Greg Reed after the decision.

"This is wonderful news," said Nancy Steiger, CEO/Chief Mission Officer for the PeaceHealth Northwest Network. "The commissioners' approval is another step on the journey to help ensure that residents of the district have local access to specialized, sustainable, and innovative health care."

Reed said the board of commissioners would remain in place, as would the hospital district itself. He added that tax funds would be used to help defray necessary startup investment costs and improve the operation for the first three to four years.

United General first approached PeaceHealth more than two years ago to explore a closer relationship. In May 2010, PeaceHealth Medical Group established a clinic on the United General campus, staffed by physicians specializing in pulmonology, gastroenterology, and sleep medicine. "Our community responded very positively to those new services," said United General Communications Director Valerie Stafford.

Since then, other Bellingham physicians have moved to United General, including

cardiologists and surgeons.

"This alliance builds strength for United's future. A close relationship with PeaceHealth would better position United to grow and would allow us to leverage our collective expertise and experience," said Reed.

According to Reed, because of the overlapping service areas and specialty and referral services already provided in the hospital district, many residents already are familiar with the care they receive from PeaceHealth.

PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center is part of the PeaceHealth system, with medical centers in Alaska, Washington, and Oregon. In addition to the hospital and PeaceHealth Medical Group, PeaceHealth's local services include several Centers of Excellence and the specialty clinic in Sedro-Woolley.

Hospital acquires Concrete clinic

Hard on the heels of the United General/PeaceHealth alliance comes a decision from the Board of Commissioners of Public Hospital District No. 304 to acquire East Valley Medical & Diagnostic Center

and East Valley Pharmacy. The clinic, located at 7438 South D Ave. in Concrete, will become one of three family practices to be operated by United General. The other two are in Sedro-Woolley.

United General will begin leasing the clinic and pharmacy facilities effective Jan. 1. Dr. Dan Garcia and his wife, Emily, who have owned and operated the clinic for 30 years, will become United General Hospital employees.

"East Valley Medical serves a vital role in the health care system for residents in eastern Skagit County," said Chuck Ruhl, president of the Board of Commissioners, "but in recent years the clinic has struggled to remain self-sustaining."

Ruhl cited health care reform, a dramatic increase in charity care, and higher volumes of Medicare/Medicaid patients as factors that make it difficult for independent clinics to survive on their own.

"We realize that transportation and unemployment are serious issues for people in this part of Skagit County, and we are committed to preserving the medical services they rely on," said Ruhl.

—J. K. M.



Sending a little care overseas

Sedro-Woolley Community Troop Support volunteers pause Nov. 27 with the first half of 194 Christmas Care Packages they delivered to the Sedro-Woolley and Lyman Post Offices.

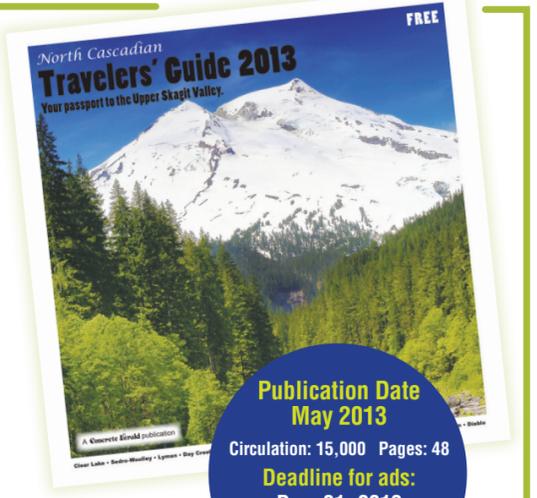
Troop Support Coordinator Marilyn Pineda wrote in an e-mail that because of community generosity and hard work on the part of the volunteers, every last overseas recipient would get a Christmas box this year. The boxes include a variety of necessities and luxuries, such as health and hygiene items, snacks, handwarmers, candy, cards, and letters.

Pineda also said the group had an additional project this year, sending a separate supply of goodies to an army medic in Afghanistan, who planned to play Santa as he made runs to area field camps.

Troop Support has put together additional care packages for latecomers. Contact the group at 360.856.4397 or coordinator@swcommunitytroopsupport.com. *Submitted photo.*

The Travel Guide is back!

Reach visitors to the Upper Skagit Valley by advertising in the 2013 North Cascadian Travelers' Guide.



Publication Date
May 2013

Circulation: 15,000 **Pages:** 48

Deadline for ads:
Dec. 31, 2012

Deadline for payment:
Jan. 31, 2013

The Travelers' Guide will showcase the history, plus current activities and events for visitors to:

Clear Lake, Sedro-Woolley, Lyman, Day Creek, Hamilton, Birdsvie, Grasmere, Concrete, Rockport, Darrington, Marblemount, Newhalem, and Diablo.

A **Concrete Herald** Publication

For more information or to request an advertising rate card, send an e-mail to editor@concrete-herald.com.

Call 360.853.8213



Lyman



Aiden Armstrong (left) and Billie Lewis-LaBrec from Punkin Center were winners of the raffle ticket sales from the Heart to Heart Charity Halloween Party fundraiser. These two dynamos won by selling the most tickets in their respective age groups—Aiden for ages 4-8 and Billie for 9 and older. To celebrate, Billie dyed her hair pink! *Photo by Tammie Werner.*

Council summary

The Lyman Town Council held a regular monthly meeting on Nov. 13, preceded by a public meeting. Following are summaries of those two meetings.

Nov. 13 public meeting: Property tax levy

Clerk Debbie Boyd read information regarding the possible 1 percent increase to the property tax. Council discussed assessed values of properties going down, but the actual tax remaining the same. Boyd read the 2012 assessed value compared to the 2013 value. The property value in the town limits has gone down from \$29,012,222 to \$27,573,763.

With no questions or comments from the audience, Mayor Heinzman adjourned the meeting at 6:55.

Nov. 13 regular council meeting

- Council discussed a request from a resident on Prevedell, who would like the town to put up two 15 mph signs, one going up and one coming down the hill. The cost would be more than \$100 for two signs. There is a sign in place now where the county road meets the town limits. A councilmember suggested speaking with the county to bring up the portable, solar-powered speed sign. Another suggested that a paragraph in the newsletter about speeding would be a good idea also.
- The WSP hiring committee chose Cas Hancock and Gray & Osborne, Inc., to develop the town's Water System Plan Update.
- Ordinance 231, Property Tax for 2013, passed unanimously.
- The question of expanding the Water System Service Area will be addressed in the new plan update. After a short discussion, council decided to keep the Water Service Area as it is and not to expand.
- Councilmember Eddie Hills expressed concern about pump 2; council voted to have Dahlman's look at it. Hills also suggested the town look into a security system for the Town Hall.

Lyman Elementary a "School of Distinction" for second year in a row

They did it again. For the second year in a row, Lyman Elementary School teachers and administrators have done what it takes to be named a 2012 School of Distinction in Washington. Lyman Elementary was the only elementary school in Skagit County to earn the award.

"What made this happen is our teachers and staff. If they weren't part of the equation, this would never have happened. I'm fortunate to have an excellent staff," said Lyman Elementary Principal Mark Nilson.

The honor goes only to the top 5 percent of schools in Washington for outstanding improvement in reading and math. Lyman Elementary was one of only 54 elementary schools in the state to earn the award. Twenty-four middle/junior high schools and 19 high schools also garnered the honor.

"These schools are from all regions of the state, all sizes of towns, and with 2 to 95 percent poverty and enrollment of English Language Learners as high as 49 percent, these schools demonstrate that significant improvement is occurring all across our diverse public schools," said Greg Lobdell, the president of The Center for Educational Effectiveness, one of the organizations that awards the honor.

To earn the award, schools must show improvement in their students' math and reading skills during a five-year period.

The following method is used to track success:

- For elementary schools, performance data must be available for the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades.
- For those grade levels, the performance measure is calculated using the Measures of Student Progress.
- Using data from 2007 through 2012 provides six data points, which identify five improvement steps.
- A school may be considered in multiple bands (e.g. a K-8 school would be eligible in both elementary and middle/junior high bands).
- A school must have data in at least three of six years to be considered, one of which must be 2012.
- "Improvement" is defined as the slope of linear trend over the five years.

—J. K. M.

NOTICE

Heart to Heart KIDS will gather for its last group meeting of the year on Wed., Dec. 5, from 4 to 5 p.m. at the old Town Hall building in Lyman.

Kids will make Christmas crafts and gifts for their families; snacks will be available.

This event is designed for kids ages 4 and older. Admission is free. For more information call 360.826.3818 or e-mail hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com.

Lyman Library tales

By Elaine Kohler

I hope everyone had a lovely Thanksgiving and is looking forward to the holidays of December, whichever one your family celebrates.

With that in mind, we have a great shelf full of things you can make for gifts. Also just received a new group of quilting books, an art that is making a great comeback in the world. I belong to an online group called "The Quilting Board," a wonderful group of men and women all over the world. If you have a question,

ask; someone will have an answer. I know I love handmade gifts and I find all of my family does too.

We also had a great gift of books for teens and little guys. The Heart to Heart children's group has given us some too. With the rain coming down in buckets these days, I want you to know the jigsaw puzzle section has lots of new ones. Some of them will really push your ability to solve them and this can be a great family game night activity.

Till next year, smile ... and Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, and a wonderful Kwanzaa.



Day Creek



Community notes

This year's **Christmas Progressive Dinner** will be held Tue., Dec. 18, at 6:30 p.m. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by Dec. 15 to Donna Pulver at 360.826.3003.

Dinner attendees should bring a small hors d'oeuvres dish to share. Carpooling will be the order of the evening, with the following stops:

House 1: Salad with Mike and Donna Pulver.

House 2: Main meal with Fran Thoreen.

House 3: Dessert at Dave and Kathy Henderson's place.

Anyone who wishes to help at any particular stop should contact Donna Pulver for more information.

All women are invited to attend a Christmas event just for you at Day Creek Chapel: "**Sleigh Bells Bling, Are You Listening?**" with special speaker and musician Sooji Alvarez, will be held Fri., Dec. 7 at 6:30 p.m.

The event includes a fashion show with tips on accessorizing for Christmas using consignment bling from New 2 You Consignment in Concrete. Raffle baskets will be available too.

RSVP to 360.826.3696. Cost is \$10, but don't let that keep you away!

Did you hear? **Day Creek Chapel Pastor Rick Miles** and the lovely and talented Sylvia Miles plan to retire in January. Plans are being arranged for a retirement party; stay tuned for details.

Our corner store continues its restoration. Gary Larson and Robyn Choffel soon will be a much-needed part of the Day Creek Community. Feel free to stop by and visit with Gary as he works on this big project. He is looking for a hand from the neighbors and will gladly use your help. He can be reached at 360.333.3905.

The next **Relationship Encounter** series is led by Marriage Today's Jimmy Evans. A new series will begin in 2013. For more information or to get involved in this series, call 360.826.3581.

Kingdom Builders: Co-directors Donna Pulver and Kathy Henderson are taking a break for the holiday, but if you are in need, please give them a call: 360.826.3581 or 360.826.3003.

A group of women has formed in eastern Skagit County. "**Women Hand in Hand**"

is unaffiliated with any specific church, so the group can cross lines without proprietary identification.

Any women's ministry group that wants to be involved with Women Hand in Hand is encouraged to contact any one of the following:

Sylvia Miles	360.826.3696
Sharon Herring	360.661.5037
Bonnie Lintz	360.856.1385
Sue Walden	360.826.3944
Kathy Henderson	360.826.3581

A **community bulletin board** has been installed at the Day Creek Fire Hall. Community members are invited to post their business cards, coming events, and Day Creek activities on the board—then contact *Concrete Herald* at 360.853.8213 or editor@concrete-herald.com.

