

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Concrete Herald

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50 cents

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The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley



Washington Newspaper Publishers Association

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From the editor

Director's retirement a blow

Former Concrete Center Director Sara Pritchard has retired from her position after 25 years. Why? That's something of a mystery.

Pritchard is well liked by area seniors, and it's my understanding that she has a spotless record. On her watch, the center was a respite for its clientele, where they could get a hot meal, play games, have basic needs addressed, and socialize. Sara's retirement announcement came as a surprise to most, since she's hardly at retirement age.

Also surprising was the lack of county representation at her retirement party. To her credit, Commissioner Janicki was there, but she was not Sara's immediate supervisor. None of Sara's supervisors deigned to make an appearance. Odd, since retirement parties—especially those for employees who have served an organization for 25 years—are generally festive occasions attended by management and co-workers alike, full of well wishes and plaques. Sara's supervisor was there at 9 a.m. that day for the exit interview, but left before the party. Classy.

Speaking of plaques, that beautiful one that Commissioner Janicki presented to Sara didn't even come from the county; it came from Sara's Advisory Board. To the best of my knowledge, the county gave nothing to Sara to commemorate her 25 years of service. Pretty shabby, as my dad would say.

This smells like a bad breakup to me. Both parties are saying "It was mutual," but one of them betrays a pain behind the eyes that tells a different story.

Sara's departure is a blow for the community, one that the county had better set about rectifying ASAP. As of April 4, no successor had been named and nobody contacted me with the April schedule for the center. More than four weeks went by after Sara gave her notice, and not a word about a new director or a plan for the center moving forward. That's shabby too.

Upper Valley seniors deserve better than this—and they had it, until something went wrong. Now the onus is on the county to remember its duty to serve our seniors and do what it takes to regain their trust.

As Sgt. Chris Kading likes to say, "there's more to this story." I suspect that's the case here, and I doubt the blame lies with Sara.

—J. K. M.



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Opinion

Letters to the editor

Thanks for 25 years

I would like to thank the Upriver area seniors and the community for supporting me in my role as the Concrete Senior Center coordinator for the past 25 years.

I would also like to give a big thank-you to the Concrete Senior Center Advisory Board for the beautiful plaque they had made for me in appreciation for my 25 years of service to the Concrete area seniors. I will cherish that plaque and the many cards of thanks that I received.

My going away party was fabulous, full of laughter, reminiscing, and many tears. Resigning from my position was a difficult decision to make, but it was the right one. I will cherish all the memories that were made over the years, and thank you all for being a part of them.

Sara Pritchard
Concrete

Several factors contribute to obesity

It seems to me that sugar is not the only culprit when it comes to obesity. All grains in general become sugars in the body. They are, in my opinion, the real cause of all the health problems in America. I read quite a lot and many books and articles agree that we did not evolve to eat grains. We do not need grains in our diets. There are no essential carbohydrates. Our bodies can make all of the carbohydrates we need from meat and veggies. Necessary fiber can be found in vegetables. And grains have very little of the nutrients we do need. A diet of vegetables and a little meat can provide all of the nutrients we need.

Unfortunately, the grain industry controls the U.S. government. They are everywhere. Cattle are fed grains in feed

lots to force them to grow faster. Pigs are fed grains in small cages to force them to grow faster. Chickens and turkeys are fed grains to make them grow faster. Cows are fed grains to make them produce more milk. Corn products are found in almost every processed food found in the grocery store. This makes it very hard to cut grains from our diets.

However, it can be done. We can buy meat from local farmers. We can buy produce from local farmers. We can plant and grow our own veggies. If we refuse to buy and eat grain-based products, the stores will stop carrying them. They will be forced to carry real food! And, most importantly, we will be healthier. Obesity will disappear. Heart disease and Alzheimer's will disappear. Our medical bills will disappear!

So let's get healthy! Buy locally. Buy from farmers' markets. Grow your own! Let's take back control of what we eat!

Nancy Bradbee
Chinook, WA

Letters policy

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

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Message from the mayor

By Jason Miller

First, the good news—no, make that great news!

On March 31 I got a phone call from our State Senator Kirk Pearson, informing me that that he had secured funding in the new state budget for our proposed **water spray park**. This is a big, big deal. That's \$200,000 toward a very cool amenity that will provide a lot of fun for us and visitors to our fine town. The delay in funding will push that project into spring 2017, but now we have some assurance that it will happen.

Town staff, Sgt. Chris Kading, and I participated in a **dam failure exercise** on March 16. We went through the steps we would take if any or all of the dams on the Skagit and Baker rivers were to be compromised for any reason. It was a good learning experience, one that reminded us that we need to develop an emergency response plan for the entire town, and put it in our citizens' hands. We will do that.

On an almost weekly basis, I have a conversation with someone who makes it clear they do not understand the basics of **how our town government works**. This lack of knowledge can be hard on that person, not to mention our town staff and council, who sometimes find themselves being raked over the coals for situations over which they have no control.

Here's a brief overview of the current system:

Our town operates under a "strong council, weak mayor" system. This means that the Town Council sets policy for the town, and the mayor and town staff follow and enforce it. If you find yourself at odds with a staff member who is doing their job, the appropriate way to deal with it is to come to the council and ask them to change the policy or make an exception for you. Cursing at staff or attempting to get them to take unauthorized action is a waste of time, not to mention wildly inappropriate.

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



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A message from the Concrete Resource Coalition and United General District 304.

New policing programs maximize crime-fighting efficiency

Intelligence-led policing and Pro-Act provide proactive methods for protecting citizens.

By Haley McNealey

Edited by Katy Tomasulo

The Skagit County Sheriff's Office (SCSO) launched two new crime-fighting strategies countywide, following recent successes with the techniques in East Skagit County.

The two programs—Intelligence-Led Policing and Proactive Enforcement Unit—work together to record and act on information more efficiently. Sergeant Chris Kading described the program as a short-term fix in lieu of assigning more deputies to the East Skagit County area, which he hopes to see happen in the near future; it is possible that a detective will be assigned to the area in the future to further increase the effectiveness of fighting crime.

Intelligence-Led Policing allows officers

to collect information from assorted sources and access information in a structured procedure. Officers use social contact cards to document any potentially useful information each time they contact a person. This allows officers to document voluntary information gathered through casual conversation as well as during custodial arrests, and the individuals who share information can remain anonymous if preferred. The information collected is transferred to a central database in Mount Vernon where it can be accessed for review, and the material reported by civilians can later be used to identify and ultimately detain the perpetrators of crimes that occur and adjust policing strategies.

Proactive Enforcement Unit, or Pro-Act, is a program that uses the accumulated information from social contact cards and directly assigns action to information. Local deputies Fred Harrison and Don Marlow were chosen for the unit following a lengthy selection and administrative review process. They are supervised by Sergeant Greg Adams and are currently operating countywide. Their focus is on identifying the most dangerous criminals in the county and utilizing a range of sources, including information gathered from social contact cards, to prevent crime and make arrests. The Pro-Act unit has already had a successful arrest in East Skagit County, when following a car chase they were able

to arrest two prolific criminals in the area. Sergeant Kading reports the ultimate plan will be to match the unit in Mount Vernon with similar programs concentrated in Burlington and Sedro-Woolley. "We can always take the calls, but we are trying to get ahead of it," he said of the two new strategies.

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

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Marijuana evolves into legal state industry

By LaVendrick Smith

WNPA Olympia News Bureau

When Logan Bowers opened his marijuana retail store Seattle Hashtag in April 2015, he entered an arena far different from his tech-industry background.

