

The Voice of Eastern Skagit County Concrete Herald

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50 cents

Reliving history

Booms, wounds, and lessons from our past as Civil War reenactment comes to Marblemount April 16–17.

By Marshall Cooper

Once again the streets of Marblemount will fill with smoke and be strewn with bodies of fallen heroes.

The Washington Civil War Association (WCWA) will reenact the Civil War on the streets of Marblemount, with the Yankee and Rebel soldiers going head to head with musket and artillery fire. The Union forces will be portrayed by the Army of the Columbia, commanded by Col. Ted Saylor. The Confederate forces will be portrayed by Adams Legion, commanded by Lt. Col. Toby Gully. The event is free and open to the public.

The battle is scheduled to take place on Sat., April 16, and Sun., April 17, at noon. When the troops are not in battle, they will drill on the ball field adjacent to the North Cascade Business Association building, from approximately 10 a.m. to noon each day. Visitors may explore the encampment before or after the battles.

The Washington Civil War Association is a nonprofit organization whose members strive to honor the memory of

See **Civil War**, p. 22



Concrete opens its first community garden

The Angele Cupples Community Garden in Concrete released for rental 22 raised beds April 1. On opening day, 13 of the beds had been rented.

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Wild Women of Woolley bid farewell

The S-W American Legion Hall was a bittersweet place to be March 12, as the Wild Women of Woolley ("and a few good men") performed their final show to a packed room.

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Robotics team ranks 5th out of 50

In its third year, the Concrete High School robotics team ranked 5th out of 50 teams at the 20th annual FIRST Robotics Competition in Seattle March 18–19.

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Good-bye, Robert Good

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A facelift for Clear Lake historical building

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Concrete Herald

The Voice of Eastern Skagit County

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Editorial

It's time to re-imagine Concrete

Mark your calendar: On April 16, from 9 a.m. to noon, Concrete citizens will again gather to think about what they want their town to become. A “re-imagining” workshop will be held in the Commons room at Concrete High School.

It's been two years since the citizen-driven visioning effort called Imagine Concrete held its first workshop in April 2009. That workshop generated dozens of ideas, which were prioritized by the attendees. Today, the partial fence around the Silo Park playground, the community garden, and a Superior Building that is on its way to a second life—all exist because a group of dedicated citizens came together and decided what they wanted Concrete to become.

At the April 16 workshop, we'll revisit the five initiatives that grew from the 2009 visioning session, and give everyone a chance to discuss them and talk about new ideas. This is your chance to make your voice be heard! Don't say, “I hope they talk about ...” Come to the workshop and bring it up! Or send someone to float your idea and see what kind of response it gets.

Motivational speaker Robert Kiyosaki said, “The size of your success is measured by the strength of your desire, the size of your dream, and how you handle disappointment along the way.” Imagine Concrete is a great place to bring your dreams and desires, discuss them, and work to build consensus on which ideas will best serve Concrete's citizens in the long and short term.

Nobody's claiming Imagine Concrete is perfect or foolproof. In the end, it's an advisory body for the Concrete Town Council, and for a number of reasons, not all ideas are pursued—however popular they may be. But at the two-year mark since the first visioning workshop, this “re-imagining” workshop will provide a new starting point for everyone with an idea of how Concrete should change or stay the same.

Come to the April 16 workshop. Don't worry about being asked to execute any idea you mention; we'll figure out who's willing to do what in a follow-up workshop, which probably will be held in June. Simply come with an open mind, prepared to revisit the ideas that were generated in 2009 and ready to imagine new ideas that will help renew and revitalize Concrete.

Mark your calendar now: Sat., April 16, from 9 a.m. to noon, in the Commons room at Concrete High School.

Come help create the community you want to live in.

—J. K. M.

Opinion

Letters to the editor

American Alps proposal could unite east county communities

I just came from skiing along a beautiful wild creek 15 minutes from my home in Marblemount. That is a special event in our neighborhood, as snow rarely stays long on the ground at this lower elevation.

It's one of the areas highlighted in the American Alps Legacy Proposal to become part of the North Cascades National Park. As it currently stands, the Park is nearly invisible and inaccessible to most visitors. To see the park, you must drive almost 20 miles up Cascade River Road.

The current park boundaries resulted from a series of political compromises when Congress created the park in 1968. Visiting the park is frequently a missed opportunity for families in the Skagit Valley and all across Washington.

The American Alps Legacy Proposal highlights the original vision for the North Cascades National Park and will bring the boundaries down to the highway, where more people can access and enjoy the park.

The proposal recommends a park visitor's center in Marblemount, increasing visitor recreation opportunities along the highway (new trails, expanded campgrounds, waterfall tours, and more), and creating a visible park entrance that will let visitors know they are entering a world-class national park.

The American Alps Legacy Proposal could unite members of our upriver population. As the park becomes better known and more visitors arrive, it is inevitable that local businesses would receive a much-needed boost. I see an enlarged North Cascades National Park as an enhancement, both to conservation and community.

Hannah Sullivan
Marblemount

General Delivery restriction a hardship for folks on the fringe

After reading the article in the March *Concrete Herald* regarding General Delivery mail service, I felt I must respond. It is my concern that restricting this service is going to work a hardship on folks that are already living on the fringes.

The Domestic Mail Manual, which is the basic reference for all postal services, has this to say about General Delivery service:

“General Delivery is intended primarily as a temporary means of delivery:

- a. For transients and customers not permanently located
 - b. For customers who want Post Office Box service when boxes are unavailable.
- “... A postmaster may refuse or restrict general delivery:
- a. To a customer who is unable to present suitable identification
 - b. To a customer whose mail volume or service level (e.g., mail accumulation) cannot reasonably be accommodated.

See Letters, p. 3

Letters policy

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

Corrections

A photo caption on the Marblemount page of the March issue incorrectly referred to a quilt made by Vickie Martin as a “Harley-themed” quilt. It was created in memory of volunteer firefighter Mark Richmond and was a firefighter-themed quilt. The caption also should have credited Martin's daughter, Rachel Martin, with helping to create the quilt.

Letters, cont. from p. 2

“Each general delivery mailpiece is held no more than 30 days, although a shorter time period may be requested by the sender.”

Yes, General Delivery service is intended to be temporary. However, in the smaller offices such as Concrete, which do not have mail delivery to every address within their service area, General Delivery services have been extended indefinitely for those unable to afford a P.O. Box or for those who are homeless. This is a rational and humanitarian response to those among us who simply do not have the resources or the street address to get mail otherwise. In my 31-year career, it was an established and accepted practice in every small office.

You will notice that the Domestic Mail Manual sections quoted above do not specify any time limit for customers to receive mail in General Delivery. It specifies the length of days any pieces of mail can be held (30), but nowhere does it state how long one may receive mail in General Delivery. It also clearly states the reasons why a postmaster may limit service, but tenure in General Delivery is not one of them. To imply that General Delivery service is limited to 30 days is misleading.

Further, to state that the Post Office does not get workhour credit for General Delivery customers is just plain wrong. I have filled out enough Workload Service Credit reports to know that it is a fact that the number of General Delivery customers is a line item, one of the first on the report. Yes, postmasters do get workhour time budgeted in for this service.

To link General Delivery service with the solvency of the Postal Service is absolutely ludicrous. The USPS is in dire financial straits, yes, but not because they are civilized enough to provide unlimited mail delivery for free to those whose lives depend upon it.

We have among us human beings, people with needs, who depend on that Social Security or VA check coming to General Delivery once a month to live. They have managed to eke out a living somehow, with resources that most of us would find impossible. Now they have been told that their mail service is being terminated because it's meant to be temporary. Because it's “out of control.” I believe that what is out of control is people who are ruled more by personal convenience than customer service.

If we let this service be restricted by not acting, then we are just as responsible for the increased hardship these folks among

us will need to bear. It may seem a non-issue to those of us who are not personally affected, but this is a stone thrown in a pond whose ripples will eventually reach us all.

I urge all of us to take a stand for these folks among us who do not have a voice of their own. Let the Seattle District know what you think: 206.378.2600.

Naomi Rumpff
PM retired
Concrete

See Letters, p. 31

In The Service

Pacific NW Float Trips is presenting Sedro-Woolley Community Troop Support with a new springtime fundraising opportunity: an Annual Troop Support Deception Pass Zodiac Adventure to be held May 7.

Participants will meet at Pioneer Park in La Conner by 10 a.m. that day for a 3-hour tour through Deception Pass to Puget Sound, visiting Goat Island, and stopping for a picnic lunch at Hope Island. Captain Dave Button says this is his favorite trip!

There are only 24 seats available, so those interested should sign up early to ensure a spot. Child participants must be at least 10 years old.

The cost for this event is \$50 per person and includes the picnic lunch. Registration and payment via PayPal can be made online at www.swcommunitytroopssupport.com (click on “Events”) or by sending a check payable to SWCTS to P.O. Box 817, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284.

More information on this trip can be found online at www.PacificNWFloatTrips.com.

—Tammie Werner

Ovenell's to host annual egg hunt April 23

CONCRETE — Ovenell's Heritage Inn and Double O Ranch will host its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sat., April 23, at 1:30 p.m.

For the past several years, hoards of egg-hunting children and their families have descended on the lawns of the popular destination the day before Easter. Eggs filled with candy and lots of prizes

await the kids, along with a golden goose egg and a family hunt.

This year organizers plan two drawings for \$25 off a one-night stay. Donations already have been pledged by several area businesses.

The hunt follows the Lion's Club egg hunt, which begins at 1 p.m. at Concrete Middle School.

For more information or to make a donation, call 360.853.8494.

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Track is back

By Vanessa Williams, co-coach

2011 Concrete Track and Field season began with a record-breaking number of 47 athletes turning out for the sport. Early season snow forced us inside a small gym for extensive training and conditioning. After a work party to clear the snow, we were ready to hit the track running.

Our team is looking strong with top returners: Alex Aiken (Sr. jumps/sprints/throws), Andy Aiken (Jr. sprints/throws), Kevin August (Sr. jumps/relays), Hayden Holbrook (So. jumps/sprints), Justin Soule (Sr. throws/jumps/sprints), Jose Torres (Sr. sprints/relays/jumps), DJ Mitchell (Sr. relays/hurdles), James Luttrell (So. jumps/relays), Aiden Walsh (Jr. throws), Kellen Russell (Sr. throws), Ben Troka (Jr. throws), Seantel Shope (Sr. hurdles/distance), Heather Collins (So. throws/jumps), Ashlee Evans (So. throws/jumps), and Angie McLaughlin (So. hurdles/jumps/sprints).

In addition to our top returners, we have a lot of talent coming from our newcomers: Josiah Martin (Jr. relays/sprints/jumps), Jessica Filtz (So. sprints/throws/jumps), Sarah Spaeth (Jr. sprints/throws), Thea O’Brien (Jr. hurdles), and Emilee Fenley (Fr. distance).

The team kicked off its first meet in La Conner against six other teams. August won a pair of events: long jump and triple jump. Torres took first in the 400 meter with a time of 56.41. The boys team placed second in the meet barely trailing La Conner. The next day 10 boys athletes were Yakima-bound to compete in the Papa Wells Invitational. Our boys represented one of 34 teams, including some 3A and 4A schools. August brought home a third in the long and triple, and was beat out by his state competitors from Riverside Christian. August also took fifth in the high jump.

On March 24 we hosted our first

See **Track**, p. 31



Above: Heather Collins prepares to put the shot during the Concrete-hosted track meet March 24. **Right:** Justin Soule hurls the javelin at the meet, turning in a 141-foot toss.





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Boys of spring hitting their stride

By Jason Miller

After early season losses, Concrete’s baseball team nabbed a couple wins to finish out March with a 1–1 league and 2–3 overall record.

Head Coach Jim Newby has a fat roster this year, with a full team returning.

Newby said the team’s strength is its defense, and earlier concerns over pitching are diminishing as pitchers Kyler Howell and Tyler Kales hit their strides.

“Our pitching is coming around. It’s definitely improving,” Newby said.

Newby wants more consistent at-bats, but can’t complain about Kales and fellow junior Tyler Clark, who are both “hitting the ball extremely well right now”: Both are averaging over .500. Senior Kyler Howell “is starting to hit the ball now” too, said Newby.

Weather is playing a factor for the baseball and softball teams, who took rainouts for planned games against Coupeville, Shoreline Christian, and Friday Harbor on March 12 and 15, and April 1, respectively.

The team’s first game, a March 14

matchup against Lynden Christian, put a notch in the loss column for Concrete. They lost at away games too, in Mount Baker on March 19 and La Conner on March 22.



Pitcher Tyler Kales throws to first baseman Andy Freeman for a Coupeville out March 26. The Lions took the win for the day.

Rebounding from the slump out of the starting gate, Concrete leveraged its homefield advantage on March 26, besting Coupeville; and March 29, handing Darrington a loss under fitful skies.



Junior Jordan Clontz swings at a Coupeville pitch during a homefield match-up March 26.

Hot bats, strong pitching aid softball team

By Jason Miller

Softball Head Coach Don Beazizo has good reason to be pleased with his team’s performance so far this season.

“We’re patient at the plate, and batting close to .400 as a team so far,” he said. “We need to hit the ball when our players are in scoring positions—can’t leave them on the bases.”

Factor in the strong arm of freshman pitcher Krissy Mann and you have the ingredients for a successful season.

“I’m pretty happy with Krissy,” said Beazizo. “She doesn’t walk many players, which gives us a chance to get an out.”

So far, the team’s record is 1–1 in league play and 2–4 overall. They took an 18–4 loss their opening, nonleague game against Cedar Park Christian March 14, and lost to Orcas Island 20–10 March 18.

Mt. Baker handed the team an 11–1 nonleague loss March 19, and La Conner got the win 13–3 March 22.

The team hit its stride in late March,



Senior shortstop Sherry Pringle waits for a fly ball to drop when the team hosted Darrington March 29. Darrington started strong with an 8–0 lead, but Concrete fought back for a 26–21 win.

winning against Lakewood JV 14–3 March 24, then coming from behind March 29 to beat Darrington 26–21.