Community Club Potlucks are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Day Creek Fire Hall. The next potluck is slated for Nov. 20. The last 2012 potluck will be Dec. 18. Be there or be square!

We are looking for **event ideas** that are fun and help to support the Day Creek Fire Hall while letting us all get to know our neighbors better. If you have an idea, call 360.826.3003 or 360.826.3581.

If you have information for this column, please send an e-mail to winningcirclearanch@gmail.com.

—Kathy Henderson

2013 Community Potluck dates

January 21
February 18
March 18
April 15
May 20
June 17
July 15
August 19
September 16
October 21
November 18
December 16



Tree trimming for a great cause

Led by Virginia Learned of Day Creek, this merry band of women decorated a tree based on a theme of "Elf on a Shelf," after the children's book by the same name. The women were gathered at St. Joseph Center in Mount Vernon Nov. 17 for Festival of Trees, an annual benefit hosted by Skagit Regional Health. Thirty decorated trees were auctioned on Nov. 24, with proceeds—which reached \$210,000—going to support the Cardiac Care Services Special Observation Unit at Skagit Valley Hospital. The group's tree sold for \$1,050.

Shown with their tree are, left side, front to back, Donna Pulver, Day Creek; Lacey Pulver, Sedro-Woolley; Liz DeVries, Lyman; and Learned. Right side, front to back, Linda Ensley, Day Creek, Donna Kurras, Burlington; Valerie Tibbetts, Anacortes; and Demi Daman, Mount Vernon.

Concrete Theatre
Established 1923

SAVE CONCRETE THEATRE!

Donate to Digital Campaign!

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*Advertisement paid for by an anonymous donor.

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- Mail a check payable to Concrete Theatre to: Concrete Theatre, P.O. Box 954, Concrete, WA 98237
- Make a credit card or PayPal donation at www.concrete-theatre.com
- Donate at Columbia Bank in Concrete (designate check for "Digital Projector Fund")

For more info on ways to help, call 360.941.0403 or e-mail info@concrete-theatre.com.

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Above: A curious crane investigates a reclusive turtle during a performance by Dragon Art Studio of Portland, Ore., at Concrete Theatre Nov. 11. Manipulated by barely visible black sticks, the puppets came to life, with the turtle snapping at the crane's rump and coming away with a mouthful of feathers—which he then spit into the air, to the delight of younger attendees.



Members of Women Hand in Hand—an Upper Valley support and service group for women—trimmed their tree Nov. 17 at St. Joseph Center in Mount Vernon for Festival of Trees, an annual benefit hosted by Skagit Regional Health. Thirty decorated trees were auctioned on Nov. 24, with proceeds going to support the Cardiac Care Services Special Observation Unit at Skagit Valley Hospital. The Women Hand in Hand tree went for \$1,175—not bad for their first time out. Shown with their tree, clockwise from right, are Maureen Royal, Sue Walden, Sharon Herring, Tara Day, and Kathy Henderson.



Above: A road worker smooths a lane of asphalt in Concrete Nov. 14 as a Main St. reconstruction project enters its final phase. The project reconfigured and resurfaced the stretch of Main St. between Cupples Alley and Superior Ave. N.

Above: Concrete Public Works staff members Alan Wilkins, Rich Philips, and Dale Angell teamed up Nov. 30 to raise a soaring Christmas tree into position. This year's tree was donated to Town of Concrete by Seattle City Light, which also arranged for its transport to Main Street.



Above: The Jesus Chords played the KSVU fundraiser dinner dance at Concrete Center Nov. 10. From left, Gabe Maas, Greg Irving, Erik Irving, and Jesse Kansanback.



Left: Carrying signs, banners, and American flags, Concrete High School students march through Concrete Town Center during the Veterans Day Parade Nov. 13. Photo by Hannah Kononen.



Left: Concrete Elementary students kicked off the Nov. 13 Veterans Day Parade in Concrete with a brightly painted banner that read, "Thank you Veterans!"

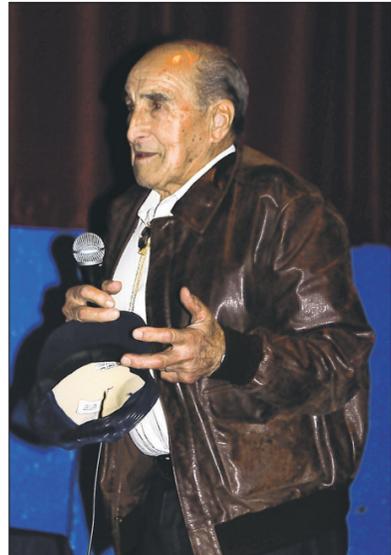
Right: Led by Music Director Peter Ormsby (far right), the Concrete High School Band provided music for the parade. Photos by Hannah Kononen.



Above: A road worker smooths a lane of asphalt in Concrete Nov. 14 as a Main St. reconstruction project enters its final phase. The project reconfigured and resurfaced the stretch of Main St. between Cupples Alley and Superior Ave. N.



Below: Sedro-Woolley High School senior Cole Graham works during his Cinematography class while outsiders stare at him during the S-W School District "Get on the Bus" event Nov. 14.



Above: A very special guest was on hand during a special screening of "Lost Airmen of Buchenwald" at Concrete Theatre Nov. 8: Joe Moser, one of the original airmen, who answered questions from the audience after the film.



Above: Cheryl Werda of Concrete was named leader of the year Nov. 10 during the 4-H Achievement Night, held at Crossroad's Covenant Church in Burlington. Photo by Taleah Werda.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

During this holiday season and every day of the year, we wish you all the best.



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Hamilton



Council summary

The Hamilton Town Council held a regular meeting Oct. 9. Following is a summary of that meeting.

- Mike Norris from Janicki Logging Industries addressed the council regarding the water bill for Janicki Logging. He explained that there had been a leak for an extended period, which was being repaired. They would also correct the connections between Janicki and Skagit Ready Mix. Norris requested the water be turned off until next spring and asked for a credit to be applied to their account where the last four months would be charged at the base rate of \$102 per month. Norris stated that in the spring, Janicki Logging would move into the Hamilton location, and their credit should be \$479.78. Janicki

- agreed to pay the \$100 turn-on fee when the water would be turned back on. Council voted unanimously to credit the Janicki Logging water account with \$479.78.
- Cas Hancock was presented with a letter of appreciation and certificate for all the work she has done for Town of Hamilton. Margaret Fleek was not present; she will be given her letter and certificate later.
- A "Town Clean-Up Day" was discussed. This is flood season and it would be beneficial to help residents remove trash from their yards to prevent damage if a flood occurs. The use of Dumpsters was discussed and the problem of unlawful dumping by people who do not live in Hamilton. It was decided that at this time, no date would be set for a clean-up day.
- Clerk Susan West-Mani reported that the October 2012 flood letter was sent out in the mail to all residents

- of Town of Hamilton. Public Works Director Tom Selin reported that the dike had been checked and was ready in case of a flood.
- Councilmember Moore reported that the chipper he checked on was not available. Mayor Bates informed him there was another chipper possible to purchase in Friday Harbor. Moore would investigate. It was agreed that the council had previously approved the purchase of a chipper for up to \$5,000. Council authorized Moore to bid on the chipper up to \$5,000.
- The monthly water report was not available. Several more leaks were found and the report should be similar to last month's report. Monthly samples from the well were being taken to begin the procedure to eliminate the use of chlorine. The samples will be taken for a year. Selin reported they had started laying the pipe in the new line.
- Selin reported that he was patching holes in the street and that swings in the park needed to be replaced. The entire swing would be too costly, so he had ordered only replacement seats.
- Fire Chief Nick Bates reported the lock on the fire hall door needed to be replaced. Selin will replace the lock.
- Councilmember Bonner questioned why businesses that were no longer in Hamilton were still listed on the town sign. Mayor Bates instructed Selin to remove those business names.
- Council was to meet Tue., Nov. 6 at 7 p.m. to discuss the 2013 budget.

Small earthquake felt in Birdsvie

Birdsvie residents Bill and Lynn McMillan reported to *Concrete Herald* three small earthquakes on Nov. 24—one of which was strong enough for them to feel. The couple felt what they described as a "tiny" earthquake at 8:39 p.m. that night and researched information at the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network Web site, learning that there had been three quakes that day. The largest one—the one they felt—was only 2.0 magnitude, "but it sure seemed significant here, although brief," Lynn McMillan wrote in an e-mail. "It was like a dull roar, and the house shook for a few seconds."

All three quakes were centered due north of the McMillan residence, which would put the epicenters on the northern edge of the community, in line between their residence and Mt. Baker. The 2.0-magnitude quake was preceded by a few minutes by a 1.5-magnitude temblor. Earlier that morning, a .7-magnitude quake was recorded. Lynn McMillan reported a fourth quake on Nov. 26: another smaller temblor, with a .7 magnitude, at 1:43 p.m.

Continue the cycle

Please recycle this newspaper



Business Spotlight: Gold Nugget Jewelry & Loan

By Sandra Hambleton

Gold Nugget Jewelry & Loan is in the big red building, located at the four-way stop on Highway 530 and the Mountain Loop Highway in Darrington. They're open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. In spring and summer, they're open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays.

Owner Jerry Metz had been in the pawn business in Lynnwood for about 20 years before he moved to Darrington, where his son, Jimmy, owns the Red Top Tavern. Jerry had fallen in love with the beautiful scenery and small town lifestyle. He opened "the Nugget" on April 13, 2007.

Gold Nugget Jewelry & Loan has much to offer customers. Manager Julie Engelman explained that the bulk of their



Gold Nugget Jewelry & Loan is located in the familiar big red building at 1075 Seeman St. in Darrington. Photo by David Fryman.

business is military surplus items and sporting goods. Jerry is an Army veteran himself, and the store offers a year-round 5 percent veterans discount. This year their Veterans Day sale gave vets a 10 percent discount while donating 10 percent of other sales to the customer's choice of either the Wounded Warrior Project or the USO. Engelman has matched the donations in memory of her father, Robert, who served in the Navy.

Besides military surplus items like backpacks, parkas, hats, and clothing, there are guns, ammo, fishing gear, tackle and bait, targets, ear plugs, and more accessories on the shelves. Gold Nugget is a licensed firearms dealer and can send and receive firearms. If you are looking for a specific firearm, call them and see if they can find it for you. They sell hunting and fishing licenses too. There are tools, movies, video games, coins, jewelry, and musical instruments. The inventory is always changing.

This past summer, Gold Nugget opened a thrift store three days a week on the second floor of the building, and plans to reopen it in the spring, with hopes of keeping it open year-round after that.

Gold Nugget's website is www.goldnuggetpawnshop.com, and you can find them on Facebook too, where they post weekly specials and quotes. There is also a monthly coupon available by e-mail or U.S. mail. Sign up in person or by phone.

When asked what are the more unusual items they have seen, Engelman said that while there have been several notable old guns, there was recently a WWII Swiss range finder, that everyone mistook for a bazooka. Engelman enjoys working there



Gold Nugget Jewelry & Loan manager Julie Engelman, left, runs the day-to-day operations of the business with clerk Jenn West. The landmark Darrington pawn shop specializes in military surplus and sporting goods. Photo by David Fryman.

and says the store has always worked to build a good customer base and keep people coming back by being up-front and fair, and adhering to legal standards for the pawn industry.

Gold Nugget Jewelry & Loan's staff knows how to have a good time. You can see for yourself. Last year, they were celebrating Merchant's Day with live music and local vendors, when some German tourists filmed the festivities and uploaded them to YouTube. To view the video, go to www.youtube.com and search on "tag1darringtonmarkt01."