Bowers, co-owner of Hashtag and president of the Cannabis Organization of Retail Establishments (CORE), had the same task as other marijuana license holders in the state: bring an industry relegated to street corners and sidewalks into a legal and regulated retail environment.

"We get a lot of local traffic," Bowers said. "A lot of folks kind of walking by who are like, 'What's this about?' And they come in and checked it out and realize we're just a normal business."

Since the voter-approved Initiative 502—which earned 56 percent of the popular vote in November 2012—was

implemented, the state Liquor and Cannabis Board has issued more than 1,000 licenses to retailers, producers, or processors of marijuana under the I-502 system. The LCB issues up to a dozen new licenses each week.

"This is not like selling milk," said Brian Smith, spokesperson for the LCB. "This is selling a product that is illegal at the federal level."

Smith said that after a few years of uncertainty over how the state would navigate legalization, it has become a robust industry.

"It's only going to continue to grow," Smith said.

The next step in the process in the eyes of lawmakers, the LCB, and marijuana license holders, is the decline and

See **Marijuana**, p. 33

THIS AND THAT

By J. K. M.

Sunrise Community Behavioral Health will shift its services from the Resource Center to its own location at 44942 SR 20, Grasmere. A grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new location will be held on Tue., April 5, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. The ribbon-cutting ceremony is slated for 4:30 p.m.

A **Benefit Concert for Dave and Deborah Chapman** is planned for Sun., April 10, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Concrete Theatre. The fundraiser is designed to help pay for installation of a concrete pad at their home, to help Dave better manage his wheelchair.

Several local bands and musicians will perform, including Jumbled Pie, Barefeet, Kitchen Sync, Michael McLaskey.

Admission is a suggested donation of \$20 per person at the door.

The Upper Skagit Library will host its

April Poetry Contest 2016 in celebration of the 20th anniversary of National Poetry Month. The theme of the contest is "Change," with a suggested Poem-a-Week challenge. April will include two events: a "Slam into Change" poetry slam and a poetry reading of the winning contest entries. Contest finalists will be entered to win full admission to the Skagit River Poetry Festival in May. The winner of the Poetry Slam will be awarded admittance to a spoken word event at the festival. Child, teen, adult categories. Bookmarks highlighting winning poems will be created. Open to all ages and skill levels. Skagit County residents eligible to participate. Submission deadline is April 23. View contest guidelines and entry form at www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us or pick up hard copies at the library. For more information, contact Cora Thomas at cthomas@upperskagit.lib.wa.us or 360.853.7939.

The **34th Annual Bay View Women's Run & Walk** is Sat., May 14. This year the 2-mile Run & Walk, 5K and 10K Runs will start from the Padilla Bay Interpretive Center in Bay View. For more information and to preregister, go to www.bayviewwomensrun.com.

Council summary

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

March 14 regular meeting

- Public Safety:** Sgt. Chris Kading reported on an incident that occurred on March 6 at approximately 2:30 a.m., when a drunk driver veered onto the sidewalk and took out the SKAT bus stop outside Town Hall. the SKAT stop has been replaced. Kading stated there is one subject facing DUI charges, as well as fines for the costs for damages. He stated the estimate for the SKAT stop is approximately \$4,500, which does not include the labor.

Sgt. Kading also reported on an incident that occurred at the library last week and is being looked into

- further. Discussion ensued on what would be considered threatening enough behavior for a person to be trespassed from and not allowed to return to a public place.
- Town Engineer Cody Hart reported he is finalizing the plans for the park and ride project, which will go to WSDOT soon for its review and approval. He stated the schedule is to go to ad for this project around March 23, with a three-week advertisement period. He stated that all funds are accounted for at this point, and he is hopeful the town will receive good and competitive bids for construction.
- Council discussed a Swap Meet proposal submitted by property owner George Theodoratus, and agreed to the following changes, but did not finalize them at Theodoratus' later request: The Swap Meet may operate from April through October, from Thursday through Sunday each weekend. If the following Monday is a holiday, it may operate on that day too. Up to four RVs will be allowed overnight stays on the property from Thursday through Saturday (and Sunday, if the following Monday is a

holiday).

March 28 workshop

- Council met for a workshop to discuss a resolution opposing a proposed Skagit River Gene Bank Designation. Several speakers presented information and data to the council, and additional material was given to councilmembers in their information packets. The one hour allotted proved to be barely enough to accommodate the speakers; little discussion ensued. Council will revisit the topic during its April 11 regular meeting.

March 28 regular meeting

- At George Theodoratus' request, Council postponed a final decision regarding the Swap Meet so that Theodoratus can discuss the proposed changes with some of his vendors.
- Parks:** Parks Committee Chair Marla Reed reported that Public Works has installed one of the play fixtures at the Silo Park Playground and will hopefully get the other one installed this week. Mayor Miller reported they planted the rest of the cherry trees at

Veterans Memorial Park. He stated there is a total of 13 trees.

- Em Beals was appointed to the Planning Commission.
- Town Planner Marianne Manville-Ailles reported that staff met with library representatives last Friday to discuss the building site and plans. She stated they got to see the first rendering of the building and believes they were able to accomplish a lot during the meeting. She stated they are still working on finalizing their funding.
- Manville-Ailles also reported on the next steps for the owner of the Eagles Nest so that he can get the RV park portion of his property open for business. She stated that he encouraged him to attend a council meeting to discuss his plans.

Keep track of your council

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

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Sports

Softball team focused on retaining leads

By Jason Miller

Winning when it counted, the Concrete High School softball team entered April with a 1-0 league record, capturing the significant 7-6 win on April 2 against Orcas Island at home.

March was more of a challenge for the team, kicking off with an away game at Coupeville on March 16, which saw the Lady Lions fall to the Wolves 5-3.

"We got ahead 3-0, and it's a returning theme in our season so far: We didn't build on our lead; They caught up. But for the first game, I was pleased with the players' level of competitiveness. We were in the game the whole time; one bad inning sank us."

A Jamboree in La Conner on March 17 allowed the players to enjoy the game without the stress of scorekeeping. The annual event allows all players to hit and play.

Back at it on March 18, Coupeville came to town and beat Concrete in an extra-inning game by an even greater margin, 10-5. "Again we got ahead of them, but they came back and tied us, and the extra inning was theirs. We're just trying to learn how to win the games, not give them away," said Howell.

The team traveled to league powerhouse Friday Harbor on March 25, where the

Wolverines handed them a 7-6 loss, again in extra innings.

"We took the lead early, then went back and forth," said Howell. "Friday Harbor was league champion last year and they're the odds-on favorite to win again this year, so it was a good showing for us. I still thought it was a good game. We improved in all areas—hit better, fielded better—but a couple breaks didn't go our way."

The team's schedule this month includes an April 15 doubleheader at home against Darrington.

This year's team

This year's dugout is packed with returning players, a junior class in particular that has played high school and summer league ball, said Howell.

Chloe Stidman, Tessa Coffell, Sidney Hockett, Tate Mathis, Vickie Sheehan, Iris Nevin are the team's backbone, "a strong group of girls who have been playing for several years," said Howell. "They haven't won lots in the past, but they need to make that next step, start seeing positive returns on their investment in softball. We're ready to make that next step."



Junior Iris Nevin prepares to tag a Coupeville runner headed for second base during the team's homefield match against the visiting Wolves on March 18. A close one, the game went into extra innings with the Lady Lions on the losing side of the scoreboard, 10-5.