See **Softball**, p. 20

All 12 MS wrestlers place at tourney

At the end of a seven-match season, Middle School wrestling Head Coach John Koenig and manager Juanita Castaneda took 12 grapplers to the championships in Anacortes March 19, and every one of them placed.

“It was very cool, especially since a lot of them are first-year wrestlers,” Koenig said of the performances.

In the 90-lb. weight bracket, Tye Thompson placed 5th. Colton August (95) placed 5th. Ashlee Kisner (100) placed 2nd. Donovan Dellinger (110) placed 5th. Teegan Moore (110 in the JV bracket) placed 3rd. Anjelika Koenig (115 in the Varsity girls bracket) placed 2nd. Gibson Fichter (125) placed 3rd. Donnie Olmstead (164) placed 5th. Seth Shaffer (154 in the JV bracket) placed 4th. Cameron Post (185) placed 6th. Robert Nevin (185 in the Varsity bracket) placed 5th. River Lee (215) placed 4th.

“They were all standouts this season, they were all into it,” said Koenig, who watched Tye Thompson gain confidence, Donnie Olmstead prove himself a natural at the sport, and Colton August log a perfect attendance record for practices.

Athletes of the Month



Athletes of the Month are Kylee Warner and Colton Maloney

Sophomore forward Kylee Warner turned in big numbers this year for the Lady Lions basketball team. “She was a force down the stretch when her team needed her the most,” said Head Coach Kevik Rensink. “She was a big contributor in scoring and rebounds, and finished the season averaging nearly 8 points and 9 rebounds per game,” he said. Colton Maloney, a senior wrestler in the 160-lb. weight class, “knew this year was his last shot at state, and what was in the way was getting in shape,” said Head Coach Dave Dellinger. “He started running in the mornings to accomplish this, and showed an incredible work ethic and determination.” Warner and Maloney were selected by Concrete Lions Booster Club members based on their leadership, being team players, and demonstrating sportsmanship and character.



One of Concrete’s first female wrestlers, 8th-grader Ashlee Kisner took on a male opponent—and won—during a home match March 17.

MEN'S BASKETBALL AWARDS
JV participation: Spencer Duffy, Andy Freeman, Forest Barnedd, Drake Jansen, Josh Philippsen, Jake Massingale, Josh Rogge.
Varsity letters: Josh Rogge, Dallas Newby, Hayden Holbrook, Cody Jarmin, Jake Massingale, Aidan Walsh, Tyler Clark, Kyler Howell, DJ Mitchell.
Special awards: *Mr. Offense:* Tyler Clark; *Mr. Defense:* Kyler Howell; *Mr. Hustle:* Dallas Newby; *Athletic Achievement:* DJ Mitchell; *Coaches' Award:* Hayden Holbrook. *AP All-State Class 2B Team:* Tyler Clark

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL AWARDS
JV awards: *Most Improved:* Shelby Lloyd; *Players Award:* Claire Saludo.
Varsity letters: Martha Schooland, Megan Rogge, Brooke Lee, Sarah Spaeth, Jessica Filtz, Kylee Warner, Frankie Rohweder, Tamara Schooland.
Varsity awards: *Queen of the Boards:* Kylee Warner; *Miss Hustle:* Brooke Lee; *Most Improved:* Sarah Spaeth; *MVP:* Jessica Filtz; *2nd Team All-League:* Jessica Filtz.

MIDDLE SCHOOL WRESTLING AWARDS
Participation: Colton August, Tye Thompson, Ashlee Kisner, Donovan Dellinger, Teegan Moore, Anjelika Koenig, Donnie Olmstead, Seth Shaffer, Cameron Post, Robert Nevin, River Lee, Austin Murphy.
Special awards: *Sportsmanship:* Seth Shaffer; *Most Improved:* Tye Thompson; *Most Committed:* Colton August; *Special Recognition:* Donnie Olmstead; *Most Outstanding:* Anjelika Koenig; *Wrestler of the Year:* Gibson Fichter.



Academics



Robotics team captures 5th out of 50!

By Mike Criner

In its third year, the Concrete High School robotics team made an impressive showing at the 20th annual For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics Competition in Seattle March 18–19. The team ranked 5th out of 50 teams at the Seattle Cascade and Olympic Regionals match at the Qwest Event Center.

This year’s team was composed of 11 students who were guided and mentored by adults, including Navy recruiter and aircraft mechanic Jeremy Sidzyk. The students took on the myriad duties necessary to create a winning entry in the competition. Brainstorming ideas, planning, programming, fabricating, applying for grants, and much more—all while keeping their grades up.

In January, every FIRST robotics team in the world received this year’s challenge and a kit of parts at the same time. Every team then had exactly six weeks to build a robot that will accomplish the challenge.

This year, the challenge was called “Logo Motion.” The first part of the challenge was to build a robot that could hang inflatable “game pieces” shaped like the FIRST logo (red triangle, white circle, blue square) on “pins” on a wall. The last 10 seconds of each match could be used to deploy a fully autonomous mini-bot that would attach itself to a pole and climb it.

But the challenge is not limited to robots. FIRST Robotics offers 23 awards at the challenges. Of those 23 awards, only eight are related to robot design. FIRST also celebrates such concepts as team spirit, communication

See **Robotics**, p. 15

Right: The 2011 robotics team was ranked 5 out of 50 at this year’s FIRST Regionals competition in Seattle. Shown with their primary and secondary robot (on top), from left to right are (first row): Alex Joens, driver/programmer; Josiah Werda; Tavish Beals, assistant safety officer; Shae Van Wagoner, team captain/lead programmer. Second row: Mike Criner, advisor/coach; Olivia Davis, spokesperson/spirit leader; Melia Thompson, lead spokesperson/photographer; Cheri Van Wagoner, co-advisor; Robert DiLeo Jr., chief mechanic/pit boss. Back row: Chris Jansen, mentor; Drake Jansen, mechanic; Alyssa Wahlgren; Alen Moser, safety officer; Ricky Powell, assembler. Not pictured: Connie Johnson, volunteer/spirit leader; Jeremy Sidzyk, mentor. *Submitted photo.*



Youth Dynamics packs March with fun and life lessons

By Kevik Rensink

The youth of our community are great! As Area Director for Concrete Youth Dynamics, I have the pleasure of getting to know some amazing kids. It never ceases to amaze me the amount of talent and great attitudes that come out as teenagers are put into a positive environment where they are encouraged and loved.

We have had some crazy Monday night meetings lately, including our “Just Better Night” scavenger hunt around town. Some of you might have experienced a few teenagers knocking on your doors trying to trade whatever they had at the time for something a little better.

“Grasshopper Night” was pretty fabulous as well. In our mock runway show, the students designed and made their own clothes, and then showed them

See **YD**, p. 31



“Grasshopper Night” March 7 found the teenagers of Youth Dynamics dressing up in secondhand clothes and strutting their stuff on the catwalk. The winners that evening were, left to right, Andy Aiken, Kevin August, Kellen Russell, and Colton Maloney, who called themselves “KAP featuring the Hollaback Girls.” And yes, all of them are getting the professional help they so desperately need.

Concrete PTO news

By Debbie Ross, president

Lots of things are in store for school-age youth and their families during the coming months.

Spring Break runs from April 4–8 this year.

Family Fitness Night is April 14, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the gym.

May highlights include **Teacher Appreciation Week** from May 2–6, and a **Bud Jeffries Assembly** on May 6 at 1 p.m.

High School Graduation is June 3. The next **PTO meeting** is April 11, 2:45 p.m. in the library. Please plan to attend. For more information, send an e-mail to concretek6pto@yahoo.com.

School Board meeting

The Concrete School Board will hold its next regular board meeting on Wed., April 27, at 7 p.m. in the high school Commons. The board will hold a workshop on April 25 at 6 p.m., also in the high school Commons.

Science Fair lets kids strut their smarts

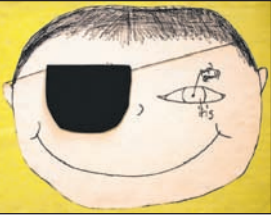
Another round of brain-tickling questions was raised and answered at the annual Science Fair at Concrete Elementary School March 3.

Does an orange float? What cleans better: hot or cold water? What color apples do horses prefer? Will a snowman melt more slowly if he’s wearing clothes? What material makes the best homemade sled? On what surface would a homemade hovercraft work best?

More than 40 students displayed their experiments in the school library. Most included explanations of the students’ hypotheses and the methods they used to prove or refute them. Judges earlier visited each display, interviewed the students, and chose first- and second-place winners from each grade level.

The displays told tales of sometimes extreme dedication. Noah Tiemens’ experiment determined whether an eye patch would help a person retain night vision. His display told of a bumpy process: “Without eye patch: ran into 2 things. With eye patch: ran into 6 things.”

As for which color apple horses prefer, that would be green.



Above: More than 40 students filled the Concrete Elementary School library with their Science Fair displays.

Left: First-grader Killian Moore poses with a first-place ribbon at her experiment display, which explained what color apple horses prefer (green).



Science Fair winners

	First Place	Second Place
Kindergarten	Madisen Norgord	Jenna McCall
1st Grade	Killian Moore	Christian Joens
2nd Grade	Kaylee McCann	Michelle Samuelson
3rd Grade	Alexis Wysong	Samantha Mitchell
4th Grade	Dalton Newby	Wyatt Magee
5th Grade	Mary Spangler	Emma Claybo
6th Grade	Tyler Labrousse	Brook Barnedt
7th Grade	Katie Joens	Tye Thompson

One year later: Cascade Burgers

April 14 marks one year since Concrete got its beloved burger joint back. Birdsvew citizens Keith and Susan Taxdahl reopened the former Hal’s, re-naming it Cascade Burgers and giving customers a little taste of the 1950s in décor and menu.

One year later, Cascade Burgers is going strong, says Susan, who manages the restaurant. “It’s been a really great year; I’m looking forward to many more. Meeting new people and making new friends has been one of my greatest pleasures,” she says.

The restaurant has developed a loyal following among locals. Seven days a week, you’ll see some of the same vehicles parked there for lunch or dinner. It’s also reclaimed its rightful place as a great place for kids to grab a burger after school. And I’ll personally vouch for the BLT, which is so good, it’s almost sinful.

On April 16, head to Cascade Burgers to celebrate its one-year anniversary with a Deluxe Burger Combo at half price, plus free cake.

—J. K. M.



Cascade Burgers owner Susan Taxdahl.

Cascade Burgers

Location: 45292 SR 20, Concrete
Phone: 360.853.7580
Hours: 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., daily

Chicken nuggets at Cascade Burgers

My favorite restaurant meal is chicken nuggets. And my favorite place to get these crumbly little masterpieces is Cascade Burgers.

As soon as I pull up to Cascade Burgers, my mouth starts to water. I enter the restaurant and all I hear are dishes clacking, people talking, and music playing.

My family and I seat ourselves in the sea green and faded pink booths. I notice the smell of food and bleach water that the busboy had washed the table with just minutes before we arrived.

After the teenage cashier with a funky pink bandana tied around her head takes our order, we take our drinks and head back to our table. My parents are talking with my brothers and I slowly drift off, thinking about the Elvis Presley dolls and old pop bottles on the wall.

I see the waitress at the end of our table beginning to serve our food. As soon as I get my plate of freshly deep-fried chicken nuggets, I hear my tummy grumble, dip my nugget in ketchup, and take a bite. The first words out of my mouth are, “Oh, my ... amazing.” I taste the carefully seasoned and breaded chicken and I’m instantly on cloud nine. The void in my life is gone. I finish my meal, head out to the car, slouch in my seat, and let happiness take over.

—Ashlee Magee



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Clear Lake



Historical Association Hall gets interior upgrades

Story and photos by Sylvia Matterand

The Clear Lake Historical Association Hall in Clear Lake has a beautiful new look, thanks to several generous donations and many hours of volunteer labor. Formerly known as the International Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) Hall, the historic CLHA Hall was built in 1892 as a saloon. The IOOF purchased the building in 1910 and rented out the main floor as a pool hall/saloon for many years. The hall has seen many additions and transformations over the years, including having a jeweler and clock/watch repair shop, a beauty shop, and an insurance office. Barber shops and a drug store also occupied some of the space. It remained owned by the Odd Fellows until 1998, when it was donated to the Clear Lake Historical Association.

The Historical Association has worked to preserve the hall and wants it to be here for future generations to enjoy. Recently the organization planned a major maintenance strategy that included interior painting and replacing flooring. Deanna Ammons, our historian and primary caretaker of the hall, researched flooring possibilities for the dining area. She presented options to the membership, and laminate flooring was chosen as the best. Donations made it possible to put the new flooring in the main part of the hall as well. Deanna's husband, Don Ammons, supervised the work and did the lion's share of preparing, laying floor, replacing trim, and painting, with grandson Tyler Shostad devoting many hours as well. Soon after completion of the work, the Skagit County Parks Department held one of their public input meetings at our hall. It was wonderful to have all the work completed for the public to enjoy.

Clear Lake Historical Association is grateful to Don and Deanna Ammons for their diligent efforts to maintain and improve our hall. The public is invited to view the hall's display window, currently showing some historical "spring cleaning" items. The CLHA makes the hall available for rent; for more information, call Deanna Ammons at 360.856.6798. All are invited to attend the group's next meeting on Tue., April 26 at 7 p.m.



Above: Don Ammons tries out the new laminate floor in the Clear Lake Historical Association Hall.



Above right: The new floor extends from the main room into the adjoining dining room, which got a new coat of paint.



Right: The original linoleum floor in the hall.



Spring has sprung in Clear Lake. On March 20, Kathy Schmidt snapped photos of blooming crocuses and daffodils, kayakers on the lake, and these two newborn lambs in a field off Fox Rd. in Clear Lake, still bloody after stepping into this world on wobbly legs. Schmidt said bald eagles were soaring over the newborns. *Photo by Kathy Schmidt.*

Birdsview business helps America make beautiful music

Pacific Rim Tonewoods supplies Sitka spruce soundboards to guitar-makers Taylor, Martin, Gibson.