At a glance:

Gold Nugget Jewelry & Loan

Where: 1075 Seeman St., Darrington (at the 4-Way stop on Hwy 530 and Mountain Loop Hwy)

Hours: Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sat., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Phone: 360.436.1029

Web: www.goldnuggetpawnshop.com

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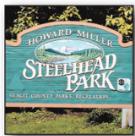
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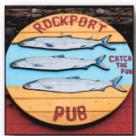


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Rockport



Interpretive Center open to public through January

The Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center at Howard Miller Steelhead Park in Rockport is open to the general public through January. Managed and staffed by members of the Skagit River Bald Eagle Awareness Team (SRBEAT), the center will welcome visitors each weekend during that period, as well as the week between Christmas and New Year's Day.

The IC offers watershed stewardship education and general information for Eastern Skagit County bald eagle watchers. It will offer most of the activities it has during recent years, including guest speakers on most Saturdays, nature walks, souvenirs, eagle viewing information and equipment, educational displays, trained staff, and a warm place out of the weather.

The facility has offered services and programs in a combined effort with numerous public and private entities for the past six years, but has faced significant funding problems in recent years. This season the IC will ask for small donations at the door in hopes of keeping the facility open in the future. The IC has more than 3,000 visitors each season from December through January.

For details on the day-to-day activities at the Interpretive Center during December and January, go to www.skagiteagle.org or call 360.853.7283. The center is on Facebook; search for Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center.

—Deanna Ensley

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Planting party in Rockport

A throng of hardy souls descended on the west end of Howard Miller Steelhead Park Nov. 17. Working with representatives of Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group (SFEG), dozens of volunteers from Pioneer Center North and Boy Scouts Troop 4100 (Mt. Vernon) planted scores of potted trees and shrubs, including western red cedar, Indian plum, black twinberry, ninebark, and spirea. One thousand willow stakes will be installed at the site in December.

The planting area was the western end of a stream that SFEG rerouted earlier this year to provide "off-channel" habitat for young salmon as they navigate the sometimes unsafe waters of the Skagit River, to which the stream connects.

Above: The Nov. 17 work site. The black spots are the plastic pots with plants to be transplanted. **Below left:** Boy Scout Gerald Childress, 18, uses a pick to break up the rocky soil before digging. **Below right:** Boy Scout Simeon Billick, 17, digs in.



PIONEERING TODAY

Homemade Christmas

By Melissa K. Norris

Despite the stress and busy schedule that comes with Christmas, it is my favorite holiday. I love the warm twinkle of lights, the scent of pine, eating baked sweets that melt like memories on my tongue, and time with family and friends.

Here are a few tips for keeping the stress level to a minimum.

1. Start buying gifts in January. Really. Look for great sales/clearance items all year long. Keep a list of who you need to buy for and check them off. That way, you won't forget in November that you bought Uncle Joe a present in February.
2. Make a double batch of cookie dough and freeze it. Later, you can just toss the cookies in the oven. It cuts the time in half on both days.
3. Break tasks down. You might not find an hour to address Christmas cards, or wrap all the presents, but you can find 10 minutes.
4. Learn to say no. You don't have to attend every event you're invited to. Pick the ones that mean the most to you and graciously decline the rest.
5. Exercise. It's a great way to beat anxiety and stress, plus it helps keep off the pounds from the extra goodies we're all eating this time of year. Put on your favorite lively Christmas carols, grab the kids, and dance around the living room for a half hour.
6. No one is perfect—not even your neighbor who makes Martha Stewart look like a slacker. Don't expect yourself to be perfect; you'll only set yourself up for failure.
7. Make time to relax. Take five minutes, curl up with a mug of hot cocoa, and read the nativity story starting in Luke chapter 2 through verse 40.
8. Forget the stores. Make some gifts at home with the kids. Check out the Pioneer Homemade Christmas series at www.melissaknorris.com.

Melissa K. Norris is a Christian fiction novelist who lives in Rockport. Find her online at www.melissaknorris.com.



Darrington



Hall of Fame awards announced

The second annual Athletic Hall of Fame Awards were presented Nov. 17 in the Darrington High School Auditorium by Master of Ceremonies Kevin Ashe.

The mission of the Darrington High School Athletic Hall of Fame is to honor past graduates, teachers, administrators, staff, and community members who have excelled in their fields, earned fame, given support, and brought honor to Darrington High School and the community.

This year's recipients

The Community Contributor Award this year went to Beryl and Rita Mauldin.

The Athletic Hall of Fame Award for Coaching went to Dan O'Malley, who was head football coach for 20 years with a record of 104 wins, 76 losses and 2 ties.

Inductees in the team category went to the 1981 Darrington High School Baseball team, which won the State "B" Championship with a record of 19-0.

Several awards went to athletes who showed exceptional athletic ability and recognition. One award went to Verner Hoglund, 1941-45, an all-around athlete and student.

Gary Black, 1963-67, was an outstanding multisport athlete.

Ivor Hoglund, 1964-68, followed in his father's footsteps in both athletics and academics.

Roger Jones, 1964-68, played football, basketball, and baseball, and earned 12 letters. The new DHS football scoreboard is dedicated in memory of Jones.

Kevin Ashe, 1967-71, played football, basketball, and baseball, earning awards and being named to the All-State League in three sports.

Carolyn Nysether, 1971-75, was an all-around athlete and student, a four-year letterwoman in tennis and track, and a three-year letterwoman in basketball.

Heidi Wright, 1971-75, was a four-year athlete participating in tennis, basketball, cheerleading, and drill team.

Doug Lenker, 1977-81, earned four letters each in football, basketball, and baseball. He coaches the DHS football team.

Susan Howard, 1979-82, was a four-sport athlete, earning letters in volleyball, basketball, softball and track.



Darrington High School alumna Kevin Ashe, class of 1971, speaks during the second annual Athletic Hall of Fame Awards Nov. 17. Ashe emceed the event. *Photo by Marla Skaglund.*

Tina Mathis, 1979-83, was selected MVP two years in a row in volleyball, All-League team, and *Everett Herald's* "Athlete of the Week" for scoring 28 points in one basketball game.

Rhonda Mathis, 1981-85, was named to the "B" League All-Opponent Teams in volleyball, basketball, and softball, and "B" League Player of the Year in volleyball.

Tracy Robinson-Franke, 1981-85, lettered all four years in volleyball, basketball and softball and received All-League honors twice in all three sports.

Lindsay Boyd, 1992-96, lettered four times in volleyball, basketball, and softball. She received a WIAA Certificate of Recognition three times, *Everett Herald* Prep Athlete of the Week numerous times, and All-League recognition in each sport.

The final award of the evening went to Archie Van Winkle, 1937-41, who participated in football, basketball, baseball, and boxing all four years of high school. Besides his athletic abilities, he served as a Marine in three wars: WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. During those wars he earned 19 medals and citations, including the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, and three Purple Hearts.

—Marla Skaglund

Save Money! Clear the Air!

New incentives offered for wood stove change-outs in Darrington area.*

Don't miss this opportunity to upgrade your heating system and save money. Take advantage of special incentives to replace your old, smoky wood stove.



- ❖ Up to \$4,500 to upgrade to an electric heat pump, propane stove or propane furnace
- ❖ Up to \$3,500 for a pellet stove
- ❖ Up to \$2,500 for an eligible newer, cleaner wood stove

Incentives also are being offered for turning in an old stove without upgrading, for building a wood storage sheds, and for trying out compressed wood energy logs.

To learn more about this special program, visit:

www.pscleanair.org/programs/community/darrington

*This special offer from the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency and the Washington State Department of Ecology applies only within a Smoke Control Zone in and around Darrington where wood smoke pollution levels rise during winter months. A map and boundary description are available at the web address above. Special burn bans may be called for this control zone, so be sure to sign up at the web site for notices if you are within the prescribed boundaries.



Marblemount



An early Christmas in Marblemount

Santa and his favorite elf arrived at the Marblemount Community Hall Dec. 1 for the 35th annual Country Christmas Bazaar, bringing with him goody bags for local children. That's Lukas Sahlin, 8, above, explaining to Santa his great need for certain items. Lukas' brother, Kai Sahlin, 10 (below), is looking over the fiddle that Santa passed along to him—a gift from the Sahlin family's neighbor, Andris Vezis, who has agreed to teach Kai how to play the instrument.

Below left: This beautiful wooden puppet and matching storage box were carved by Sasa, a relative newcomer to Marblemount. Sasa—who goes by her first name only—moved to the community less than two years ago and already is making her mark: She suggested and organized a "Marblemount Open Mic" event that was held later in the day on Dec. 1. Look for photos from that event in the January issue of *Concrete Herald*.



Discover Pass buyers can choose their start date

OLYMPIA — A new feature of the Discover Pass allows purchasers to choose the start date for the annual pass. The new feature makes the Discover Pass an excellent gift idea for family and friends who love the great outdoors, according to the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife.

The new "choose your date" option is available to customers who buy the pass online at www.discoverpass.wa.gov or in-person from retailers who sell recreational licenses through the Washington Interactive Licensing Database (WILD) system. Retail vendor locations are listed on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Web site at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/vendors>.

At the time of purchase, the buyer can activate the pass immediately or on any

day within one year of the purchase date.

The new option was passed into law in 2012 to allow greater flexibility to outdoor recreation enthusiasts, including those who want to give the pass as a gift.

"The Discover Pass is the ticket to some of Washington's most extraordinary places," said Gov. Chris Gregoire. "Giving buyers more flexibility makes the gift of access to Washington's beautiful recreation lands an even better choice this holiday season."

The Discover Pass, authorized by the legislature and governor in 2011, is required on motor vehicles accessing state parks and other state-managed recreation lands. It was adopted to support the operation of state recreation lands, including those managed by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, the WDFW, and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). State Parks receives 84 percent of Discover Pass revenue; WDFW and DNR each receive 8 percent.

Kids! Did you miss Santa at the Country Christmas Bazaar?

Come to the Christmas Parade in Concrete to see him and much more!

Parade: Dec. 8, 6 p.m., Concrete Town Center

Santa and gifts at Concrete Center after the parade!



Newhalem



City Light reimagines its Skagit facilities

By Jason Miller

If you've been to Newhalem recently, you've noticed some obvious changes to a few of the buildings in town.

In 2009, Seattle City Light began considering its facilities in Newhalem and Diablo. In 2011, work began to reimagine those facilities. The effort is becoming more noticeable now.

The utility is pursuing a new strategy for managing its existing and future facilities at its Skagit River Hydroelectric Project and its two company townsites, Newhalem and Diablo. By 2016, the built environment at those two locations will be noticeably different.

One of the goals of City Light's new facilities plan is to "eliminate surplus facilities so that existing operations and maintenance budgets can be targeted toward improved operations and maintenance of remaining facilities ..."

That means "deconstructing" 26 houses in Newhalem and Diablo, said Lynn Mills, operations manager for the Skagit Hydroelectric Project. "We want to get out of the housing business. We don't want to be landlords anymore," said Mills.

The decision is meant to encourage City Light employees to live—and invest themselves—in the Upper Valley communities of Marblemount and Concrete, Mills said. This also should encourage the employees to stay in the area longer. "They won't be transient," he said.

The plan also aims to preserve important cultural, civic, and historic functions by restoring and renovating facilities, and identifying program operations to be housed in each renovated facility, with the goal of improved long-term civic stewardship.