Junior Tate Mathis swings during the March 18 game against Coupeville at Concrete.

New coaches are familiar faces

If you've gone to a Lady Lions softball game this season, you've probably seen two "new" coaches in the dugout who look quite familiar.

Head Coach Kelly Howell and Assistant Coach Wayne Knopf took over the reins this year from former Coach Adam Woodworth, and stepped back into their roles as if they'd done it before.

They have. Howell and Knopf coached the softball team from 2004-07, and left behind quite the legacy. In 2005 the team took second in State. In 2006, they were fourth. And in 2007 they grabbed all the marbles, winning the State championship.

They're baaaack. Why? "I've always wanted to coach again," said Howell, a sergeant with the Skagit County Sheriff. "When I stepped down the first time, my son Kyler was a freshman baseball player and I wanted to see his games. The Sheriff's Office had 12-hour shifts, so it didn't leave a lot of time."

Now, Howell is a sergeant with day shifts and weekends off, so the stars are better aligned to resume his coaching role. "It's been a good thing," he said. "This group of girls has been a delight, and it's been fun getting back into it."



Howell



Knopf

Rough start, but bright spots for boys of spring

By Jason Miller

The Concrete Lions baseball team is off to a shaky start, but Coach Randy Sweeney expressed confidence in his squad.

With a 0-2 league record heading into April, the team will look to capitalize on its strengths and push to maintain early leads.

Returning starters this year include senior Dylan Clark. "Dylan has to be one of the best in the county on offense," said Sweeney. "He's 2-4 every game, and hitting over .500."

Tyler Labrousse has moved from center field to catcher, where his strong arm is still an asset. "Word's getting out not to try to steal bases against him," said Sweeney.

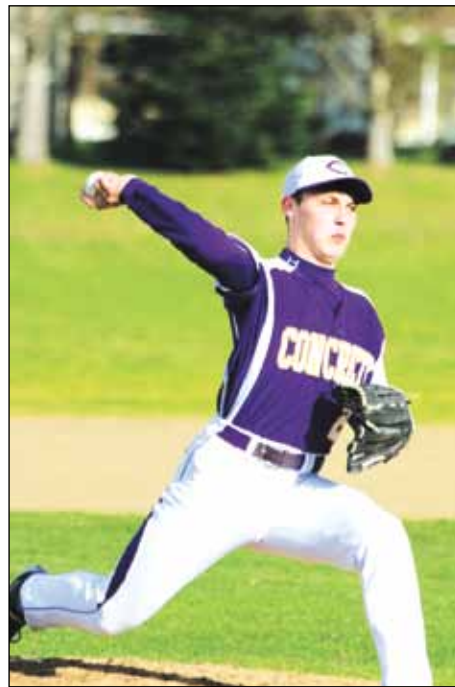
Solomon Holman is back, playing excellent shortstop, said Sweeney.

Grayson Luttrell is again solid at third base. Senior Jonathan Goodwin has moved between the outfield and pitching mound, and has driven in several key runs this season while at the plate.

Senior Will May has rejoined the team, and Sweeney couldn't be happier, calling May "a pleasant surprise." A right fielder, May "hits the heck out the ball and he's faster than ever, stealing bases. He's been a huge addition," said Sweeney.

March wrap-up

In the first few games this season, Sweeney notes a pattern he'd like to break: early leads that the team doesn't maintain. It happened at Friday Harbor on March 25, and again on March 30 and

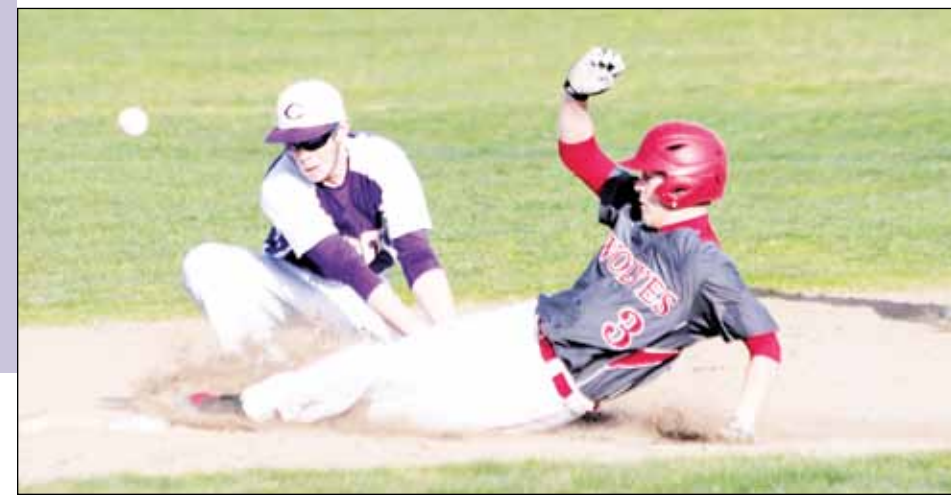


Senior Jonathan Goodwin dishes up a fastball against visiting Coupeville on March 18. The Lions struggled and took a 9-0 loss.

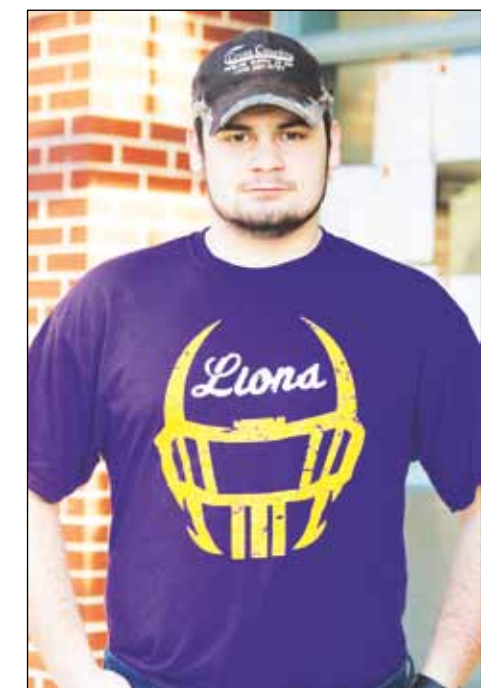
31 with Bush and Mount Baker.

The Lion players are fighters, though, battling at Coupeville on March 16, losing by only one point, 13-12. The team fared better at nonleague Mount Rainier Lutheran on March 19, notching a 12-2 win.

"We jumped all over them for a great win," said Sweeney.



Athletes of the Month



Athletes of the Month: Chloe Stidman and Brayden Olmstead

Junior guard Chloe Stidman is a force on the basketball court for the Concrete Lady Lions. Her stats from her junior season point to her ferocity, with a team-leading 95 steals and 17 drawn charges. She also led the team with a 30 percent three-point shooting percentage and 77 assists.

Senior Brayden Olmstead took his wrestling talent to Mat Classic again this year, and left his high school career behind in style, taking home a third-place medal in the 200-lb. class. Coach David Dellinger calls Olmstead his "dark horse." "He's the kid on the mat who wrestles in the third period better than his opponent. He'd wear them out."

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

WRESTLING AWARDS

Varsity Letters: Jonathan Akers, Riley Fichter, Louie Ketchum, Blaine Storms, Donovan Dellinger, Randall Beacham, Donnie Olmstead, Brayden Olmstead, Robert Nevin, Robert Thompson, Becky Azure, Whitney Claybo (manager), Jasmine Hopfield (manager).

