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Youth of the Year named

Sedro-Woolley Boys & Girls Club tapped Paula Banda as its Youth of the Year and Hayley Myrick as Junior Youth of the Year during the club's Dinner with Friends event on Nov. 14. *Page 16.*

Deep Forest Experience returns to Rockport S. P.

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission invites the public to experience the natural world at Rockport State Park through guided hikes and activities all winter. *Page 23.*

Planting project begins in Darrington

Planting has begun on Darrington St., filling beds with hornbeam trees, shrubs, bulbs, and perennial flowers. *Page 24.*

Eagle Festival to celebrate native cultures

Marblemount Community Hall will fill with food, music, dance, and education on Jan. 14-15, all highlighting Native American culture. *Page 26.*



The greatest gift

Valerie Lee gave Bob Coffell one of her kidneys—and a new lease on life.

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Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley



WNPA
Washington Newspaper Publishers Association

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Opinion

Letters to the editor

KSVU fundraiser a huge success

Saturday, Oct. 29 saw scores of goblins, faeries, and wild beasts dancing the night away at KSVU's annual Halloween Fundraiser party in Marblemount—and what a night it was!

Besides the great potluck supper and the amazingly talented musicians Undecided and Jumbled Pie, more than 50 businesses and individuals donated items and

services for the raffle, making that night our most successful ever, netting more than \$1,300!

We want to thank everyone publicly:

See Letters, p. 38

Corrections

In a photo caption on p. 10 of the November issue, Leona Martinez was incorrectly identified as Izabela Ramos. I'm sorry, Leona. I know better.

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Message from the mayor

By Jason Miller

On Nov. 18, Town of Concrete learned that it's been awarded \$188,000 in TIB (Transportation Improvement Board) funds for our requested overlay



improvements to South Dillard from SR 20 to Benjamin Street. Very exciting! We'll grind and overlay the roadway from SR 20 to Ericksen Place, then do a simple overlay down the hill to Benjamin. We'll pave over that substandard shoulder on the east side of Dillard as it drops down the hill, and stripe it so that a walking area is clearly delineated.

Project timeline: Construction during summer 2017, most likely.

A big thank-you to our Town Clerk Andrea Fichter and our engineer Cody Hart, who played the biggest roles in landing this grant funding!

A heartfelt thank-you to the eight volunteers of all ages who braved the rain with me on Nov. 27 to make our **Town Center ready for Christmas!** We hung wreaths, garland, and lights on the lamp posts. Thanks to Cheryl, Bethany, and Iona Werda, Loren Brothers, Rebekah Rider, Doug Ryan Jr., and his two sidekicks.

Meanwhile, our Asst. Public Works Dir. Rich Philips worked with a separate group of volunteers to locate, cut, deliver, and set up our town's Christmas tree. Thanks to Rich, and also to Mark Berg for donating the beautiful Noble fir; Dave Claybo for finding the tree and helping with setup; David Dellinger for the use of his bucket truck to load, offload, and set up the tree; and Jason Kleinhuisen for transporting the tree with his truck and trailer.

The follow-up to this preparation was a **very fun evening on Dec. 3**, which included a free movie ("Elf") at Concrete Theatre, then a tree-lighting, Christmas carols, a visit from Santa, and free candy canes for the kids. Thanks to Gretchen Hewitt, Cheryl Werda, and Val Stafford for their roles.

Concrete Mayor Jason Miller can be reached at goodwords@frontier.com or 360.853.8213.

From the editor
100 years of publishing

Take a look at the line of text below the nameplate on the front page of this month's issue of *Concrete Herald*, and you'll see a couple very important numbers: "Vol. 99, No. 12." That "99" stands for 99 years, and, with this the 12th issue published, well, it's math even I can do.

Admittedly, we're not talking about consecutive years. Our hometown newspaper hit a rough patch at the end of 1991, when it folded because of mismanagement. Former longtime publisher and editor Charles M. Dwelley—who died only two years later—must have been saddened by that news.

The newspaper returned to a monthly publishing scheduling with the May 2009 issue, after people just like you donated your hard-earned dollars to help me bring it back. I've never forgotten that, and I never will.

Here's to 100 more years.

—J. K. M.

This holiday season, give a gift certificate from these local businesses

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360.853.9006

Concrete Theatre
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www.concrete-theatre.com
360.941.0403

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KSVU anticipates power increase

In response to a local, anonymous donor's offer to match KSVU's fundraising efforts, the community radio station soon will be the recipient of a 2,000-watt broadcast tower.

Currently broadcasting with only 300 watts, the increased wattage should be in place by the end of this year, with listeners receiving a stronger signal from Marblemount to Sedro-Woolley and beyond.

Radio waves, not unlike water, flow from its source, following the path of least resistance. With this in mind, it's hard to know specifically just where that stronger signal will go, but the hope is to strengthen it upriver to east Marblemount, Newhalem, and Darrington, as well as communities downriver.

Now completing its fifth year of on-air operation at 90.1 FM, KSVU continues to welcome volunteers in any capacity, and hopes to entice school students to join in learning about the value of public, local media.

To inquire, call the studio at 360.853.8588 and leave your name and number.

—Christie Fairchild

Toys for Tots collection boxes await

Collection boxes for **Toys for Tots** are already out at the following locations: Birdsvew Brewing Co., Albert's Red Apple Market, Cascade Burgers, Cascade Supply, East County Resource Center, and Seattle City Light work centers in Newhalem.

The most fondly remembered Christmas are generally from childhood. That's what Toys for Tots is all about: making Christmas a pleasant memory for children. Please drop off your new, unwrapped toys at any of the Toys for Tots collection boxes.

Most toys collected are for young children, but older children deserve to believe in Santa Claus too. If you're not sure what to donate for older children, consider sending a check directly to: Toys for Tots, P.O. Box 2292, Mount Vernon, WA 98233. Funds will buy suitable gifts and gift cards for older children.

—John Boggs

CELEBRATE

Christmas in Concrete

You're invited to join us for music, movies, crafts, and some special events with very special people in December. We hope to see you!



CONCRETE SCHOOLS MUSIC PROGRAM WINTER CONCERT
Thursday, Dec. 8
6 p.m. at Concrete High School gymnasium

IMAGINE CONCRETE FOUNDATION CHRISTMAS BAZAAR & CHILDREN'S CRAFT FAIR
Saturday, Dec. 10
1 to 4 p.m. at Concrete Elementary School gymnasium

CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM HOLIDAY POTLUCK
Wednesday, Dec. 21
6:00 p.m. at the Concrete Center

CLASSIC MOVIE: WHITE CHRISTMAS
Thursday, Dec. 22
7:00 p.m. at the Concrete Theatre
Free admission; info at www.Concrete-Theatre.com

Sponsored for the community by Town of Concrete and members of the Concrete Chamber of Commerce.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

For more information: www.Concrete-WA.com or (360) 853-8784.

Town of Concrete undergoes two audits

By Haley McNealey
 Edited by Katy Tomasulo

The Washington State Auditor's Office conducted two separate financial audits for Town of Concrete in October. The audits analyzed data from January through December 2015, looking at financial information and compliance with state, federal, and local laws on the part of all local governments. Both audits reported no findings.

The first of the two, the Federal Single Audit is completed only when a municipality spends more than \$500,000 in federal funds during a calendar year. In 2015 Concrete received a Community Development Block Grant for the construction of the Fire and Life Safety Building, and this grant mandated the town undergo this particular audit. Ultimately, the purpose of this audit is to ensure the town is managing grant funds

appropriately.

The second audit was an Accountability Audit. Required at least once every two years, the Accountability Audit confirms that the town is adhering to its own policies, as well as applicable state policies. In most areas, the audit determined that town operations complied with applicable requirements and provided adequate safeguarding of public resources. It also determined that the town was in compliance with its own policies and procedures, as well as state laws and regulations.

The Accountability Audit noted several matters related to the town's financial condition. The concerns were expressed to town staff and elected officials at an exit conference held on Oct. 11:

- The town's cash position (ending cash and investments reported within governmental funds) has been declining for the past five years, with the exception of a slight increase in 2013.
- Similarly, the town's cash sufficiency (number of days that the general fund could operate on its ending cash and investments) has followed the same declining pattern.
- The town's enterprise fund operating margin (difference between money received from taxes, fees, etc., and money spent, such as the cost of providing services) saw a significant decrease in 2015.
- The town does not currently have enough cash in reserve to comply with requirements of its USDA loans.

The town was required to have 10 percent or \$132,383 as of December 31, 2015, but actual reserves at that time were \$76,638. The town has reported this to USDA and there are no financial penalties for noncompliance.

The town has been made aware of these concerns, and it has taken the following steps to improve its financial condition:

- Implemented across-the-board increases to utility rates.
- Currently negotiating a contract renewal with a major commercial water customer.
- Exploring other options, including a plan to review its utility rate structure to determine if it is adequate to cover the cost of providing water and sewer services, including related debt reserves.

Writer Haley McNealey is a 2015 graduate of Concrete High School. Editor Katy Tomasulo lives in Seattle.

Business Spotlight

Smuggler Brothers

For all your medicinal and recreational marijuana needs, head to Smuggler Brothers. Located at 1912 SR 20 in Sedro-Woolley, Smuggler Brothers has marijuana products and paraphernalia available seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Owners Jeff and Amy Kraus offer a carefully selected line of products, including marijuana flowers, associated lower-grade trim products (pieces that can

be rolled into joints), pre-rolled joints, traditional hash, modern hashes (extracted with alcohol or butane to get a more concentrated THC oil), edibles and other infused products, and topical treatments like lip balm, lotions, and salves.

In the paraphernalia category, look for pipes, bongs, vaporizers, battery-operated pens, and side accessories such as storage jars, rolling papers, and more.

There's something for everyone on Smuggler Brothers' shelves, says Jeff Kraus.

"Our clients are coming for medicinal and recreational reasons, since the prices are about the same. We cater to the medical market by offering products with high concentrations of nonpsychoactive CBD oil, and customers are reporting the benefits."

Smuggler Brothers opened in October 2014, sharing the same roof but separated from Naked Clothing (which also carries nonregulated CBD lotions) and Munchies Cafe. The entrance to Smuggler Brothers is on the north side of the building.

Word is spreading that Smuggler Brothers is the destination for medicinal and recreational marijuana users. Stop by the next time you're in town. Bring cash.



Smuggler Brothers staff members are on hand to serve customers from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. Standing from left are owners Jeff and Amy Kraus, and Olan Yoho, Chris Gonzales, and Kate Seymour. Kneeling from left are Hannah Moran, Michelle Wader, and Isela Pimental. *Not pictured:* Anna Martin, Ernest Jackson, and Renae Hoidysz.

At a glance:
Smuggler Brothers
Where: 1912 SR 20, Sedro-Woolley
Phone: 360.746.9229
Hours: 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily
Web: www.smugglerbrothers.com

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The Skagit Eagle Festival is funded in part by a grant from the Skagit County Lodging Tax.

Plenty to do for Christmas in Concrete

A variety of holiday events and activities in and near Concrete await Upper Valley residents this month. Here's what's on the calendar, organized by date:

Dec. 8: Concrete Schools Music Program Winter Concert
Enjoy local students' musical efforts under the baton of musician teacher Peter Ormsby. The concert begins at 6 p.m. in the Concrete High School gym.

Dec. 9 and 10: The Spirits of Christmas Past
Join actor and paranormal investigator Chad Lindberg for a tour of the Sedro-Woolley Museum and communication with the spirits that call it home. Pick a night and enjoy the tour from 5 to 7 p.m. Admission is \$10 per person, \$5 for ages 10 and younger. Reservations are required; call 360.855.2390.

Dec. 10–11, 17: Concrete Lions Club Annual Christmas Tree Sale
Want a beautiful tree and a promise your money will stay in the community? Head to the Swap Meet field just west of Loggers Landing in Concrete, or the Red Apple Market in Grasmere, and pick up a tree from Concrete Lions Club members. They'll stand ready to help you pick a winner from 9 a.m. to closing during the three remaining days above.

Dec. 10: Small Town Christmas Show
Darrington artists Gordy Beil, Ron Wolff, and Holly Cannell present their annual holiday event, where folks can purchase unique artwork and handmade gifts. The show will be held on Sat., Dec. 10, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 605 S. Emens Ave., Darrington. For more information, call 360.436.0711.

Dec. 10: Christmas Bazaar and Children's Craft Fair
Hosted by Imagine Concrete Foundation, the holiday-themed event returns for a third year at the Concrete Elementary School gym from 1 to 4 p.m.

This year's lineup includes new crafts, gingerbread houses, photos with Santa, a silent auction on steroids, music, and lunch provided by Concrete Elementary PTO.

Admission is free, with a small charge for craft activities. For more information, send an e-mail to em@5bsbakery.com or call 360.853.8213.

Dec. 10: "Christmas on Moen Road"
Open to all Upper Skagit families, this festive event will be hosted by Marty and Adrienne Smith at their home, located at 48040 Moen Rd., approximately 5 miles east of Concrete, off SR 20.

Santa will arrive promptly at 6 p.m. in his sleigh, with a gift for every child up to 12 years old. Other attractions for the evening include hay rides, a live Nativity scene, a drawing for a girl's bike and a boy's bike, Christmas gift baskets, a bonfire, hot dogs, and hot drinks. Festivities should wrap up at 9 p.m.

Christmas on Moen Road is sponsored by Friends Helping Friends and Community Bible Church of Concrete.

Dec. 18: Hamilton Christmas Party
The Hamilton Christmas Party will

be held at the Hamilton Town Hall in Hamilton on Sun., Dec. 18 at 1 p.m. Hosted by the Hamilton Volunteer Fire Dept., the event includes a visit from Santa on the fire truck, plus treats for the little ones.

Donations of new toys, money, or treats for the event are welcome. For more information, call 360.840.9144.

Dec. 21: Concrete Heritage Museum Holiday Potluck

Join the museum membership at the Concrete Community Center at 6 p.m., and don't feel obligated to bring a dish. This fun group will welcome anyone who is interested in the history of the Upper Valley. Want to be more involved? They'll help you out there too.

Dec. 22: "White Christmas" screens at Concrete Theatre

The Christmas classic like you may never have seen it before: on the big screen. Admission is free, and the movie starts at 7 p.m.

For more information, go to www.concrete-theatre.com.

—J. K. M.

Council summary

Concrete Town Council met for regular meetings on Nov. 14 and 28. Following is a summary of those two meetings. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are posted on the town's Web site at www.townofconcrete.com/cminutes.php.