By Patricia Blauvelt

BIRDSVIEW — If you've ever seen a logging truck hauling three to four old-growth logs on SR 20, it's probably destined for Pacific Rim Tonewoods (PRT) in Birdsview. Born from one man's quest to seek out better wood for guitars, PRT has been manufacturing soundboards (guitar tops) for more than 20 years. **Pursuit of excellence** In 1981, owner Steve McMinn, an experienced logger and Pacific Northwest native, pursued a desire to find better wood for guitars and other wood instruments. Salvaging downed spruce from Forest Service lands in Alaska and Washington, McMinn began experimenting at home and networking with luthiers, hoping to understand how to mill the right wood in the right way, to create the finest possible tonewoods. Established in Elma, Wash., in 1988, PRT has since moved to Birdsview,

where it manufactures roughly 200,000 soundboards every year. Highly prized for their quality, craftsmanship, and customer service, PRT is partnered with big brand names like Taylor, Martin, and Gibson, and is currently rated the No. 1 Sitka spruce soundboard supplier in the world. **The process** After arriving by way of barge and truck to the mill, the logs are carefully inspected, sawed into rounds, split into blocks, and sorted into boards for guitar tops or bracewood (support wood mounted on the inside of the guitar). Once sorted, the boards get edged, stickered, and put into a kiln for slow drying to eliminate cracking. After being unloaded from the kiln, the soundboard pieces are sanded and re-sawn to the proper thickness (about .175 inches thick), inspected thoroughly, then graded based on cosmetics and customer needs. The bracewood boards are chopped, re-sawn,



Pacific Rim Tonewoods employees are a tightly knit crew, mostly composed of locals. Shown from left to right: Ray Hambleton, Steve McMinn, Christi Schmidt, Derrick Schmidt, Justin El-Smeirat, Eli Sanchez, Jeremiah Jeffries, Arthur Sanchez, James Kosbab, Dustin Claybo, Lorenzo Cruz, Kelly Mielke, Steve Farrell, Clay Norris, Eric Warner. Not pictured: Leigh Smith, Gary Richmeyer, Kevin Burke. *Photo by Eric Warner.*

and ripped to the accurate length, height, and width, dependent on customer specs. Although PRT predominately manufactures Sitka spruce guitar soundboards, they also produce soundboards for other wood instruments, including violins, cellos, dulcimers, and mandolins, and often incorporate Indian rosewood, ebony, and local woods, such as western big leaf maple. **Eco commitment** PRT is dedicated to conservation and environmental awareness. With a continued focus on building products

and equipment that last, they participate in recycling, minimize waste, and improve energy efficiency. Within the last year, they have repurposed nearly all their byproduct of soundboards into eco-friendly wood bricks for firewood. The bricks are made from 100 percent wood and can be stacked in a fireplace or wood pit for longer burning times that traditional cordwood. One pallet of bricks is equivalent to a cord of wood and may be purchased through Skagit

See **Tonewoods**, p. 31



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Happy Anniversary Matty's on Main

Two years ago this month, Sherrill Coville opened an eclectic gift shop in Concrete Town Center, across the street from Cascade Supply. She stocked her shelves with colorful, eye-catching items that have since made the business a destination point for locals and tourists. "There's truly something for everyone here," says Sherrill. "We have interesting stuff that doesn't blow your pocketbook." She's not kidding. Even though she carries some collectible items that are priced for special occasions, the median price of her inventory is less than \$20. Speaking of inventory, Sherrill says the number of items she carries has

swelled during these past two years. The shop almost has everything from A to Z. Fine jewelry, costume jewelry, artisan jewelry, art glass, antiques, local artwork, handcrafted items, photography, candles, purses for all age groups, scarves, mittens, hats, gloves, Southwest pottery, garden items, outdoor art, decorative glass crystals, handmade pottery oil lamps, cuckoo clocks ... the list goes on almost endlessly! Sherrill says she gets bored easily; that's part of the reason why her shop is filled with such eclectic merchandise. "You won't find rows and rows of duplicate items here," says Sherrill, who searches for interesting pieces at estate sales, and also purchases online from around the world. She has items from Germany, Japan, and Czech Republic, Holland, Spain, Portugal, Kenya, Egypt, Italy, and Finland. She even has personal connections with a few items; a handsome wooden shelf proudly displays antiques that her parents once owned.

"I have gone out of my way to find truly one-of-a-kind items that you won't find in your typical big-box stores," she says. She's a bargain shopper herself, but she seeks out items with class,

saying, "I bring nice things into the store with extremely reasonable prices." I'll vouch for that, since I am now the proud owner of a genuine Danny O'Day ventriloquist dummy, lovingly restored by Sherrill.

—J. K. M.



Matty's on Main owner Sherrill Coville.

AT A GLANCE:
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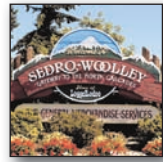
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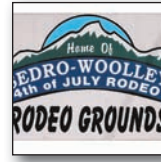
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Sedro-Woolley



Wild Women wave goodbye

The American Legion Hall in Sedro-Woolley was a bittersweet place to be March 12, as the beloved lip-sync group Wild Women of Woolley (“and a few good men”) performed their final show to a packed room.

After 17 years, the group called it quits, dedicating the March 12 performance to the memory of their cofounder and director Corey Corkill. “And, let’s face it, none of us are getting any younger,” said longtime member Donna Geerdes (above) with a wink and a laugh.

After paying homage to Corkill and the group’s history, the performers did what they do best: They left the crowd in stitches. Selections included Phyllis Christofferson singing “Colorectal Surgeon,” and Dottie and Sterling Cross (right) channeling Archie and Edith Bunker, singing “Those Were the Days.”



Museum satellite opens at Country Meadow Village

A ribbon-cutting ceremony at Country Meadow Village in Sedro-Woolley marked the opening of a new satellite branch of the Sedro-Woolley Museum.

The branch resides in a room that Country Meadow Village residents “gave up” for the cause, and contains dozens of items from the town’s past, including a painting by Country Meadow resident Jessie Miller (right). Miller will share museum docent duties with fellow Country Meadow resident Bernadine Salsman.

The miniature museum event included two ribbon-cuttings, desserts, and music from John Denver tribute artist Ted Vigil.

Museum officials hope the satellite branch will increase awareness of the main museum branch.



Photo by Pola Kelley.

New Skagit Farmers Supply store opens

SEDRO-WOOLLEY — Skagit Farmers Supply has completed construction of its new Country Store in Sedro-Woolley. The company will celebrate its new building with a public grand opening celebration on April 8–9. Door prizes, food, and chick races are planned.

The new store includes more than 12,000 square feet of retail floor space and 5,000 square feet in the warehouse.

The store sells pet food, animal health supplies, bird seed, tack, garden tools, clothing, fertilizer, seed, and more. Outdoor sales areas include a garden center and additional storage for wood pellets, shavings, and fencing materials. Skagit Farmers Supply added nine new employees to manage the larger space.

The store is located at 915 Moore St. in Sedro-Woolley, and is open Mon. through Fri. from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sat. from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call the store during business hours at 360.856.6567.

CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

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

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

Easter Bake Sale is Fri., April 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Albert’s Red Apple.

June 24–26 will find us at I-5 for the **Bow Hill Rest Area Coffee & Cookie Sale**. If you can assist with this museum

fundraiser, we can use your help.

The Centennial reprint of *So They Called the Town Concrete* is still available. The new edition features enhanced photographs and a more readable font. New cover graphics were done by Philip Johnson. Copies are available at Albert’s Red Apple (at the lottery counter; please pay for it there) and the museum. An order form also may be printed at our Web site: www.stumpranchonline.com/concreteheritagemuseum.

WANTED: New Museum Association members! Support your local historical museum.

—Dan Royal

At the Upper Skagit Library

By the time this column is printed, we will have been using our new system for an entire week! This is an open-source system with many of the familiar features of the old, plus some new exciting ones. There are fewer adjustments to be made on the public side—a new look to the catalog, mostly — whereas staff have to deal with things that are not in the old familiar spots, or are named something different from the old system, and figuring out the new-to-us features. Hopefully, the adjustment period for all of us will be short.

Another change is that we will begin charging \$2 per interlibrary loan beginning April 5. The number of requests has increased over the years. This is understandable because USLD doesn’t have room for a huge number of books, but as library budgets nationwide have been cut drastically, finding these items to borrow is getting more difficult and using more staff time. Many libraries began requesting postage reimbursement during

the past 10 years and we managed to hold off doing so until now.

Two upcoming library events include Jon Riedel discussing the geological history of the Skagit Valley on April 16 at 7 p.m. in the Senior Center. On May 7 at 7 p.m., Anna Maria Spagna will talk about her book, *Test Ride on the Sunnyland Bus: A Daughter’s Civil Rights Journey*.

Summer reading will begin June 6 and end July 30. The theme this year is “One World, Many Stories.” Planning for the various performers is nearly completed and this should be another fun reading season. The first performers will be Lane Fernando, singer and acoustic guitar player; and the Reptile Man, always a crowd-pleaser. Watch for posters and the Web site for dates of events and performers.

The April board meeting is scheduled for April 14 at the library at 5 p.m.

—Aimee Hirschel

Concrete Lions Club Annual Easter Egg Hunt

April 23, 1 p.m.
Concrete Middle School

Come join the fun!



Community Calendar



APRIL

- 1 Bed rental begins at Angele Cupples Community Garden, Concrete; see p. 21 for details; info at goodwords@frontier.com or 360.853.8213
- 1–30 Skagit Valley Tulip Festival; info at www.tulipfestival.org
- 7 Saukrates Cafe meeting, Annie’s Pizza Station, 6 p.m.; conversation topic posted at Upper Skagit Library and <http://saukratescafe.wordpress.com>
- 8–9 Skagit Farmers Supply Country Store Grand Opening, 915 Moore St., Sedro-Woolley; info at 360.856.6567
- 9 Concrete Chamber Hwy 20 litter pick-up, meet at Silos at 7 a.m.
- 13 Imagine Concrete meeting, Mears Field Pilots’ Lounge, 6 p.m.; info at goodwords@frontier.com or 360.853.8213
- 14 Concrete Chamber of Commerce meeting, Hi. Lo. Country Bar & Grill, 8 a.m.; info at 360.466.8754 or www.concrete-wa.com
- 14 Upper Skagit Library Board meets at the library, 5 p.m.
- 16 Imagine Concrete Workshop, Concrete High School Commons room, 9 a.m. to noon; info at goodwords@frontier.com or 360.853.8213
- 16 Hamilton’s Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Town Park, Hamilton, 1 p.m.
- 16 Jon Riedel discusses geological history of Skagit Valley, Concrete Senior Center, 7 p.m.
- 16–17 Civil War reenactment, Marblemount; info at 360.873.2103
- 17 Silver Ring Thing presents “The High Stakes Tour,” Mt. Vernon Christian School, 820 W. Blackburn Rd., Mt. Vernon, 6 to 8:30 p.m.; info at 360.853.6815; register at www.silverringthing.com
- 19 North Cascade Veterinary Hospital Mobile Vaccine Clinic, 7337 Dillard (old police station), Concrete, 3 to 5 p.m.; info at 360.856.1809
- 22 Concrete Heritage Museum Easter Bake Sale, Albert’s Red Apple, Concrete, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- 23 Concrete Lions Club Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Concrete Middle School, 1 p.m.
- 23 Ovenell’s Heritage Inn and Double O Ranch Annual Easter Egg Hunt, 46276 Concrete-Sauk Valley Rd., Concrete, 1:30 p.m. (following Lions Club egg hunt); info at 360.853.8494.
- 23 Lyman Co-op Preschool Annual Silent Auction, Lyman Town Hall, 6 to 8 p.m.; coffee, tea, dessert, appetizers, and great items up for auction
- 26 Clear Lake Historical Association meeting, CLHA Hall, Clear Lake, 7 p.m.; info at 360.856.6798
- 27 Taylor Hicks plays the Lincoln Theatre, downtown Mt. Vernon, 7:30 p.m.; info at www.ilovethelincoln.com
- 28 “Know What You Grow: Introducing Non-Native Species in Your Landscape,” Concrete Senior Center, 7 p.m.; info: uslfriends@gmail.com

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

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Lyman



Hamilton Cemetery: An eternal treasure

By Tammie Werner and Roberta Melton

The beautiful Hamilton Cemetery may be one of eastern Skagit County’s best-kept secrets.

The Hamilton Cemetery is located at the north end of Cabin Creek Road, north of State Route 20, between Lyman and Hamilton. The historic cemetery dates back to the 1800s; its caretaking body, the Hamilton Cemetery Association, was formed in 1920.

This final resting ground is a very well kept, attractively landscaped area that invites people to come visit their loved ones, and leave flowers and remembrances. The Hamilton Cemetery is truly one of our area’s most treasured locations.

The cemetery is managed by the association and is maintained by them with the help of a caretaker. No tax dollars are levied for the cemetery, so all funding for maintenance, grounds upkeep, and updates comes solely from the sale of burial spaces and donations.

In 2009 the cemetery began updates to accommodate modern burial practices. An urn garden and a Columbarium (niche wall) were added for cremated remains, concrete was poured for a new flag pole, and the new niche wall and a new

toilet were installed. The niche wall was purchased in conjunction with Lyman and Sedro-Woolley to take advantage of a pricing opportunity. In 2010 reconstruction of some of the roadways within the cemetery was completed.

The Hamilton Cemetery offers full body burials as well as “cremains” (cremated remains) in full body spaces or the two together in the same space. The urn garden and Columbarium niche wall spaces are for burial of cremains. Spaces are available for purchase for all burial needs.

The association is raising funds for a Veteran’s Memorial project that was started with bequeathed funds by Lonnie Gardner. Donations are being accepted now for this special project. For more information about burial choices, available plots, or costs, or to make a donation to the general cemetery fund or toward the Veteran’s Memorial project, contact Hamilton Cemetery Association members Ray or Roberta Melton at 360.826.3443, Richard Nelles at 360.826.3785, or Mack Judd at 360.826.3835.

The Association thanks Rod Hall at Skagit Ready Mix for his donation of cement for the foundation slabs at the flag pole, niche wall, and toilet area, and for his pledge of continued support for future projects. They also thank Doug and Stephanie Wood for their donation of the new flag pole.