Honorable Mention, WSWCA Academic All-State: Donnie Olmstead. **Most Improved:** Jon Akers. **Get 'er Done Award (in memory of Mark Richmond):** Donovan Dellinger, Brayden Olmstead, Louie Ketchum. **Team Captains:** Donnie Olmstead, Randall Beacham.

Most Inspirational: Brayden Olmstead. **Gordy Evans Memorial Award:** Donnie Olmstead. **Coach of the Year nominee:** David Dellinger. **Assistant Coach of the Year:** John Koenig.

Lion shortstop Solomon Holman covers second on a steal during the team's March 19 game against Coupeville. A jittery ball kept the runner safe.

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Track PRs broken and rebroken

By Jason Miller, assistant coach

The athletes of Concrete High School's Track and Field team are shaving minutes, seconds, feet, and inches from their personal records (PRs) as the season commences.

Incoming freshmen Unity Reynolds and Maddy Pritchard are arguably the most notable, after taking on the 3200m event almost on a whim. Out of the start gate, the two runners' time was over the 19-minute mark, but they shaved two minutes off the next time they ran it, then cut off two more minutes during the team's most recent meet, at home on March 31.

Similar success stories have been enjoyed by sophomore Becky Azure, who throws the discus, shot, and javelin, and has taken on the 200m sprint this year, showing great promise. Senior Hannah Kononen is in the same boat as she throws the javelin and makes her presence known in the long jump.

Returners, new faces

This year the athletes on the track and field are a mix of returners and incoming freshmen.

Seniors Josh Gentry, Dawson Bass, Jasmine Hopfield, Sam Holbrook, and Kononen anchor the team. Gentry competes in the long jump, triple jump,

shot, and 100m sprint, and on March 31 took up the javelin, tossing it an astonishing 120 feet. His execution in all events is explosive; I've been advising our young throwers to watch him as an example.

Hopfield is a known contender in the women's 100m hurdles, and has made a State appearance in the event. "I believe she'll be in Cheney again this year," said incoming Head Coach Hayden Holbrook. Holbrook's little brother, Sam, is anything but little. The powerful senior thrower found the sweet spot between his raw strength and good technique, and suddenly his shot flew out 10 feet farther than previous attempts.

Of particular note is freshman Charles Parent, a lithe long-distance runner who also is spending time on the long-jump runway. Parent has been a pleasant surprise in the men's 1600m, running the mile in 5:22 at the March 31 league meet at home. Now if only we can get him to stop being so polite during races!

The team's schedule in April shifts a bit because of invite meets sought out by Coach Holbrook, but the regular schedule calls for an April 13 league meet at Mount Vernon High School, with league preliminaries and finals on April 27 and 29, at Sedro-Woolley High School.



Senior Jasmine Hopfield demonstrates the form that has taken her to State in past seasons during the Seattle Academy Invite in Shoreline on March 19. Hopfield is a consistent competitor in the women's 100m hurdles, as well as field events such as the javelin and shotput.



Sophomore Becky Azure slings the discus during the Seattle Academy Invite in Shoreline on March 19.

Sports schedules:
nw1a2athletics.com



Junior Blaine Storms is coming out of the blocks faster than ever this year, thanks to coaching from former sprinters Hayden Holbrook and Andy Aiken. Here, Storms runs the 100m during the Seattle Academy Invite in Shoreline on March 19.

New Track coaches are CHS grads

This season the Concrete High School Track team welcomed a couple faces it hadn't seen for a few years.

New Head Coach Hayden Holbrook is a CHS class of 2013 graduate who excelled on the track and field during his high school career. He competed in the long jump, triple jump, high jump, and sprints, and was a member of the 4x100m relay team. He's familiar with the thrill of going to the State Tournament, and coaches this year's athletes to keep their eyes on the prize.

New Assistant Coach Andy Aiken joins Assistant Coach Jason Miller in the support role. A 2012 CHS graduate, Aiken was known for his rocket-fast starts out of the starting blocks during his time on the CHS Track team, when he competed in the same events as Holbrook—and went to State with them.



Holbrook



Aiken

The little station that could

KSVU 90.1 FM celebrates five years on the air in the Upper Valley.

These days, anyone living in the Upper Valley can tune their radio to 90.1 FM and catch an eclectic mix of conversation and music on KSVU, their community radio station. The station celebrated 5 years on the air in March.

Five years ago, KSVU didn't exist. The brainchild of Skagit Valley College Radio Service General Manager Rip Robbins, its story began in 2007, when the FCC opened an application-filing window for new radio channels, a rarity these days. Robbins jumped at the chance, applied for the channel, and put in for a federal grant that came through to the tune of \$110,000. The college kicked in another \$40,000 and the dream of KSVU was on its way to becoming a reality.

The fledgling radio station went on the air for the first time on March 17, 2011. It broadcast from the college for its first few months, with programming heavily dependent on simulcasts from its sister station, KSVR, then found a home in a portable building on the Concrete School District campus, near the elementary school. By then, Robbins was in full swing trying to make the Upper Valley station appealing to its Upper Valley audience.

"The goal was to engage the locals and build the programming themselves," he said. "We wanted to build a program schedule independent of KSVR."

Five years later, the programming goal is ongoing, with approximately half of the content generated and hosted by volunteer locals from all over the broadcast area, such as Christie Fairchild, Robert "Tex" McWilliams, Kathy Manzoor, Marren Yarbrough, Donna Rae Brockmann, Rick Bannerman, and many more. Any programming gaps are filled by simulcasts from KSVR.

"All over the place"

Program host McWilliams, who goes by "Tex" on the air, responded to an ad that Robbins ran in *Concrete Herald* for a year before the station went live.

"I was excited about it because I was involved with community radio in Kansas City, Missouri," said McWilliams. "What I like is if volunteers want a certain kind of music, we can find a slot for them."

McWilliams laughed when asked to describe his program, "Tex's Midmorning Mix," which airs every Tuesday at 10 a.m.

"It's all over the place," he said. "One program was the history of yodeling. Another was the history of river music. Another on blues. I'll play country. I did one on West Texas music—how the fiddle gained popularity in Texas, then developed into ranch music, which led to country music."

"I like the history of music. I see music as a tool for social anthropology. It's educating people on different genres and even going into new genres, like electro swing. I play all sorts, from all over the place. I look for rhythm, melody, and a message—and two out of three isn't bad."

Uncertain future

KSVU has found its niche and continues to evolve, but, five years in, the "mothership" at Skagit Valley College is running low on funds to subsidize the Upper Valley station. Since March 2011, fully half of the station's operating budget of about \$1,500 per month is picked up by the college, with the other half coming from Upper Valley donations. Unfortunately, that will have to change by July of this year, said Robbins.

"I'm running out of money, so the pressure is on, now," said Robbins.

To complicate matters, a simultaneous opportunity exists to increase the wattage of the station from 330 to 2,050 watts by buying a new transmitter. "If we bump to that, we will deliver a strong signal to more of those tucked-away places in the Upper Valley," said Robbins.

KSVR would pick up the cost of the transmitter, but if KSVU can't cover its own operating costs, there would be little point in upgrading its signal strength.

"So the fundraising is tenuous right now," said Robbins. It's really important that anyone who wants this thing to survive to come forward. Because if I run out of money, I don't know what will happen."

Even with the funding situation growing dire, KSVU volunteers remain loyal and hardworking. The station's annual "Blast Open the Pass" fundraiser dinner/dance is lined up for May 14 (see p. 26), and the



Volunteer radio personality Christie Fairchild, left, laughs it up with a guest at the KSVU studio during a recent show. Fairchild's show, "Local Yokel," airs on Thursdays at noon.