Nov. 14 regular meeting

- Mears Field leaseholder Gary Dunlap brought several concerns to the council's attention. Council directed staff to research Dunlap's statements and concerns, and provide a written response. (This response was presented to Dunlap during the Nov. 28 regular meeting.)
- Public safety:** Sgt. Chris Kading reported the Trunk or Treat event had gone well, but it was reported that two of the scarecrows had been stolen. He also reported on the toilet paper that was set on fire in both sides of the public restroom at Silo Park, which had stained the bathroom floor. It was also stated there was some damage done to the Sani-Can at the Skate Park.
- A public hearing was convened regarding Resolution No. 2016–17, 2017 Property Taxes. After the public hearing, council voted to approve the resolution.
- The first of two public hearings for the 2017 budget was convened. No action was taken by the council.
- Council approved the addition of a separate vision plan to the town's health insurance package for employees. Council members based their decision on the small amount added annually.
- Mayor Miller reported that Water and Wastewater Services had visited the wastewater treatment plant and provided a summary of the work that needs to be done. He stated they will provide a quote for services for long- and short-term assistance. He stated that he will tour two treatment plants that are run by this company and are similar to the town's.
- Mayor Miller also reported on the repair work that is needed for the lift stations. He stated that two of them need a lot of work. Plans for repairs are under way.

a fight that occurred at the high school, where a 17-year-old male is facing possible charges.

He also reported on a hit and run that occurred in the high school parking lot between a truck and a car.

He also reported on a man who walked onto the grounds at PSE and stated that he needed a hat, grabbed a couple hard hats, and left. Sgt. Kading stated they believe they know who the man was and are currently looking for him.

He also reported on an active shooter drill that he participated in, which took place on the Skagit Valley College campus. He stated it was a good learning experience and that he has spoken with Barb Hawkings about putting plans in place for the schools in Concrete for these types of incidents.

- Mayor Miller asked if there was any update on the transient in Bear Square that was discussed at the last council meeting. Sgt. Kading said a deputy responded, but there was no one there and they haven't seen the vehicle since, but they will keep an eye on this area.
- Mayor Miller reported that he and Rich Philips had met with Bob Coffell Jr. from PSE to discuss the possibility of PSE putting a gate on their property along the Baker River Bar Rd. to keep out the transients that have been staying in the area. Mayor Miller stated that PSE will be connecting with other adjacent property owners in that area before proceeding.
- Sgt. Kading announced the retirement of Deputy Don Marlow from the Sheriff's Office. He stated that Deputy Marlow has been with the department for 30 years and will be greatly missed. Deputy Marlow stated that he spent the better part of 20 years at the department working in the Eastern Skagit County area. He stated that he has enjoyed working in this area and will miss it.

—Compiled from staff minutes

Keep track of your council

To have Concrete Town Council agendas and meeting minutes e-mailed to you automatically, e-mail your request to andrea@concretewa.gov or call 360.853.8401. Concrete Town Council meets the second and fourth Mondays of each month, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

Nov. 28 regular meeting

- Public safety:** Sgt. Kading reported on an ongoing investigation regarding

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Sports



Women's hoops return three seniors

By Kevik Rensink, head coach

The 2016–17 Concrete High School women's basketball team is a wonderful mix of very experienced players, multiple girls with no playing experience, and a group of players somewhere in between. Although we are missing three girls from last year's team who contributed a lot of speed and quickness, and ate up a lot of minutes, I am happy to have the core group of players we have right now. We return our top three scorers from a season ago, including Jaycelyn Kuipers (15.1 ppg), Emily Bridge (7.1 ppg), and Chloe Stidman (5.7 ppg). These three girls have played together since third grade,

and you can really see them working well together in practice. They have a flow to them; they really see each other and are anticipating what the others are doing before they do it. Kuipers, Bridge, and Stidman are all seniors and will be our captains this year. Their effort and attitude represent our program well. We also return a couple of juniors from last year's varsity squad: Madisyn Renzelman and Jenna Whorten. Renzelman is a relentless defender and will set the tone for us on defense. She also has worked incredibly hard to improve her scoring this year and is one of our leaders on both ends of the court in the first couple of weeks. Although Whorten has been hampered by a foot/ankle injury, she finished last season on the rise and has started right where she left off from a season ago. She will be a really good player in the middle for us once she comes off the IR list. We will be patient with her, as we need her for the long haul, and the high school basketball season is a long haul.

Other players who have stepped up and have the potential to help our varsity team this year are senior Diane Bergsma, junior Jalayne Hastings, sophomores Cassie Bridge and Maddy Pritchard, and freshman Izzy Ramos. Each one of these girls has shown us some positive things in practice, and we are excited to see what gifts they can bring to the varsity court. It will take time for our depth to develop, and our younger players need more court time and exposure to the game. However, once these girls have bought into the program and understand their identity, the potential is huge. The character of this team is amazing, and we have some good athletes. I like what we have to start the season; now we get to find out if we have what it takes to finish the season.



Clockwise from upper left: Jalayne Hastings, Maddy Pritchard, and Madisyn Renzelman work on drills during a November practice. The team's first league game will be at home against Orcas Island, on Dec. 13 at 5 p.m.



Louie Ketchum gets the carry during the Concrete Lions' last game of the season, at home against Friday Harbor on Nov. 4. Even though this year's team didn't make it to the playoffs, they closed their season strong with a 39–21 victory over the Wolverines. Photo courtesy of Concrete High School Yearbook staff.

VOLLEYBALL AWARDS
JV Awards: Sam Mitchell, Alayna Smith, Tiana Brookshire, Faith Daniels, Mellydee Howry, Maddy Pritchard, Jaidyn Swanson, Keighley Mitchell. **JV Most Improved:** Faith Daniels. **JV MVP:** Samantha Mitchell.
Varsity Letters: Grace Clemons, Kaitlin Earheart, Jalayne Hastings, Alyssa Roberts, Diane Bergsma, Emily Bridge, Hannah Rensink, Jaycelyn Kuipers, Ashlee Gilbert. **Varsity Best Server:** Jalayne Hastings, 93 percent. **Varsity Perfect Passer:** Grace Clemons, 43 percent. **Varsity Most Improved:** Jalayne Hastings. **Varsity MVP:** Emily Bridge. **Second Team 2016 NW All 2B/1B League:** Jaycelyn Kuipers. **Honorable Mention Second Team NW All 2B/1B League:** Emily Bridge.
Most Likely to Encourage a Teammate: Emily Bridge. **Most Likely to Question Kevik's Decision-Making:** Samantha Mitchell. **Most Likely to Talk Every Ball:** Grace Clemons. **Most Likely to Listen to a Teammate's Problems:** Tiana Brookshire. **Most Likely to Live in Concrete Till They Die:** Hannah Rensink. **Most Likely to be Early:** Maddy Pritchard. **Most Likely to be Late:** Alayna Smith. **Most Likely to Make You Laugh:** Faith Daniels. **Most Likely to Play College Ball:** Jaycelyn Kuipers. **Most Likely to Become a Runway Model:** Kaitlin Earheart. **Most Likely to Serve the Ball When the Score is 25–24 and You Need One More:** Jalayne Hastings.
Managers: Unity Reynolds, Mellydee Howry.
Coach of the Year: Kevik Rensink.

SOCCER AWARDS
First Team defender, 2016 NW All 2B/1B League: Carlee Brigham. **First Team defender/forward, 2016 NW All 2B/1B League:** Chloe Stidman. **Second Team forward, 2016 NW All 2B/1B League:** Nora Towner.

FOOTBALL AWARDS
First Team Offense, 2016 NW All 2B/1B League: Blaine Storms, running back; Tyler Hansen, offensive lineman; Morgan Weiler-Starck, offensive lineman. **First Team Defense, 2016 NW All 2B/1B League:** Tyler Hanson, defensive lineman; Marshall Fichter, defensive linebacker; Tyler Nevin, defensive linebacker.
ALL STATE: Blaine Storms, defensive back.
2016 NW All 2B/1B League Honorable Mention: Peyton Sanchez, quarterback; Levi Lowry, offensive line; Marshall Fichter, running back; Joe Ramirez, defensive linebacker; Dalton Newby, defensive back.

Athletes of the Month



Athletes of the Month: Emily Bridge and Jaycelyn Kuipers
 Don't let the jerseys fool you; these two basketball players are also stellar volleyballers, for which they're being honored. Senior Emily Bridge played the setter 1 position for the high school volleyball team this year after playing multiple positions as a junior. She was a team captain and led her teammates with great integrity and an infectious smile. Emily also led the team with 131 assists and 27 saves. She was second on the team with 29 aces. Emily was recognized for her outstanding efforts by being named to the All-League Team as Honorable Mention. Senior Jaycelyn Kuipers has been the volleyball team's middle hitter the last two seasons and played one of the more dominant nets I have seen in years at Concrete High School. She also was a team captain, and was our vocal leader on the court, where she played with intense passion on every point. Jaycelyn led the team in number of sets played (65), blocks (48), and kills (129), and was second on the team (tied with Emily) in aces (29). Jaycelyn was recognized for her amazing season by being voted to the Northwest All-League Team as a Second Team Middle Hitter. Bridge and Kuipers were selected by Concrete Lions Booster Club members based on their leadership, being team players, and demonstrating sportsmanship and character.

—Kevik Rensink, Coach

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Concrete School District's younger cheerleaders traveled to Burlington-Edison High School on Nov. 13 to perform at the Candy Classic Cheerleading Expo (top, middle, bottom right). **Bottom left: PeeWee, Midget, and Junior cheerleaders** often appear in hometown parades, such as during Cascade Days 2016.

Let's hear it for the girls

Often viewed as a lesser sport, cheerleading is more than pom poms and noise. The girls and young women who pursue this school spirit-driven sport are every bit as athletic as their counterparts on the court, track, or field.

Concrete School District has an active cheerleading group this year, with young up-and-coming girls who may one day fill the shoes of their high school teammates: Becky Azure, Hannah Haskett, Faith Daniels, Asusena Fregoso, and mascot Rebeckah McClure.

The young cheerleaders are separated into groups by age, and are 6 to 14 years old. They are coached by Sheena Daniels, Lacy Lahr, Desiree Bauer, and Monette Bauer.

PeeWee

Myah Cobb, Jackie Daniels, Jacy Evans, Keira Hertel, Kayleann Kohnke, Amelia Kuipers, Cherokee Pritchard, Kimi Ward.

Midgets

Sophie Arriola, Breanna Coggins, Hayley Daniels, Kallie Dull, Ava Kuipers, Natalie Lahr, Kelsy Martin, Isabella Martinez, Jade McAdam, Audrey Ottow, Bella Taylor.

Juniors

Carissa Cross, Payton Dickenson, Kayla Knuth, Kendra Knuth, Madisen Norgord, Ashley Parker, Raylee Ward.

—J. K. M.



The greatest gift

About three years ago, as Bob Coffell climbed down from the cab of his logging truck, he slipped and fell backward, bruising his kidneys on a battery compartment. Although it was painful, he thought it was just a fall and he'd get better. Instead, the injury led to a diagnosis of impending kidney failure.

Coffell, 70, already was fighting a battle with diabetes. The news that his kidneys were damaged beyond repair felt like a death sentence.

"I was full of fluids and on dialysis. I wasn't in good shape," he said.

Fast forward to about a year ago, when Coffell stopped in at the Concrete Chamber of Commerce and licensing office to pay his tonnage fees. Behind the desk sat Valerie Lee, 39, who found herself fielding what seemed like an odd question at the time.

"So ... what blood type are you?" asked Coffell.

"O Positive. Why?" asked Lee.

"Want to donate a kidney?"

Understandably, Lee asked for time to give it some thought and discuss the idea with her family. "I had the tough

conversation with Jarrod" (her husband), she said. Lee decided to say yes, and began the months-long screening process to determine if she would be a good fit physically, mentally, and emotionally.

The big day came on Oct. 24, at Swedish Medical Center in Seattle. The surgeries took just a few hours. Out came Lee's left kidney, on its way to Coffell. The very next day, he showed up in her hospital room, bearing flowers.

By late November, both individuals were well along the healing process. Coffell has the added benefit of being married to a certain Judy Coffell, retired nurse and Aero Skagit fixture.

"No lifting, but walking a little," said Coffell of his daily regimen. "Every day is better; I'm just waiting to get healed up enough so I can go outside and do something. They say after six months, if I want to go back to driving a truck or logging, I can go do it. But I'll go easy."

Lee is healing too, and fielding expressions of amazement and curiosity: Why would she donate an organ to a nonfamily member?

"I could see no reason to say no," she

said. When her daughter was a toddler, Lee said she learned about a man who'd received a kidney transplant from a fellow online gamer whom he'd never met. "I figured if that could happen, why not someone who's right in the same community as I am? It was a personal conviction. I couldn't live with myself if I said no for no other reason than because I didn't want to," she said.

The financial side of things paved the way too, with Coffell's health insurance picking up the medical bills, Swedish kicking in for some collateral expenses, and Lee's church, Community Bible in Concrete, helping with meal costs and other incidentals.

Coffell's gratitude for Lee's decision

is transparent and joyful. "The surgeons said it's a wonderful kidney. When they first put it in, it went right to work. Right now my weekly blood work is that of a 20-year-old," he said.

Lee deflects any congratulations aimed at her. "Having random people come up to me and say, 'aren't you the person?' And they lavish praise on me. That's super awkward for me. It's a good thing to restore faith in humanity, but I don't want it directed back at me. Public recognition is not on my want list."

For his part, Coffell is characteristically straightforward: "Valerie's my angel, as far as I'm concerned. What a lifesaver."

—J. K. M.



Kidney donor Valerie Lee got a visit—and flowers—from recipient Bob Coffell on Oct. 25, one day after the operation that should add years to Coffell's life. Photo by Jarrod Lee.

Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center

Sat, Dec. 17, 12 pm: Craig Romano, Outdoors writer and guidebook author, presents "Hiking in the Skagit Valley" at noon with a guided hike to follow.

Closed Christmas Weekend
Open December 26 through January 1st

OPEN DECEMBER - JANUARY ROCKPORT, WA
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Academics



Concrete Elementary School students gathered for a Nov. 16 Recognition Breakfast in honor of their special academic efforts. *Front row, from left:* Kameryn Stafford, being kind and thoughtful to her classmates; Chynna Casey, incredible growth and great PAX skills; Stellah Nick, excellence in math; Maddy Norris, energy toward everything; Kay-Lyn Andrews, doing well in both math and reading; Tim Howard, classroom manager who is doing an excellent job leading his classmates. *Back row, from left:* Anthony Hernandez, consistent effort and thoughtful participation; Isabella Martinez, outstanding effort in ASL; Anna Kiele, exceptional reading achievement; JJ Devries, being a "super student"; Joey Devries, self-management. *Not pictured:* Jazmine Huebner, perfect attendance; Cheyanne Cooper, excellent PAX leader/cleaning up playground. *Photo by Jaci Gallagher.*

YD update

I cannot believe we are already in December. Marta and I are in our 17th year volunteering as the Area Directors for Concrete Youth Dynamics, and every year is a little different than the one before.