Message from the mayor

By Mayor Debra Heinzman



Town of Lyman is seeking a new councilmember and will accept letters of interest for the position until May 9. A decision will be made at our May council meeting (May 10).

Councilmember Eddie Hills successfully negotiated with Broadstripe to have Lyman’s Internet cost lowered \$4.50 per month because the service was not what was being billed for. Broadstripe will have a representative at the April 12 council meeting to field questions and comments from residents. Way to go, Eddie!

Congratulations to Billie Stormont! She was given the “Volunteer of the Year” award by the Economic Development Association of Skagit County (EDASC), during its Economic Forecast Dinner in February.

Lyman Library tales

By Elaine Kohler

Work has begun on sorting through the books, and it has been suggested to us that we need to cut our current inventory by half. We had already started removing books we know do not move and are now going to be weeding out pretty much all but pleasure reading.

I want to say a huge thank-you to Darlene Hanson of All Valley Storage for donating a unit to the library free of charge until June and the book sale day. This is a tremendous help to us and one of the reasons I love living in a small town.

If you donated any book shelves to the library, please let me know at 360.826.3929. We will have a few that will no longer be used. In the meantime, we are still open on Tue., Thur., and Sat. We could use some boxes for the books; if you have a few you would like to donate, call me. Since I will be there the next few Saturdays working, drop by and say hi.



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Day Creek



Robotics, cont. from p. 8

and documentation, “gracious professionalism,” safety, Web design, video production, and “coopetition,” or the idea of working together while competing.

The competitions are a blur of activity. Teams arrive the day before and begin a mad rush to set up the pit area, unpack the robot, tweak it, test it, scout other teams and be scouted by them, meet with judges, and test the robot again.

Friday is competition day and equally as harried. Each competition round

consists of two alliances: red and blue. Each alliance consists of three randomly chosen teams. All day Friday and all morning long Saturday, we tested the robot, met with new alliance teammates, and competed.

At noon on Saturday, the top eight teams were announced. We placed 5th out of 50 teams!

Unfortunately, we were eliminated in the quarterfinals. But, in an event where the teams average more than 20 members with 5 to 15 engineers as mentors, Concrete High School was well represented. Go Team 2922!

Below: Flanked by teammates, driver Alex Joens controls the team’s robot during a match. **Bottom left:** An alliance robot places an inflatable game piece on a pin. **Bottom right:** An autonomous “mini-bot” scrambles up a post during the last 10 seconds of a match.



News bits from Day Creek

Day Creek Chapel will present a wonderful **Easter program**, beginning with Good Friday April 22 and continuing on to Easter Morning April 24. Plan to join the services.

Girl Scout Katie Edelson and her family recently returned from a visit to a remote village in Cambodia. As a Girl Scouts project, Katie gathered money from the community, with which she purchased school supplies and vitamins for the village.

Katie is compiling information for a presentation to be held at Day Creek Chapel in mid-April, and at the Day Creek Community Club during the third Tuesday potluck April 19. It should be a wonderful and enlightening time, so plan to come. For more information, including the dates and times, contact Kathy Henderson at 360.826.3581.

Karen McCoy of Way Out Ranch is sponsoring **reining and pro-cutter classes** at the ranch’s barn, every Saturday at 3 p.m., weather permitting. Lessons are \$35 per session, which includes the arena fee. The instructors are Travis

Dickenson and Kari Williams. Spectators are welcome! If you’re interested, contact Karen McCoy at 425.760.7860.

“Kingdom Builders” meets Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. This is a group forming at Day Creek Chapel to reach out to others in the community. The group’s meeting is April 13 at Day Creek Chapel. Call Kathy Henderson for details: 360.826.3581.

Women of crafts are invited to gather the last Thursday of each month in the parsonage building next door to Day Creek Chapel, from 5 to 9 p.m. Bring your own craft or come to learn a craft. Bring a snack and have some crafty fun. For more information, call Virginia Learned at 360.770.1765.

A **knitting club** began in February, with plans to read Debbie Macomber’s book, *Shop on Blossom Street*, and learn to knit the baby blanket in the book. The group meets the first and third Mondays of each month at Cascade Christian Church (Township and Wicker in Sedro-Woolley), from 6:30 to 8 p.m. For more information, call Hilary Bonnette at 360.540.3978.

If you have information you want to share, contact Kathy Henderson via e-mail at winningcircularchapel@gmail.com.

—Kathy Henderson

Volunteers from **Sensible Washington** currently are circulating petitions for Initiative 1149. I-1149 will allow voters to decide whether marijuana should be legal in the state of Washington. I-1149 will eliminate all criminal penalties for possession and use of marijuana by those over 18 years of age. Volunteers currently are needed to gather signatures in Skagit County. For more information on how you can help to allow citizens to decide our policies on marijuana, go to www.sensiblewashington.org.

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Above: Woolley Fiber Quilters in Sedro-Woolley staged a National Quilting Day Flash Mob Parade March 19 in downtown Sedro-Woolley. The colorful group paraded along the sidewalks to celebrate National Quilting Day and to remind everyone of the upcoming quilt show associated with the Blast from the Past June 3–5. Area quilters are invited to participate in show planning and to enter quilts in the show. For more information, visit www.woolleyfiberquilters.blogspot.com. Pictured are Charlotte Furchert, Londa Schultz, Terri Judd, Judy Johnson, Becky Bunke, Ronna Robinson, Renee Swanson, Noni Moody, Linda Downing, Geri Power, Teri Peth, Sherie Servis, Sue Russell, and Jean Ashe. *Photo by Paul Furchert.*



Above: A 10-ft.-tall leprechaun made of hay bales graced the grounds of Ovenell's Heritage Inn during march. "Didn't have time to make the rainbow or pot of gold, but he turned out okay," said Cindy Kleinhuisen, who snapped the photo.



Right: Led by Encore Fitness instructor Val Stafford, Zumba enthusiasts danced in the streets of Concrete Town Center after the Mardi Gras parade March 5. From left to right: Judy Monrad, Darcie Lloyd, Lisa Fenley, and Debra Temple.

Left: Pro-Build manager Gary Jones (in green jacket) shares the ribbon-cutting shears with Sedro-Woolley Mayor Mike Anderson during the lumber yard and home center's grand opening March 25. Formerly Oso Lumber, the business sold to Pro-Build in May 2010. "We have seven employees—all locals," said Jones. "We now have nationwide support with a hometown feel."



Below: Zane McDonnell, 14 mos., let the Zumba beat move his feet.

Remember, remember, the flutist band member ...



Below: March 26 found an intrepid group of Boy Scouts and leaders from Troop #74 at Concrete Elementary School, cleaning up the landscaped areas as a service project. Hats off to these community-minded boys and men!



MARDI GRAS!



Left: Reprising last year's role, Adrienne Langan dressed up as a burger with all the fixin's to support Cascade Burgers' entry in the parade.

Above: Chef Brad Whaley from Cafe Burlington served up an authentic New Orleans crayfish boil, complete with fried okra and corn bread. Thanks for the zesty eats, Brad!



Above: The Concrete Lions 5th/6th S.W.I.S.H. (Skagit, Whatcom, Island, Snohomish Hoops) basketball team finished out the year strong. This year's team included returners Austin Mann, Grayson Luttrell, Treyton Howell, and Tyler Labrousse. New this year were Coty Roger, Joseph Ramirez, James Schooland, and Solomon Holman. The team was coached by Kelly Howell. The Lions started out the year in a slump, losing against some of the top teams in the league. Although the Concrete players finished the regular season 3–6, they finished their season strong in the season-ending tournament. They won their first two games in the tournament against the Mount Vernon Dawgs and the Sedro-Woolley Wolfpack to advance to the championship. In the championship, Concrete fell to Coupeville in a tense battle, 24–22. The players improved during the season, and look forward to hooping it up next season. *Photo by Tammi Holman.*

—Treyton Howell



Left: Mardi Gras King and Queen Harold "Pete" and Cheryl Pitts dressed up in spectacular fashion and joined the parade.

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Hamilton



Easter egg hunt slated for April 16

Hamilton’s annual Easter egg hunt has been announced for Sat., April 16 at 1 p.m. The hunt will take place at the Town Park.

All Hamilton children are invited to join in the fun and are encouraged to bring some kind of container in which to collect their eggs. Snacks will be served.

The Hamilton Town Council meeting will iron out more details of the event during its regular meeting on April 12 at 7 p.m., at Hamilton Town Hall. The public is invited to attend.

Market & Cafe reopens

Mayor Tim Bates tells *Concrete Herald* that one of Hamilton’s popular gathering spots is back in business.

Hamilton Market & Cafe has reopened

its doors, welcoming everyone back to the restaurant for excellent food and even better conversation.

Under new management, the business now offers a new, larger menu, with daily specials. Of course, a generous stock of assorted groceries also are at hand, so citizens don’t have to drive far for their daily needs.

Council summary

The Hamilton Town Council held a regular meeting on Feb. 8. The following is a summary of the minutes from that meeting.

- Town Planner Margaret Fleek presented Resolution 01-11, giving the PDA authority supporting fundraising. She explained that the fundraising would be done on the Internet and would support fundraising for acquisition, annexation, and development of the

adopted Urban Growth Area and Urban Reserve Area to provide a relocation site outside the Skagit River floodway. Councilmember Benjamin made a motion to pass Resolution 01-11. Motion passed.

- Tom Selin reported there was a large water leak at Dills Creek. Cas Hancock reported the town had used 106 percent more water because of the leak. The leak was repaired.
- Council Benjamin requested an update on payment for the theft at the shop. The Clerk reported that all required paperwork was submitted to the Insurance Company (Association of Washington Cities) and we should receive a check soon.
- Nick Bates, Fire Chief, reported 3 more EMTs for the Fire Department. There are a total of 6 EMTs now on the Fire Department.
- The Interlocal Agreement for the Shoreline Masters Program was discussed. Town Planner Fleek explained the Town of Hamilton would receive approximately \$6,000.00 and the County would receive the rest. Motion passed to sign the agreement.

Below: Musician Zach Michaud celebrated the release of his newest CD, “Life Happens ... LIVE!” March 25 at a party hosted by Birdsvie Brewing Company. The wisecracking Michaud played original songs and covers for an appreciative crowd that wasn’t afraid to heckle him good-naturedly.

Does anyone know what happened to any of the other railroad town signs? Wouldn’t it be cool if more could be found and put back up?

Have a great month everyone!



Birdsvie buzz

By Kris Voigt

Happy Easter everyone!

Winter’s finally over, spring is here, hummingbirds are back, things are starting to bloom, and summer is right around the corner.

Well, Brewmaster Bill is on his way to recovering from his hip replacement. He’s still too impatient to get back to “normal,” but is able to do more each week and will start brewing again with the help of our good friend Scott, who has been invaluable to us during this time. And thanks to everyone else who has offered to help or pitched in and helped when we needed it. We really do appreciate it.

April birthdays

- | | |
|----|-----------------|
| 10 | Nancy Parker |
| 12 | Saara Kuure |
| 13 | Cora Thomas |
| 14 | Jason Voigt |
| 18 | Candan Moser |
| 20 | Bonnie Tyminski |
| 24 | Ron Lemon |

We will host our 3rd annual Homebrew Contest on May 7. Deadline for entering is April 15. More info can be found on our Web site. We have the barley planted, the hops are cut back so the new growth has room, and the horseshoe pit has new sand, getting ready for the season.

Business Spotlight:

Edward Jones

By Cora Thomas

What does a financial advisor do?

“We help folks plan for the future,” says Nick Van Jaarsveld from Edward Jones Investments in Sedro-Woolley. Troy Kunz opened this full-service brokerage firm branch five years ago. When Troy left for the Anacortes branch, Nick took over at the beginning of February.

The office has one financial advisor and one branch office administrator, Jeanne McLennan. Nick says, “Each branch only employs two people for better individualized customer service.”

Edward Jones’ financial advisors offer information about stocks, bonds, mutual funds, Certificates of Deposit (CDs), annuities, life insurance, home mortgages, loans, savings, money markets, retirement, estate considerations, education, and borrowing solutions. Whew!

“In these rocky economic times, we can provide information about the climate of the money markets and interest rates; for example, if you’re looking far into the future, we can even help people develop a plan for retirement,” says Nick, who has a degree in teaching and applies his training to help educate people about investing, among other matters.

Edward Jones is different than many



Financial Advisor Nick Van Jaarsveld and Branch Office Administrator Jeanne McLennan.

other investment firms. The company is not owned by a bank; rather, it is privately owned by the employees. The financial advisors and the administrators each own part of the company. The employees are the employers, which makes them care about their job that much more. They have a vested interest in what they do, and not just on the money side: They truly care about who their clients are and why they are walking in the door.

“Also, we are the only local financial advisor in the area from Sedro-Woolley to Marblemount,” Nick says. “We customize each plan to suit the needs of the individual client. We take time to sit down

Outdoor Ventures opened its doors March 3. Owned and operated by experienced outdoorsman Harold Holman, the store offers the latest outdoor gear, fishing tackle, and bait for the Cascade rivers, lakes, and mountains.

Prospects for the sporting goods store are good. Our regional outdoor attractions

are a popular year-round destination for fishing, camping, climbing, and recreational enthusiasts alike. During the winter months, eagle watchers flock to the beautiful Skagit River Valley for wildlife photography. Guided float trips to view the raptors and

take in the great outdoors can be arranged through Outdoor Ventures.

During winter, the store will be open Tue. through Fri., from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Sat., from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. During summer, business hours will be adjusted to meet the demands of early risers and a predicted return of more than 5 million Pink Salmon (Humpies) migrating to Washington this year.

Outdoor Ventures also helps enthusiasts prepare for the unexpected in the Pacific Northwest by stocking essential survival gear and emergency supplies.

Holman makes no bones about his approach to retail sales. “I can beat downriver prices,” he says confidently, and urges customers to contact him with product suggestions and special-order requests.

Holman prides himself on carrying affordable outdoor equipment, and offering more than 100 brands in several categories, including freshwater fishing, backpacking, camping, climbing, and survival gear.