KSVU volunteers sing Happy Birthday to volunteer Erma Baude (far left) and the station, which celebrated five years on air last month. With Baude are, from left, Kathy Manzoor, Donna Rae Brockmann, Robert "Tex" McWilliams, and Christie Fairchild.

station held a donation drive in February to amp up its checking account.

"If we can find a way to pay the utilities, I think there's a great future for KSVU," said Robbins. "Five years is a turning

point. If we can keep this thing going, I think it can become self-supporting."

For more information about KSVU or how to donate, call 360.853.8588.

—J. K. M.





Academics



Concrete Elementary students were honored March 29 at a "Character Assembly" that celebrated the ways they demonstrated cooperation. Front row, from left, Savannah Middlemist, Prudence Star, Brodie Nick, Matthew Koss, Izaiah Allard, Halee Dickerman, Kolbie Richter. Back row, from left, Tomas Buchta, Carolynn Dominguez, Zach Rogers, Christopher Whorten, Briar Cain. *Photo by Jaci Gallagher.*



Concrete Elementary School students gathered for a March 30 Recognition Breakfast in honor of their special academic efforts. *Front row, from left, Violet Santarsiero, PAX behavior; Willa Whitford, completing and handing in all homework for the year; Oblio Thorn, thoughtfulness and consideration of others; Noah Martinez, excellence in math; Isabella Middlemist, academic achievement.* *Back row, from left, Faith Barry, reading growth in February and March; Anna Kiele, outstanding academic effort; Trever Spence, most improved; Patience Kruger, working hard to complete work/picking a good partner; Ashlyn Morgareidge, exhibiting thinking and hard work.* *Not pictured: Sophia Cupples, most improved in math; Troy Cyr, student leader, completes work, participates in discussions.*



Concrete Middle School students Leona Martinez and Echo Cyr plant a tree on March 9 during an outing with Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Program. Members of the Environmental Club led by teacher Bev Mowrer planted more than 500 trees during the March event. *Photo by Bev Mowrer.*



Rachel Sacco (left) and Marla Reed speak during a 1095 Skagit Spring Forum titled "Nourishing All Kids" at Concrete High School March 25. The event included updates on a variety of food programs in Skagit County, including backpack programs, summer meal programs, and Farm to School. Sacco coordinates the Farm to School program for the school district; Reed is the district's food service manager. 1095 Skagit takes its name from its mission, which is "to collaborate, coordinate, and communicate with families and community partners to ensure that every child in Skagit County eats three nutritious meals 365 days of the year" ($3 \times 365 = 1,095$).

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Jim Johnson (left) & Raylee Ward work together to put a young tree in the ground during the March 9 tree-planting trip with Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group. *Photo by Bev Mowrer.*

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All other questions:
Jason Miller, co-manager
360.853.8213 or goodwords@frontier.com

Free seeds available for all bed renters.
Free beds available in the Children's Garden for kids under 18 years.





Clear Lake



HISTORY CORNER

Easter Sunday, Clear Lake Congregational Church, 1916. One hundred thirty-nine children and adults are lined up on the boardwalk and porch in front of the church, wearing their Sunday best. Easter bonnets can be seen on several of the women, and several of the young men are sporting ties. Large,

floppy white bows and white leggings were the fashion of the day for the girls. *Photo courtesy of Clear Lake Historical Association.*

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

—Deanna Ammons, historian

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Community Calendar



APRIL

- 6 Pomona Grange contests at Fredonia Grange, 14245 McFarland Rd., Mount Vernon, 9 a.m. to noon; see notice, p. 34
- 9 StashFest fiber arts fundraiser for La Conner Quilt & Textile Museum, La Conner Middle/High School, 404 N. Sixth St., La Conner, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; see article, p. 34; info at 360.466.4288 or amy@laconnerquilts.org
- 9 "Turkey Shoot" to benefit Meals on Wheels, Moose Old Skagit Gun Club, 14533 Josh Wilson Rd., Burlington; 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; see notice, p. 34; info at 360.757.4326
- 9 Darrington Community Dance, Mansford Grange, milepost 49, Darrington; potluck at 5:30 p.m., dance from 7 to 9:30 p.m.; admission is \$7 suggested donation; info at 206.402.8646
- 10 Benefit Concert for Dave and Deborah Chapman, Concrete Theatre in Concrete Town Center, 2 to 4 p.m.; \$20 suggested donation at the door; see notice, p. 6
- 13 Grand Opening at Plumeria Breezes, 810 Metcalf St., Sedro-Woolley, 4 to 6 p.m.; see article, p. 17
- 16 Concrete Lions Softball Alumni Game, Concrete High School, 7830 S. Superior Ave., Concrete, 1 p.m.; find this event on Facebook
- 16 Sedro-Woolley Museum "Library Tulip-Time Tea," 725 Murdock, Sedro-Woolley, 1 to 4 p.m.; see article, p. 16; info at 360.855.2390
- 18 Deadline for advertising in the 2016 North Cascadian Travelers' Guide; see ad, p. 17; info at editor@concrete-herald.com or 360.853.8213
- 21–22 "Hope of All Hearts" women's conference, Darrington High School and Cascade Middle School; ticket prices vary; see ad, p. 4; info at 360.853.3066
- 22 Free Day at State Parks (Rasar and Rockport), Discover Pass not needed
- 23 Volunteer Day to install school garden, Farm to School portable near Concrete Elementary School, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; bring gloves; lunch provided

MAY

- 6 Concrete Lions Club "White Cane Days," with donation stations at Albert's Red Apple Market and Concrete Post Office
- 12 Barnaby Slough Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting, Concrete Center, 45821 Railroad St., Concrete, 6 to 8 p.m.
- 14 Day Creek Annual Pancake Feed and Crafts
- 14 "Blast Open the Pass" spring dance fundraiser for KSVU, Marblemount Community Hall, Marblemount; potluck supper at 6 p.m., music and dancing from 7 to 10 p.m.; admission \$8 per adult or \$15 per couple, children 12 and under free; see article, p. 26
- 15 "Meditation on the Mind," Skagit Valley Food Coop, 202 S. First St., Mount Vernon; free admission; info at www.skagitfoodcoop.com

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

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

Community meetings

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Concrete School District Board will hold its next work session on April 25, at 6 p.m. in the high school Commons. The board will hold its regular monthly meeting on April 28 at 6 p.m., in the high school Commons. 360.853.8141.

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

Darrington Strong meets the third Wed. of each month, 7 p.m., at Cascade Senior Center, 1115 Darrington St., Darrington. 360.436.2167.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Marblemount Community Hall board and staff meet the second Wed. of each month at the hall, at 6:30 p.m. 360.873.2048 or 360.853.8388.

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

Saukrates Cafe meets the last Wed. of each month at Annie's Pizza Station in Concrete, at 6 p.m. Conversation topics are posted at Upper Skagit Library and <http://saukratescafe.wordpress.com>.

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

Sedro-Woolley School District Board will hold a regular meeting on April 11 at 7 p.m. at the Support Services Bldg. The board will hold a second regular meeting on April 25 at 7 p.m. at Samish Elementary. 360.855.3500 or kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us.

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

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

Upper Skagit Writers meets the fourth Mon. of each month at 7 p.m., at 5b's Bakery, Concrete. Open to the public and all skill levels. corat0413@gmail.com.