There are many new students this year, including a great group of Freshmen. A total of 92 students have attended at least one of our YD Meetings this year, and we expect that number to grow throughout the school year. As our numbers grow, we want the students to grow—in knowledge of who they are, what they are capable of, and the challenges that life offers. Our job is to provide a fun atmosphere, a safe place to be, a feeling of acceptance and love, and tools to live by. Oh, and food. If you asked the high school students, they would say it is our job to provide food.

Last month we had a very well-attended movie night that nearly 60 students attended. We try to show encouraging movies that will challenge our teens, yet give them inspiration to do what is right.

Our annual trip to the Bellis Fair Mall for our Human Scavenger Hunt was an absolute blast. There were so many kids that went, we couldn't fit them all in three vans! My sincere apologies to the students who were left behind. We had 13 staff and students dressed in disguise and walking around the mall, and the rest of the 28 students split into pairs and had to find them. The team that found everyone first was Kaden Becker and Vincent Wenneker. Way to go, guys! It took them one hour and seven seconds to find all 13 people.

Our other two Monday night events in November included Family Feud Night (winners were Gabby Munday and Alayna Smith, who teamed up with our staff to form a "family") and the infamous Cardboard Gladiator Night.

Coming up in December is our annual Christmas Party (please bring your white elephant for the gift exchange), and a wonderful Monday night of joyous Christmas Caroling around town. After that it is time for a break. We wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a delightful New Year!

—Kevik Rensink
Concrete YD Coordinator



November was a great month! The coalition sent six local Concrete middle and high school students to Yakima for a two-day leadership conference. The conference's focus is on prevention and how to inspire youth to be leaders in their community. The group came up with some great ideas, including an open mic night for teens. Please keep a look out for more information.

The coalition recognizes the hard work of Keighly, Sam, Autumn, Raylee, Makayla, and Michelle, who made such a big commitment of time and energy. Also a big thanks to our two chaperones, Mary Janda and Dana Whitney.

The community survey is going great, with more than 100 responses. Thank you to all the community members who have filled out the survey online or at a school event. Your thoughts matter and have an impact on what the coalition chooses to focus on during our planning process for 2017.

Strengthening Families finished this month and our community grew a little stronger. We will offer the program again in Marblemount in February. In January we will start Incredible Years, a program for parents with children between 3 and 6 years old. This is for any parent who wants to learn more tips and tricks on how to effectively deal with common challenges in this age group.

To learn more about us, attend our next meeting on Dec. 15 from 1 to 2:30 pm. in the Concrete High School library.

—Stephanie Morgareidge, coordinator
Concrete Resource Coalition
United General District 304

New scholarship fund created

A new nonprofit governed by Concrete High School graduates aims to "pay it forward" by offering at least one \$500 college scholarship to a CHS senior this school year, with hopes to grow that target in the coming years.

Concrete Community Scholarship Fund gained its 501(c)(3) status this past summer and is bent on attaining its mission: "To provide financial assistance to those who have the desire to further their education, but lack the necessary financial resources."

The scholarship fund is the brainchild of CHS grad Kris Duncan, who researched similar nonprofits exhaustively before diving into the paperwork side of things. Duncan chairs the fund's board of directors, which includes several names familiar to Upper Valley locals: Lorraine Simpson, Kathleen Hurn, Zeke Ross, and Dianne Aamot.

Duncan's husband, Mike, pushed her to investigate the possibility of a nonprofit dedicated to providing scholarships, similar to the high school he attended in Tacoma. "He came from a poor family, and the only reason he got to go to college was because of scholarships," said Duncan. "I went to Concrete and also was able to go because of scholarships. We believe there are people out there like us, who are willing to give a little tax-deductible money to help kids in Concrete."

The nonprofit will start relatively small, with a single \$500 scholarship for a fortunate graduating senior in 2017. "Hopefully we'll have two \$500 scholarships the next year," said Duncan, who also hopes eventually to establish an endowment, so that the money flows perpetually. "It can go way past when I'm dead and gone."

The fund is grounded in Duncan's common-sense approach. "It's not just for top grades or top schools," she said. "We firmly believe we need dental hygienists, car mechanics—not just doctors and lawyers. If someone has a good plan and a dream, we want to help make that possible."

For more information or to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Concrete Community Scholarship Fund, contact the nonprofit at 253.651.4700 or concretescholarship@gmail.com, or go to www.concretescholarship.wordpress.com.

—J. K. M.

3rd Annual

Christmas Bazaar and Children's Craft Fair

Brought to you by
Imagine Concrete Foundation

Saturday, December 10
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
At Concrete Elementary School gym

- Kid-friendly! All ages welcome!
- Holiday treats, crafts, and gifts!
- Photos with Santa!
- Awesome Silent Auction!
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GET INVOLVED IN YOUR PTO!

Concrete Elementary PTO meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month, at 5 p.m., in the Concrete Elementary School library.

For more information, call 425.350.5988.

Continue the cycle
Please recycle this newspaper



Clear Lake



Community Calendar



DECEMBER

- 8 Concrete Schools Music Program Winter Concert, Concrete High School gym, 6 p.m.
- 9 "Deep Forest Experience" tours begin at Rockport State Park, running Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays through February 2017; hikes depart from Discovery Center at 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m., and 2 p.m.; see notice, p. 23; info at 360.853.8461, rockport@parks.wa.gov, or <http://parks.state.wa.us/574/Rockport>
- 9, 10 The Spirits of Christmas Past, Sedro-Woolley Museum, 5 p.m.; \$10 admission; see notice, p. 6 and ad, p. 17; reservations required, call 360.855.2390
- 10 Santa Breakfast, Sedro-Woolley Community Center, 703 Pacific St., Sedro-Woolley; info at www.sedro-woolley.com
- 10 Northwest Garden Bling and Wolf Designs: Annual Holiday Open House, 44574 SR 20 (Grasmere Village), Grasmere, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; see ad, p. 39
- 10 Small Town Christmas Show, 605 S. Emens Ave., Darrington, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; see notice, p. 24; info at 360.436.0711
- 10 Imagine Concrete Foundation Christmas Bazaar and Children's Craft Fair, Concrete Elementary School gym, 1 to 4 p.m.; free admission; see notice, p. 6; info at em@5bsbakery.com or 360.853.8213
- 10 "Christmas on Moen Road," 48040 Moen Rd., 6 to 9 p.m.; free admission; see notice, p. 6
- 10 Darrington Community Dance, Mansford Grange, Darrington; potluck dinner at 6 p.m., dancing from 7 to 9:30 p.m.; \$7 suggested admission donation; see notice, p. 25; info at 206.402.8646
- 10-11 Lions Club Christmas Tree Sales, Swap Meet Field and Albert's Red Apple Market, Concrete, 9 a.m. to noon
- 17 Lions Club Christmas Tree Sales, Swap Meet Field and Albert's Red Apple Market, Concrete, 9 a.m. to closing
- 17 "Hiking the Skagit Valley" presentation by Craig Romano, followed by guided hike, Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center, Rockport, noon; free admission; info at www.skagiteagle.org or 360.853.7626
- 18 Hamilton Christmas Party, Hamilton Town Hall (Slipper House), Hamilton, 1 p.m.; free admission; see notice, p. 22
- 21 Concrete Heritage Museum Christmas Potluck Dinner, Concrete Community Center, 6 p.m.; open to the public, bring a dish
- 22 "White Christmas" screens at Concrete Theatre, 7 p.m.; free admission; see notice, p. 6; info at www.concrete-theatre.com
- 31 "Old Growth Forests" presentation by Rockport State Park Interpretive Specialist, Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center, Rockport, 1 p.m.; free admission; info at www.skagiteagle.org or 360.853.7626

JANUARY

Every Saturday:

- Skagit Eagle Festival, various events and locations; see ad, p. 5; info at www.skagiteaglefestival.com
- 14-15 Skagit Eagle Festival native culture events at Marblemount Community Hall; see notice, p. 26; info at 360.873.2323

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



HISTORY CORNER

The Skagit Clubhouse was built in 1917 for management employees of Clear Lake Lumber Company. This photo was taken during the flood of 1920. The portion of the building on the left was and still is a private residence. The large section on the right was used as a theater and dance floor. The floor of the theater was made of maple; people came from near and far to dance on the beautiful floor. When used as a movie theater, a heavy tarp was rolled out to protect the floor. On the far right is the Central Hotel—originally called

Naylor's Boarding House. Sadly, both the hotel and the theater burned in the late 1920s.

Photo courtesy of Clear Lake Historical Association.

If you have old photos of Clear Lake and/or Day Creek, please contact historian Deanna Ammons at 360.856.6798.

Like the Clear Lake Historical Association on Facebook at www.facebook.com/clearlakehistory.

—Deanna Ammons, historian

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Community meetings

Cascade Days Committee Board of Directors meets the third Mon. of each month at 5:30 p.m., in the Pilots' Lounge at Mears Field, Concrete. 360.853.7867, ember@cascaadedays.com, info@cascaadedays.com.

Cedar Grove and Skagit Upriver C.E.R.T. Group meets the first Mon. of each month at 6:30 p.m., Concrete Center in Concrete. 360.853.7420 or emergencyresponsecomm@cedargrove-concrete.org.

Coffee Talk with Concrete Mayor Jason Miller meets the third Fri. of each month at 8 a.m., at 5b's Bakery in Concrete. 360.853.8213.

Community Chat, an informal conversation about projects in Darrington, meets the second Sat. of each month at 9 a.m., at Mountain Loop Books and Coffee, 1085 Darrington St., Darrington. 360.436.2167

Concrete American Legion Post and Auxiliary meet the second Tue. of each month, Sept. through May, at 1 p.m. in the East County Resource Center Conference Rm. 360.853.8940.

Concrete Economic Development Commission meets quarterly at Concrete Town Hall. Its first meeting is Oct. 12 at 6 p.m. 503.333.2406

Concrete Elementary PTO meets the second Wed. of each month at 5 p.m. in the Concrete Elementary School library. 425.350.5988.

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

Concrete Heritage Museum Board meets the third Wed. of each month, at 7 p.m. at the museum. Meetings are open to the public. 360.826.3075 or www.concreteheritagemuseum.org.

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 Resource Coalition meets the third Thur. of each month, at 1 p.m., at the Concrete School District offices (usually in the north room at the eastern end of the building).

Concrete School District Board will hold its next work session on Dec. 19, at 4 p.m. in the high school Commons, immediately followed by its regular monthly meeting at 5 p.m. in the same location. 360.853.4000.

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 Strong 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 7 p.m. at Town Hall, 1005 Cascade St. 360.436.1131 or darrcityhall@frontier.com.

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.

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 third Tue. of each month in the Pilots' Lounge at Mears Field in Concrete, at 6 p.m. Open to the public. 360.853.8213 or goodwords@frontier.com.

KSVU station info and host training, second Wed. of each month at Portable B behind Concrete K-8 School, 11 a.m., open to public. Call 360.416.7001 to confirm appointment.

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.

Mansford Grange meets the first Tue. of each month, 7 p.m., at the Mansford Grange Hall, 1265 Railroad Ave., Darrington. 360.436.0711.

Marblemount Community Hall board and staff meet the second Wed. of each month at the hall, at 6 p.m. 360.873.2323.

Paranormal Discussion Group meets the last Sunday of each month at Concrete Center, 45821 Railroad St., Concrete, at 7 p.m. 360.630.5143.

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 will hold a regular meeting on Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. at the Support Services Bldg., 317 Yellow Lane, Sedro-Woolley. 360.855.3500 or kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us.

Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center Board meets the second Tue. of each month, 6:30 p.m., at Annie's Pizza Station in Grasmere. Open to the public. sauksister@frontier.com or www.skagiteagle.org.

Upper Skagit Library District (USLD) Board meets Nov. 17 at 5 p.m., at the library. Public is welcome. 360.853.7939 or info@upperskagit.lib.wa.us.

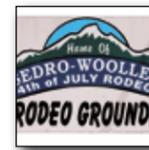
Upper Skagit Writers Group meets the fourth Mon. of each month at 7 p.m., at 5b's Bakery, Concrete. Open to the public and all skill levels. c.thomas@upperskagit.lib.wa.us.

Parents! Get involved in your PTO!
Concrete Elementary PTO meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month, at 5 p.m., in the Concrete Elementary School library.
For more information, call 425.350.5988.

Local merchants bring you Concrete Herald each month. Please support them!



Sedro-Woolley



Massey named Grand Marshal

Steve Massey was nominated for the honor of being the Christmas Parade Grand Marshal by Nathan Salseina. Salseina, the director of Parks and Public Works in Sedro-Woolley, has really appreciated the dedication that Massey and the crew from Snelson Companies, Inc., have demonstrated in erecting the tree in the center of town each year. Salseina tells how he and Massey drive around town looking for the perfect tree. They look for trees that are well shaped all around, tall but not too tall, and have that majestic look we all love. Massey and Jan, his wife, were proud to have granddaughter Ali Vandelinder selected two years ago to light the tree.



Massey

Massey worked with Snelson for 35 years before retiring recently. He takes a lot of pride in the town and believes we have "the prettiest town this side of Leavenworth" at Christmas time. He has been a part of the tree crew since 1986, when the Masseys donated a blue spruce that was in the yard of the Blackburn house they had just purchased on Waldron St. in town. He has been helping to put up the tree ever since, except for one year. He chuckles when he mentions that the year he missed was the only time the tree blew down.

- Mike Dills, who drives the truck that brings the tree downtown.
- Dan McLennan, who cuts the tree.
- Massey's brother, Jim, designed the stand that goes around the tree.

Massey said he would be remiss if he didn't also mention the late Ed Blanton, and Blanton's son, Jeff, from Woods Logging. And, of course, we can't forget Nathan Salseina, Kevin Kesti, and the rest of the city crew.

Although Steve was born in Bellingham, from the third grade onward he has been in Sedro-Woolley and is proud to call Sedro-Woolley home. Graduating in 1969, he went on to marry Jan Ensley in 1972 and has been happily married for the past 44 years. Jan and Steve raised two children: Sean and Tiffany. Sean has one daughter and Tiffany has two sons and a daughter. Active with the Sedro-Woolley Rotary, he can look with pride upon many projects he has been a part of over the years. Steve's mom Betty, sister Terry, and brothers Jim and Barry live in town as well.