Newhalem

With these elements in mind, the plan for Newhalem includes:

- Deconstruction of 10 houses and creation of a riverfront park along the

- Skagit River.
- Preservation of the integrity of the town's Commissary Street by restoring the historic retail and commercial buildings, including the hotel building and Gorge Inn.
- Development of a concessionaire program to operate the Skagit General Store with a new, year-round deli, and to operate the Gorge Inn as a seasonal restaurant, and the hotel and bunkhouses for lodging.

- Preservation of all housing along Silk Sticking Rd., as well as houses located in central Newhalem. Housing preservation work includes energy conservation upgrades, safety, and building code upgrades.

- Preservation and renovation of important cultural resources, including Ladder Creek Garden. Mills said Newhalem's restored retail and commercial buildings won't compete with Marblemount businesses. "By eliminating housing, we get people into Marblemount, living there," he said.

Diablo

Changes in Diablo will include:

- Provide energy conservation upgrades and code improvements to housing in the Hollywood neighborhood.
- Deconstruct five houses near new National Park Service trailhead locations.
- Renovate the Ross Lodge building for medium-size group meeting space and emergency lodging.
- Secure the Diablo Reflector Bar area for power production operations. Pedestrian access to the Reflector Bar area would be maintained.
- Deconstruct 12 houses and associated garages in the Reflector Bar neighborhood and create open space along the Skagit River.
- Renovate the Community Hall building for larger meetings.



Reconstruction of Seattle City Light-owned buildings in Newhalem is seen in this October photo. City Light plans to "deconstruct" (as opposed to demolish) 26 houses in Newhalem and Diablo in order to encourage its employees to move into and become invested in the surrounding communities, such as Marblemount and Concrete.

SR 20 closes for winter

It's that time of year again. After a temporary closure at milepost 134 on Nov. 19, nearly two feet of new snow and several snow slides coupled with a Nov. 20 weather forecast calling for more snow through the Thanksgiving weekend prompted the Washington State Department of Transportation to make the temporary closure permanent.

Twisp Maintenance Supervisor Don Becker said, "It would be unsafe for our crews and the public to be up there."

The highway had closed the morning of Nov. 19 when snow began falling at the rate of more than two inches per hour, causing three snow slides. "By [the morning of Nov. 20]," said Becker, "we

had 19 to 20 inches of new, heavy, wet snow bringing the totals on the shoulders to 38 to 42 inches. That's above the 2-1/2 to 3 feet accumulation that fills up the avalanche chutes."

The 37-mile winter closure zone begins seven miles east of Diablo Dam at milepost 134 on the west side of Rainy Pass (elevation 4,855 feet) to nine miles west of Mazama at milepost 171 below Washington Pass (elevation 5,477 feet). Businesses in all towns and communities west of milepost 134—Newhalem, Marblemount, Rockport, Concrete, Hamilton, and Lyman—are reachable and open for business.

For more information, go to the North Cascades Web page (www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/passes/northcascades).



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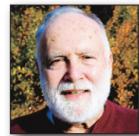
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NOTICE

The Skagit General Store in Newhalem will be closed for up to three weeks beginning Dec. 4, while workers replace electrical wiring in the facility.



Seniors



Coffee Break Happy talk

By Patrick Kennedy

Oh, it's so much fun being retired and having the freedom to wake up when you want and to be able to eat what you want, when you want. No more alarm clocks, no more commutes, no more office or plant stuff, or punching time-card stuff.

You talk about the future, brag about the past, and listen to your friends do the same thing. You plan that trip, that project, or the hobby you wanted to do and can do now because you have the time to fritter away. You meet those new friends that you never had time for before, and you find they have the same ideas and plans and dreams as you.

Sitting next to a flowing river or seawater shore, you say to yourself, "that tide or river can take me anywhere I want to go. They move through time so free; why can't that be me?"

Remember the lyrics to that old song? "Happy talk, Talk about things you like to do. You got to have a dream, If you don't have a dream, How you gonna have a dream come true?" That's a good philosophy to follow in

More Fun with Retirement



Order your copy of
Patrick M. Kennedy's Book
[Http://funwithretirement.com](http://funwithretirement.com)

retirement. Have a dream and make it come true. Optimism, hope, confidence—these should be the operative words for an in-high-spirits retirement.

You worked for many years, juggling tasks like a circus performer. Now you have just one task: be as happy and content as you can. You remember all the fun and games you had in childhood, but then as middle age took over your life, the work controlled it all.

Now, believe it or not, the fun and games can be back. You can be a child again—at heart if not in body motions—and play games and fritter away the time. Of course, some self-control must be maintained. You can't go out and throw rocks at the garage door or the cat next door. Climbing trees is out of the question, and a tricycle is too small. But riding a bike is permissible and a healthy thing to do.

The one word and mental condition that must be avoided is that evil spirit: boredom. "Perhaps the world's second worst crime is boredom. The first is being a bore," said Sir Cecil Beaton. So it's a two-way street: Keep items on your agenda to eliminate boredom, but don't overdo it and bore others with your projects and plans.

Happiness is the goal. "Happiness is the meaning and the purpose of life, the whole aim and end of human existence," Aristotle said. Wonder if he was retired when he said that? Happy talk is part of it, but happy activity is the key to being content in retirement.

Patrick M. Kennedy is the author of More Fun with Retirement. Find it at www.funwithretirement.com.

Way Back When

80 years ago

Dec. 8, 1932: Initiative No. 62, repealing the "Bone-dry Act" and other liquor laws of the state, which was approved by a large majority of the voters at the November election, goes into effect today.

The initiative leaves the state and county officers without any power over the regulation of liquor traffic. After today the general enforcement of prohibition laws will be in the hands of federal officers.

The new law bars the return of the saloon and prohibits the sale of liquor to minors. With these exceptions, this state is now "real wet."

Nearly all the cities and towns in Washington have local ordinances patterned after the state law, and the attorney general has ruled that these ordinances were not repealed by the passage of Initiative No. 62. Most of the cities and towns are now repealing their ordinances relating to the sale, possession, and transportation of liquor, and for the issuing of search warrants in liquor cases, and are passing new ordinances to conform to the federal prohibition law.

70 years ago

Dec. 17, 1942: The contract for erecting buildings and installing mining equipment at the Glacier Peak mine on the upper Suiattle has been awarded to the Henry B. Kaiser Co., a famous ship-building concern.

The main unit of the plant will be a 5,000-ton concentrator, which will eliminate base matter, leaving only high-grade concentrates to be shipped out by truck to Darrington.

Copper and manganese, both critical war materials, are found in the Glacier Peak ore.

60 years ago

Dec. 18, 1952: Merv's Service in Marblemount was the scene of a burglary sometime last Friday night between midnight and daylight.

The thieves got away with more than \$1,000 worth of merchandise. Articles taken from the well-stocked hardware store included guns, knives, wristwatches, ammunition, and cigarette lighters.

The burglars made their entrance by breaking a pane of glass in the front of the store, and hauled out their loot by opening the back door from the inside.

Authorities believe the job to be the work of young amateurs, because of the type of merchandise taken. The guns taken included .22 rifles, a 12 gauge shotgun, revolvers, and an air pistol, .22 ammunition, hunting knives, inexpensive wristwatches, and similar items. More valuable guns were left untouched and other more expensive merchandise was disregarded.

So far the only suspect was tracked down, only to find he had a perfect alibi and was not in the area at the time. Other leads are still being followed.

50 years ago

Dec. 13, 1962: Because of the complexities arising from the

See **Way Back**, p. 29

Concrete Center December 2012 Activities

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Lunch served Mon. - Fri., noon

Mondays

10 a.m. Beginning quilting
10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzle
11:30 a.m. Couponing
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo
12:30 p.m. Dominoes

Tuesdays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzle
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo

Wednesdays

10 a.m. Advanced quilting
10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzle
10:30 a.m. Blood pressure checks:
Dec. 12
11 a.m. Advisory Board mtg.:
Dec. 12
12:30 p.m. Bingo: Dec. 12 and 26
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo

Thursdays

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Wii Sports play
10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzle
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo

Fridays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzle
10 a.m. Movie (viewers' choice,
on Netflix)
12:30 p.m. Dominoes

Coming events*

12/13 Christmas Lunch, noon
12/20 Concrete High School Choir,
12:30 p.m.
12/21 Christmas Party and Gift Exchange,
12:30 p.m.

Closures

12/24 Furlough Day
12/25 Merry Christmas!

*Details published in December newsletter.

Concrete Herald
The Voice of Eastern Skagit County

Way Back, cont. from p. 28

Comprehensive Survey being made for Town of Concrete, Mayor Peterson feels that a planning commission would be very beneficial to the economic progress of the community.

The Comprehensive Survey being made by the engineering firm of Harstad and Associates of Seattle is approximately 70 percent completed. Future economic development here will depend largely upon what action the town takes upon completion of the survey.

The Planning Commission will consist of five to seven persons and will act in an advisory capacity to the Town Council.

40 years ago

Dec. 21, 1972: John Woodworth and Richard Dokken, both of Concrete, were found innocent of second-degree assault charges by unanimous verdict of a Skagit County Superior Court jury Friday afternoon.

The men were charged with firing a shotgun at the home of Roger Givens and his family on Sauk Valley Rd. south of Concrete March 9.

Defense attorneys brought forth witnesses who testified that the defendants were elsewhere when the alleged shooting took place. A witness, Charles Mink of Seattle, testified he had fired shots that night at what he believed was an attacking dog.

30 years ago

Dec. 9, 1982: Rock and mud slides closed the North Cascades Highway east of Newhalem Friday. Heavy rains plugged culverts and washed out highway shoulders, the WSDOT office in Mount Vernon reported. Crews are clearing the roadway and have opened one-way traffic for City Light workers and Diablo residents between Diablo and Newhalem.

An occasional comment

By Jeanne Malbrain

If I can dig into my memory far enough, didn't President Kennedy have an affair that he eventually "owned" up to? So, if true, it's OK for presidents to have affairs, but not generals?

Moral: Be careful of your status before you start "fooling around."

It seems that the powers over Syria are bent on the destruction of their rich ancient historical sites. What a pity! Instead of waging this seemingly useless war, they ought to be developing a visitors' package to send to all the countries in the world. Who knows? If they did that, they might become one of the wealthiest countries in the world. But, there are never so blind as those who will not see.

Ladies: Unless you are svelte, you are going to have a hard time being fashionable this season. All ladies' garments are slim and short. There will be no flared, gathered skirts to hide those extra pounds. They will end about six inches above the knee, so there is no room for the well-rounded thigh. So, either work to conform or drop out of the fashion show.

Why has the American public after more than 200 years still remained essentially middle class? Or does it take longer than that to develop the widening of the classes?

Cheers!

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Sunday School lesson

Preparing for Christmas

By Chris Anderson

No matter how much things change, they always manage to stay the same. When I was a child, Christmas started right after the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. That was the official announcement of Santa Claus.

Look at the stores around us. As soon as Halloween is over, the Christmas decorations are up. As I drive through Anacortes and down the highway to Concrete, I see the bright Christmas lights sprouting everywhere. Even some of the churches between here and there have Christmas decorations. At the same time, I hear, "We need to get the Christ back into Christmas!"

This month is a time when we think about why there is a Christmas. Why the decorations? Why the preparation? Why the rushing around, the buying and selling? We need to take a serious look into our hearts. When we do that, we might see if there is anything that stands in the way of Jesus' coming.

If Christmas means anything for us today, it needs to begin within our own families and homes. Attending church together is one way for us to prepare. Our services can help as they concentrate on Who it is who is coming. What was the

need for a Messiah? Why did God need to become human?

There also is a tradition of home Advent services with the wreath and candles. It only takes a few minutes each evening for families to be reminded that 2,000 years ago, people were waiting for God's salvation and a Messiah. It also reminds us that He promised to come again. We need to see that the Messiah is present with us right now!