Benefit Concert for Dave and Deborah Chapman

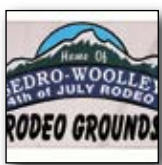
April 10, 2 to 4 p.m.

Concrete Theatre, Concrete Town Center

Admission: \$20 suggested donation



Sedro-Woolley



“Your Public Library” exhibit opens in April

The Sedro-Woolley Museum plans a Library Tulip-Time Tea as the opening event for its new exhibit, “Your Public Library: Past, Present, and Future.”

The tea, which is scheduled for Sat., April 16, from 1 to 4 p.m., is modeled after library fundraisers that were a tradition of the Sedro-Woolley Woman’s Club. The event also will include a program on the history of the city’s Carnegie Library.

The exhibit is the first in a new series of featured exhibits that tie the community’s history to current issues and events. It will open the first week of April and continue through the end of June at the Museum, which is located at 725 Murdock in Sedro-Woolley. Topics for featured exhibits to follow include Northern State Hospital, opening in July, and St. James Episcopal Church, opening in October.

The exhibit and opening program will highlight the Carnegie Library, which served the city from 1915 to 1962, but will explore preceding efforts to organize a public library and extend the story through the current libraries and issues

surrounding the future of library services.

The original lamp posts that flanked the staircase to the Carnegie will be installed permanently in the Museum’s entry gallery, thanks to the Bob Claus family. The exhibit will feature a few other original Carnegie items from the museum’s collections and lent by the Sedro-Woolley Public Library. The city library and the new Central Skagit Library are assisting the museum with the exhibit.

The museum is seeking memories of the Carnegie Library or stories told about it for a permanent memory book. Share memories in writing by sending them to:

Sedro-Woolley Museum
725 Murdock
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Memories also may be sent via e-mail to swmuseum@comcast.net. To share a story verbally, call the museum at 360.855.2390 or Sharon Howe at 360.540.0586. Contributions of artifacts, research materials, and memories are welcome for all of the featured exhibits.

Sedro-Woolley eighth grader goes to the Capitol

Delaney Aragōn has big plans for her future, and last month held an important step in realizing them. The Cascade Middle School eighth-grader spent the week in Olympia serving as a page in Washington’s Senate.

“My school was handing out fliers about the page program, and I decided it would be a great opportunity,” said Delaney.

Delaney has her sights set on Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, where she plans to specialize in cyber intelligence and security. She hopes her service in the Senate Page Program will boost her application to the prestigious aerospace school.

Delaney already is active beyond school, showing leadership in cheerleading, managing her school’s wrestling team, and going to youth group for her church. She reported being “nervous” stepping into a legislative role, but quickly became comfortable delivering documents, messages, and mail on the Senate floor.

“It was amazing,” said Delaney. “At first I was nervous about tripping or something, but I learned how to pass out the papers to the Senators and I was fine. It’s been a lot of fun and a really great experience.”

The sponsor for her week in the Senate was Sen. Kirk Pearson, R-Monroe. Although she was nervous to meet the senator, they quickly became acquainted and connected over sharing about their families, including her parents, Jarrod and Eva Aragōn of Sedro-Woolley.

Delaney’s father and grandfather served in the military, and several of her family members serve the community in the police. She hopes to follow in their footsteps by becoming a security and cyber intelligence expert that serves the country.

Pearson was impressed with her motivation to follow the lead of her family.



Sedro-Woolley eighth grader Delaney Aragōn spent a week last month in Olympia, serving as a page in the Washington State Senate. *Submitted photo.*

“Delaney is very grounded and energetic,” said Pearson. “I hope to see her on TV someday in her role as a security and intelligence sleuth.”

During their week in the program, students are responsible for transporting documents between offices, as well as delivering messages and mail. Pages spend time in the Senate chamber and attend page school to learn about parliamentary procedure and the legislative process. Students also draft their own bills and engage in a mock session.

Police body cameras and school start times were the top issues for Delaney to work on in the page mock legislative session. She experienced first-hand the challenges of legislating, debating bills, and holding votes.

“It was a pleasure having Delaney serve as page here in Olympia,” said Pearson. “She’s got a bright future ahead.”

—Submitted by
Sen. Kirk Pearson’s office

Pacific Northwest Trail Association hires interim executive director

The Pacific Northwest Trail Association (PNTA), a nonprofit supporting partner of the 1,200 mile (1,900 km) Pacific Northwest Trail, announced on March 16 the selection of Reed Waite as the its interim executive director. Waite will fill the vacancy left by Jon Knechtel through the summer while the PNTA board recruits the association’s next leader.

“We’re very excited to have Reed on board in this period of transition,” said PNTA President Charles Carpenter. “Waite brings leadership and a deep sense of commitment to the association’s mission. He has served nonprofits at all levels and in different roles, and will be a wonderful asset to the association as we begin the search for a new executive director.”

Waite was previously at Washington Water Trails Association (WWTA),

working on National Millennium, National Recreation, and National Historic Trails. He also served as the interim executive director for western Washington’s Second Harvest affiliate Food Lifeline and its 23 employees in the late 1990s. He was a member of the Washington State Parks Statewide Trails Policy Task Force, Washington Department of Natural Resource’s Recreation Rules Advisory Group, and the Oregon Statewide Water Trails Steering Committee. Board experience includes the Washington State Trails Coalition, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, and EarthShare Washington.

“Like many others in the trail community, I’ve admired PNTA’s successes for more than a decade,” said Waite. “The Pacific Northwest Trail Association is fulfilling a vital role as the Forest Service begins the process of developing a Comprehensive Plan for long term management and administration of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail. My goal is to set the stage for the Association’s evolution in supporting this national treasure.”

—Submitted by
Pacific Northwest Trails Assn

Plumeria Breezes Travel to host grand opening celebration at chamber

Plumeria Breezes Travel of Sedro-Woolley will host a Grand Opening Celebration at the Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce on Wed., April 13, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Although Monique Brigham has been in business for several years as a home-based travel entrepreneur, she has now set up shop at the local chamber and will be working from one of their offices by appointment.

On establishing an official office for her business, Brigham said, “I’m so excited for this new chapter for my travel agency. I will still be available for clients worldwide, but I am thrilled that local clients will now have a place to meet up

with me one-on-one.”

The Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce is located at 810 Metcalf St. in Sedro-Woolley. Attendees at the grand opening celebration can look forward to soft drinks, light appetizers, wine, exclusive offers, door prize drawings, and the chance to win a free trip. Admission is free.

Brigham was inspired to become a travel agent by her intense passion for travel. Her favorite place to travel to is the Big Island in Hawaii. In fact, she loves Hawaii so much that the first destination certificate she completed was a course to become a Hawaii travel specialist. She holds many travel certifications now, but Hawaii will always hold a special place in her heart. Because of her many certifications, she can confidently answer any questions someone might have about their intended travel destinations.

To learn more about Brigham and the Grand Opening Celebration of Plumeria Breezes Travel, call 360.391.6001, e-mail monique@plumeriabreezestravel.com, or go to www.plumeriabreezestravel.com.

—Submitted by Monique Brigham

Ecology Youth Corps hiring teens for summer jobs in Skagit County

The Washington Department of Ecology’s Northwest Regional Office plans to hire 70 teenagers across Northwest Washington this summer as part of the Ecology Youth Corps. Teens chosen for the program will be assigned to one of six crews based in King, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom counties.

In 2015, Ecology Youth Corps crews picked up 1.1 million pounds of litter and cleaned 5,244 miles of roads statewide.