—Pola Kelley, Exec. Dir. Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce

Sedro-Woolley Boys & Girls Club names Youth of the Year

On Nov. 14 the Boys & Girls Club of Sedro-Woolley held its Dinner with Friends event with club members, families, staff, and community members in attendance. It was certainly a night to remember for many club members who received awards, gave speeches, and got to share the excitement with their families.

Three well-respected, knowledgeable, and eager community judges were challenged to pick a candidate to be named Youth of the Year and Junior Youth of the Year. There was much deliberation and discussion.

The Sedro-Woolley Club is proud to announce Paula Banda as its Youth of the Year. Runner-ups are Charlie Brantner-Waxham and Kindred Marden, who both plan to participate next year.

Junior Youth of the Year went to Hayley Myrick. This is her second year in the program. Even though she wasn't selected last year, she was determined



Sedro-Woolley Boys & Girls Club named its Youth of the Year during its Nov. 14 Dinner with Friends event. *Back row, from left:* Charlie Brantner-Waxham, Leslie Hastings, Rocky Bliss, Youth of the Year winner Paula Banda, Kindred Marden. *Front row, from left:* Junior Youth of the Year winner Hayley Myrick, Aaliyah Wolfe, Kylee Jungquist, Summer Aplans. *Photo by Sarah Arquitt.*

as she went through the process again. Additional Club member awardees are

- Alejandro Padilla, Boy of the Year
- Kylee Jungquist, Girl of the Year
- Leslie Hastings, Sportsmanship Award
- Ameliah Hanson, STEM Award
- Summer Aplans, Artist of the Year
- Aaliyah Wolfe, SPARK Award
- Cameron Wolkenhauer, Academic All-Star Award

"The Boys & Girls Clubs here in Skagit County and throughout the country depend on the passion and integrity of all the countless adults involved at each and every club," said Club Director Alivia Holman. "Volunteers are an absolutely vital component of the Boys & Girls Clubs family, and the clubs simply could not succeed in providing a safe and fun place for kids without them. The people who donate their time and energy to our members are individuals who have already discovered that service to others, especially children, is its own reward."

—Tammy Findlay

The Mike & Dianne Crawford Service Award went to Christine Johnson, who volunteers regularly at the club and stays highly involved.

THE TOWN OF SEDRO-WHOLLLEYVILLE PRESENTS

The Holiday Who-bilation

Santa Breakfast: December 10th from 8:30 - 11:30
Spirit of Christmas Past with Actor Chad Lindberg
Sedro-Woolley Museum December 9th & 10th
 (reservations required)

@Whoolleyville check out www.sedro-woolley.com for more information

New location for massage therapist

Erin Vanhee, LMT, herbalist and Lomi Practitioner has begun seeing clients at her new location, 912 3rd St. (next to Shelley's Shack and Third Street Station in Sedro-Woolley.

Sedro-Woolley merchants bring you Concrete Herald each month. Please support them!

The spirits of Christmas past

Join actor and paranormal investigator Chad Lindberg for a tour of the Sedro-Woolley Museum and communication with the spirits that call it home.

Reservations are required! Call 360.855.2390

Fri., December 9 5 to 7 p.m.
Sat., December 10 5 to 7 p.m.

Only \$10 per person \$5 for ages 10 and younger

Refreshments will be served. Proceeds benefit the Sedro-Woolley Museum.

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Lyman



Day Creek



Clean audit for Town of Lyman

A recently completed Assessment Audit for Town of Lyman performed by the Washington State Auditor's Office (SAO) found the town "in substantial compliance" with applicable state laws, regulations, and its own policies.

According to an SAO report published Oct. 3 for the period from Jan. 1, 2013 through Dec. 31, 2015, the assessment audit focused on the following:

- Reviewing meeting minutes for compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.
- Inquiring as to internal controls over assets, revenues, and disbursements.
- Verifying that annual reports submitted to the SAO were complete and filed timely in compliance with state law.

- Reviewing the town's annual revenues and expenditures for unusual transactions or trends.
- Reviewing expenditures for indications of unusual activities, excessive mayor or Town Council compensation, conflicts of interest, or procurement requirements.
- Evaluating the town's financial information for indications of financial difficulties.

Assessment audits are limited-scope reviews of small local governments usually identified as having less than \$300,000 in annual revenues. To help minimize costs, the Town of Lyman audit was conducted primarily off-site.

—J. K. M.

Community notes

9 a.m. For more information, call Sue Walden at 360.391.1709.

Donna Pulver and Kathy Henderson, co-directors of Kingdom Builders, are reaching out to those in the Day Creek community who need help with trips to the doctor, hospital visits, store runs, and more. If you would like to be available to be a community helper, call 360.826.3003, 360.826.3581, or 360.826.3822.

360.826.3003, or Kathy Henderson at 360.826.3581 or winningcircularchapel@gmail.com.

—Kathy Henderson

2016 Community Potluck dates

December 20, 6:30 p.m.

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Monique Brigham
360-391-6001
Monique@PlumeriaBreezesTravel.com
www.PlumeriaBreezesTravel.com

810 METCALF STREET SEDRO-WOOLLEY, WA 98284

Protecting the community

Recently there was an incident on the South Skagit Hwy. By sending out an e-mail to the newsletter list, the word got around Day Creek with no problem. Those who receive the newsletter by U.S. mail, however, were not informed. Therefore we are putting together a phone tree to reach out to those without e-mail. If you receive our community newsletter via U.S. mail, please call 360.826.3581 and leave your phone number.

This is our start of protecting our community.

Community outreach

Have you heard of a child, or family in need of help during the holiday season? There are several groups reaching out with gifts, dinner fixings, or whatever the need. If you would like to be a helper, call 826.826.3003 or 360.826.3581.

Kingdom Builders

If you know anyone in need this year, please call the numbers below. Kingdom Builders can put together food baskets and gather other needs for kids and families.

WOMEN HAND in hand

Watch for upcoming information as we prepare for the March 16–18 event with Jane Bateman.

For more information or to purchase tickets, go to www.womenhandinhand.com and follow Eventbrite for ticket information, or call 360.853.3066.

Follow WOMEN HAND in hand on Facebook. To join WOMEN HAND in hand, call 360.826.3696.

If you have an idea for a community gathering, contact Donna Pulver at

Continue the cycle

Please recycle this newspaper



Nick VanJaarsveld
Financial Advisor

913 Metcalf Street
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284
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NEW library hours

As of Dec. 1, the Free Library in Lyman will no longer be open on Wednesday.

The new hours are Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m.

Celebrate the holidays with local seafood and gift ideas!

"Skagit's Own" FISH MARKET
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Mon. - Sat. 10:30 - 6, Sun. 11 - 4
18042 Highway 20, Burlington, WA 98233

Cowboy Church

A "Cowboy Church" meets in the clubhouse at the Sedro-Woolley Rodeo Grounds (24538 Polte Rd.) every Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call 425.395.4014, e-mail c4cowboychurch@gmail.com, or go to www.c4cowboychurch.com.

Friendship House Helping Hand

Dinner at the Friendship House has been a success. We have reached out to the homeless and are serving a monthly dinner, with prep at 3 p.m. and dinner at 5 p.m. on the last Sunday of each month.

The December dinner will be on Christmas Day. For more information or to volunteer as a helper, call Sue Walden 360.391.1709.

Coming in December: Christmas Breakfast Gala

On Sat., Dec. 10, Day Creek women along with their families and friends are invited to attend this year's Christmas Breakfast Gala.

A festive breakfast will be served, followed by instruction to paint a canvas, taught by a fabulous teacher supplied by Shelley's Shack of Sedro-Woolley. Mark your calendar for Dec. 10 at

THE TOWN OF SEDRO-WHOOLLEYVILLE PRESENTS

The Holiday Who-bilation

Santa Breakfast: December 10th from 8:30 - 11:30
Spirit of Christmas Past with Actor Chad Lindberg
Sedro-Woolley Museum December 9th & 10th
(reservations required)

@Whoolleyville check out www.sedro-woolley.com for more information

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November in pictures

Right: Concrete American Legion Post 132 Commander Adolph Nieshe shows off a fanciful candle holder, his door prize during the Nov. 11 gathering at the Legion hall. The event marked the passing of the hall from the Legion membership to the Upper Skagit Library, which will renovate the interior to serve its needs.



Left: Reveler Don Smith donned a ... well, a leaf mask, for some reason, during the KSVU Halloween fundraiser in Marblemount. *Photo by Christie Fairchild.*



Above: Dozens of well-wishers filled the Concrete American Legion Hall on Nov. 11 for a send-off to the building as it changes hands from the local Legion membership to the Upper Skagit Library, which hopes to have moved in to its new, more spacious quarters by this time next year. On the agenda this day were building tours, plenty of food, and door prize drawings. *Photo by Gail Boggs.*



Above: A select group of Upper Valley women posed for posterity last month. Their claim to fame? All worked on trees for the annual Festival of Trees, Skagit Valley Hospital Foundation's annual fundraiser. The women's trees included "An Emerald Christmas," "Silent Night Holy Night," "Every Day Is a Special Occasion," and "Cowboy Christmas." *Submitted photo.*



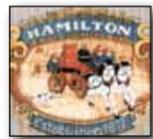
Above: Grace and Maddy Dills, members of Sedro-Woolley Girl Scouts Troop 44066, wrap tableware sets before the Sedro-Woolley Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day. The girls and other members of their troop also made table decorations and put dried hydrangeas in vases for the table centerpieces. *Photo by Judy Johnson.*



Left: Sedro-Woolley Community Thanksgiving Dinner organizer Stephanie Lokkebo and lead cook Blas Avalos paused for a photo before the big event on Thanksgiving Day. Avalos is studying culinary arts at Skagit Valley College and attended Mary Purcell Elementary School as a boy, where Lokkebo was a paraprofessional for more than 20 years. "He is a wonderful, gracious young man, and did an awesome job at the dinner," said Lokkebo. *Photo by Judy Johnson.*

Right: Concrete "ghost" Cheryl Werda (top center, facing camera, blonde wig) poses as Margaret Stadlman, Concrete's first and only female mayor, the town librarian, and full-time elementary school teacher, during the Concrete Ghost Walk in October.





Hamilton



Rockport



From the Mayor

The Hamilton Christmas Party will be Dec. 18 at 1 p.m. The Volunteer Fire Department does this every year. Come see Santa arrive on the fire truck and have a treat! Donations of new toys, money, or treats for the event gladly accepted.



Thank you to everyone who came to the meeting about the Carey's Slough project. There was a lot of flood knowledge shared.

—Mayor Joan Cromley

Council summary

The Hamilton Town Council held a regular meeting Oct. 11. Following is a summary of that meeting.

- A public hearing was conducted for the 2017 budget and property taxes.
- An executive session was called at 7:14 p.m. regarding land acquisition per RCW 42.30 (110) (1) (b). Executive session closed at 7:28 p.m., and the regular meeting resumed at 7:32 p.m.
- Mayor Cromley talked about the Demolition and Stewardship of Skagit Land Trust Acquisition. Council member Betlem motioned that the town adopt Resolution 03-16. Council voted unanimously to approve.

- Mayor Cromley talked about the farm animal/livestock zoning. There was some discussion on the subject.
- **Fire Dept.:** Fire Chief Nick Bates announced that there have been a few calls this month. Also, prepare for flood season.
- **Street Dept.:** The maintenance crew mentioned that they were patching potholes and there was lots of mowing being done.
- Mayor Cromley gave an update on the Slipper House roof repair. She announced that the bid opening will be held on Oct. 27 at 2 p.m. Council member Brockman motioned to accept the lowest bid and get started. Council voted unanimously to approve.

—Compiled from staff minutes

Birdsview Buzz

Happy holidays, everyone!

Thank you to everyone who came out to support our fundraiser for the Concrete Food Bank. We managed to raise \$300 and got a lot of food donated, which I delivered the Tuesday before Thanksgiving.

In December we will collect pet food again for the Humane Society of Skagit County, so feel free to drop off some food anytime we are open. We also are a Toys for Tots donation location; the box will be available here for your toy donations until about Dec. 18.

Marcia Kester will be playing here on Dec. 10 from 6 to 8 p.m.

We have switched to winter hours. As usual, we're closed on Mondays. From Tuesday to Thursday we're open from noon to 7 p.m. On Friday and Saturday it's noon to 8 p.m., and Sundays we're open from noon to 5 p.m., with the kitchen closing 30 minutes before the brewery.

December birthdays

- 17 Jack Mattingly, Matt Hocking
- 24 Jessie Mattingly, Ginger Kyritsis

We will be closed Dec. 24 to 26. Hope everyone has a great holiday season.

—Kris Voigt

Interpretive Center celebrates 20 years of eagle stewardship

For the Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center (SRBEIC) at Howard Miller Steelhead Park, the 2016-17 winter season will mark 20 years of sharing the marvel of bald eagle migration with visitors.

The small nonprofit educates eagle watchers about the Skagit River watershed during the height of eagle migration in December and January by hosting a variety of educational activities. The mostly volunteer team creates a memorable experience the entire family can enjoy, and encourages conscious thinking about human impacts on the ecosystem.

Young and older visitors can take a guided nature walk along the Skagit River looking for eagles and other wildlife. Outside the center, a life-size eagle's nest awaits kids' questions during interpretive talks.

Come inside, warm up with hot cocoa, and watch informative videos about eagles and the salmon life cycle. The Children's Corner engages youth with eagle facts, hands-on activities, and wildlife books. Speaker presentations every Saturday encourage dialogue about environmental issues. The Nature Store features handmade items by Skagit Valley artisans and educational wildlife materials for your next family outdoor adventure. Collaborations with artisans provide support for the nonprofit and the artist, with a percentage of artisan purchases directly supporting SRBEIC.

The 20-year celebration would not have arrived without the devoted Skagit River Bald Eagle Awareness Team. Long-time east Skagit County residents Judy Hemenway (Treasurer/Sponsorship Coordinator), Ember LaBounty (Nature Store Manager), Leatha Sullivan (Secretary), and former President Deanna Ensley have dutifully served this organization and community since the winter of 1996. Newcomer Anissa Smith,

the SRBEIC coordinator and education specialist hired last year, has brought invaluable environmental teaching experience and enthusiasm. A third-year volunteer, editor, and PR manager, I stepped into the role of president last year.

Our work is important for future generations. My favorite part of this advocacy work is seeing the kids' faces light up with wonder as we conduct demonstrations. When they can be exposed and appreciate the natural world at a young age, we hope they'll be more cognizant about the environment as they grow up and work to protect it. The 20-year mark is an immense accomplishment. We hope continued support from volunteers, visitors, and collaborators will allow us to continue our mission of environmental stewardship awareness for years to come.