When you’re ready to go outside, the gear and advice you need is now closer

the Internet, TV, Facebook, and Twitter, referrals were the way to add clients. Edward Jones Sr. knew this was the best way to spread the word when he started the firm in 1922 in St. Louis, Mo. He wanted to “bring Wall Street to Main Street” and give the working class the same investment opportunities as the big wigs on Wall Street.

In the coming months, the S-W Edward Jones branch will offer a few seminars. One is about current events in the financial markets; the other is “Investment 101.” If you’re interested in attending, please contact Nick for specific dates and times.

If you’re scratching your head about your savings, finances, or how to find a better way to invest, or even if you’ve never invested before and want to start now, Nick at Edward Jones in Sedro-Woolley would be happy to assist with your financial matters.

At a glance:

Edward Jones

Where: 913 Metcalf St., Sedro-Woolley

Phone: 360.855.0239

Hours: Mon. – Fri., 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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Web: www.edwardjones.com

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Below: Musician Zach Michaud celebrated the release of his newest CD, “Life Happens ... LIVE!” March 25 at a party hosted by Birdsvie Brewing Company. The wisecracking Michaud played original songs and covers for an appreciative crowd that wasn’t afraid to heckle him good-naturedly.

Open for business:

Outdoor Ventures

Outdoor-lovers, rejoice! A new, local retail store offering recreational gear and supplies at affordable prices has opened in Grassmere Village, just west of Concrete.

than ever. And, in celebration of its grand opening, Outdoor Ventures is offering a free jig with every purchase.

At a glance:

Outdoor Ventures

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Grassmere Village, Concrete

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Sat., 6 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Phone: 360.853.7459

E-mail: mistymeadows70@msn.com

Web: www.outdoorventures.org



Rockport



A fitting farewell for Robert Good

Throat cancer took Robert Good of Rockport on Feb. 27, but Feb. 28 found him lying on a recliner on his porch, looking as though he were simply relaxing after a long day.

The admittedly unusual viewing prior to his burial was what he wanted, Good's partner of 28 years, Eve Syapin, told *Concrete Herald*. "If we're any religion, we're true believers," she said. "Buddhists believe it takes three days for the soul to leave the body, so Robert wanted a three-day viewing 'just in case they're right.' That worked out well for me too, because I had the time to let go and say goodbye."

Syapin wrapped Good in a pale blue bedsheet, put his favorite hat on his head, and hung his coin purse on a cord from his neck. Two brass coins lay on his chest near the coin purse, "for the ferryman," said Syapin, referencing Charon, the ferryman who, in Greek mythology, carried souls of the newly deceased across the rivers Styx and Acheron, which divided the world of the living from the world of the dead.

At Good's left sat a small table and a stool that served as a shrine area (see photo), with a statue of Buddha draped with beads, votive candles, and song lyrics printed on white paper. An incense stick wafted its fragrance into the air near his feet.

Good was 60 years old when he died. The news of his passing spread quickly, with many coming to pay last respects to the man on his porch. Friends came to say good-bye, leaving tokens of love with him. A cedar branch lay on his left shoulder. A bundle of red dogwood and pussy willow

twigs rested on his stomach. A poem of farewell leaned against his left thigh.

Good's wishes for his viewing dovetailed with Syapin's reaction to his death, even though they both knew his time was short, since he had been diagnosed with throat cancer in 2007 and treated it, only to have it return in 2009. "It's so hard to say good-bye," she said while sitting on the porch with Good and Helen Ritch, their long-time friend. "I have a hard time saying good-bye to the physical presence of him."

The couple lived in the upper valley 16 years, said Syapin, who said they weren't an instant item, even though they wanted to be. "It took the universe six years to get us together, to get us to the point where we ran into each other and never let go," she said.

No health risk

The three-day viewing was completely legal, according to information published on the Skagit County Coroner's Web site. According to the Revised Code of Washington, although it is unlawful for a person to bury, cremate, or otherwise dispose of a body without a permit from the coroner's office, it is lawful to hold the body for 72 hours or fewer. And, with temperatures hovering in the high 30s, such a viewing was feasible.

Honoring Robert

A gathering to honor Robert is planned for April 18, his birthday. It will be held on the old commune property at the end of Clark Road in Marblemount. The gathering will begin around noon, with a party to follow at 3 p.m.

—J. K. M.



The shrine that Robert Good's partner of 28 years, Eve Syapin, created to honor him during the three-day viewing. **Inset:** Robert Good (*submitted photo*).





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Softball, cont. from p. 7

With only two teams in the league allowed to move into post-season play, Beazizo knows the road ahead will be challenging.

"That will be an uphill climb, to get past La Conner and Orcas to get ourselves in that position—that's not going to be easy," he said.

Players of the Week

Beazizo has begun naming players of the week and posting their stats online at Maxpreps.com. Danielle Pringle took the

honors for the week of March 13, when she went 2 for 3, and scored four runs in two games.

Kylee Warner was tapped for the week of March 20 after going 3 for 3, scoring two runs and racking up four RBI vs. Lakewood on March 24.

Krissy Mann—and her arm—took the title for the week of March 27, after throwing 139 pitches and 87 strikes during the win against Darrington March 29. Mann had only four bases on balls, with the game taking 2 hours and 45 minutes to play seven innings.

Pringle named assistant coach

After volunteering his time to help the team, Dan Pringle was named assistant coach, with pay, when former assistant Chad Dinkins left the position after last season.

"Dan's a very good helper," said Beazizo, who also has been getting some coaching help from former players Brandi Dellinger and Beka Thomas.

—J. K. M.

Concrete Herald



Home & Garden



Community garden beds open for rental

The Angele Cupples Community Garden in Concrete now includes 22 raised beds that are available for rent. Installation of water lines and yard hydrants will continue during April.

Ranging in size from 4x8 feet to 4x12 feet, the beds are available for rent at the following rates:

4x8	\$25 per year
4x10	\$35 per year
4x12	\$45 per year

All renters will be asked to sign an agreement, as well as provide their own gardening tools, organic fertilizers and amendments, and hoses. A quantity of compost has been donated for renters' use by North Cascades Institute; several seed packets from Territorial Seed also have been donated, courtesy of Finney Farm. Renters should contact Jason Miller to make use of either of these items. Renters also will be expected to donate 8 hours per year toward the garden.

All questions and reservation requests should be directed to Jason Miller at 360.853.8213 or goodwords@frontier.com; or Marla Reed at marla.mr@frontier.com or 360.391.2589. Renters also should contact Miller or Reed with questions.

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Community Garden, Concrete

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4' x 12'	\$35 per year

Info: Jason Miller: 360.853.8213
goodwords@frontier.com or
Marla Reed: 360.391.2589
marla.mr@frontier.com



This April 2 view of the Angele Cupples Community Garden in Concrete shows the 22 raised beds that are available for rent. The garden opened for the season April 1 with 13 of the beds rented. Rain has delayed installation of water lines and yard hydrants; that work will continue into April. All questions and reservation requests should be directed to Jason Miller or Marla Reed (see info box).

Earth Day is April 22; why not get a free energy evaluation?

BELLEVUE — Puget Sound Energy electric customers looking to make energy-saving home improvements can receive a free, in-home energy evaluation from 35 local, independent, PSE pre-qualified home-energy specialists as part of PSE's updated HomePrint Assessment program.

"HomePrint Assessment can help our customers—at no cost—better understand their home's basic energy use and provide them with tools to take action to save energy, money, and the environment," said Cal Shirley, PSE vice president of Energy Efficiency Services. "Our goal to provide 5,000 assessments to customers in 2011 has the potential to save 2.8 million kilowatt hours of electricity, enough to serve more than 233 homes for one year."

The in-home assessment includes an overview of a home's major energy systems, including space heating, water heating, insulation, and appliances. Customers then receive a summary of energy-saving recommendations based on their home's energy assessment,

information on PSE rebates for energy-efficient products, contractor referrals, and other helpful energy-saving tips.

HomePrint Assessment also provides customers with on-site installation of up to 50 free compact fluorescent light bulbs, which use up to 75 percent less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer. Every light bulb changed can save more than \$40 in electricity costs over the lifetime of the bulb.

PSE offers HomePrint Assessment services throughout the utility's nine-county electric service area. To qualify, homeowners or renters must be a PSE electric customer living in an existing single-family property or attached housing with four units or less.

For more information or a referral to an independent PSE-qualified HomePrint Assessment specialist in your area, call a PSE Energy Advisor at 800.562.1482, Mon. through Fri., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or go to www.PSE.com/HomePrint.

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Marblemount



Civil War, cont. from p. 1

those men and women who gave their all for the causes they believed in during the American Civil War.

The reenactment allows WCWA members, who are avid history buffs, to communicate the realities of living during that period of turmoil in our nation’s history.

Two Marblemount teenagers stepped back in time last year, experiencing in a small way the harsh reality of Confederate soldiers’ lives during the Civil War reenactment. Jordan Ebbighausen, 15, and Jared Crookshank, 13, played the parts of a young soldier and a flag bearer, respectively.

The event was Jordan’s third trip out; he started as a flag bearer at an event in Spokane, when he was 12. Last year he packed heat—and paid the price for doing so. At one point, his persona was wounded in battle.

“The drilling was my favorite part,” Jordan said. “Being in the enactment and having so many people watching me made me a little nervous, but participating in a piece of history was exciting,” he said.

Then 12 years old, Jared Crookshank was not allowed to carry a gun, even one that shoots blanks. Given a choice between flag bearer and messenger, Jared chose the former. He wore a hand-me-down shirt, pants, and coat from Jordan, and picked up a hat and canteen as loaners.

“My favorite thing was making sure everybody followed the colors (the flag), and watching the people shoot the guns and the cannon,” said Jared.

For more information about the event, contact the NCBA at 360.873.2103.



Civil War reenactors will build a temporary encampment in the ball field adjacent to the North Cascade Business Association in Marblemount. Soldiers will drill there from approximately 10 a.m. to noon each day. Members of the Washington Civil War Association will be on hand in period dress, accurately reflecting the lives of those who fought or kept the home fires burning. Visitors may visit the encampment before or after the battles.



Gilligan Creek closes to vehicles permanently

As of April 4, the mouth of Gilligan Creek closed permanently to vehicle traffic to protect the stream bank.

The site will undergo restoration. The Gilligan Creek property was purchased by Seattle City Light (SCL) in 2002 for the protection of salmon habitat. The property runs along the lower portion of the creek to the Skagit River.

SCL has been working with Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group (SFEG) to improve salmon habitat on the property. SFEG completed surveys that identified restoration opportunities at the site. Work to be conducted on site will include:

- Removal of invasive noxious weeds
- Decommissioning of roads and ATV trails
- Construction of a footpath and planting native plant species.

With the removal of vehicle access, the native plants will be able to mature and maximize the salmon and wildlife habitat value at the site. The area will remain open to nonmotorized access for recreational activities like walking,

bird watching, and fishing during fishing seasons. A trail will be created on site to provide access to the river; a small area for vehicles to park also will be built.

Noxious weed control will include the removal of a large area of an invasive plant called knotweed. Knotweed grows very rapidly, chokes out native plants, and does not provide any habitat benefit to fish, particularly salmon. Knotweed can spread easily when plant fragments break off and by rooted portions washing downstream. Vehicle traffic is particularly effective at spreading knotweed and also damages native plants. In addition to knotweed, other noxious weeds on site will be removed.

Native planting will be done in areas where roads have been decommissioned and noxious weeds removed. Native plants are important to wildlife, salmon, and the river’s overall condition. Native plants improve salmon habitat by providing shade and cover along the river and providing a food source. Native plants also provide food and cover for birds and wildlife.

Anyone interested in helping to restore the site is asked to contact SCL at denise.krownbell@seattle.gov or 206.615.1127.

The North Cascades call Celebrate National Park Week April 16–24

North Cascades National Park Complex announces two family-friendly volunteer opportunities in April.

North Cascades Highway Litter Pick-up Day

On April 19, pick up litter along scenic State Route 20 through the park.

Meet at the Wilderness Information Center in Marblemount at 8:30 a.m. or call Joyce Brown at 360.854.7301 to join the carpool from Sedro-Woolley that meets at 7:30 a.m. at the Park and Forest Information Center. Bring water, lunch, and a pair of work gloves.

Newhalem Creek Campground Work Day

On April 21, help prepare the Newhalem Creek Campground for the busy season ahead. Landscape with native plants, maintain campsites, and improve trails.

Meet at the Newhalem Creek Campground at 9 a.m. or call Joyce Brown at 360.854.7301 to join the carpool from Sedro-Woolley that meets at 7:30 a.m. at the Park and Forest Information Center. Bring water, lunch, and a pair of work gloves.



Newhalem



Seattle City Light christens new “Thunder” tug at Skagit project

Custom-built push tug will deliver supplies, equipment to Ross Dam

SEATTLE — Seattle City Light has a new push tug boat in service at its Skagit Hydroelectric Project in the North Cascades.

“The only way to get supplies and equipment to Ross Dam is across water, and many of those essential deliveries require a barge and a dependable tug boat,” Sr. Capital Projects Coordinator Wanda Schulze said. “This new boat is an important addition for our operations.”

Kvichak Marine Industries of Seattle delivered the custom-built tug March 28, in two pieces, assembled it, and lowered it into Diablo Lake with a crane. City Light employees christened the boat the M/V Thunder and took it on a shakedown cruise March 29.

The M/V Thunder replaces two historic tug boats that have served the Skagit Hydroelectric Project since 1948: the Skagit and Diablo II.

M/V Thunder is about 25 feet long and 14 feet wide. It has dual 300-horsepower John Deere diesel engines. A raised pilot house allows the boat captains to see over loaded barges, which will increase safety for kayakers and other recreational boaters on the narrow portions of Diablo Lake.

Skagit employees named the boat M/V Thunder in reference to Thunder Creek, which flows into Diablo Lake, and Thunder Arm, an area of Diablo Lake. The tug is expected to serve the area for 40 to 50 years.



Seattle City Light’s new “Thunder” push tug boat is shown at the Diablo Lake dock (left) and during a March 29 christening ceremony (above). The M/V Thunder replaces two tug boats that have been in service since 1948. Submitted photos.