The word "Advent" means "coming." It reminds us that we need to put the world back into darkness so we can recognize the Light. We remember that before Jesus was born there was no Light in the world. There were only promises that someday the Light would come. Advent is waiting for the Light, which is Jesus. It is waiting for Life. From out of the darkness we hear a voice say, "I come!" During these four weeks before Christmas, that voice becomes louder and clearer. As we wait we are filled more and more with expectation and hope for what God promises.

If we get tied up waiting for Christmas, we miss the whole point of God sending His Son. It's because we are sinful and in need of a savior that Christmas had to happen in the first place. In the ancient church, this was a time when the church members concentrated on what it would be like if Jesus had not been born. The preaching of John the Baptist was a voice in the wilderness saying, "Repent, for the

Kingdom of God is so near you can touch it!" That's a message for us!

We begin looking into our own hearts and lives. Repent and give God the opportunity to cleanse the guilt. Allow Him to take the bitterness and anger. Acknowledge our unforgiving attitudes and self-righteousness. Then when the baby is born on Christmas Eve, we can truly celebrate.

The light is shining. It shines in our families and in our personal situations. The Light of the world is with us!

Chris Anderson is pastor of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Concrete.

Obituaries online

Obituaries published in Concrete Herald from May 2009 to present are posted online at:

www.concrete-herald.com/obituaries

For more information, call 360.853.8213 or e-mail editor@concrete-herald.com.

Worth repeating

"Whatever is not an exhibition that God exists misses the whole purpose of the Christian's life now on the earth. According to the Bible, we are to be living a supernatural life now, in this present existence, in a way we shall never be able to do again through all eternity. We are called upon to live a supernatural life now, by faith. Eternity will be wonderful, but there is one thing heaven will not contain, and that is the call, the possibility, and the privilege of living a supernatural life here and how by faith before we see Jesus face-to-face."

—Francis Schaeffer, True Spirituality

"Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession ... Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate."

"When all is said and done, the life of faith is nothing if not an unending struggle of the spirit with every available weapon against the flesh."

"Judging others makes us blind, whereas love is illuminating. By judging others we blind ourselves to our own evil and to the grace which others are just as entitled to as we are."

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost Of Discipleship

"We must learn to regard people less in the light of what they do or omit to do, and more in the light of what they suffer."

"Being a Christian is less about cautiously avoiding sin than about courageously and actively doing God's will."

"We are not to simply bandage the wounds of victims beneath the wheels of injustice, we are to drive a spoke into the wheel itself."

"A God who let us prove his existence would be an idol."

"Where God tears great gaps we should not try to fill them with human words."

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"Jesus himself did not try to convert the two thieves on the cross; he waited until one of them turned to him."

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer,

Letters and Papers from Prison

Skagit County Sheriff's Office Blotter

Oct. 12

Residents near the Creek Side Campground near Birdview called to trespass their daughter's friend. They said that he had been causing problems and they no longer wanted him there. Deputies contacted all parties and requested he leave. No crime had been committed.

Oct. 14

A hiker on the Cascade Trail called to report finding a bag full of hypodermic needles sitting on the trail near Minkler Rd. near Sedro-Woolley. A deputy collected the needles and had them destroyed.

Oct. 17

A female caller reported being assaulted by her boyfriend in the 38000 block of Cape Horn Rd. near Concrete. The boyfriend had already left the area in a vehicle prior to the deputies' arrival. The female had obvious marks on her from an apparent assault. Deputies later found the suspect in his vehicle near Sedro-Woolley and arrested him for assault and booked him into jail for assault.

A deputy was on patrol in the Cape Horn area when he observed a male walking on Fir St. who was recognized as having warrants. The jail would not accept the individual; he was given a new court date. While the deputy was finishing the paperwork, he noticed another vehicle stop at his location. He recognized both people in the car. The female in the car had a valid felony warrant out for her arrest. The jail accepted her and she was booked into jail.

Oct. 19

An elderly female in the 23000 block of Buchanan St. in Clear Lake received suspicious phone calls from people with heavy accents telling her to buy a scratch lottery ticket for \$100 and they would give her \$500,000 in exchange. She refused and hung up; however, they called back and offered her \$1,000,000 for the exchange. No transaction was made. No suspects at this time.

Oct. 20

A dirt bike motorcycle covered with a tarp was located at the south end of Sterling Rd. in Sedro-Woolley near the river. The registered owner was contacted and he said that he sold it to someone living on Sterling Rd. That person was contacted and said that the dirt bike was stolen two days ago. They retrieved the dirt bike. No suspects at this time.

Deputies were called to the 7200 block of B Ave. in Concrete for a fight. Deputies found the victim in the basement. Investigation revealed an assault had occurred, but the deputies could not locate the suspect. He will be charged with assault.

In the early morning hours, deputies were called to a residence in the 31000 block of West Main St. in Lyman for a male and female screaming at each other. Deputies found that the parties were intoxicated and arguing over a hunting trip. It was determined that no assault occurred, and no arrests were made.

Oct. 22

A caller from the 6300 block of Emerald Ln. in Marblemount reported the caller's grandson had gotten upset and broken a door inside the house. The argument was over doing laundry as the grandson needed his clothes to be "perfect." The juvenile male was booked into juvenile detention for malicious mischief.

Oct. 23

A resident in the 9000 block of District Line Rd. in Sedro-Woolley reported a burglary. Deputies found evidence of the door being kicked in. The burglars removed many jewelry items and cash. Two matching pillow cases were removed most likely to carry the items away. Based on the evidence left behind, deputies are conducting follow-up.

A female caller in the 23000 block of Bartl St. in Clear Lake called to report her grandson had taken her vehicle without her permission. Deputies investigated and found the vehicle had been towed within the previous two days and the grandson was in jail from unrelated charges from Mount Vernon Police Dept. Deputies booked him on charges of vehicle theft.

A resident in the 42000 block of Cedar St. in Cape Horn reported a theft of his cat. He described the cat as a rare breed of Calico. He later called back and said the cat had come home. No suspects or cat burglars were located.

Oct. 24

The owner of a vehicle had parked his car at the South Skagit and Hwy 9 Park and Ride near Clear Lake for a short time and noticed that his battery was stolen. Deputies are investigating but have no suspects.

A male caller from the 700 block of Maple St. in Hamilton reported that his adult son was arguing with his girlfriend and wanted them to stop. Deputies had been at that residence several times in the past few weeks dealing with mental issues. All parties were talked to and no crime had been committed.

A caller in the 41000 block of Cape

Horn Dr. near Cape Horn reported that his cord of firewood was slowly disappearing. He normally has it stacked near his picnic shelter and it was down to almost nothing. A trail was located to a neighbor's house. Deputies interviewed the possible wood thieves, but no charges have been filed.

A male was in the 44000 block of Leonard Rd. when a neighbor's dog came over and growled at him. After he was done with his conversation, the dog bit him on the calf, causing puncture wounds. The dog owner was told to lock the dog up for 10 days, and the victim went to the doctor for treatment.

A male caller reported that he and his dad were stranded up on Medford Hill near Hamilton and needed a ride. The caller also said his dad needed medical attention. Deputies called out Four Rivers Search and Rescue, which eventually located the two stranded motorists.

Oct. 27

Deputies responded to a possible burglary in progress in the 21000 block of SR 20 near Sedro-Woolley. A neighbor reported seeing a male dressed in dark clothing behind a vacant house. The neighbor yelled at him and he ran off. Deputies checked the area, but were unable to locate the suspect.

A deputy stopped two speeding vehicles in the early morning hours on Francis Rd. near Clear Lake and was investigating one of the drivers for DUI. As he was outside speaking with the suspected drunk driver, an approaching vehicle struck the rear end of his patrol vehicle. Nobody was injured, but that driver was also arrested by State Patrol for DUI. The patrol car suffered only minor damage.

Oct. 29

A resident in the 7500 block of Delvan Hill Rd. near Sedro-Woolley reported that his shop had been entered sometime in the last week. Many hand tools and chainsaws were taken. No suspects at this time.

A resident in the 13000 block of Trumpeter Lane near Clear Lake called to report his vehicle broken into sometime overnight. The vehicle's rear window had been smashed out; the owner's stereo and rain gear were taken. No suspects at this time.

At 4:35 a.m., deputies were dispatched to a vehicle fire in the 43000 block of the South Skagit Highway near Concrete. Upon their arrival they observed visible flames. The truck was unoccupied. The fire appeared to have started near the carburetor.

Oct. 31

Deputies responded to a wrecking yard on River Rd. in Sedro-Woolley for an alarm. Deputies checked the entire area at

3:45 a.m., but did not locate any suspects. Cameras in the area are now being monitored.

A resident in the 8000 block of Pipeline Rd. in Lyman called to report an attempted burglary to his shed. A light was on inside that should have been off, and an extension cord was plugged in that wasn't supposed to be. The door had a bow in it; however, it did not appear the shed had been entered. Homeowner was advised on home security.

Nov. 2

A male caller in the 46000 block of Baker Loop Rd. near Concrete reported having two 6-volt batteries stolen out of a camp trailer sometime in the preceding couple of weeks. No suspects at this time.

Nov. 4

A duck hunter called to report a person was shooting a gun from a nearby residence in an unsafe manner. The caller said he was hunting on a pond in the 35000 block of Hwy 20 and after shooting some ducks, a neighbor began shooting his own gun. They were concerned they were being targeted. Deputies contacted the homeowner, who admitted that he is tired of the hunters as he feels it is

See **Sheriff's Blotter**, p. 33

Level 2 Sex Offender NOTIFICATION

The Skagit County Sheriff has released the following information pursuant to RCW 4.24.550 and the Washington State Supreme Court decision in State v. Ward, which authorizes law enforcement agencies to inform the public of a sex or kidnap offender's presence.

Hinnant, Nathaniel Adam

Age: 32
Race: W Sex: M
Height: 5' 11"
Weight: 160
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Brown
Address: 256xx Minkler Rd., Sedro-Woolley



Hinnant was convicted of first-degree malicious mischief with sexual motivation in 2011, in Skagit County.

Hinnant is not wanted by the police at this time. Citizen abuse of this information to threaten, intimidate, or harass registered sex or kidnap offenders is a punishable offense and also will result in the removal of the online notification resource.