A record-breaking visitor count last year of approximately 3,500 people in 35 days prove the unique service is increasingly pertinent. Strong collaborations with these agencies provide a comprehensive experience for the public: Skagit County Parks and Recreation, USFS, the Skagit Eagle Watchers, and the Skagit Eagle Festival. Major donors this season are Skagit County and City of Burlington, which have provided monetary support in previous years.

SRBEIC celebrates 20 years with its first photo contest, special events, and sales of the official 20th anniversary poster with art by Bob Patterson of La Conner.

Celebrate 20 years of being inspired by the Upper Skagit River Valley. View the migration of raptors in their natural habitat this winter. The center is open weekends December through January, and for Christmas Break, Dec. 26-30, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The center is closed Dec. 24 and 25.

Free admission, but donations are appreciated. Interested in volunteering for this anniversary season? Contact Anissa Smith at srbeatic@frontier.com or 360.853.7626.

For more information, go to skagiteagle.org, or visit the center at 52809 Rockport Park Rd. in Rockport.

—Cora Thomas, Pres./PR Mgr. Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Ctr.

Rockport State Park hosts guided hikes, activities through winter

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission invites the public to experience the natural world at Rockport State Park through guided hikes and activities all winter.

The Deep Forest Experiences take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays beginning Fri., Dec. 9 through February 2017 at Rockport State Park in Rockport.

Hikes depart from the Discovery Center at 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m., and 2 p.m. each day. Rockport State Park staff and volunteers will provide 30- to 45-minute guided hikes through the lush forest that includes ancient fir, cedar, hemlock, and

maple trees, some towering 250 feet tall and more than 300 years old, including "Grandmother Cedar."

At the family-friendly Discovery Center, participants can enjoy refreshments, warm up by the woodstove, explore interactive displays, watch nature videos, read a book, make crafts, and create a puppet show.

Once the eagles have come and gone along the Skagit River, visitors can keep an eye out for uniquely themed walks and talks taking place at the Discovery Center.

The park offers an ADA-accessible trail. Dress for cold, wet, winter weather with footwear suitable for very wet trails.

For more information, contact Amos Almy, interpretive specialist, at 360.853.8461 or rockport@parks.wa.gov.

A \$10 day-use pass or \$30 annual Discover Pass is required for parking at Rockport State Park and can be purchased at the park office or Discovery Center.

For more information about and directions to Rockport State Park, go to <http://parks.state.wa.us/574/Rockport>.

Visit the North Cascades Vintage Aircraft Museum!



Spend the day with these amazing vintage aircraft from the Golden Age of Aviation. We have one of the premiere collections in the Pacific Northwest and invite you to come take a self-guided tour and see these incredible machines up close and in person!

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The spirits of Christmas past

Join actor and paranormal investigator Chad Lindberg for a tour of the Sedro-Woolley Museum and communication with the spirits that call it home.

Reservations are required!
Call 360.855.2390

Fri., December 9
5 to 7 p.m.
Sat., December 10
5 to 7 p.m.

Only \$10 per person
\$5 for ages 10 and younger

Refreshments will be served. Proceeds benefit the Sedro-Woolley Museum.



Darrington



Snohomish County Sheriff's Report

Nov. 10

Several area residents reported today that they received a phone call from someone claiming to be a Sheriff's Office deputy with a warrant for their arrest. The caller said that the victim would need to pay over the phone by purchasing "Green Dot" money cards at a local store.

The caller requires the victim to remain on the phone while the transaction is completed. The caller then instructs the victim to go to the Snohomish County Courthouse in Everett to have the warrant quashed and receive a refund. Obviously the money is not returned.

"First of all, no county employee, including those in law enforcement, will call you to request payment over the phone for anything. Anyone who does should be reported to the police immediately," said Sheriff Ty Trenary. "Second, a Sheriff's Office deputy would never call someone with a warrant to warn them that we were on our way to arrest them."

If you wish to verify that you have an outstanding warrant in Snohomish County, a current list of all outstanding District Court misdemeanor and Superior Court felony warrants is available online.

Sheriff's Office reception staff said they received five similar reports in the last two days.

Anyone who believes they may be a victim of fraud should call 911.

Nov. 12

A Darrington woman died today after attempting to help another motorist on SR 530.

According to a press memo released by the Washington State Patrol, Trina Morgan, 46, of Darrington, left her vehicle approximately three miles east of Arlington to assist another motorist who had been involved in a collision in the westbound lane.

The report states that Tracy Tamez, 21, of Darrington, was traveling westbound at the time and struck Morgan, knocking her into the disabled vehicle.

Morgan was pronounced dead at the scene. Neither drugs nor alcohol were involved in the accident. The cause is still under investigation, but no charges were

to be filed as of Nov. 12.

Nov. 22

The Attorney General's Office (AGO) today announced it has filed a complaint alleging campaign finance violations by Jared Karstetter, an attorney who formerly represented the King County Corrections Guild and King County Court Protection Guild.

In September 2016, the AGO received a Citizen Action Complaint from the King County Corrections Guild alleging multiple violations by Karstetter of the state's campaign finance disclosure laws. The AGO referred the matter to the state Public Disclosure Commission for possible investigation and a recommendation.

Following review of its staff investigation, the Public Disclosure Commission recommended the AGO take action.

The complaint, filed in Thurston County Superior Court, alleges that Karstetter concealed the true source of at least \$16,170 in campaign contributions to various candidates and one political committee.

On at least 25 occasions from 2012 through 2015, while representing the Corrections Guild, Karstetter made campaign contributions by presenting a personal credit card. The recipient recorded the contribution as coming from Karstetter or his wife.

The actual source of the funds for these contributions, however, was the Corrections Guild, who either through prepayments or reimbursements, paid Karstetter for these contributions.

At least \$12,650 in contributions were made in this way. At the same time, Karstetter also represented the Court Protection Guild and made at least \$3,515 in campaign contributions in the same way — reporting himself as the donor while receiving reimbursement from the guild.

Based on Karstetter's alleged actions, some candidates unknowingly received contributions from the Corrections Guild, which were over the legal contribution limit.

Senior Assistant Attorney General Linda Dalton and Assistant Attorney General Walter Smith are handling the case.

—Compiled from SCSO, WSP, and other releases

Funded by ABC grant, planting project begins

By Marla Skaglund

Planting has begun on Darrington St., made possible by a \$3,000 grant awarded to Darrington as a finalist in the America's Best Communities competition. Planting beds along Darrington St. contain hornbeam trees with shrubs, bulbs, and perennial flowers, blooming at different times of the year.

Community members, led by Rick Knight and Martha Rasmussen, have begun assembling trees, shrubs, flowers, and garden art for several parks located around Darrington. Dot City Park, named for Dorothy Larson, longtime Darrington resident, has been a work in progress for several months and will be a showcase for dogwood trees and other ornamentals in an area located at the west end of Darrington, beside Hwy. 530.

New rhododendrons and 3,000 bulbs already have been planted, in addition to a butterfly garden, native vegetation, and shrubs. Public Utility District (PUD) has contributed 24 tree vouchers to compensate for the trees removed during different improvement projects. Special consideration has gone into selecting proper irrigation for the parks with the town's help. Parks will be organic and child-friendly.



Nels Rasmussen digs a hole for a yellow pine along Darrington St. in November. Planting has begun along the roadway, made possible by a \$3,000 grant awarded to Darrington as a finalist in the America's Best Communities competition. Photo by Marla Skaglund.

Rick Knight, retired landscape designer, has designed a pocket park featuring native and ornamental trees and shrubs, several picnic tables, walking paths, and a children's play area on property the town purchased on Darrington St.

PJ Wierich, owner of the Highlander Gift Shop, has volunteered a mural, which will be painted on her building, and a porch will be constructed facing the park. Students from Darrington High and community volunteers will plant other materials. Bruce Blacker, cedar mill owner in Oso, has contributed cedar

boards that will be used to construct the park tables and benches that Jerry Sellers has volunteered to build.

Small Town Christmas Show

Local artists Gordy Beil, Ron Wolff, and Holly Cannell present their annual holiday event, where folks can purchase unique artwork and handmade gifts. The show will be held on Sat., Dec. 10, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 605 S. Emens Ave., Darrington. For more information, call 360.436.0711.



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Council summary

Darrington Town Council met for a regular meeting on Oct. 12. The following is a summary of that meeting. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are available at Darrington Town Hall.

Oct. 12 regular meeting

- Jeremiah Dawson introduced himself and discussed his potential business of a firearm range at his property located outside of Darrington town limits. His goal is to provide training for community members who would like more training with handguns and rifles.
- Mauree Perrault introduced the Youth Council of Darrington, which was created under the America's Best Communities umbrella. They are focused on jobs, especially youth jobs. They have some wonderful ideas and are working really well together.
- Mayor Dan Rankin announced that the Town of Darrington 2015 Comprehensive Plan has been certified.
- The proposed T-Mobile cell tower was discussed. The SEPA application needs to be signed. A public hearing will be planned. The public comment period was posted and is now closed. A Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) means the tower would not adversely affect the environment (creeks, rivers, etc.). The FAA has approved the site, which is on town property. There is no contract in place yet between Town of Darrington and T-Mobile. No compensation will be given to property owners who live nearby.
- Council voted unanimously to allow Town of Darrington SEPA official Dianne Allen to sign the Notice of Application and DNS for the tower.
- U.S. Forest Service and Snohomish County have received \$500,000 in grant funds for a Mountain Loop Highway feasibility study, in response to a recent push to pave the unpaved portion of the highway.

—Compiled from staff minutes

Funds received for Mountain Loop Highway feasibility study

The Federal Highway Administration has approved up to \$500,000 for the Mountain Loop Highway Feasibility Study under the 2016 Washington Federal Lands Access Program. Snohomish County partnered with the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest on this grant.

The Mountain Loop Highway (MLH) is the gateway to one of the most visited areas in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. The MLH spans 52 miles from Darrington to Granite Falls, and provides substantial tourism traffic and economic opportunities to local communities. It provides access to trails, campgrounds, picnic areas, and a large amount of dispersed recreational opportunities in Snohomish County. The economic benefits are also related

to opportunities for timber stand management from the surrounding national forest lands. The MLH is jointly maintained by Snohomish County and the U.S. Forest Service.

"I am thrilled to see that our proposal for the MLH Feasibility Study has been funded through the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP)," said Snohomish County Councilmember Ken Klein. "The Mountain Loop Highway provides a crucial and scenic connection between the Town of Darrington and City of Granite Falls; increasing access to the MLH connects rural communities while also improving their economies by attracting thousands of visitors every year. I am proud to serve these communities, and I am grateful for all of the hard work from the Snohomish County Public Works team and the United States Forest Service."

The feasibility study is expected to take approximately 12 months to complete. It will determine if improvements should be made to the unpaved gravel portion of the MLH to accommodate future access needs while improving operational safety and road maintenance.

Stillaguamish River and tributaries to close to fishing

Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife will close the Stillaguamish River, the north and south forks of the Stillaguamish River, and Canyon and Pilchuck Creek, to fishing, effective Dec. 5 through Jan. 31 for the following locations:

- Stillaguamish River: Closed from Marine Drive (south of Stanwood) upstream to the forks.
- North Fork Stillaguamish River: Closed from the mouth upstream to the mouth of French Creek.
- South Fork Stillaguamish River: Closed from the mouth upstream to

the Granite Falls Fishway.

- Canyon Creek: Closed from mouth to forks.
- Pilchuck Creek: Closed from mouth to the Highway 9 Bridge.

The closure also is in effect Feb. 1 through Feb. 15 for the North Fork Stillaguamish River from the mouth of French Creek upstream to Swede Heaven Bridge.

The closure is in effect because the Whitehorse Hatchery is expecting a very low return of hatchery early winter steelhead this year because there were no hatchery releases of smolt in 2014 or 2015.

For more information, contact the WDFW Mill Creek Regional Office at 425.775.1311.

—WDFW

Next community dance is Dec. 10

The next Darrington Community Dance is scheduled for Sat., Dec. 10.

\$4 Shoe will return to play for the dancers again, and a caller new to the Darrington Dance — Alex MacLeod — will

take over the duty.

The fun begins at the Mansford Grange with a potluck dinner from 6 to 7 p.m., followed by dancing till 9:30 p.m.

Suggested donation is \$7. All proceeds go to the wonderful people who make the music and call the dances.

For more information, call 206.402.8646.



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Marblemount



Newhalem



30th annual Eagle Festival celebrates native cultures

With the annual Christmas Bazaar (Dec. 4) now behind us, the next big event arrives: the Skagit Eagle Festival. The event, which traces its origins to the Marblemount Community Hall in 1986, returns to celebrate local indigenous cultures with food, music, dance, children's activities, and speakers' presentations on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 14 and 15.

Sponsored by the Community Hall and organized by Rosie Cayou, elder of the Samish nation, the two days will focus on history and present-day cultural knowledge of this land and her

creatures. Talks and demonstrations will be complemented with live music from such talented native artists as Peter Ali, JP Falcon, and others. In addition, hot, fresh Indian frybread tacos will be cooked and served throughout the day, as local craft vendors share their wares.

This is the only Eagle Festival venue and weekend where native culture will be highlighted.

For more information or to inquire about vending, call the hall at 360.873.2323 and leave your name, number, and a brief message.

—Christie Fairchild

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The good news is ...

By Sasa and Starwalker

"You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete."

—R. Buckminster Fuller

We came across an excellent short video on how to return to center and empower ourselves. "How to train your monkey mind" by Buddhist Master Mingyur Rinpoche was simple and enlightening.

Mingyur says we can meditate anywhere, everywhere, anytime, even a second or two does wonders. We can meditate while you are walking or drinking coffee, or even in a meeting. A perfect time to meditate is when we need to wait in a line.

He goes on to say that many of us view meditation as having to think of nothing and concentrate real hard. This is not the case ... we just try too hard or think we must try really hard.

Mingyur says we cannot block our thoughts and emotions, we need those. We end up listening to our monkey brain, or our analytic brain, that chatters lots

of opinions; it's our choice to listen or not. Meditation makes friends with the monkey mind, but how do we do this? Providing distractions like bananas (TV, games, etc.) is not enough. We need to give our monkey mind a task. It's rather simple, but in today's crazy, chaotic world, it may not seem so or be so easy. It's a choice to try something different since the pattern we have been exhibiting has not worked out for us and has actually created much of the chaos we experience today.

One simple task to give our monkey brain is to be aware of our breath. Rinpoche invites us to say, "Hello, monkey mind. Watch breath." Monkey mind will say, "Ah yeah, good idea!" All you need to do is just breathe in and breathe out. When chatter starts back in from monkey mind, simply return to being aware of your breath. Like a muscle, the more we exercise it, the stronger it will become and we clear our channel up so we can hear our hearts speak.