Pass opening likely delayed till May

Deep snow and avalanche danger forces latest start in 20 years.

TWISP — It’s shaping up to be the latest reopening in 20 years for the North Cascades Highway. Up to 15 feet of snow fell during March, greatly increasing the avalanche danger and forcing the reopening to begin later than normal this year.

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) plans to begin clearing State Route 20 on April 11. The work is expected to take as many as six weeks to complete this year. The 34-mile stretch between the Skagit and Methow valleys has been closed since Dec. 1, 2010.

Last year, crews started clearing snow on March 22, and only four weeks later Tootsie Clark was serving her famous cinnamon rolls to the first drivers at the gate when it opened April 16.

WSDOT cannot shift the avalanche crew and snow-clearing equipment from Stevens Pass to the North Cascades Highway until the threat of snow and avalanche danger subsides.

“We’ve received a third of a normal season’s snow total in just the last month,”

said Avalanche Supervisor Mike Stanford. “We haven’t seen this much snow in years. Right now, there’s a lot of deep, unstable snow in the avalanche chutes above the highway.”

Avalanche control was required March 30 on Stevens Pass because of new snow overnight, followed by heavy rain and warm temperatures.

On the annual North Cascades assessment trip on March 17, crews found snow 60 feet deep burying the road below the Liberty Bell Mountain avalanche zone. Pictures from that assessment trip are posted on Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/wsdot/sets/72157626170712679/.

For maps, pictures, frequently asked questions, and a history of opening dates for the North Cascades Highway, go to www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/passes/northcascades/.

Skagit General Store winter hours

The Skagit General Store in Newhalem is open weekdays only during the winter, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 206.386.4489.

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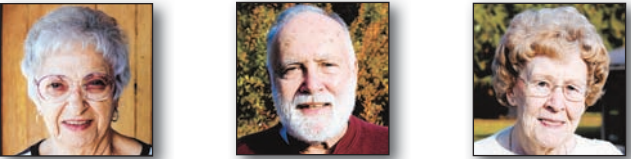
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Seniors



Coffee Break

Seniors and spirits

By Patrick Kennedy

W. C. Fields famously said, “I never drink water; that is the stuff that rusts pipes.”

Don’t listen to him. Water as a drink is good, water as a chaser is not so good. Alcohol abuse by seniors is a growing problem and one that is often undiagnosed. Aging and alcoholism produce similar deficits in intellectual and behavioral functioning. Alcoholism may accelerate normal aging or cause premature aging of the brain.

If you are older than 50 and you have a couple of drinks when you go out to eat, you may want to take some extra time before getting into the car and driving home. Moderate amounts of alcohol impair a senior more than a younger drinker, and research shows that after five to seven drinks, a senior’s brain is numbed so that a person cannot even hold a pen and write properly. Despite this, many drive under the influence of alcohol.

According to government studies, more than half of adults older than 55 drink socially. If those social drinkers are more impaired than

they think they are, it can cause a significant threat to themselves and others.

Drinking in moderation and socially is not all bad. Social drinking is an accepted part of life and history, and it is hard to know when the line to alcoholism is crossed. There are many factors—genetic, psychological, social, and environmental—that play a role in alcohol addiction, and any of these can sneak up on seniors without alarms going off in the brain. It’s often difficult for seniors to tell when they’re crossing the line into dependency. There are small alerts that must be considered, such as using alcohol to get through painful situations, physically or mentally; not remembering what happened last night; drinking alone; or resenting people who advise you to drink less.

This is a problem that must be dealt with by seniors and is being addressed. The American Medical Association says, “The onset or continuation of drinking behavior becomes problematic because of physiological or psychological changes that occur with aging, including increased sensitivity to alcohol effects.”

But there are other check points as described by that famous philosopher, Anonymous: “Drunk is feeling sophisticated when you can’t say it.” Or, “Reality is an illusion that occurs due to lack of alcohol.”

The point is that alcohol can be a life-changer for many seniors.

Patrick M. Kennedy is the author of How to Have Fun with Retirement, a sneak peek of which is available online at www.funwithretirement.com.

How to Have Fun with Retirement

Order your copy of
Patrick M. Kennedy's Book
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Way Back When

80 years ago

April 2, 1931: The directors of the Skagit County Fair association held a meeting in Burlington Monday evening, and the result of their deliberations came as a surprise to the people of the county. The association voted to abandon the annual county fair for 1931.

The reason given by the directors is that the 1930 fair ended the season with a deficit of about \$2,000, and that no way had been found to raise the money to cover this indebtedness—that present conditions in the county indicated the indebtedness would be decreased by holding off the annual fair this year, and that it was only good business judgment to abandon the fair until such time as proper financing is assured.

A plan is under consideration to hold a livestock show on the fair grounds during the fair season. Next Tuesday, the fair directors and district livestock breeders will hold a joint meeting to consider the show.

70 years ago

April 10, 1941: Coal oil lamps, gasoline lanterns, and gas mantle lights will be tossed this week by the 16 families living on the south side of the Skagit River at Rockport.

These folks have been depending on primitive lighting solutions for many years, but this week, their years-long wish came true as the line crew of the Puget Sound

Power & Light company moved in on Monday and began erecting the poles and stringing the line that will bring them electric power. The work should be finished tomorrow, and the residents plan to observe their first electric power with the turning on of lights plus fitting ceremony and celebration.

60 years ago

April 5, 1961: Richard Orr, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Orr, is credited with having the resilience of rubber this week after surviving an 85-foot fall from a cottonwood tree near his home in Crofoot addition. Young Orr had climbed the tall tree in order to free his kite, which had become lodged in the top branches. About 85 feet up, a branch broke beneath him and sent him tumbling to the ground.

His fall was slowed by the lower branches, which broke under his weight, and he finally went through a barbed wire fence before hitting the ground. Once on the ground, he got up and walked away from the scene under his own power.

50 years ago

April 20, 1961: The Community Club hall in Marblemount was packed to the doors last Saturday night for the long-awaited home talent show for that community. The wait proved to be worthwhile, as a full program of entertainment was produced for the enthusiastic crowd.

First prize in the children’s division went to the Rockport Toy Band, in which first and second graders made music with toy instruments.

Second prize in the younger contestants group went to Dana Peterson for a tap and jazz dancing

See **Way back**, p. 25

Concrete Senior Center

April 2011

Activities

Lunch served
Mon. – Fri., 12:30 p.m.

Mondays		
9 a.m.		Gray Ladies Hoop Quilting
1 p.m.		Skip Bo
Tuesdays		
10 a.m.		Dominoes
11:30 a.m.		Jigsaw puzzle
1 p.m.		Skip Bo
Wednesdays		
8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.		Quilting
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.		Income tax assistance by appointment
11:30 a.m.		Jigsaw puzzle
1 p.m.		Skip Bo
Thursdays		
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.		Wii Sports play
11:30 a.m.		Jigsaw puzzle
1 p.m.		Skip Bo
Fridays		
10 a.m. – Noon		Open studio water- color painting
11:30 a.m.		Jigsaw puzzle
Noon		Mexican Train Dominoes
Special Events		
4/12	11 a.m.	Advisory Board Mtg.
4/12	1 p.m.	Bingo
4/26	12:45 p.m.	Leap of Faith
4/27	1 p.m.	Bingo
4/29	12:30 p.m.	Birthday Lunch
Holiday Closures		
4/15	Furlough Day: All Skagit County offices closed	

Please recycle
this newspaper!

Way back, cont. from p. 24

exhibition.

Roger Hill of Newhalem took the adult prize with another of his clever piano arrangements.

Second prize went to the five Turners, led by Mr. and Mrs. Turner.

30 years ago

April 30, 1981: Seattle City Light’s plans for a Skagit River dam at Copper Creek were dumped by Seattle City Council Monday



40 years ago: Miss Judy Ann Dwelley became the bride of Brian Gallagher in an April 3, 1971, ceremony held in the Hope Lutheran Church of Enumclaw. She is the daughter of Mrs. George Postill of Enumclaw and Arthur Dwelley of Tenino, and the granddaughter of Charles M. Dwelley of Concrete. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gallagher of Enumclaw, and has completed his tour of military service with the U.S. Navy. They are making their home in Enumclaw. *Archive photo.*

in an 8–1 vote to abandon the controversial project.

The proposed project had been the subject of several public hearings in the Upper Valley, and brought intense protest from dozens of area residents. Reasons for killing the project included environmental and legal problems, most of them dealing with damage to salmon spawning grounds and the fishing rights of Skagit Indian tribes.

Senior driver refresher sessions announced

SKAGIT COUNTY — The last session of “Getting There Safely,” a senior driver refresher course, will occur Thurs., April 7, and Fri., April 8. The class will be held at the Mount Vernon Senior Center, 1401 Cleveland Ave., Mt. Vernon.

The 8-hour class, divided into two 4-hour sessions, is designed for senior drivers. The sessions will run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. both days. People 55 years of age and older who complete the program will qualify for a modest reduction in their automobile insurance.

There is a \$10 fee per person for this class.

For details or to enroll, contact Kathryn Bowen at 360.336.9333, ext. 13140#, or through the Skagit County Public Works Department at 360.336.9400, ext. 3140. All participants must pre-register.



100 years and still going strong!

Concrete icon Helen Dwelley passed the century mark late last year. Born Dec. 14, 1910, Helen published *Concrete Herald* for more than 40 years with her husband, Charles M. Dwelley.

These days, Helen makes her home in Burbank, Calif., where she’s lived for the past 14 years. She spends her time reading and keeping track of her two favorite sports teams: the Angels and the Lakers. “I love sports,” she told *Concrete Herald*. “I’m not bored; I love my life!”

Helen said she misses Skagit County every April, when the daffodils and tulips bloom, and offers her advice for longevity: “Just keep living, keep breathing. If someone asked me how old I am, I’d say 60. That’s how old I feel.” *Submitted photo.*

88 News, Talk, and Music 108

Skagit Valley Upriver Community

To volunteer for KSVU call 416-7001
To sponsor KSVU call 416-7711

Sunday School lesson

Fans or followers?

By Bruce Martin

If you love the game of basketball as I do, you enjoyed the NCAA tournaments that took place last month. There were many talented individuals, and we were able to see the very best in college basketball. No matter how talented the individual team members may be, it takes a team to play the game at the highest level.

So it is for us as a community of Christians that make up the Church. When we emphasize our distinctions and preferences over and above the basic Biblical truths we all have in common, we lose our effectiveness. Our level of commitment to the Lord and one another determines our final destination. Our natural abilities are not enough to carry us; we need to draw from the Lord and one another.

The celebration of Palm Sunday preceding Easter is an essential focus upon these important truths. It was God’s formal presentation of His Son to the nation of Israel and the world as their Spiritual King and Messiah. All of the Gospel writers carefully recorded this event in each of their accounts.

As Jesus rode into Jerusalem that day on a donkey’s colt, he fulfilled the words



of the prophets Zechariah (9:9) and Isaiah (62:11): “Do not be afraid daughter of Zion; see, your king is coming seated on a donkey’s colt.”

This point was not missed by the crowds who lined the streets that day. The Bible tells us they laid down their coats and waved palm branches welcoming Jesus as a conquering hero, and shouted “hosanna” (save us now!). Though many people recognized the fulfillment of prophecy and that God had sent Jesus to them, they did not understand the greater plan of salvation God had in store for them and all of mankind. Their desire was to throw off the oppression of the Roman government, and they were sure Jesus was that kind of hero and savior.

In the Gospel of John, the Apostle mentions four groups of people who were present and who were witnesses as Jesus entered the city that day.

The first mentioned is “... the great crowd that came to the feast” (John 12:12). The city of Jerusalem was overflowing with people. It was six days before Passover and there were pilgrims from all over the known world who had come to celebrate the feast. Many had come early to go through the lengthy process of preparation.

There were numerous religious and devoted people present that day.

A second group that is mentioned were the people who had heard about the resurrection of Jesus’ follower Lazarus. They came “... not only because of Him (Jesus) but to see Lazarus, who had been raised from the dead” (John 12:9). In fact, the resurrection of Lazarus had caused such a stir that “the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well” as Jesus.

A third group is described as “the crowd that was with Him ...” (John 12:17), which included the 12 disciples (v. 16). These were the disciples who never left His side. They had just come from Bethany with Jesus and had been eyewitnesses to the resurrection of Lazarus.

A final group who were part of the crowd that day were the religious leaders of the nation. The Pharisees (John 12:19) were the ones who represented God to the people. They were always somewhere in the crowd at every public appearance Jesus made. They were not pleased with what was taking place and were looking for an opportunity to kill Jesus (Luke 19:47).

As we take a step back from the crowd and commotion and focus on what was really taking place that day, we are told that few recognized “the time of God’s coming to you” (Luke 19:44c). Neither the great crowd, the followers, the disciples, nor those religious leaders understood the spiritual impact and importance of this

event. The key to God’s perfect plan was revealed by Jesus’ final destination that day.

As the nation watched, every eye upon Him, Luke’s gospel tells us how Jesus entered the temple that day and began to drive out those who were buying and selling in the temple, declaring, “My

See Sunday School, p. 31

Obituaries

Allan Clifford Hurn, 69, a resident of Sedro-Woolley, passed away on Tue., March 2, 2011, in Port Townsend, the result of an industrial accident.

He was born on Sept. 4, 1941, in Everett, Wash., the son of Clifford Hurn and Alice Hurn Dwelley.

Allan was raised and attended school in Concrete, graduating from Concrete High School with the class of 1959. He then enlisted into the U.S. Army, where he served his country for three years.

On July 5, 1963, Allan was united in marriage to Darlene Mae Barker in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho.

Allan attended Peninsula Community College, Lutheran Bible Institute, Wheaton College, and Western Washington University.

In his early years, Allan was employed by the family shake and shingle industry, and then worked for Dunlap Towing. He later worked as a truck driver for several Northwest companies, including Whatcom Farmers Supply, whom he was currently working for.

Allan was a huge fan of Seattle sports. He loved the Mariners and the voice of Dave Niehaus. He also immensely enjoyed his grandchildren, fishing, and camping. He also loved the Lord and was never shy about sharing his testimony. His true mission in life was to share God’s Word with everyone he met. Allan was an active member at North Cascade Christian Fellowship in Sedro-Woolley and was welcomed at many churches across the country.