Source: Skagit County Sheriff

Worship directory

<p>Assembly of God Concrete Assembly of God 45734 Main St., Concrete; 853.8042 Sun. worship: 10 a.m. Tue.: Men's meeting, 8:30 a.m. Wed.: Adult Bible study, 6 p.m. Thur.: Women's Bible study, 6:30 p.m. Bruce Martin, pastor</p>	<p>E-mail: pastorjohn@firstbaptistclearlake.com</p>	<p>Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Sun. worship: 11 a.m. Call for weekly youth group/Bible studies Tim Hedberg, pastor</p>
<p>Lutheran Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church 46372 Main St., Concrete / 853.8814 Sun. worship: 10 a.m. Chris Anderson, pastor</p>	<p>Hamilton First Baptist Church 797 Hamilton Cemetery Rd. at SR 20 Office: 360.826.3307 Sunday School: 9:40 a.m. Sun. worship: 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Ron Edwards, pastor</p>	<p>Free Methodist Day Creek Chapel 31438 S. Skagit Hwy, Sedro-Woolley Office 360.826.3696 Rick Miles, pastor Sun. worship: 10 a.m. Tue.: Women's Bible study, 9:30 a.m. Thur.: Bible study at Mt. Vernon Manor, 6:45 p.m. Fri.: Dinner/Bible study at Miles' 6:30 p.m.</p>
<p>Nondenominational Agape Fellowship Meets at Mount Baker Presbyterian, 45705 Main St., Concrete Second and fourth Weds., 7 p.m. 360.708.4764 Dolores Elliott, pastor</p>	<p>Catholic St. Catherine Mission Church 45603 Limestone St., Concrete Mail: 719 Ferry St., Sedro-Woolley Office: 360.855.0077 www.gbgm-umc.org/cumc-sedrowolley Sat. Mass: 8:30 a.m. Father Martin Bourke, pastor www.svcc.us/scm</p>	<p>Methodist Central United Methodist Church 1013 Polke Rd., Sedro-Woolley 360.856.6412 / centralumcsw@yahoo.com www.gbgm-umc.org/cumc-sedrowolley Adult Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Sun. worship: 11 a.m. Marilyn Kallishian, pastor</p>
<p>Baptist First Baptist Church 12732 Hemlock St., Clear Lake 360.856.2767 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Sun. worship: 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wed.: 7 p.m. John Batts, pastor</p>	<p>Covenant Community Covenant Church 12605 Highway 9, Clear Lake 360.856.1023 // covenant@wavecable.com www.clearlakecov.org</p>	<p>Presbyterian Mount Baker Presbyterian Church 45705 Main St., P.O. Box 246, Concrete Church 853.8585; office 595.0446 www.mtbakerpresbyterian.synodnw.org</p>
<p>North Cascade Community Church 59850 SR 20, Marblemount 360.873.2504 // www.mmag.net Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Sun. worship: 10:30 a.m. Wed.: Teen Connection, 6 p.m. Women's Ministry, 2 p.m. (2nd, 4th, and 5th Wed.) Thur.: Bible Study, 7 p.m. Fri.: AA meeting, 7 p.m., in library upstairs Dave Nichols, pastor E-mail: pastordave@fastmail.fm</p>	<p>Lyman Baptist Church 31441 W. Main St., Lyman Office: 360.826.3287 Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Sun. worship: 11 a.m.</p>	<p>Community Bible Church 45672 Limestone, Concrete; 853.8511 E-mail: cbcofconcrete@earthlink.net Sun. School: 9 a.m.; Worship Svc: 10 a.m. Childcare/Children's Ministries at both Contact church for other ministries Rob Thomas, pastor</p>
<p>Rockport Christ the King Comm. Church 11982 Martin Rd., Rockport, WA 98283 Church office: 853.8746 Pre-service fellowship: 9:30 a.m. Sun. service: 10 a.m. Sun. eve. Bible study: 5 p.m.</p>		



Health



Healthful tips for enjoying the holiday season to the fullest

(BPT) — It's the most wonderful time of the year—but are you able to enjoy the holidays completely? The approaching holiday season means quality time with family, special deliveries in the mail, and goodies that delight the taste buds. But it's important to be prepared and stay healthy throughout the season so you can enjoy every festive moment.

Consider these holiday health essentials that allow you to enjoy the season to the fullest:

Do you see what I see?

The sights of the holidays are a delight, but for the millions of people who have trouble seeing small images and print, many traditional holiday activities can be difficult to do. An easy solution is a stylish

pair of reading glasses. Consider reading glasses with a light that can be turned on to help you see better in dim areas, ideal for when you want to read holiday greeting cards or recite "'Twas the Night Before Christmas" to the kids. Another option that is perfect for traveling is reading glasses that fold to a compact size to easily fit in a shirt pocket or purse, so you can be prepared no matter where your holiday adventures take you.

Avoid a blue Christmas

The holiday season is a special time of year that coincides with another, less anticipated time: cold and flu season.

No one wants to end up stuck in bed with a nasty bug missing out on all the festivities. That's why now is the time to stock up on soap and hand sanitizer.

Keeping hands clean is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of infection and illness, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, so be sure to scrub up often, including before

you cook, bake, eat, or hold your precious grandchild.

Bundle up to walk in a winter wonderland

Winter and the holidays go hand in hand, which means colder weather is to be expected, including ice and snow. Keep healthy by protecting your body from the elements. When running around town shopping and grabbing holiday essentials, be sure to wear a scarf, mittens, and boots if the weather is chilly so you can stay warm and dry. The winter wonderland atmosphere is sure to enhance your holiday mood, but catching a cold—or worse, frost bite—will leave you feeling like a Grinch.

Too many cups of cheer? Medication can help

Sugar plums, roasted chestnuts, figgy pudding—while your holiday meals may not include these types of historic holiday fare, you're probably noshing on

a variety of treats you don't eat at other times of the year. Eating rich foods and trying new dishes is a part of celebrating the season, but it can leave you with an upset stomach. Whether you're hosting an event at your home or traveling to another location for the holidays, be sure to stock up on antacid and other over-the-counter remedies for stomach troubles.

With a few simple steps, you'll prepare yourself for your best holiday season yet, one where you feel healthy and enjoy every moment.

Concrete Herald
The Voice of Eastern Skagit County

Continue the cycle

Please recycle
this newspaper



The Travel Guide is back!

Reach visitors to the Upper Skagit Valley by advertising in the 2013 North Cascadian Travelers' Guide.

The Travelers' Guide will showcase the history, plus current activities and events for visitors to:

Clear Lake, Sedro-Woolley, Lyman, Day Creek, Hamilton, Birdview, Grasmere, Concrete, Rockport, Darrington, Marblemount, Newhalem, and Diablo.

A Concrete Herald Publication



Publication Date
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Deadline for ads:
Dec. 31, 2012

Deadline for payment:
Jan. 31, 2013

For more information or to request an advertising rate card, send an e-mail to editor@concrete-herald.com.

Call 360.853.8213

AREA FOOD BANKS

Clear Lake

Community Covenant Food Bank
Next to church at 12605 Hwy 9, Clear Lake
For a referral, call Love Inc. at 360.419.7061 between 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

Concrete

Concrete Food Bank
112 E. Main St., Concrete
Second, third, and fourth Thur. each month, Noon–3 p.m.
360.853.8505

Darrington

Darrington Food Bank
First Baptist Church
1205 Emmens St., Darrington
First and third week each month:
Wed. and Thur., 10–noon and 1–2 p.m.
360.436.9603

Hamilton

Hamilton Community Food Bank
951 Petit St., Hamilton
Every Tue., 11–noon and 1–3 p.m.

Commodities distributed first Tue. each month
360.826.4090

Lyman

Shepherd's Heart Food Bank
8334 S. Main St., Lyman
Every Thur. 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
Third Thur. each month till 5 p.m.
November: Open Nov. 23, 10 a.m.–noon
Closed Thanksgiving Day // 360.424.4927

Marblemount

Bread of Life Food Bank
59850 State Route 20, Marblemount
First and third Wed. each month
11 a.m.–5 p.m.
360.873.2504

Sedro-Woolley

Helping Hands Food Bank
601 Cook Rd., Sedro-Woolley
Wed., 10–11:45 a.m. and 12:30–4 p.m.
Commodities distributed first Wed. each month
360.856.2211

*Changes? Call 360.853.8213.

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 31

too close to his backyard. No shooting violations were found.

Nov. 5

A male caller in the 8600 block of Birch Lane in Sedro-Woolley called to report his wife had gone missing sometime in the early morning hours. An extensive search was done by family members throughout the day. When she hadn't come back home by the next day, they called for help. Deputies began interviewing the family and put an attempt to locate out on the female. Mount Vernon police called sometime during the day, stating that she had been located at a grocery store. She was taken to the hospital for a mental health evaluation.

A caller in the 41000 block of S. Shore Dr. in Cape Horn called to report hearing multiple gun shots in the area. The deputy who checked the area wasn't able to find the source of the noise.

A hunting rifle was reported missing and/or stolen from a residence in the Concrete area. A suspect has been named, but no arrests have been made.

Nov. 7

In the early morning hours, a resident

in the 10000 block of Elwick Lane in Day Creek called to report an intoxicated male was in his front yard yelling and screaming. Deputies made contact with the male, who was having car troubles and was looking for help. He was given a ride into Sedro-Woolley.

A clerk at a business in the 53000 block of SR 20 in Rockport called to report a suspicious male yelling and screaming in their parking lot. The male appeared to be on an unknown drug, because his actions and demeanor were not normal. A warrants check revealed a warrant out of the Dept. of Corrections. He was arrested and booked into jail.

Nov. 9

A resident in the 41000 block of North Shore Lane in Cape Horn reported a burglary to his garage. A riding mower and log splitter were among some of the items taken. There are no suspects at this time, but deputies are investigating.

Nov. 11

Deputies were called to the area of the old cement buildings located near Lake Shannon, also known as Devil's Tower, for a possible fall. Upon investigation it was determined that people were in there and someone fell, hitting their head. Aid

crews assisted the injured person. This area is off limits to the public, and "no trespassing" signs will be installed to keep people out. No charges have been filed.

A resident in the 9200 block of Claybrook Rd. near Sedro-Woolley reported her ring stolen out of her car that was driven by a friend. The friend was confronted and admitted to pawing the ring. Deputies investigated and located the ring at a pawn shop. The ring was placed into evidence and charges are pending on the suspect.

Nov. 12

A male caller from the 27000 block of South Skagit Hwy near Clear Lake reported a suspicious vehicle was in front of his house and thought it was stolen. Deputies investigated and contacted other people with the vehicle. The vehicle was not initially reported stolen, but upon investigation the business that owns the vehicle confirmed it was stolen. Deputies were attempting to locate the person who was known to drive it to the location where it was found. No arrests have been made at this time.

Nov. 13

A resident in the 21000 block of Plaza Dr. in Sedro-Woolley called to report two

handguns missing from his residence. He last saw them a month ago when he went target practicing; however, he can no longer find them. No suspects at this time; deputies are investigating.

A Honda motor scooter was parked for repairs at a mechanic's shop in the 25000 block of Helmick Rd. in Sedro-Woolley. When the owner went to pick it up, it was no longer there. There are no suspects at this time; deputies are investigating.

A resident in the 29000 block of South Skagit Hwy. near Clear Lake called to report fraudulent activity on her credit card. Her credit company told her that her card was used in Great Britain by a marketing company. She was given a case number and her card was cancelled. She was issued a new card from her credit company.

A male caller from the 7300 block of N. Superior Ave. called to report a male was outside his trailer yelling at him. Deputies responded and contacted both parties. The intoxicated suspect male was cited for disorderly conduct and booked and released on his outstanding warrants, because the jail would not accept him.

—Compiled by Chad Clark,
SCSO Chief of Field Services

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Out & About



Burlington

Grand opening for new visitors center

Burlington welcomed a new building in November, one that will provide valuable information for visitors to the area, no matter from which direction they approach it.

The Burlington-Skagit County Regional Byway Center opened its doors for business during a grand opening celebration Nov. 27. The 3,068-square-foot visitors center, located at the corner of Oak and Fairhaven in Burlington, is designed as an information hub for travelers who plan to participate in recreational opportunities in the area, including the Whidbey Island Scenic Isle Way, Chuckanut Drive, or the Cascade Loop/North Cascades National Park.

"The Burlington-Skagit County Regional Byway Center is located at the center of five scenic byways. This unique location will serve visitors from all directions and introduce them to all the amenities Skagit County has to offer," said Linda Fergusson, president/CEO of the Burlington Chamber of Commerce.

The center is the chamber's new home and includes amenities, such as a rest/picnic area, a 2,246-square-foot covered canopy, and access to bicycle paths, pedestrian trails, and Burlington's historic downtown. Also included are indoor and outdoor interpretive elements such as kiosks, maps, and a natural rain garden.

The \$1,326,353 project was funded in part by WSDOT, which contributed \$512,083 from its Scenic Byway Program and \$435,450 from its Enhancement Program.