Infinite blessings.

Contact Sasa and Starwalker at cascadiaeffect@gmail.com. Experiences may be shared at <http://cascadiaeffect.weebly.com> and on Facebook: *Cascadia Effect*.

Volunteers needed for Fire District 19, Marblemount Fire Department. Stop by the Fire Hall for an application on meeting nights, the second and fourth Mondays of every month at 7 p.m., or call Vanessa at 360.630.3900 for more info. This position is subject to a background check.

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Avalanche risk closes SR 20 for winter

The North Cascades Highway section of State Route 20 is closed until next spring.

The Washington State Department of Transportation had been monitoring the road and the avalanche chutes above the highway in November. WSDOT maintenance and avalanche technicians temporarily closed the highway on Nov. 18, because of weekend snow forecasts.

Conditions were re-evaluated on Nov. 21, with more avalanche chutes found to be full and not stable—especially near the Liberty Bell Mountain area—causing crews to close the road for the season.

"While there hasn't been a ton of snow on the road, it's continued building at higher elevations in the chutes," said Twisp Maintenance Supervisor Don Becker on Nov. 21. "The potential

avalanche risk makes reopening unsafe for our crews and drivers."

WSDOT crews work to keep the road open as long as possible each season, because many travelers use the route over Thanksgiving weekend. Smaller, rural communities on either side of the pass rely in large part on travelers to keep their businesses afloat. Safety is always first priority, however, and guided the decision to make the closure permanent for the 2016-17 winter season.

Last year, WSDOT closed the North Cascades Highway temporarily on Nov. 12, and then for the season on Nov. 16. The 37-mile-long winter closure zone begins 14 miles east of Newhalem at milepost 134 on the west side of Rainy Pass (4,855 feet) and ends 22 miles west

of Winthrop at milepost 171 east of Washington Pass (5,477 feet). The earliest closure recorded was Nov. 2, 2005. Because of drought, the highway never closed in the winter of 1976-77.

For more information, go to www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/passes/northcascades.

—WSDOT

Drive with care in snowy conditions

With snow in the forecast this month, now is the time to prepare for driving when ice and snow is beneath your tires.

Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) urges all drivers to prepare themselves and their vehicles for winter weather. Drivers can go to WSDOT's winter driving Web page (www.wsdot.com/winter) for tips and information. WSDOT also asks drivers to always "know before you go" and get the most up-to-date roadway information before heading out.

To check conditions and prepare for snow or ice:

- Download the WSDOT mobile app for smartphones at www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/seattle/products.
- Follow WSDOT's regional and pass accounts on Twitter or the agency's Facebook site.
- Sign up for e-mail and/or text updates about road conditions (<https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/wadot/subscriber/new>), including a new text alert option for Snoqualmie Pass delays (<http://wsdotblog.blogspot.com/2016/09/frequent-i-90-traveler-get-text-updates.html>).
- Download, print, and carry the WSDOT Winter Driving Guide (www.wsdot.com/winter/files/winterdrivingbrochure.pdf).
- Get your vehicle ready and plan extra time to cross all mountain passes, including heavily traveled routes such as Snoqualmie Pass, Stevens Pass, and White Pass.
- Carry chains and know current traction and chain requirements for mountain passes, which are also available on highway-advisory signs and highway-advisory radio, and by calling 511.
- Preset your radio to 530 AM and 1610 AM for WSDOT's traffic-information stations.

Studded tires are legal for use in Washington state only from Nov. 1 through March 31.

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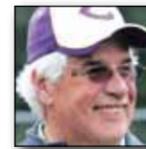
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Seniors



Coffee Break Seniors' dreams

By Patrick M. Kennedy

What is a dream anyway? It normally is considered a series of mental images and emotions that occur during sleep. Or it could be a cherished desire or ambition while you are awake—you know, to be younger, smarter, and more athletic or attractive.

Dreaming while wide awake is another possibility, called daydreaming. Or it could be what many of us want, the incredible but vain hope of being someone else.

Then there is the impossible dream. There are many ways to go insane, and this could be one of them.

Interpreting dreams can make the time pass, if not enlighten you to your inner feelings. Dreams typically reflect whatever thought, feeling, and awareness is on your mind at the time of the dream.

The lottery can mean you need some money. Being chased? Most of these dreams are inspired by fears of violence, or maybe you're watching too much TV. To dream that you are eating an apple signifies harmony, pleasure, and fertility. Dreaming about the color blue represents truth, wisdom, devotion, tranquility, loyalty, and openness. Perhaps you are expressing a wish to get away. Interpreting dreams can take up a lot of retirement time.

Or perhaps, coming back down to earth, the dream is that perfect mate you married—he/she is a dreamboat—or the person you desire to date. Or that dessert you

just had after dinner, or the new car or boat you just bought that rides like a dream.

But in reality, maybe the only thing you want is that dream house to retire in. You know, the one set next to a small lake or stream, surrounded by trees and a lush garden in a quiet neighborhood where you can relax on the porch in the warm sun and catch up on reading all those books that have been gathering dust on the shelf while you were working. To some this would be even more perfect if a bowling alley or the first tee were just a few blocks away.

Or that dream vacation to warm weather or historical settings of the past world. A cruise around the ocean in a luxury boat filled with food and games and blinding sun while skirting mysterious islands or historical sights. But be careful of fulfilling that dream of skydiving or mountain climbing because earth is way down there.

Be real; be careful of dreams. They are intangible elements and can fade away or be lost by a bad decision. But they can't be abandoned, nor should they be. Dreams make the world go round. They are the beauty of the human mind, a function only the human animal can perform.

Seniors' dreams are a way of life and a means to a successful and happy retirement. They are the handles to grab to advance into the future with a smile. Dreams don't stop at any age. Seniors and dreams go hand in hand.

Patrick M. Kennedy is the author of Lotsa Fun with Retirement. Find it at Amazon.com. For more, go to www.funwithretirement.com.

Way Back When

70 years ago

Dec. 12, 1946: Town of Concrete now owns property for an airport. Deeds for the property were received and the warrants drawn for payment at the regular meeting of the Town Council Monday night.

Only two parcels of land were needed for the 50 acres covered by the proposed field, which will be located south of the Superior plant on the flat bench running east and west between the roads to the Dalles on the west and Crofoot Addition on the east. Forty acres of ground were purchased from the Bradsbury Logging Co. at approximately \$20 an acre. The other section needed to complete the site was a nine-acre plot owned by Melvin Wolbert. This was purchased for \$400.

The land purchased now gives the town enough area for a Class 1 field under Civil Aeronautics regulations. This will be a field 400 feet by 1,836 feet. The land will be cleared for 2,400 feet and can be extended without difficulty if future needs require.

The town has been promised help by the Civil Aeronautics Dept. and will await its approval before beginning construction. The town hopes to have a field ready for use next summer.

60 years ago

Dec. 13, 1956: The latest member of the growing "airborne truck-herders club"—the fellows

who have to bail out of their logging trucks when they go out of control—was Roy Brookshire of Lyman. Brookshire left the cab of his truck last Thursday on Finney Creek when the brakes became locked on the ice-covered road and the big truck started for the ditch.

Brookshire landed hard, but unhurt. The truck went some 150 feet down the steep bank at the side of the round, wound up against some solid trees, and caught fire. Because of the crash and fire, it was believed that the almost-new truck would be a total loss.

30 years ago

Dec. 25, 1986: While people of many nationalities, faiths, and cultures gather to meditate and pray for world peace at the same time on Dec. 31, Upper Skagit Valley residents will meet at St. Martins-St. Francis Mission near Rockport.

World Peace Event will take place simultaneously at noon Greenwich Mean Time, which is 4 a.m. Pacific Standard Time, on Dec. 31. Events are slated at the Kingdom in Seattle, a park in Bellingham, and other locations around the world.

Participants are asked to arrive by 3:45 a.m., dress warmly, and bring a candle. They also may bring something to share, such as a song, poem, or thought. Coffee will be provided.

The event is open to the public and is nondenominational. St. Martins-St. Francis Mission is located at milepost 100 on SR 20 between Rockport and Marblemount.

—Compiled from archives

Concrete Community Center

December 2016 Activities

Mon. - Fri., 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Breakfast served at 8:30 a.m.
Lunch served at noon

East County Veterans Center meets Mon.,
Tue., Wed., from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Mondays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles
12:30 p.m. Walking group
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo
(Songfest on hiatus for December)

Tuesdays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles
12:30 p.m. Walking group
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo

Wednesdays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles
12:30 p.m. Walking group
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo
6 p.m. Museum Potluck
(12/21)

Thursdays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles
12:30 p.m. Walking group
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo
12:30 p.m. Pinochle, 12/15, 12/29
1 p.m. GED class

Fridays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles
10:30 a.m. Community Ctr. Board
mtg., 12/16
12:30 p.m. Walking group
12:30 p.m. Dominoes, Skip Bo
12:30 p.m. Coffee with Commissioner Janicki, 12/9
1 p.m. GED class

Closures

12/23 (Christmas)
12/26 (Christmas)



40 years ago, Dec. 23, 1976: Tiny Clay Norris registers more surprise than alarm during his first meeting with Santa Claus. Clay, whose parents are Gladen and Vickie Norris of Concrete, was among approximately 70 area youngsters visiting Santa when the jolly old gentleman paid a brief visit here Saturday. *Archive photo.*

Verna's Kitchen

By Verna McClure

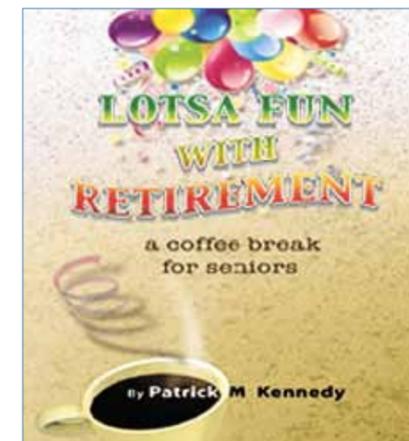


This serves nine to 10 people, and also freezes well. Enjoy!

Hamburger Soup

1½ lbs. lean ground beef
2 six-ounce cans diced tomatoes
3 medium onions, chopped
4 medium carrots, sliced
4 stalks celery, sliced
2/3 cup pearl barley
½ cup ketchup
2 tablespoons beef bouillon granules
3-plus teaspoons seasoned salt
2 teaspoons dried basil, crushed
2 bay leaves

1. In a large kettle, break up ground beef into small pieces and cook until browned.
2. Drain off all fat. Stir in remaining ingredients and add 8 cups of water.
3. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, and simmer at least 1 hour.
4. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Remove bay leaves.



Sunday School lesson

The light shines

By D. Lowell Chilton

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”
John 1:5, NRSV

In the Pacific Northwest, and especially in the North Cascades, we know darkness.

The days grow shorter and shorter, so short that we may barely glimpse the light of day as we go about our business.

We get used to months of gray skies and short days. We take pride in living through them—brag about it even to our friends and family in other places.

We know darkness in other ways too.

Many of us feel passed over by the rest of the world. Many of us struggle for hope for tomorrow. In the mad dash between Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's celebrations, filled with worry and dread about how we'll meet the obligations imposed on us by our friends, family, and culture, it can be hard to see the joy of the season. As we become acutely aware of a missing loved one, we can feel the darkness closing in all the more. As we worry about what January will bring, it can be hard to see the light.

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”

God sees our darkness, and knows it deeply. Long ago, God promised a Messiah, an anointed one, who would

come into the world to shine a light in the darkness. As time went on, God saw the darkness grow and saw the struggle of God's people, and came into the world as a human being, Jesus Christ, to shine a light in the darkness.

The light of God's love in Christ is brighter than the deepest darkness, and yet it can be hard to see at times. As we pass through this month, looking ahead to celebrating Jesus' birth and God's own entry into our darkness, we take the time to step back from the hustle and bustle and ponder just where God is already here and already active in our own lives and in our communities.

Some people mark this time and settle in to the season by lighting a candle every evening and saying a simple prayer. Some people mark this time with singing and fellowship. Some people mark this time with tears. At Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran, we mark this time by gathering together and inviting all to join us on Tuesday evenings for a simple meal and a time of prayer.

However you mark the time and prepare yourself for the coming of the Messiah, of Immanuel, of Jesus Christ, take the time to step back and be aware of where Christ is already here and alive in your life and in your community.

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”

Amen.

D. Lowell Chilton is vicar at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Concrete.

Advent services at Shepherd of the Hills

46372 Main St., Concrete
Tuesday nights thru Dec. 20, at 6 p.m.

Obituaries published in Concrete Herald ...

... from May 2009 to present are posted online at: www.concrete-herald.com/obituaries.

For more information, contact Concrete Herald at 360.853.8213 or editor@concrete-herald.com.

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Worth repeating

“Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can.”

“What one generation tolerates, the next generation will embrace.”

“Do you not know that God entrusted you with that money (all above what buys necessities for your families) to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to help the stranger, the widow, the fatherless; and, indeed, as far as it will go, to relieve the wants of all mankind? How can you, how dare you, defraud the Lord by applying it to any other purpose?”

—John Wesley

Skagit County Sheriff's Office Blotter

Nov. 1

Washington State Patrol reported a vehicle struck a pedestrian at approximately 5:30 p.m. on SR 20 at Russell Rd. Thomas Mauck, 22, of Concrete, was struck by a 1983 Datsun pickup driven by Elias Medez, 66, of Mount Vernon as Mauck crossed SR 20 on foot. Mauck was injured and transported to Harborview Medical Center. It was unknown at the time of the event whether alcohol was a factor.

A 50-year-old man broke into his 71-year-old mother's Rockport residence to obtain his cigarettes. He pried the door handle to gain entry. He was issued a ticket for criminal trespass. This will certainly make for a rather tense holiday season.

Nov. 6

A man from the Cedar Flats area near

Level 3 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.

Eckard, Adam

Lee

Age: 31
Race: W
Sex: M
Height: 6' 5"
Weight: 200
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Hazel
Address: Concrete

Eckard was convicted of indecent exposure in 2009 in Skagit County. He received a second conviction for indecent exposure in 2010 in California.

Eckard 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 could result in the removal of the online notification resource.

Source: Skagit County Sheriff



Lyman was arrested and booked for a felony violation of a protection order. The man showed up at a residence from which he was prohibited, assaulted a family member, then fled. Deputies located the man hiding under a tree nearby. He was taken to jail and booked on several charges.

Nov. 7

A Marblemount resident called to report seeing a red Toyota pickup truck in the area shooting at a deer in the dark. A deputy located the vehicle, identified the subjects, and passed along the information to WDFW agents. The WDFW agents have the suspect's information and will conduct the poaching investigation.