Allan was preceded in death by his father, Clifford Hurn; his mother, Alice Hurn Dwelley; his brothers, Jerry and Roger Hurn; and a nephew, Roger Hurn.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Darlene Barker Hurn; his children, Beverly Conn (Brad) of Sedro-Woolley, Alane Gummere (Denny) of Moscow, Idaho, and David Hurn (Elaine) of Winnebago, Minn.; his beloved grandchildren, Jackson and Riley Conn; Andrea, Kayla, and Rachel Gummere; and Dalton, Carson, and Ethan Hurn; his mother-in-law, Nina Barker; his brothers, Dean Hurn (Elaine) of Beaver, Wash., and Larry Hurn (Kathleen) of Concrete; his sister, Lois Coonc of La Conner, Wash.; his aunt, Winona DeLeo (Nonnie); and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Memorial services were held Tue., March 8, 2011, at 2 p.m. at the North Cascade Christian Fellowship in Sedro-Woolley. A fellowship followed at the church. Private family graveside services were held at the Forest Park Cemetery in Concrete.

Memorials are suggested to the Benevolence Fund at North Cascade Christian Fellowship, 118 North Ball Street, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284, or to a charity of your choice. Arrangements were under the direction of Lemley Chapel, Sedro-Woolley. Share memories of Allan and sign the online guest register at www.lemleychapel.com.



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. Bruce Martin, pastor	Hamilton First Baptist Church 797 Hamilton Cemetery Rd. at SR 20 Office: 360.826.3307 Sunday School: 9:40 a.m. Sun. worship: 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Ron Edwards, pastor	Presbyterian Mount Baker Presbyterian Church 45705 Main St., P.O. Box 246, Concrete Church 853.8585; office 595.0446 www.mtbakerpresbyterian.synodnw.org Sun. worship: 8 a.m.; Wed.: 7 p.m. Tom Ross, pastor	To add your place of worship to this directory, call 360.853.8213 or e-mail editor@concrete-herald.com .
North Cascade Community Church 59850 SR 20, Marblemount 360.873.2504 // www.nmag.net Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Sun. worship: 10:30 a.m. Wed.: Teen Connection, 6 p.m. Women’s Ministry, 2 p.m. (2nd, 4th, and 5th Wed.) Thur.: Men’s Breakfast, 8 a.m. Dave Nichols, pastor E-mail: pastordave@fastmail.fm	Lyman Baptist Church 31441 W. Main St., Lyman Office: 360.826.3287 Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Sun. worship: 11 a.m.	Lutheran Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church 46372 Main St., Concrete / 853.8814 Sun. worship: 10 a.m. Marcus Stroud, pastor	
Catholic St. Catherine Mission Church 45603 Limestone St., Concrete Office: 855.0077 Weekday hours: 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Sun. Mass: 8:30 a.m. Father Martin Bourke, pastor	Nondenominational Community Bible Church 45672 Limestone, Concrete; 853.8511 E-mail: cbcofconcrete@earthlink.net Sun. School: 9 a.m.; Worship Svc: 10 a.m. Childcare/Children’s Ministries at both Contact church for other ministries Rob Thomas, pastor		
Baptist First Baptist Church 12732 Hemlock St., Clear Lake 360.856.2767 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Sun. worship: 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Wed.: 7 p.m. John Batts, pastor E-mail: pastorjohn@firstbaptistclearlake.com	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 Tim Hedberg, pastor	Rockport Christ the King Comm. Church 11982 Martin Rd., Rockport, WA 98283 Church office: 853.8746 Pre-service fellowship: 9:30 a.m. Sun. service: 10 a.m. Sun. eve. Bible study: 5 p.m.	

Worth repeating ...

“If you have sinned, do not lie down without repentance; for the want of repentance after one has sinned makes the heart yet harder and harder.”

“Sin is the dare of God’s justice, the rape of His mercy, the jeer of His patience, the slight of His power, and the contempt of His love.”

“No child of God sins to that degree as to make himself incapable of forgiveness.”

—John Bunyan

Sheriff’s blotter

Feb. 14

A Rockport caller had questions on how to remove junk vehicles from one’s property. The Sheriff’s office will respond and complete a junk vehicle disposition form so that these types of vehicles can be legally destroyed.

Feb. 25

A Concrete caller reported his mother called him, intoxicated and saying her house had caved in. Deputy checked; residence was OK.

Feb. 28

A Concrete caller reported that a snow plow went by and buried the entrance to the caller’s driveway with snow.

March 2

A Concrete caller reported a subject on his property who had stolen things in the past. Deputy advised the subject to leave.

A Lyman caller reported a handgun missing from his vehicle. Vehicle was not locked. No suspects.

March 3

A Rockport caller reported a friend was tearing up her house. Deputies arrested an intoxicated subject for assault and malicious mischief.

March 6

A Concrete caller reported hearing footsteps outside, looked outside and saw a raccoon. Deputy checked the residence and confirmed it was a raccoon.

March 7

A Concrete caller wanted to provide information on suspects involved in a “tagging” incident. The subjects in this case already had been identified and arrested.

March 8

A Sedro-Woolley caller reported a vehicle with no lights stopping at mailboxes. Deputies were unable to locate the vehicle.

A Hamilton caller wanted to report “gang members” with “illegal weapons.” Three subjects were arrested for weapons violations.

March 9

A Concrete caller stated he was a former drug addict, and could smell someone smoking meth in the area.

March 10

A Clear Lake caller reported he was en route to assist a friend who had taken a bottle of Ambien pills.

March 11

A Hamilton caller reported a male subject at the residence, out of control and throwing things. Subject was taken for a mental health evaluation.

March 17

A Lyman caller reported a neighbor’s dog attacking his chickens. Resolved civilly.

March 18

A Rockport caller reported theft of a 200-lb., \$1,000 power cord, presumably for the copper wire content.

March 19

A Rockport caller reported trailers and storage buildings broken into on his property. He had last checked on it 10 months prior.

March 20

A Hamilton caller reported that his ex-wife had given his belongings to charity.

March 23

A Sedro-Woolley caller reported four subjects knocking at his door, asking him to step outside. Left when law enforcement called.

A Darrington caller reported receiving death threats from his soon-to-be-ex-wife.

March 24

A Concrete caller requested a check on his wife, who was suffering from post-partum depression and had left with their infant child.

Concrete Herald

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 when, in the discretion of the agency, the release of information will enhance public safety and protection.

Duke, Bruce William

Age: 46

Race: W

Sex: M

Height: 5’ 11”

Weight: 214

Hair: Brown

Eyes: Blue

Address: 75xx S.

Dillard Ave., Concrete

Duke was convicted in 1993 of third-degree rape of a child in Skagit County. In 2001 he was convicted of communication with a minor in Whatcom County. His victims were young females between 14–16 years old, who were known to him.

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

Source: Skagit County Sheriff



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Health

Thoughts on health care, pt. 3

By Nicola Pearson

The thing about our current health care system in the United States is it's never going to change, not while our politicians have comprehensive health care coverage, paid for by the taxpayers. How can they really represent the general public if they don't know what it's like to shop around for affordable health care, to risk being told no, to lose their health care when they lose their jobs, or to pay for policies that don't really cover anything? They can't.

In addition to this, while we're begging them to change the system and give us a public option, our health insurance companies are using money from our premiums to contribute to our Congress member's campaigns so that they won't give us a public option. And our Congress members are accepting those campaign

contributions. So not only do they not understand what we're struggling against to get health care, we don't even really have their ear.

So either we have to take away Congress' health care and make them all punt on the open market or we have to demand that we be brought up to their level, that what is available to them through taxpayer revenue, be available to us. And no, I'm not suggesting that they dip into the pocket of the taxpayers further to level the playing field. I'm suggesting that what the federal government takes out of taxes currently to give their employees health care, be put back in the pot and everyone pay something like the British pay, 3 percent, to have a national insurance stamp. Or you can make it 5 percent if you want something better than the British.

The question we need to ask ourselves in this country is, if it's good enough for our public servants, why is it not good enough for our public? You may not hold

public office, but I know you serve. I've always been impressed with how much Americans volunteer, sit on committees, raise money, support their neighbors, hold bake sales, make donations, start guilds. Not everyone does, of course; there will always be freeloaders. My economic theory classes taught me that too. But for every freeloader, there are people like my wealthy friends, who grumble that they don't want a public health option because they don't want to pay for everybody else, then they roll up their sleeves and get down and dirty to help people that need medical attention and don't have health insurance. The trouble is, the number of uninsured is rising exponentially in this country, and pretty soon there's not going to be a bake sale big enough to cover how much you need to raise for all the unpaid medical bills.

I believe that when Americans make up their minds to join the rest of developed world and offer their citizens universal health coverage, they will design a system that is the best in the world. Because America has this wonderful melting pot of information from all over the world in the form of her immigrants. She uses this information, learns from it, adapts it, and improves on it to end up with the finest result possible. That's true of America's cuisine, art, music, science, technology — why not her health care?

In fact, it is because of this that I decided to write these articles on this subject. When I became a citizen of the United States, the director of the Immigration and Naturalization Service made a very compelling speech to those of us being sworn in, about how this nation is built around immigrants, how the U.S. history books are filled with their endeavors and accomplishments, and how it is our turn now to go out and write the next chapter of American history.

As someone who has lived with a national health service, I feel it is incumbent upon me to let you know that it's really not that bad. In fact, I think you might enjoy some of its more desirable benefits: peace of mind, better health, higher employment. That's why the NHS came into being in the first place in the UK, to try to ensure full employment during times of peace. We could use a little of that in the U.S. right now. A national health service is good for our doctors and patients alike. In fact, the only ones likely to suffer in this country if we implement an NHS are the health insurance companies.

Ask me if I care.

Nicola Pearson is an award-winning playwright from Sauk City. This is the final installment of her three-part commentary.

Catch spring veggies at their best

By Karl Mincin

After a long winter of frozen and canned vegetables, fresh foods are about to come in season again. It's time to stock up on bright green vegetables at their peak flavor and nutrition.

Spiky stalks of asparagus provide lots of folic acid and beta-carotene, some vitamin C, and the health-protective antioxidant glutathione. Break off the tough ends of stalks before cooking.

The elegant artichoke comes laden with cancer-fighting powers and few calories. The average 10-ounce artichoke is fat-free, low in sodium, rich in fiber, and also provides vitamin C, folic acid, magnesium, and potassium. Choose soft, green artichokes that are heavy and firm.

Learn to love leafy greens. The many different types will bring new life to your salads, soups, and side dishes. Especially tasty are arugula, chard, endive, escarole, kale, radicchio, and watercress. They're high in vitamin A and, depending on your choice, also may provide vitamin C, calcium, iron, and potassium. For maximum freshness, serve them within one to two days of purchase or harvest. Store them in a plastic bag in the fridge.

Consider the simple pea. Who would guess that such a tiny vegetable can pack so much fiber, folic acid, beta-carotene, vitamin C, vitamin B₆, magnesium, and iron?

Karl Mincin is a clinical nutritionist in practice locally for 25 years. He specializes in nutrition assessment testing and may be reached at 360.336.2616 or online at www.Nutrition-Testing.com.

Erin Groh, LMP opens massage clinic in Sedro-Woolley

Erin Groh, a state licensed and nationally certified massage practitioner, has opened Stillpoint Massage and Wellness Clinic at 700 Murdock St. in Sedro-Woolley. The clinic specializes in pain management and stress relief

specifically through therapeutic body-work, nutritional supplements, and the topical application of ice, heat, herbal oils, and liniments.

Erin is a health insurance Preferred Provider with Regence Blue Shield, Premera Blue Cross, Uniform Medical, and Labor and Industry.

For more information on the clinic and how therapeutic massage can help you, call 360.391.2706.

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www.kamberkustomphotography.com

Soroptimist Int'l presents more grants

Representatives from Soroptimist International of Sedro-Woolley presented a check totaling \$25,000 to leaders from Citrine Health of Everett for use in providing mammograms to low-income women residing in Sedro-Woolley and East Skagit County on March 30.

SI S-W also recently presented \$500 and baby supplies to the local Women, Infants, and Children Nutrition program hosted at United General Hospital. This is the fourth consecutive year that WIC has received the one-day earnings from the Walnut Tree thrift shop on Soroptimist Saturday of Service. WIC is a nutritional program that helps pregnant women, new mothers, and young children eat well, learn about nutrition, and stay healthy.

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Concrete Self-storage
Located on Fir Street, Concrete
Heated and nonheated, security surveillance,
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Customer service is our top priority!
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Wineries
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friendly. Camping avail. Jazz Festival May 28!
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ads@concrete-herald.com

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

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

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

Savvy Businesses Targeted

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5,000 copies circulate throughout Whatcom, Skagit, and Snohomish Counties (and beyond) every month, reaching a largely untapped market of readers, many of whom say they read only Concrete Herald. If you're not advertising in "The Voice of Eastern Skagit County," you're missing thousands of potential customers.

Our advertisers agree...

"Our ads in Concrete Herald help us reach out to the community with health information and hospital news. I know it works, because I get calls and e-mails from Concrete Herald readers."