Since 1975, the program has hired more than 12,000 Washington teens, offering them work experience, a summer job, and the chance to preserve Washington’s natural beauty and protect our state’s environment.

Teens chosen for EYC will work up to 37.5 hours per week, either 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, or 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. four days per week. Participants will work one of two sessions: June 28 to July 22, or July 25 to Aug. 17, and will earn \$11 an hour.

Applicants must be ages 14–17 as of June 28. Applications are due by April 13 and are available through area school counselors or online at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/eyc/nwro.html.

For more information, contact Steven Williams in Ecology’s Northwest Regional office at steven.williams@ecy.wa.gov or 425.649.7048.

—Submitted by Dept. of Ecology

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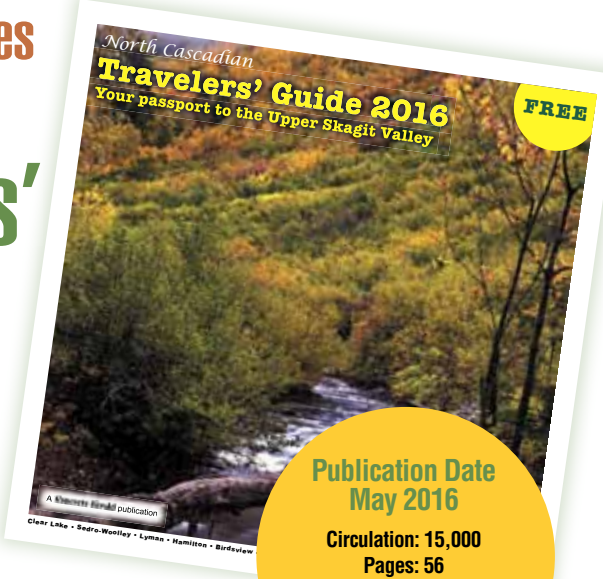
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Publication Date
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Circulation: 15,000
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Lyman



Day Creek



How to help those in need Tips and reasons for support.

By Lumbie Mlambo

The poor are always with us—and in great numbers.

In the United States, about 46.5 million people live in poverty, according to the Brookings Institution. Worldwide, the number of impoverished people is about 1.6 billion, according to a study by Oxford economists.

The truth is that regardless of whether a nation is industrialized or not, the needy are everywhere. Many people require aid and support around the world and, most likely, in your community.

A variety of private and public agencies try to help, but their resources are

limited and they can't provide for every community in need of assistance or basic necessities. This leaves a large segment of low-income populations with unmet needs, which is why it's so important for everyone to do what they can to help the needy.

Here are some tips for getting started helping community members in need.

- One person's trash: Next time you're taking time to clear some room in your closet or garage, remember that though you may be finished with an item, someone else may need it.

Those old pajamas, underwear, and T-shirts that you're fond of tossing in the trash can be turned into cloth rags for cleaning at home, or for other organizations to help the underprivileged earn a subsistence income through using them for cloth crafting. Items such as looseleaf pages of paper, construction paper, crayons (broken and whole), markers, pens, and pencils are perfectly useful, especially for poor children going back to school.

- Help others on date night. Lavish dresses, spotless tuxedos, and expensive dishes are not only for fancy people. You, too, can attend a luxurious gala event to benefit charity. While this kind of event may be attended by affluent community leaders and well-to-do folks who may enjoy gratuitous back-slapping, the more important consideration

is who benefits. Various good causes may be small businesses and historic sites in your town; better causes, however, often go toward organizations that benefit struggling families, disadvantaged children and homeless people. This will likely be more expensive than your typical date night, but most are doable for middle-class couples.

- Donate your professional skills.

Among the great charitable organizations are programs supporting Guardians ad Litem, or GALs. A GAL is a person the court appoints to represent the best interests of a child in a divorce or parental rights and responsibilities case. There are many other worthy causes if this doesn't fit what you're good at. A chef may help prepare tasty meals, or a salon worker may help make young girls with cancer feel pretty.

Community notes

Firefighters Appreciation Dinner

The dinner was held on March 15 and was a great success. Food was plenty; 50 chairs were filled and others stood to visit. After the meal and an introduction of Firefighters by Chief Travis Arendse, the fire engines were brought out for inspection and questions by the community.

Day Creek Community is grateful for all the training and time the firefighters of District 16 donate to keep Day Creek a safe place.

Save these dates

Mark your calendar for the following events this year:

- May 14: Day Creek Annual Pancake Feed and Crafts
- July 19: Barbecue Potluck at Pulvers
- Nov. 15: Progressive Dinner

If you have an idea for a community gathering, call 360.826.3003 or 360.826.3581.

Community Block Watch planned

We are organizing a Community Block Watch. There will be a planning meeting scheduled soon. We have been going over a few ideas at the Community Potlucks. There is lots of information to go over and much to plan. If you are interested in being part of the coordinating team, contact Donna Pulver at 360.826.3003 or Kathy Henderson 360.826.3581.

Friendship House Helping Hand

At the April 19 Day Creek Community Potluck, there will be a special speaker, Sue Walden. We are banding together as a community to reach out to the homeless and will be serving a Monthly Dinner at the Friendship House (prep at 3 p.m. and dinner at 5 p.m. on the last Sunday of each month). Walden will be speaking on the gift of reaching out and how you can help.

WOMEN HAND in hand

WOMEN HAND in hand will welcome Isik Abila in April. Born in Turkey, Abila was raised in a devout Muslim home. More information about Abila and her ministry is at www.isikabla.com.

The event will be held April 21 at Darrington High School and April 22 and 23 at Sedro-Woolley High School. For ticket information, go to www.womenhandinhand.com or follow Eventbrite to purchase tickets. For more information, call 360.853.3066 and see the ad on p. 4 of this issue.

WOMEN HAND in hand can be followed on its Facebook page or on its Web site. To join WOMEN HAND in hand, call 360.826.3067.

Kingdom Builders

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

Donna Pulver and Kathy Henderson, co-directors of Kingdom Builders, are reaching out to those in the Day Creek community who need help with trips

to the doctor, hospital visits, store runs, and more. If you would like to become available to be a community helper, call 360.826.3003, 360.826.3581, or 360.826.3822.

Day Creek Book Club

The book club is open to new members. Members are welcome to host a book club meeting at their favorite "hang out" spot. Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at Cedar Springs Lodge on Barben Road. For more information, call 360.661.0247.

Garden Dirt

Spring is here!

- Plant the flowers and veggies to attract pollinators: echinacea, butterfly bush, daisy, daylily, parsley, fennel, and dill. Avoid pesticides; we need these pollinators to continue to create for us.
- Later in April (usually we are frost-free by mid April), plant candytuft, cosmos, larkspur, and nasturtium. You can do cool-weather vegetable seeds if your ground is ready.
- April is also the start of slug season. Cultivation of the soil will disturb the slug habitat; if you see eggs, remove them as you weed your gardens. Slugs will burrow into the ground (2 inches or so) so that removing old boards and pots and stirring up the areas will help. Also, cornmeal around newly planted items will get rid of fungus and those slugs.

- In-ground fuchsias will need be cut back.
- Spray for apple scabs every two weeks this month.
- Your children should be spending time outside in the dirt. Get them to help with the weeding and winter cleanup of the gardens.

News and tips should be sent via e-mail to winningcircularanch@gmail.com.