Nov. 16

Town of Lyman continues to have ongoing issues involving hunting on the Skagit River south of the town. The SCSO will investigate trespassing complaints and reckless shooting; however, a meeting needs to be held to determine jurisdictional issues.

A car with Arizona license plates was found abandoned off Cascade River Rd. near Marblemount. Deputies discovered the car belonged to a 78-year-old man from Arizona who was listed as missing and endangered. A search of the area was immediately conducted using K9 tracking dogs, ground search teams, ATVs, and helicopters. Unfortunately no evidence was located and the man is still listed as missing. Fliers with a photograph of the man have been placed around several local businesses and also on social media. Call 911 if you have any information about this case.

Nov. 17

A Rockport caller reported seeing a boat stranded on a sandbar. Darkness was setting in as the Skagit County SAR group, East County Water Rescue, responded to assist. They were able to get very close but unable to safely transfer the boaters in the fast-moving water. The U.S. Navy was summoned and arrived as the fog quickly moved in. The subjects were lifted out of their boat by the SAR helicopter and flown to a Mount Vernon hospital to be checked out. Many thanks to the East County Water Rescue “River Dogs” and the U.S. Navy for helping us out once again. Well done to all.

Nov. 20

An alert deputy noticed a ladder propped up beside the Cascade Mercantile in Lyman about 10:20 p.m. Upon further investigation he discovered an access panel removed and a suspicious car nearby—all potential clues that criminal activity was afoot. Come to find out a

Sergeant's corner

Holiday shopping safety tips

By Chris Kading



As the holidays quickly approach, here are a few tips to remember while shopping.

Thieves are opportunistic and may try to take advantage if you're not being careful of your surroundings. This time of year, the most popular shopping activity seems to be at the mall. Thieves also know this and will try to do their own version of holiday shopping, but they don't plan to spend any money.

When leaving a store and carrying packages, be aware of your surroundings. If you see a suspicious person lurking and it makes you feel uncomfortable, trust your instinct. You might return to the store and wait for others to leave the store with you. I also like the idea of taking your phone out, calling a friend, and keeping them on the phone until you reach your car.

Have your purse strapped over your shoulder and try not to loosely carry items. Thieves don't want to get caught and will go after whoever they perceive to be an easy victim. If someone attempts to grab your things, be as loud

as possible, demanding that they leave you alone. The more of a loud scene you cause, the more attention it will draw toward the thief. Crooks hate this.

When you arrive at your car in the parking lot, have a plan. If you plan to leave packages in your car and then go back in and do more shopping, make sure they are not sitting in plain view. Put them under a coat or blanket, or put them in your trunk. If a thief likes what they see in a car, it only takes a second to smash your window, grab the items, and take off.

Home security is also very important to avoid being a victim of a burglary. Be conscious of what type of view you are giving to a person that walks up to your door. Crooks will often try knocking on a door in the middle of the day to see if anyone answers. If you answer and the person seems perplexed, remember they may be just buying time to check out your home for a future burglary. Can wrapped gifts be seen easily? Are the gifts near the door and easily accessible for a quick getaway once the burglar enters your home? Trail cameras are a great Christmas gift for around your home and property.

Enjoy this holiday season and remember some of these easy tips to keep yourself safe.

“Sgt. Santa” Chris Kading is sergeant for the Skagit County Sheriff's Office East County Detachment in Concrete.

the deputy's car head on. The deputy was safely back inside his car and managed to try and back out quickly, but the crook still intentionally rammed his patrol car causing damage. At this point the deputy pursued the subject, who drove recklessly out of Cedar Grove and westbound onto the South Skagit Hwy. The pursuit became unsafe to follow, and the deputy stopped following the car. Another deputy spotted the car abandoned in a ditch along Finney Cumberland Rd. A K9 team from Mount Vernon responded, and several deputies scoured the area. The K9 found one of the man's shoes and a bandana, but nothing else. A follow-up investigation at the house he ran from yielded four arrests and a search warrant. The fleeing driver was later found at a residence in Mount Vernon and admitted to several criminal acts. He's facing several felony charges and restitution for damage to county property. It's another example of how things can

See Sheriff's Blotter, p. 33

Worship directory

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.

Citipoint Church North Cascade

59850 SR 20, Marblemount
360.873.2504
Sunday Gathering: 10:30 a.m.
www.citipointchurch.com
E-mail: mattd@citipointchurch.com

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.
E-mail: pastorjohn@firstbaptistclearlake.com

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.

Lyman Church

31441 W. Main St., Lyman
Office: 360.826.3287
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Sun. worship: 11 a.m.

Catholic

St. Catherine Mission Church
45603 Limestone St., Concrete
Mail: 719 Ferry St., Sedro-Woolley
Office: 360.855.0077
Weekday hours: 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Sat. Mass: 8:30 a.m.
www.svcc.us/scm

Covenant

Community Covenant Church
12605 Highway 9, Clear Lake
360.856.1023 // covenant@wavecable.com
www.clearlakecov.org
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Sun. worship: 11 a.m.
Call for weekly youth group/Bible studies

Episcopal

St. Martin/St. Francis Episcopal Church
55223 Conrad Rd., Rockport
Services: first and third Sunday of each month, 1 p.m.

Free Methodist

Day Creek Chapel
31438 S. Skagit Hwy, Sedro-Woolley
Office 360.826.3696
Sun.: 9:15 a.m. prayer svc, 10 a.m. worship
Tue.: Women's Bible study, 9:30 a.m.
Thur.: Bible study at Louise's complex, Mt. Vernon, 6:30 p.m.
Fri.: Women's Bible Study at Kathy's in Day Creek, 8 a.m.

Methodist

Central United Methodist Church
1013 Polke Rd., Sedro-Woolley
360.856.6412 / centralumcsw@yahoo.com
<http://centralumcsw.org>
Adult Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Sun. worship: 11 a.m.

Presbyterian

Mount Baker Presbyterian Church
45705 Main St., P.O. Box 246, Concrete
Church 360.853.8585; office 360.595.0446
www.mtbakerpresbyterian.synodnw.org
Sun. worship: 9 a.m.

Lutheran

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
46372 Main St., Concrete / 360.853.8814
Sun. worship: 10 a.m.

Nondenominational

Agape Fellowship
Meets at Mount Baker Presbyterian,
45705 Main St., Concrete
Second and fourth Weds., 7 p.m.
360.708.4764

Community Bible Church

45672 Limestone, Concrete; 360.853.8511
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

The RIVER Gathering

720 Puget Ave., Sedro-Woolley
Sun. worship: 10:30 a.m.
Wed. potluck/study: 6 p.m.
Thur. ladies group: 6:30 p.m.
Last Fri./mo. potluck/games: 6 p.m.
www.facebook.com/therivergathering

Rockport Christ the King Comm. Church

11982 Martin Rd., Rockport, WA 98283
Church office: 360.853.8746
Pre-service fellowship: 9:30 a.m.
Sun. service: 10 a.m.
Sun. eve. Bible study: 5 p.m.

Wildwood Chapel

41382 SR 20, Concrete
Sun. worship: 10 a.m.
Bible studies: Call for times
360.708.4330

CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

The weather has finally taken a turn toward winter with temperatures gradually decreasing and the hilltops receiving a fresh dressing of snow. That means the Christmas season has arrived.

It is never too early to find thoughtful gifts for your friends and family. The Museum Association's **books and T-shirts** are always a good choice. Our popular cookbook provides the basis for many unforgettable holiday meals and treats, while our historical books (*So They Called the Town Concrete* and *The Story of Kate*) are great prompts to start the reminiscing at family gatherings. They all are available locally or online at www.concreteheritagemuseum.org.

Many favorite holiday memories are born sitting around a dining table with friends and family swapping stories. The association also has a **new line of postcards** out and available at Albert's Red Apple, Cascade Supply, and 5b's Bakery. They make great additions to send

with your Christmas cards. People always love to see where we live so they can better visualize and remember you.

Last month we opened up several times for **special tours and research requests**. If you have a lot of family coming into town, consider contacting us for a special tour. Please give us plenty of advance notice—our volunteers are active in many other things in the community. Call 360.853.8347 or e-mail requests to jboggswash@aol.com.

Our next gathering will be our annual **Christmas potluck** on Wed., Dec. 21 at 6 p.m., at Concrete Community Center. Join us for good food and conversation. Our gatherings are always friendly events that are a great break from the holiday runaround. Our next monthly business meeting will be on Jan. 18 at 7 p.m. at the museum. The plans and projects for the upcoming year will be big topics of discussion. Please come join us.

—John Boggs

December at the Darrington Library

Children and family programs

- Family Storytime, Wed., Dec. 7, 14; 11 to 11:45 a.m.; all ages welcome, caregiver required.
- Foil Boat Engineering Challenge: Design, build, and test a boat made of aluminum foil, Wed., Dec. 7, 2 to 3 p.m.
- Monday Matinee: "Finding Dory," Mon., Dec. 12, 3 to 5 p.m. Children 6 and under must be accompanied.
- Gumdrop Structures Engineering Challenge. Using 10 gumdrops and 20 toothpicks, design a structure that can hold the weight of a large textbook. Supplies provided. Wed., Dec. 14, 2 to 3 p.m.
- Monday Matinee: "Kubo and the Two Strings," Mon., Dec. 19, 3 to 4:45 p.m. For school-age children.

Teen programs

- Reverse Engineering Project. We'll provide everyday household items for you to take apart and understand their function. All supplies provided. Register as seat space is limited. Wed., Dec. 21, 1 to 2 p.m.

Adult programs

- Entry to Apprenticeship Workshop. Information about a career in the manufacturing and marine trades. Mon., Dec. 12, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Darrington Book Group

Discussing *Fourth of July Creek*. Newcomers welcome. Wed., Dec. 7; 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Library closures

All Sno-Isle libraries will close at 3 p.m. on Sat., Dec. 24, in observance of Christmas Eve.
All Sno-Isle libraries will be closed on Sun., Dec. 25 and Mon., Dec. 26, in observance of Christmas Day.
All Sno-Isle libraries will close at 5 p.m. on Sat., Dec. 30, for New Year's Eve.
All Sno-Isle libraries will be closed on Sun., Jan. 1 and Mon., Jan. 2, in observance of New Year's Day.

The Darrington Library is located at 1005 Cascade St., Darrington. For more information, go to www.sno-isle.org?ID=1194 or call 360.436.1600.

—Ashley Bryson, branch manager

At the Upper Skagit Library

This holiday season the library will host its third annual **Food and Children's Book Drive** to benefit the Concrete and Marblemount food banks. Through Dec. 31, drop off nonperishable, unexpired food items and gently used children's books during library open hours. The items will be delivered to the food banks in mid-December, in time for Christmas, and after New Year's Day. Library open hours are Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Storytime** will occur on Fri., Dec. 16 at noon. Families with small children can join Brooke the Storytime Queen for stories galore, singing, and making crafts.

Holiday Guessing Jar: Stop by the library in December and make your best guess of how many thingamajigs are in the magic jar. The person to make the closest guess will win the novel *Twelve Days of Christmas*, by Debbie Macomber. The last day to make a guess is Dec. 21.

Improve your computer or mobile device skills, job search skills, or resume writing at the library. The **Library Tutor Program** is each Friday from 10 to 11 a.m. Appointment required. Call 360.853.7939.

New on our shelves

In adult fiction, *Turbo Twenty Three*, by Janet Evanovich.

In adult nonfiction, *Just Getting Started* by Tony Bennett.

For juniors, *Serafina and the Twisted Staff* (Serafina Book 2) by Robert Beatty.

For children, *A Hungry Lion* or *A Dwindling Assortment of Animals*.

This month's Upper Skagit Library Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Dec. 8 at 5 p.m.

The library will be closed on Sat., Dec. 24, for Christmas Eve.

—Cora Thomas, Library Associate

Lions R-O-A-R



Lions Club **Christmas tree sales** are the following days: Dec. 10–11 from 9 a.m. to closing, and Dec. 17 from 9 a.m. to noon. Tree sales are on the south side of SR 20 just west of Loggers Landing in Concrete, and also at Albert's Red Apple in Grasmere. All trees purchased at Albert's can be paid for at the Lotto counter. All funds go back into our community.

Thank you to all our members and their families that turned out for our annual Thanksgiving dinner. Everyone had a great time and enjoyed the time together.

This month the Concrete Lions Club **meeting** will be only on Dec. 7. It will be our annual Christmas get together with appetizers and a gift exchange, starting at 6 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. All existing members mark your calendars. We wish all our family and friends and Lions Club members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

For those interested in becoming a

member, submitting a request, or just want to see what we are about, please feel free to visit any of our regular meetings.

The Concrete Lions Club has access to **medical equipment**, such as wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs, and commodes, which can be lent to help those in need. Contact any Lions Club member and we will do our best to help you.

I encourage members of our community to think about and join your local Lions Club. Our club is your club. We are a club to serve you and our community. Our hope for 2017 is to double our membership numbers. We all have friends and family who have seen the outreach of your local Lions Club, so now is the time to give great thought about being a member!

Thank you for your continued prayers for the healing of our Lions Club members.

—Connie Smithhart

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 31

go bad, as the deputy found himself in a potentially life-threatening situation.

Nov. 26

A widowed resident on Cabin Creek Rd. near Hamilton came home after a brief stay in the hospital to discover her home had been broken into. The thieves apparently knew the house was empty, because they ransacked it. She discovered several items missing from inside her home. There are currently no suspects.

Nov. 28

A female Marblemount caller reported a theft of items from her house. She told deputies that she had a male friend stop by and he asked for some medical marijuana,

which she provided him. She said he took more than he'd asked for and also took a backpack of hers, which she wanted back. We had a conversation about the legalities of marijuana dispensing and will keep an eye out for the man with her backpack.

Dec. 1

Deputies responded to the report of a found body east of Marblemount in the area of Cascade River Rd. and Sonny Boy Lane. Deputies recovered the body and turned it over to the Skagit County coroner for confirmation of identity. There was no indication of foul play.

—Compiled by Sgt. Chris Kading and Jason Miller

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Out & About



Burlington

Christian Motorcycle Association forms again

A local chapter of the national Christian Motorcycle Association has re-formed as CMA Morning Star Riders Chapter 39.

The group's monthly dinner meeting was scheduled for Dec. 5, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Denny's Restaurant, 100 East College Way in Mount Vernon. A video was shown to set the baseline for the newly re-formed chapter. Meetings are open to anyone who wants to attend to learn more about the group, join its activities, or help plan future events.

Those interested in membership do not have to be motorcyclists to join the group, whose primary purpose is faith-based, to spread and show the love of Jesus Christ.

Newly appointed interim officers are President Dwight Kaestner, Vice President Stan Werner, and Chaplain Larry Weston.