Valerie Stafford
communications director
United General Hospital

Concrete Herald

The Voice of Eastern Skagit County
ads@concrete-herald.com 360.853.8213



Smile



Dwelleysms

Wit from the Herald's former editor

“After crowding all happenings and things about to happen into this paper, we wonder just where you find the small town where there is nothing going on.”
—March 16, 1961

“They say a hobby makes a happy man, but it is probably the other way around. A happy man finds the time and enthusiasm he needs to make a hobby a source of fun, rather than escape.”
“After sweating out a few sessions of the legislature and Congress, it seems we certainly are in need of a return of that fellow who set up the whole world in a matter of seven days.”
—March 23, 1961

“Ever notice how often the other guy’s stupidity creates a streak of dumb luck that your intelligence could never match?”
“The best way to win an argument with a guy who loves to argue is to agree with him on everything, then leave him with the confession that your hobby is telling lies.”
—March 30, 1961

“Looking for bright spots in the news these days is like panning for gold. It takes several pans of mud before you get one glint of humor.”
“Criticism is the best way to deflate egos. But it is a two-way deal. You have to be careful that your ego doesn’t inflate at the same time.”
“What’s so big about a Russian in outer space? Our government has had its taxpayers in orbit for years.”
—April 13, 1961

“The highest ambition of the political candidate is to look like the promise of better times without having to make any.”
—Sept. 2, 1948

“The threatened gas shortage would not be so bad if we had some way of converting our cars to run on hot air after the elections.”
—Sept. 9, 1948

“Lobsters imported from Maine are soon to be planted in Puget Sound waters. From the rock-bound Republican coast of Maine to the rainy shores of Wobbly Washington.”
—Sept. 23, 1948

“New jet planes have exceeded the speed of 600 miles per hour. Almost as fast as the boys punching the clock at quitting time.”
—Oct. 7, 1948

“Doctors say it is now possible to have a complete new supply of blood pumped into your body, and the old blood removed. A possible remedy for that blue Monday feeling?”
“Life is a series of frustrations. By the time a man is old enough to make his own decisions, he gets married!”
—Oct. 14, 1948

“One consolation for all voters is that, like campaign promises, campaign threats have a way of disappearing into thin air after the votes are counted.”
—Oct. 28, 1948

“Kansas, dry for 68 years, is now preparing to go into the liquor business. The voice of the people is speaking with whiskey breath.”
—Nov. 11, 1948

“Comic books may be a bit wild, but think what a fuss would be made if the youngsters started reading some of the nation’s best-selling novels.”
—Nov. 18, 1948

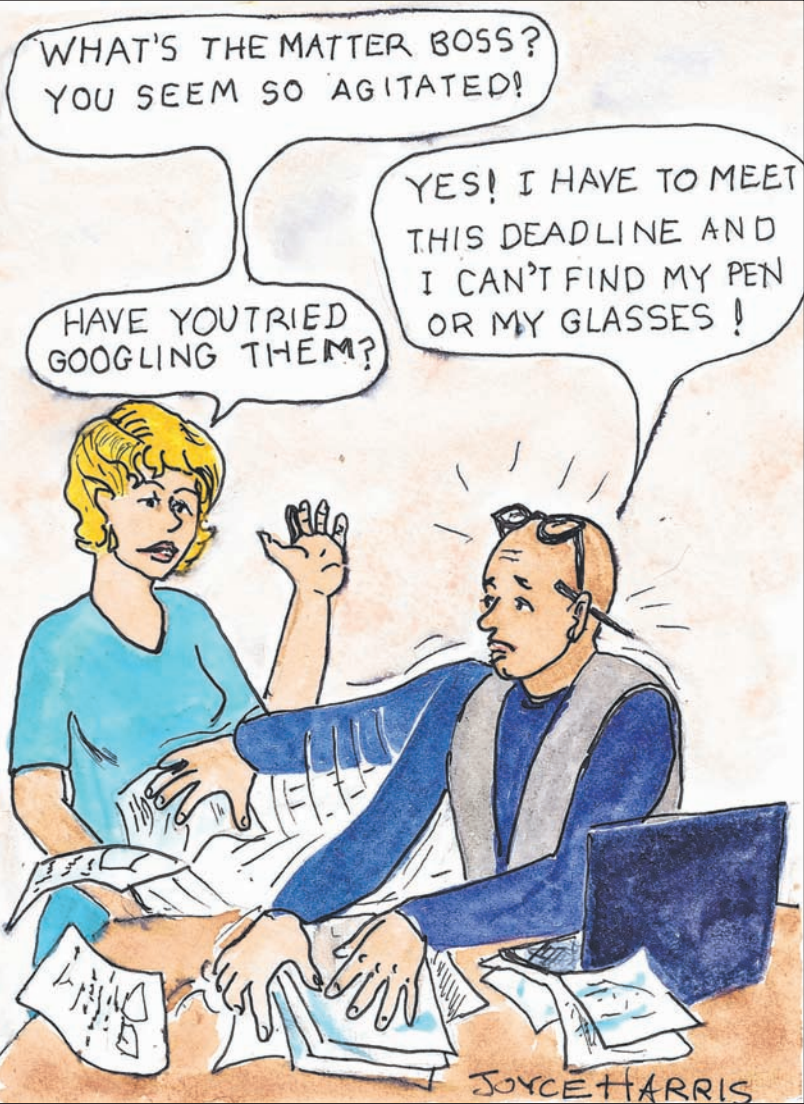
“Honesty: to admit past mistakes and make every effort to see that they do not happen again.”
—March 16, 1961

Public Service Announcement



Concrete Harold

By Joyce Harris



www.concrete-herald.com
Sunday School, cont. from p. 26

house will be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of robbers” (Luke 19:46). This was the second time Jesus had done this. The first is recorded in John’s gospel (John 2:13). Jesus went straight to the heart of the spiritual need and problem of the nation. He did not go to the seat of civil government, He did not go to the university or to the economic experts. Instead He went to the place that represented the heart of the nation’s spiritual need.

Jesus came that day “... to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10), “to give His life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28). There were many fans in the crowd, those who were caught up in the moment, but were not committed to follow Jesus when all the excitement faded.

As we celebrate during the Easter season and worship, let us do so with a true understanding. Jesus came to give His life as a sacrifice for our sin upon the cross, then to rise on that third day victorious over death, sin, and the grave (Luke 24: 5–7). Forgiveness and new life comes to each and every person who places their faith in Jesus Christ.

Bruce Martin is pastor of Concrete Assembly of God.

Tonewoods, cont. from p. 11

Farmers Supply Stores or at www.pacificrimtonewoods.com.

Team-oriented

General Manager Eric Warner believes the success of the company, especially during 2010, comes from the quality of their product, the value they add to it, good customer relations, and the company’s dedicated team.

The tightly knit crew of 15 employees is composed mostly of locals, nine of whom graduated from Concrete High School, and five of them in the class of 1994.

“All employees take their work seriously, apply their knowledge, and continually put forth a sincere effort,” said Warner. “Steve (McMinn) has always invested in the company. He has created a good product, a positive workplace, and good jobs. He’s created a good life, not only for himself, but for his employees.”

To learn more about Pacific Rim Tonewoods, go to www.pacificrimtonewoods.com.

Editor’s note: Become a Concrete Herald Facebook friend to see a photo album of the creation of a guitar soundboard at Pacific Rim Tonewoods.

Letters, cont. from p. 3

Give a Heart gratitude

I sincerely thank community members for their support of the Give a Heart to Save a Heart Campaign. The campaign raised \$292 to help support physical fitness programs in Skagit and Whatcom counties.

Encore Fitness received funds and was able to use the money to offer a free fitness night on March 22 at the Concrete Theatre. The rest of the money was used to support physical fitness programs at United General Hospital and provide a full paid scholarship for the Girls on the Run program in Whatcom County.

A big thank-you to the Resource Center for allowing the hearts to be sold there and a big thank-you to the Friends of the Upper Skagit Library, who let Grace Bandolon and me sell hearts with them during their book and bake sale.

All the community support was very appreciated. Thank you for making hearts a little healthier!

Stephanie Morgareidge
Concrete

YD, cont. from p. 8

off on the catwalk. It is always a lot of fun, and they come up with some outfits that would challenge even the high-fashion designers.

Our 30-Hour Famine Retreat went extremely well. Twenty-five high school students spent 30 hours without food to raise money for children who don’t have the luxury of three meals a day. All funds go to World Vision. The teens’ eyes are opened to the rest of the world, and they learn about the little that some people have. What a privilege to be a part of something as big as world hunger and be able to do something about it. The hearts

of these young people never cease to amaze me.

We will join all of the other area high schools on Sun., April 17, at 6 p.m., at Mount Vernon Christian High School for a huge youth rally called “The Silver Ring Thing.” It will address all of the big issues that face teenagers in today’s society. If your son or daughter would like to attend, please let me know. There is no charge for this event; however, space is limited.

Join me in encouraging the youth of our community. For more information about Youth Dynamics or “The Silver Ring Thing,” call 360.853.6815.

Track, cont. from p. 6

home track meet. While stressful for the coaches, the athletes thrive on performing for their community.

August won all three jumping events. August also accompanied Mitchell, Holbrook, and Andy Aiken to a victory in the 400-meter relay. Troka threw himself into first with a 41-foot-5.5-inch shot put. Soule took to the javelin and produced a surprising throw of 141 feet.

On the girls side, Filtz took first in the long jump with a mark of 13 feet, 9.5 inches. The boys crushed the competition of the six visiting teams. The girls put up a strong fight and came in second.

The end of March sent us to Friday Harbor. The boys 400-meter relay team once again took first. August took home his usual pair of firsts from the long and triple jumps. Running for the first time in the 200-meter, Spaeth dominated her competition and won the event. The boys team took second and the girls team took fourth.

Our season is just under way, with the ultimate goal of state on the horizon. The athletes anxiously await our next and final home meet of the season on April 19 at 3:30 p.m.

Classifieds

MOVIES EVERY WEEKEND AT THE HISTORIC CONCRETE THEATRE
Fridays at 7:30 p.m.
Saturdays at 5:00 and 7:30 p.m.
Sundays at 4:00 p.m.
All ticket prices \$6 or less
24-hour MovieLine: 360.941.0403
www.concrete-theatre.com

EMPLOYMENT

Waitstaff/Cooks. Buffalo Run Restaurant is now accepting applications for waitstaff and experienced cooks. 360.873.2103.

FOR SALE

AKC Golden Retriever pups. Very beautiful! Dewclawed, first shots, wormed. Males \$450.00, females \$500.00. 360.826.3264.

Chicken and duck eggs. Chicken: \$2.50/doz.; duck: \$2.00/doz. Concrete. 360.853.7932.

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

Spring has sprung in Rockport! Almost new Honda lawn mower: \$150. New (still in box) mini chicken coop: \$250. Call 360.853.8388.

Wood-bricks firewood. Throw down your axe and saw. 100% wood bricks burn clean and hot. No more bugs, bark, or creosote. No more aching back. Buy a ton and get 200 lbs. FREE. Buy 1/2 ton and get 100 lbs. FREE. \$250/ton in 25-lb. flats; \$220 in 20-lb. bundles; \$200 in bulk. \$140/half ton in flats; \$120 in bundles; \$110 in bulk. Fill up your car! Fill up your truck! Jump for joy—you’re in luck! Pacific Rim Tonewoods, 38511 SR 20, Concrete. 360.826.6101. Mon. - Thur., open 8 a.m.–3:30 p.m. More info at www.pacificrimtonewoods.com. 📍



LOST & FOUND

Stolen: Taiwan Golden Bee Congo four-wheeler. Red, with front and back racks. Stolen from Jason Driver’s residence (45337 Limestone, Unit B, Concrete) between March 11 and 12. If you have information regarding the whereabouts of this vehicle, call Jason Driver at 360.707.8177 or the Skagit County Sheriff Tipline: 360.419.7785.

PROPERTIES FOR RENT

Private RV lot, \$375/mo. Hookups, shed, garden, pets, kids. 360.770.5552.

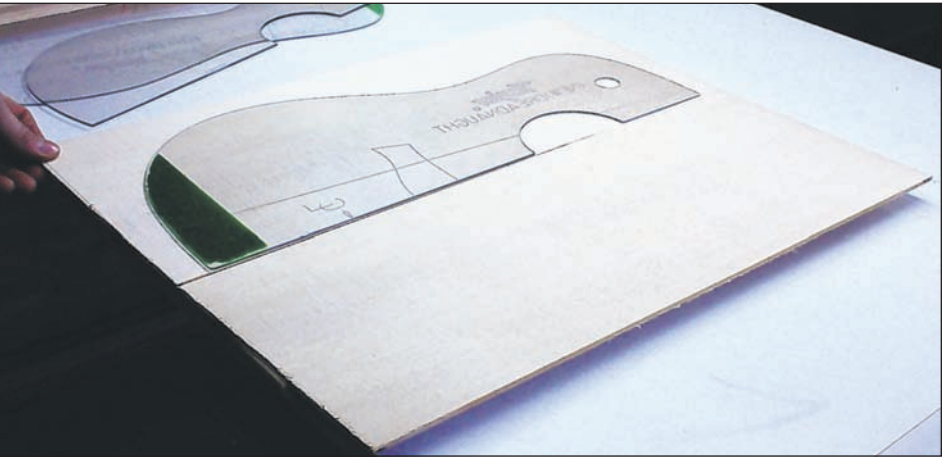
SERVICES

Cash for clunkers! Dave’s Towing, 360.853.7433.

Gladys’ Upholstery Shop. Quality work, reasonable prices. 360.826.4848.

Porcelain doll-making workshops, doll repair, doll accessories, and supplies. Val, 360.982.4234.

To place a Classified ad, call 360.853.8213 or e-mail ads@concrete-herald.com. Classified ads are \$5 per every 10 words. Payment up front.



Pacific Rim Tonewoods Manager Eric Warner lays a soundboard template on a slice of Sitka spruce measuring only .175 inches thick to demonstrate the finished result.

We Want to Protect You, Not our Turf.

In this corner of the County, we're here for you.

United General is here because the taxpayers wanted this hospital and have loudly supported it since 1965. We want to continue to be here to serve you and not get squeezed out by a larger hospital.

We want to practice medicine, not build an empire.

We believe small is smarter. We don't ever plan to be the biggest hospital in Skagit County or provide highly specialized services that only a few people ever need. Our goal is to be the best community



hospital we can be. The place where you're treated to excellent health care, great doctors and nurses, wonderfully fresh food, and clean, quiet rooms, all at a lower cost than other hospitals.

Learn about the local landscape.

Small Wonder

United General Hospital, despite its small size, is recognized as one of the top hospitals in Washington state. In fact, we've scored higher than the state and national averages on important quality measures like infection control.



Health care can be confusing enough without hospitals fighting over their turf. If you have questions or concerns about the roots of the problem and how it's affecting the local health care landscape, we'd welcome the chance to talk with you. Please call (360) 856-7112 or send an email to communications@unitedgeneral.org.

For more information about current issues, please see our website: www.unitedgeneral.org.