Above: Burlington Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Linda Fergusson reacts as the ceremonial ribbon is cut during the grand opening celebration for the Burlington-Skagit County Regional Byway Center Nov. 27. Standing with Fergusson are local businessman Duane Stowe, Burlington City Planning Director Margaret Fleek, and Burlington Mayor Steve Sexton. The center was Stowe's idea and was years in the making.

Below: The Burlington-Skagit County Regional Byway Center is located at the corner of Oak and Fairhaven in Burlington. The 3,068-square-foot visitors center is the new home for the Burlington Chamber of Commerce and is designed as an information hub for travelers who plan to participate in recreational opportunities in the area, including the Cascade Loop/North Cascades National Park, Chuckanut Drive, Mt. Baker, and the new Agricultural Scenic Corridor along I-5.



La Conner

Two-museum pass for the holidays

Skagit County Historical Museum and the Children's Museum of Skagit County are joining together to a doubled-up experience this holiday season.

Families that purchase a Two-Museum Pass for \$15 can visit both the Children's Museum and the History Museum. Passes are available at either Museum.

The Skagit County Historical Museum is located at 501 South 4th St., at the top of the hill in La Conner. The Children's Museum of Skagit County is located in the Cascade Mall in Burlington.

For more information, contact the History Museum at 360.466.3365 or www.skagitcounty.net/museum, and the Children's Museum at 360.757.8888 or www.skagitchildrensmuseum.net.

Anacortes

Anacortes Museum beckons

A variety of elegant holiday place settings—and a few whimsical decorations—are on display at the Anacortes Museum through the new year, courtesy of the Ana Curtis and Fidalgo Finderskeepers chapters of the International Questers Organization.

Anacortes Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tue. through Sat., and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday. The museum will be closed for Christmas and New Year's Day. For more information, call 360.293.1915.

Holiday meeting/celebration at museum

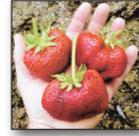
The public is invited for light refreshments and holiday cheer, hosted by the Anacortes Museum Foundation, on Tue., Dec. 11, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Anacortes Museum, 1305 Eighth St. in Anacortes.

Before the celebration, the Anacortes Museum Foundation's annual meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. downstairs. A new display of holiday china will be available for viewing during the celebration.

For more information, call the museum at 360.293.1915.



Home & Garden



Gift ideas for the home

By Katy Tomasulo

Still hunting for the perfect gift? Here are a few fun products that crossed my desk this year.

Learning thermostat

The Nest learning thermostat programs itself, learning schedules within a week and automatically turning down heating or cooling when you're away. The Nest's approachable design—with color-changing screen, rotating temperature-adjustment ring, and push-button menu—appear very much in line with the user-friendly interfaces that have made iPod products successful. Remote control via a smartphone or laptop and an Energy History option round out this unit's highlights. \$198 and up.



Milwaukee's M12 Red Lithium battery technology hidden in a back pocket and provides up to six hours of heat on a single charge. It's water resistant and includes a zip-in removable hood and extra storage pockets on the chest and left arm. \$149.99 at www.acetoolonline.com.

Modern birdhouse

Handmade with glossy stoneware and an aluminum assembly, this egg-shaped birdhouse can withstand yearlong weather extremes, while its 2-inch clean-out hole and removable aluminum bottom provide for quick clean-out. It hangs on vinyl-coated wire, and the aluminum perch is removable to deter predators during nesting season. Available in seven colors. \$155 at www.jschatz.com.



Reclaimed cutting board

The Le Chop cutting board from CounterEvolution is made with solid maple reclaimed from bowling lanes. The handcrafted boards measure 2 inches thick by 11 inches wide by 16 inches long. It comes with rubber feet and a lifetime service plan. \$165 at www.counterev.com.

Easy-clean water bottle

The Alex water bottle from Nice Reusables opens in the middle, allowing for easier cleaning without special brushes, even after consuming smoothies and powdered drinks. The separating design also allows for compact travel and for mixing and matching 20-oz. and 32-oz. pieces to create a 26-oz. bottle. The bottles are made with Grade 304 stainless steel and are BPA-free. \$25.95-\$29.95 at www.alexwater.com



Fire hose wash kit

This one-of-a-kind Dopp kit is made by Elvis and Kresse from genuine reclaimed British fire hoses, making it strong and waterproof. The interior compartment includes a pocket and a lining made with reclaimed military-grade parachute silk. \$89 at www.eco-artware.com.



Heated work jacket

Got an outdoor worker in your life? The M12 High Visibility Heated Jacket from Milwaukee features sewn-in carbon fiber heating zones on the chest and upper back to warm the body and stimulate blood flow. The system is powered by

Garden Patch

By Gladys Silrus

This month, plan to make next spring even more beautiful by planting snowdrops, crocus, tulips, daffodils, and other spring blooming bulbs. Add bonemeal beneath all bulbs; it builds the bulbs and encourages more flowers. These bulbs should be planted after Thanksgiving and before Christmas.

Now is also the time to plant indoor bulbs, such as amaryllis and paper whites, to help brighten your home.

In the veggie garden

Scatter some fall rye or another cover crop over your veggie garden to keep down the weeds and to return nutrients to the soil.

Now is a great time to plant hardy shrubs, trees, hedging plants, and fruit trees—the exception to this is if we have snow or the ground is frozen. Otherwise, planting now has real benefits like

allowing your new plants to settle in without the stress of summer heat. Don't forget to add some good amendments to your soil when you plant, such as bonemeal, peat moss, and manure. Water all your transplants well to ensure the soil fills in around the roots properly. Remember, for the first year, all new plants will require regular watering. Make sure you stake all young trees to secure them from winter winds. Use three stakes with rubber tubing—pantyhose works great too, because it lets the tree move in the wind. Just don't tie it too tight!

Roses

As the leaves drop from your climbing

roses, securely tie them. Extra long canes can be trimmed to shape at this time and any spindly growth (thinner than a pencil) can be removed. Bush roses should be pruned in late February or early March, but you can remove extra lengths from these now to help prevent against breakage from snow and wind. Do not prune lower than 24 inches tall.

Flowering shrubs

Do not prune at this time of year. Some plants already have formed their flower buds and you don't want to remove them.

Dormant spray

Spray fruit trees and roses two to three times between December and early February, when the plants have no leaves on them. Be careful of very early leaf buds on roses; if they already are growing leafy new growth, it is too late for dormant spray.

If you haven't raked your leaves, cleaned out annuals, and tidied the veggie patch, now is the time.

Prepare an area now for your sweet peas next year: Dig a ditch, fill it with leafy matter free of disease, and cover the leaves with soil. When you plant your sweet peas, you will have the perfect mixture in which to plant.

Finally, dream it, plan it, design it, and get ready for a brand-new year in the garden.

Happy Holidays! Happy gardening!

Got a gardening question? Send it to Gladys for an answer! Call her at 360.826.4848, or write to her at gsilrus@frontier.com or 42002 Pine St., Concrete, WA 98237.

Snohomish County Master Gardener Foundation announces winter lecture series

The Snohomish County Master Gardener Foundation announces its 10th Annual Winter Lecture Series for 2013.

This popular sustainable series features Northwest garden personalities in eight sessions on alternate Friday mornings

from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. beginning Jan. 4. Lectures are held in the Social Hall of the Mukilteo Presbyterian Church, 4515 84th St. SW, Mukilteo.

For more information, including a list of speakers, topics, and how to register, go to www.gardenlectures.com.

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*You're the only one who knows what you're doing.

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Smile



Dwelleysms

Wit/wisdom from former Concrete Herald editor Charles M. Dwelley

“Little as we Americans like picking a fight, it is growing more apparent each day that we missed the brass ring in not invading Cuba in force at the time of the abortive refugee attempt. Like a gentleman we have waited for Cuba to be armed fully as a communist satellite before noticing that we have a fight on our hands no matter what we think. We must either fight an aggressive war or a defensive war. The defensive war would be on our side of the water. Time for the former is rapidly slipping away.”

“The jet car is now on the road, but who needs it? Our normal cars require seat belts for survival. [Since] the only other thing a jet engine can offer is speed, we aren't quite prepared for an ejection seat campaign.”

—Sept. 6, 1962

“If more campaign statements were sworn to, there wouldn't be so much to swear at after the swearing in.”

“Colored pajamas are suggested to perk up hospital patients. Better dead than red.”

—Oct. 4, 1962

“Kid's query: If he's everybody's president, why does he just work for one party's candidates?”

“Beware the ‘hurray for everything’ type of candidate. He might accidentally honor his campaign pledges and bankrupt you.”

“Ever notice that most top-side youngsters are no stranger to back-side discipline at home?”

—Oct. 11, 1962

“For anyone who hasn't seen the Fair, we would gladly donate our press pass for the final days. All you have to do to pass the gate is look like an old, white-haired ex-convict—like the ID photo.”

—Oct. 18, 1962

“Those who would have peace by nonviolence are finding out that while the idea is noble, man isn't.”

—Nov. 8, 1962

A few good ones ...

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. The service was to be at a paupers cemetery in the Kentucky backcountry. I was not familiar with the backwoods; I got lost.

I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch.

I felt bad and apologized to the men for being late. I went to the side of the grave and looked down, and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play.

The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before.

As I played “Amazing Grace,” the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together. When I finished I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head hung low, my heart was full.

I opened the door to my car and heard one of the workers say, “I never seen nothin' like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for 20 years.”

Three cowboys—Billy, Rex, and Chuck—were drinking at the local bar. Billy said, “Did you hear that bugger Roy bought a new car. I bet he's going to start bragging about it the moment he enters this bar.”

Rex said, “You shouldn't be judgmental about him. Roy's a good lad. I'm sure he's just gonna say a ‘hi’ when he walks in.”

“I know Roy better than either of you,” said Chuck. “He's a smart guy; he'll find a way to do both. Here he comes now.”

Roy swung open the bar door and yelled, “Audi, fellas!”

After 35 years of marriage, a husband and wife went in for counseling. When asked what the problem was, the wife went into a tirade, listing every problem they'd ever had in the years they'd been married.

The therapist walked over to the wife and embraced and kissed her long and passionately as her husband watched with a raised eyebrow.

The woman shut up and quietly sat down in a daze. The therapist turned to the husband and said, “This is what your wife needs at least three times a week. Can you do this?”

The husband thought for a moment. “Well, I can drop her off here on Mondays and Wednesdays, but on Fridays I fish.”

Concrete Harold

By Joyce Harris



Public Service Announcement

By Stig Kristensen



Crossword: “High Enders”

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20									21			22		
			23			24	25				26	27		
28	29	30				31					32			
33						34				35			36	37
38			39	40					41					
42								43					44	
			45					46			47	48		
49	50							51			52			
53				54	55					56		57	58	59
60				61				62	63					
64						65					66			
67						68					69			

Across

- Monroe's successor
- Yammers
- “Hamlet” has five
- Storyteller
- Unightly
- Binary
- High enders
- Fifth-century scourge
- Border monitors (abbr.)
- Absorbed, as a cost
- Caesar's meal starters?
- Bach composition
- ___-l'Eglise, France
- E or G, e.g.
- International language
- ___-time low
- “Seize ___!”
- Arctic jacket
- High enders
- ___-proof
- Caviar source
- Afflict
- Gathered dust
- Black gold
- Dutch pottery city
- 1940s-60s world leader
- Dorm room staple

Down

- Eastern pooh-bah
- “Dang!”
- Common contraction
- Fashionable
- Funeral slabs
- Pursue relentlessly
- “Give it ___!”
- Disheveled
- Harmonize
- Play title word
- Relating to a steward
- Spoonful, say
- Cold shower?
- Spicy stew
- Corn dish
- Like, with “to”

- “We ___ the World”
- Dash
- Plaudits
- High enders
- 1952 Olympics host
- Home, informally
- Heart chambers
- Western or Buy
- Arabic miracle
- Leather whip
- Mark for misconduct
- Aroma
- Truth
- Scat queen, to friends
- Hinged dredgers
- “And I Love ___” (1964 tune)
- Mature
- “___ I care!”
- Early European
- Bandy words
- Hoaxes
- Lady Macbeth, e.g.
- Fish hawk
- Strip of potency
- Crude stone artifact
- Bigwig
- Clear, as a disk
- “Andy Capp” cartoonist Smythe
- “Empedocles on ___” (Matthew Arnold poem)
- City on the Yamuna River
- Dilute
- Alone
- Auction offering
- ___ Today
- Utmost

Sudoku

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down, and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

			2	7	6	3		5
			9				2	3
				2	8			6
5							9	4
9	7	6						2
	2			8	1			
1	4	5				7		
	6			4	3	2	7	

*Solutions to both puzzles are on p. 38.