For more information, contact Kaestner at 425.770.6154 or dkaestner43@gmail.com, or find the group on Facebook.



CMA Morning Star Riders Chapter 39 has re-formed as a local chapter of the national Christian Motorcycle Association. Current members and officers are, from left, Pedro Martinez, John Morris, Grace Osborne, Dwight Kaestner (kneeling), Chris Short, Larry Weston, and Stan Werner. Submitted photo.

Burlington

Kiwanis Salmon Sales

The Kiwanis Club of Burlington-Edison kicked off its annual Holiday Smoked Salmon Sales on Dec. 2. The sales will

continue through the second and third weekends in December from 11a.m. to 4:30 p.m. under the Kiwanis tent in the Cascade Mall parking lot behind Banner Bank:

- Dec. 9-11
- Dec. 16-18

This year shoppers have two options:

- Company gift orders: Businesses can place an order for Barlean's Reef Net brand smoked salmon fillets for \$12. For more information or to place an order, contact Greg Peck at 360.941.3545 or Tod LaHecka at 360.333.1031 by Dec. 15.
- Shoppers can purchase a Barlean's

Smoked Salmon slab to give as a gift or serve at the holiday table. Three sizes for \$15, \$20, or \$25.

All profits for the annual fundraiser are invested back into the Burlington community.

National

Navy awards Larsen highest civilian honor

Rep. Rick Larsen (WA-02) has been awarded the Distinguished Public Service Award, the Navy's highest civilian honor for courageous or heroic acts, or outstanding service of benefit to the Navy or Marine Corps.

Larsen has been a champion for the U.S. military, service members, and veterans. He successfully fought to keep open the Women, Infants, and Children office on Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, on which hundreds of military families rely for food assistance. He also secured language in the House version of the FY 2017 National Defense Authorization Act to allow Women, Infants, and Children offices to operate on military bases.

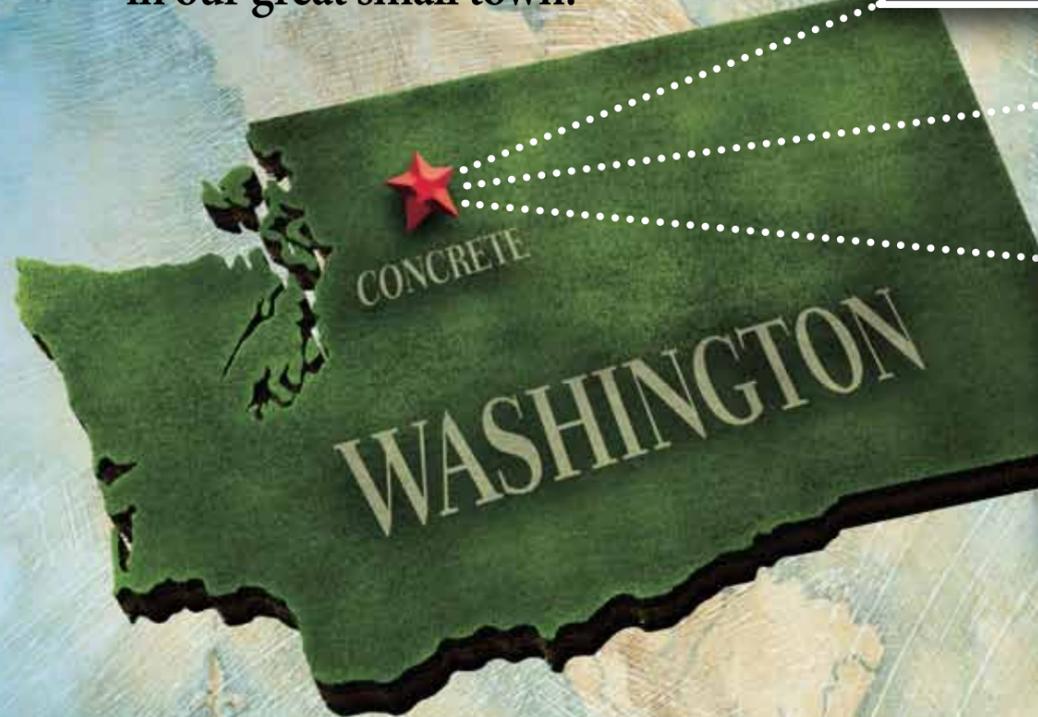
Larsen also has advocated for a strong Navy presence in Everett. He worked to bring three new destroyers to replace decommissioned frigates at Naval Station Everett and pushed the Navy to avoid a gap between retiring the frigates and the new destroyers.

In 2015 Larsen pressed the VA to change the Veterans Choice Program to better meet the needs of veterans in the Pacific Northwest. Whidbey veterans can now receive local health care instead of facing an hours-long drive across Deception Pass to Mount Vernon or having to take a ferry to Seattle to reach a VA doctor. In September of this year, Larsen succeeded in helping circumvent a 1992 ban on the VA providing in vitro fertilization services for veterans, which had previously forced veterans with service-connected infertility to pay thousands of dollars out of pocket.

Larsen will be presented with the award at an official ceremony to be announced in the coming weeks.

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Concrete's historic Town Center offers a variety of buildings and flexible spaces that can be used to develop your unique business. Our housing stock is waiting for people with vision and dedication to help us continue our path toward a vibrant economy and great quality of life.

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Smile



Crossword: "Daytime hosts"

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						70						71		

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.

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

*Solutions to both puzzles are on p. 38.

Funny as Facebook

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

- "No one should ever have to wake up at 5 a.m. for work."
- "I kid you not, at 3 a.m. my brain has decided I need to be reminded about that time in kindergarten I ran out the door at recess and got the ties to my wraparound skirt caught on the handle. I didn't notice until I got to the swings. In my underwear. Now I am fully awake and embarrassed for 5-year-old me."
- "Just got the nicest phone call from the unemployment office sincerely apologizing for the mistake made on my claim; they fixed the problem. FYI: Drawing sad stick figures eating ramen on documents you fax to the claims office helps."

Dwelleysms

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

"In the Everglades of Florida, an Indian tribe is presumed to have ordered the death of a girl who fell in love with a white man. After the spectacle the white man has made of himself during the past few years, we can appreciate their point of view."
— May 30, 1946

"A subject for study on the effects of the atom bomb is the human mind. Ever since the first one exploded, it seems the world and its individuals have gone mad with hate, distrust, greed, and selfishness. Reason seems to have disappeared completely in the chain reaction."

"We note the state took in more than \$5 million in its liquor stores during the month of May— what is known as draining off the surplus wealth."
"The primary election is not for immature voters."
— June 20, 1946

"Today is Independence Day. After 170 years of lawmaking, sit down and try to figure out how much of that original independence you have left. Then go out and celebrate."
— July 4, 1946

"New hunting regulations now include a punch card for tabulating your kill, along with license, deer tag, duck stamp, etc. Hunting coats will have built-in filing cabinets."
— July 18, 1946

Concrete Harold

By Joyce Harris



Across

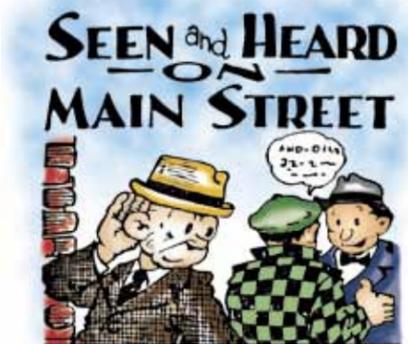
1. Blubber
5. City on the Loire
10. Ready a gift
14. Hodgepodge
15. Confounded
16. Epitaph opener
17. Red River, to the Vietnamese
18. Addict
19. Copacati worshipper
20. Aims high, like a TV host?
23. Low islands
24. Heads up
25. They meet in the middle
28. Self-image
30. Accords
34. Myanmar natives, e.g.
36. Piz Bernina, e.g.
38. Indeed
39. Appeared on TV host's show twice?
43. Be up
44. Inits. on a rocket
45. Sportsman's guide
46. Feature of some photo layouts
49. Chinese brew
51. Finish lines
52. Car until 1957
54. Thai currency
56. Lift the mood of a TV host?
63. Wild ____
64. Object of many prayers
65. Zing
66. Soup vegetable
67. Beat
68. "Le ____," Emile Zola novel
69. Knawe, for one
70. War horse
71. Sheldrake

Down

1. Prominent Danish physicist
2. Insect repellent ingredient
3. Stage area
4. Syllogist, e.g.
5. Sweet confection
6. Of no use
7. Tech support caller
8. Landlord's paper
9. Hindu holy man
10. Odd idea
11. City north of Carson City
12. Big name in oil
13. Hymn of praise: Var.
21. Angel
22. U.S.N.A. grad
25. Browning's Ben Ezra, e.g.
26. Assoc. of nations
27. Fare reductions
29. Loud Australian bird
31. African antelope
32. Rhodes of Rhodesia
33. "Land ____!"
35. Pittance
37. Hard throw, in baseball
40. Onion plant
41. ____ owl
42. Record holders
47. The Supreme Court, e.g.
48. Child's play?
50. Erode
53. ____ Tower
55. Expressed pleasure
56. ____ Canyon
57. Snap request?
58. Plot unit
59. Pipe type
60. Hypothetical substance
61. 90's party
62. De novo

Public Service Announcement

By Stig Kristensen



Salesman: "Sir, I have something here that will make you popular, make your life happier, and bring you a host of friends."
Man: "I'll take a quart."
— § —

"My wife doesn't understand me. Does yours?"
"Don't know. Never heard her mention your name."
— § —

An American resident in the Orient remonstrated with her houseboy for taking her linen into her bedroom without knocking.

"That's all right, miss," said the native. "Every time come, look through keyhole. Nothing on, no come in."
— § —

"I'll give you \$5," said the artist, "if you'll let me paint you."
The old mountaineer shifted his tobacco from one cheek to the other and back again. "It's easy money," he said, "ain't no question about that. I's just wondering how I'd get the paint off afterward."
— § —

What women escape: Statisticians estimate that a man shaves 20 square miles of face during a lifetime.
— § —

She approached the pearly gates and inquired of Saint Peter: "Do you know if my husband is here? His name is Smith."
"Be more specific. We have lots of Smiths here."
"His first name is Joe."
"Come again, lady. Lots of those, too."
"Well, before he died he said that if I ever looked at another man, he'd turn over in his grave."
"Oh, you mean Pinwheel Smith!"

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3rd Annual

Christmas Bazaar and Children's

Craft Fair

Brought to you by
Imagine Concrete Foundation

Saturday,
December 10
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

At Concrete Elementary
School gym

- Kid-friendly! All ages welcome!
- Holiday treats, crafts, and gifts!
- Photos with Santa!
- Awesome Silent Auction!
- Lunch provided by Concrete Elementary PTO!

Vendors of all ages welcome!

E-mail inquiries to em@5bsbakery.com

Letters, cont. from p. 2

Marblemount Community Hall for the venue; musicians Andris Vezis, Bill Pfeiffer, Linden Jordan, Jeff Mahr, Richard Lewis, Jim Fichter, John Boyd, Rob Coffey, Debo North, and Rich Cross; event volunteers Erma Baude, Donna Rae Brockman, Kathy Manzoor, Ray Hambleton, Marren Avery; and all the wonderful, generous donors of raffle items/services, too numerous to list here! (You know who you are.)

With our thanks and gratitude for supporting YOUR community radio station, KSVU 90.1 FM. Here's hoping it just keeps getting better and better.

Christie Fairchild
Rockport

Fairchild plays a crucial role

Christie Fairchild will submit a letter about the Halloween Fundraiser for KSVU for the December issue of *Concrete Herald*. Christie is thanking

everyone who participated, contributed, and assisted, but there is no "thank you Christie" in there!

Please know there would not even be such a successful fundraiser had it not been for Christie. We at KSVU are so thankful for you, Christie, and the community is very lucky to have you.

Erma Baude
Concrete

Thanks from Legion

The dual reception at the Legion Hall on Veterans Day was a big success. If the building itself could speak, it would thank everyone who made many happy memories over the years within its walls and would express anxious anticipation for the future opportunities to create a new generation of memories as the Upper Skagit Library.

We, as a community, share that emotion.

John Boggs
Concrete

Classifieds

MOVIES & EVENTS AT THE HISTORIC CONCRETE THEATRE
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TIX: \$8 general admission, \$7 for 65 and over/12 and under
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Concrete

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To place a Classified ad, call 360.853.8213 or e-mail ads@concrete-herald.com. Ads are \$5 per every 10 words. Payment is due at time of placement. Deadline for the January 2017 issue is Dec. 26.

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Annual Holiday Open House

Northwest Garden Bling & Wolf Designs
44574 Hwy 20, Concrete

Saturday, Dec. 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Special sales, refreshments, and general good cheer:
Our way of thanking our loyal patrons for another successful year!

Sudoku solution, from p. 37

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

Crossword solution, from p. 37

1	B	A	W	L	5	T	O	U	R	S	10	W	R	A	13	P	
2	O	L	I	O	14	A	T	S	E	A	16	H	E	R	E		
3	H	O	N	G	17	F	I	E	N	D	19	I	N	C	A		
4	R	E	G	I	20	C	A	F	O	R	T	H	E	M	O	O	N
5	R	A	D	I	21	S	A	Y	S	23	R	H	E	N	S		
6	A	S	I	A	24	E	G	O	26	S	Y	N	C	S			
7	B	E	E	N	27	T	O	E	L	L	E	N	B	A	C	K	
8	B	A	T	28	U	S	A	30	G	I	L	L	I	E			
9	I	N	S	29	E	T	31	C	H	A	32	G	O	A	L	S	
10	C	H	A	33	N	A	S	H	34	B	A	H	T				
11	R	I	C	E	35	G	A	F	L	A	T	T	Y	R	A		
12	O	K	R	A	36	A	L	L	A	H							
13	W	E	E	D	37	R	O	L	L	A	H						
14					38	S	T	E	E	D	39	S	M	E	W		

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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 and fourth Tue. 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.

360.826.4090

Lyman

Shepherd's Heart Food Bank
8334 S. Main St., Lyman
Every Thur. 10:30 a.m.–1 p.m.
Self-help classes after food bank closes; call
for subjects: 360.853.3765

Marblemount

Bread of Life Food Bank
59850 State Route 20, Marblemount
First and third Wed. each month
11 a.m.–4 p.m.
360.873.2504

Sedro-Woolley

Helping Hands Food Bank
601 Cook Rd., Sedro-Woolley
Wed., 10–11:30 a.m. and 12:30–4 p.m.
Open every Wednesday
360.856.2211

*Changes? Call 360.853.8213.

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Sedro-Woolley
360-746-9229
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