Funny as Facebook

The following funnies were pulled verbatim from Facebook status updates in November.

- “Procastinator? No. I just wait until the last second to do my work because I will be older, therefore wiser.”
- “Great. Pot is legal and THEN we lose Twinkies?”
- “Autocorrect is my biggest enema.”
- “My 10-year-old hums constantly and is not aware that he's doing it or where he got the song. His go-to songs lately: “House of the Rising Sun,” “Have a Cigar,” and the Dreidel song. If I wasn't so intrigued by his choices, I would already have lost my damn mind.”



SAVE CONCRETE THEATRE!

Donate to Digital Campaign!

The movie industry will convert to digital in 2013. Concrete Theatre won't be able to show new movies unless it converts to a digital system --a \$50,000 hurdle. **Please donate to help keep Concrete Theatre alive!**

*Advertisement paid for by an anonymous donor.

- Donate at the theater during weekend movie times
- Mail a check payable to Concrete Theatre to: Concrete Theatre, P.O. Box 954, Concrete, WA 98237
- Make a credit card or PayPal donation at www.concrete-theatre.com
- Donate at Columbia Bank in Concrete (designate check for “Digital Projector Fund”)

For more info on ways to help, call 360.941.0403 or e-mail info@concrete-theatre.com.

Council, cont. from p. 6

violations in that area and also are looking into how to keep the gates closed to limit access to this area.

- An idea from Historic Preservation and Landmarks Commission (HPLC) member Robert McWilliams regarding the new public safety building was discussed. McWilliams had suggested that a simpler building could be constructed adjoining the Superior Building to house the fire engines. The Superior Building could then be renovated to contain the fire department's offices and training rooms. The new building could be directly attached to the Superior Building or accessed via a breezeway between the two.

Councilmember Jason Miller reported this could be a cost savings for the project and would provide for more funding opportunities if it was for public safety and historic restoration. Jason stated this is just an idea that may be less expensive and would still work to get the building up faster while still providing suitable facilities. (Current estimates put the Superior Building restoration

at \$1.3 million and the new public safety building at \$2.6 million—\$1.3 million for the building plus \$1.3 million for site-related expenses, including parking.)

Councilmember Jack Mears stated he believes the HPLC is still trying to make the town responsible for the funding of the Superior Building. He also questioned if the HPLC just wants the fire department to be housed in a garage while getting the Superior Building fully renovated.

Mayor Wilson stated the plans have already been developed and the town is on track with the funding agencies for the current plans. He stated that if the town decides to change now, it would be starting back at square one.

Town engineer Cody Hart stated that he believes the \$1.3 million that has been estimated for the restoration of the Superior Building is just for office space use and the cost would go up to add suitable training facilities and housing options.

Audience member John Boggs questioned if there were any empty hangars at the airport that could be purchased by the town and used to house fire department equipment and

vehicles or the public safety building. He stated this is the highest area in town, topographically speaking.

The discussion was tabled for further research on these and other ideas.

Nov. 26 Regular Meeting

- Hart reported that the Main Street reconstruction project is complete and under budget.
- Council voted to approve an amendment directing Resource Solutions of Leavenworth to pursue CDBG grant funding for the new public safety building.

Editorial, cont. from p. 2

resuming a monthly publishing schedule in May 2009. You'll recall that during a nine-month period, *you*—the citizens of Skagit County—donated the \$10,000 I needed to buy out the publisher of the shopper that was publishing at the time, plus purchase the necessary computer equipment needed to produce the newspaper. I haven't forgotten that; I continue to work hard to make you proud of the newspaper that you helped to bring back into existence.

If everything goes according to plan, April also should bring word from the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association that *Concrete Herald* has become a member. The paper currently is in a probation period during which members of the WNPA board are examining each issue I produce, to determine if the newspaper is worthy of membership. Maybe you should contact the WNPA and tell them how much the newspaper means to you. (I'm joking, I'm joking.)

In May 2013, the *North Cascadian Travelers' Guide* will return to a regular (annual) publishing schedule. Not having grown up in Concrete, I was unaware of this remarkable publication's former existence until our fire chief Rich Philips handed me a copy from 1985. I was so impressed with the quality of that guide, I decided to figure out a way to bring it back.

The 2013 issue of the *Travelers' Guide* will be 48 pages, and I intend to bump that up to 56 for the 2014 issue. With a print run of 15,000 copies, it won't come cheap, so feel free to help me encourage local businesses to advertise in the guide—that's what pays the printer's bill!

As 2012 draws to a close and 2013 looms, thank you for your support. Thanks for your kind words, your subscriptions.

Thanks for supporting the businesses that advertise in *Concrete Herald*. Thanks for adding your voices to our newspaper by writing notices and articles, and submitting photographs.

I am always open to suggestions for improvement. Feel free to call me at 360.853.8213 or e-mail me at editor@concrete-herald.com.

Here's to a great new year!
—Jason Miller, publisher and editor

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***You're the only one who knows what you're doing.**

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Sudoku solution, from p. 37

4	8	2	7	6	3	1	5	9
6	5	7	9	4	1	2	3	8
3	9	1	5	2	8	4	6	7
5	3	8	2	7	6	9	4	1
2	1	4	3	8	9	5	7	6
9	7	6	1	5	4	3	8	2
7	2	3	8	1	5	6	9	4
1	4	5	6	9	7	8	2	3
8	6	9	4	3	2	7	1	5

Crossword solution, from p. 37

A	D	A	M	S	G	A	B	S	A	C	T	S		
G	R	I	O	T	U	G	L	Y	D	U	A	L		
H	A	N	E	D	N	O	O	N	H	O	R	S	E	
A	T	T	I	L	A	W	C	O	A	T	E			
		S	A	L	A	D	S	M	O	T	E	T		
F	E	C	H	E	K	E	Y	I	D	O				
A	L	L		H	I	M	A	N	O	R	A	K		
C	L	A	S	S	E	N	E	R	G	Y	R	I	S	E
T	A	M	P	E	R	R	O	E	A	I	L			
		S	A	T	O	I	L	D	E	L	F	T		
N	E	H	R	U	S	T	E	R	E	O				
A	R	E	P	E	P		E	C	L	A	T	S		
B	A	L	L	S	T	R	U	N	G	L	I	G	H	T
O	S	L	O	N	E	S	T	A	T	R	I	A		
B	E	S	T	A	Y	A	H	W	H	A	N	G		

Cut your own Christmas tree

Permits for sale in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

EVERETT — Is going to the forest, carefully selecting the perfect Christmas tree, and cutting it down a tradition in your family? If not, now may be the time to start. Through Dec. 24, the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest is selling permits to cut Christmas trees.

Cutting areas are located within national forest lands in the eastern portions of Pierce, King, Snohomish, Skagit, and Whatcom counties. Maps and information about cutting areas are provided where permits are sold at ranger stations and the Verlot and Glacier Public Service Centers.

Permits are sold at the locations listed below, as well as at REI's Alderwood Mall daily and the Outdoor Recreation Information Center located inside the downtown Seattle REI store Tuesdays-Saturdays. Permits cost \$10 each, one tree per permit, with a tree height limit of 12 feet. Trees taller than 12 feet require a tall tree permit for \$20. The permits are for 2012 only and are nonrefundable.

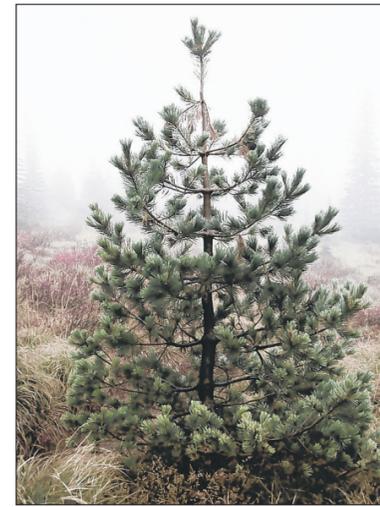
Credit cards are not accepted at Forest Service offices or the Outdoor Recreation Information Center in the Seattle REI store; however, the REI at Alderwood Mall will take them. Forest Service offices are closed on Christmas Eve, and REI stores will close early.

Plan to purchase a parking permit if the trip includes parking in a designated Sno-Park lot.

Look for posted signs where cutting is prohibited. Maps are available online and where permits are purchased. Tree cutting is not allowed within developed campgrounds, administrative sites, designated wilderness areas, or on state or privately owned lands within the national forest. Tree cutting also is not permitted within 150 feet of any stream, lakes, ponds, or wetland areas.

View the Christmas Tree Handout at https://fs.usda.gov/wps/PA_WIDContribution/simplegetfile?dDocName=STELPRDB5398324&url= for more rules and information about the permits.

Most trees are reached by narrow, unplowed mountain roads. High-clearance vehicles are often required, along with tire chains and a shovel. Check ranger stations for road and weather information or check road and trail conditions.



This White Pine is a rare find on the western side of the Cascades. You will more commonly find noble fir, Pacific silver fir and Douglas fir on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest to cut for a Christmas tree. Photo by Kelly Sprute.

Offices and locations

Mt. Baker Ranger Station
810 State Route 20, Sedro-Woolley
360.856.5700, ext. 515
Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Dec. 8–9, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

Glacier Public Service Center
Mt. Baker Highway 542, Glacier
360.599.2714
Weekends, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

Darrington Ranger Station
1405 Emens Ave. N., Darrington
360.436.1155
Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Dec. 8, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

Snoqualmie Ranger Station
North Bend Office
902 SE North Bend Way, North Bend
425.888.1421
Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Dec. 8, 8 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Seattle REI
Outdoor Recreation Information Center
222 Yale Ave. N., Seattle
206.470.4060
Tue.-Sat., 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

REI Alderwood Mall Store
3000 184th St. SW, Lynnwood
425.640.6200
Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.–9 p.m.
Sun., 11 a.m.–7 p.m.

Classifieds

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EVENTS
Holiday Open House, Grassmere Village, 44574 Hwy 20, Concrete. Dec. 15, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

EMPLOYMENT
Office worker, experienced. Must be detail-oriented, type 50 wpm, and have multimedia experience, Web site creation, and maintenance know-how. 5 hours/week to start. Send resume to Dave's Towing, P.O. Box 305, Concrete, WA 98237.

FOR SALE
Headstones. Traditional & One-Of-A-Kind. TODD'S MONUMENTS, 360.708.0403. www.toddsmonuments.com.

SERVICES
Eagles In Flight Motorcycle Sales and Service / Sissy Bar. 360.853.7000.
Gladys' Upholstery Shop. Quality work, reasonable prices. 360.826.4848.

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