—Compiled by Kathy Henderson

2016 Community Potluck dates

April 19, 6:30 p.m.
May 17, 6:30 p.m.
June 21, 6:30 p.m.
July 19, 6:30 p.m.
August 16, 6:30 p.m.
September 20, 6:30 p.m.
October 18, 6:30 p.m.
November 15, 6:30 p.m.
December 20, 6:30 p.m.

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Open for Business

Lone Star Restaurant & Waterin' Hole

Matty's On Main

Sonny Bear's Restaurant

New businesses are popping up like mushrooms in Concrete and Grasmere, some under new ownership and one a brand-new endeavor.

Lone Star Restaurant & Waterin' Hole

Housed in the historic Concrete Drug Co. building, Lone Star Restaurant opened on March 28 and immediately started getting good reviews.

The sit-down eatery, owned and operated by locals Brian Massingale and



Cheryl Taylor and Brian Massingale own and operate Lone Star Restaurant & Waterin' Hole.

Cheryl Taylor, offers a large menu of home-cooked meals, including burgers, sandwiches, soups and salads, dinner baskets, steaks, ribs, fish and seafood, and more. Special days include Mexican Food Monday and Friday Night Prime Rib, which starts at 4 p.m. every Friday. The restaurant includes a full bar.

Lone Star's owners have a solid business plan and marketing strategy that should appeal to any customer.

"We really cater to locals, but we love visitors," said Cheryl. "We want this to be a hometown restaurant."

Brian concurs. "I looked at our Town Center and thought, we only have a few restaurants; it would be nice to have more variety. We think we can do our part to help Concrete boom again."

Look for a Grand Opening celebration at Lone Star this month.

Matty's On Main

With new owners Joseph and Amanda King, Matty's On Main reopened on Feb. 3 in its original location, 45726 Main St. (immediately west of Concrete Assembly of God church).

The Kings have been busy reimagining the eclectic business, even surveying locals to find out what they need to buy repeatedly, so they can tailor their inventory accordingly.

Look for a shift in merchandise during the coming months, with second-hand goods, overstock, close-outs, hunting and fishing equipment, power tools, and jewelry taking over the shelves. The couple already offers pre-paid cell phones, but they plan to push hard after the pass opens, probably sometime before mid-May.

Until then, stop by and check out the original inventory, and keep tabs on this small business as it evolves into a popular stop.

At a glance: Sonny Bear's Restaurant

Where: 44618 SR 20, Grasmere

Phone: 360.853.8652

Hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., closed Tue.,
Opens at noon on Sun.



Sonny Bear's Restaurant

Korean cuisine is back in the Upper Valley! After an extended closure, the Grasmere restaurant is open again under the ownership of Jung Seo.

Word has it this is the place to go for something different. Vegetarian? Check.

Mild, regular, or extra-spicy? Check. Start with an appetizer and go from there. The Korean Barbecue should be a hit; diners can choose from marinated beef, pork, chicken, or short rib, and spice it up to their taste. Noodles, rice, and Korean "pancakes" round out the menu.



At a glance: Matty's On Main

Where: 45726 Main St., Concrete

Phone: 360.630.5468

Hours: Mon. to Sat., 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Find them on Facebook

March in pictures



Above: Claudia Marken is the new face you see at the East County Resource Center. She's the center's new coordinator and began her duties on March 1. You might recognize Marken; she ran the New 2 You consignment shop just west of Valleys West Realty for a few years, then went back to school and took a job as a paralegal for a local attorney until the Resource Center position opened up. "This seemed like a natural fit," she said of her new position. "I know firsthand what it's like to experience bumps in the road. I'm familiar with the people and the needs here, so I feel good about where I'm at. It will be a smooth transition."

Below: Concrete Public Works employees Alan Wilkins (left) and Jimmy Luttrell tighten the last bolts on a new piece of playground equipment at Silo Park. Dubbed "Hurricane," the play fixture allows kids to jump up, grab hold, and spin around at a tilt.



Above: Sara Pritchard holds a plaque commemorating 25 years of service to the seniors of the Upper Valley in her role as director of the Concrete Center in Concrete during a retirement party in her honor on March 11. The plaque was a gift from Pritchard's Advisory Board members, and was presented to her by Skagit County Commissioner Lisa Janicki.

During her 25 years of service to Skagit County, Pritchard was a familiar, trustworthy face for area seniors who visited the center to eat, socialize, and enjoy the activities planned for them weekly. On her watch, Concrete Center was a safe, comfortable getaway for older community members.

No replacement for Pritchard has yet been named. That decision, as well as decisions regarding the use and programming of the Concrete Center, are still forthcoming, although it has been announced that meals will continue to be served.



Hamilton



Rockport



On the hunt for Easter eggs ...

The Hamilton Volunteer Fire Department and the Hamilton Cafe and Store held their annual Kids' Easter Egg Hunt on Sun., March 20. The overcast skies did nothing to stop the excitement of approximately 40 kids and their families. The volunteer firefighters and other community members worked together to place hundreds of colorful candy-filled eggs around the Hamilton Town Hall and Park. After the hunt, refreshments were served, provided by Hamilton Cafe and Store and other community members. There were prizes and face-painting available for all the children.

Left: Alice Hansen, 7, races to gather her share of the eggs. **Right:** Zoe Levette Ginsberg, 4, and her Dad, Bob Ginsberg, check out her surprises.

—Story and photos by Cari Goree



Grow Your Best Tomato Yet

By Melinda Myers

Nothing beats the flavor of fresh-from-the-garden tomatoes. Make this your biggest and tastiest tomato harvest yet with proper planting and care.

Reduce pest problems and increase the harvest by growing your tomatoes in a sunny location with well-drained soil or in a quality potting mix for container gardens. Improve your garden soil by adding several inches of organic matter to the top 8 to 12 inches of soil prior to planting. Compost, aged manure, and other organic materials help improve drainage in heavy clay soil and increase the water-holding ability of sandy soil.

Add a slow-release organic nitrogen fertilizer according to label directions at planting. Slow-release fertilizers provide a

constant diet that is better for your plants and less work for you. Save yourself more time by mixing the fertilizer into the soil when incorporating the organic matter. Then give your plants a midseason boost as needed.

Once the soil is prepared, wait for the air and soil to warm to plant your tomatoes. Planting too early when the soil is still cool and the nights are chilly can stress the plant and delay your harvest.

Plant your tomatoes slightly deeper or in a trench for better rooting. Trench tomatoes by digging a shallow trench about 3 to 4 inches deep. Remove the lower leaves and lay the plant on its side in the hole. Roots will eventually form along the stem. Carefully bend the stem,

so the upper leaves will be above the soil. Fill the trench with soil and water.

Stake or tower your tomatoes to reduce insect and disease problems and make harvesting easier. The type of tomato and your schedule will help determine the training system that works best for you.

Determinate tomatoes (look for the D on the tag) grow a certain height and stop. They work well in towers, containers, or even hanging baskets. Indeterminate tomatoes, labeled with an I, keep growing taller, producing more flowers and fruit until the end of the growing season. These do best when grown on tall sturdy stakes or extra tall strong towers.

Towering tomatoes is easy. Simply place the tower over the tomatoes at planting. Tomatoes grown in towers produce a larger, but later harvest than staked tomato plants.

Allow a bit more time if you decide to stake your plants. Place the stake in the ground at planting. Be careful not to injure the roots. As the plants begin to

grow, prune off all side branches, suckers that develop between the main stem and leaves. Loosely tie the remaining one or two stems to the stake. Cloth strips, twine, or other soft ties work well. Keep tying up the plants as they continue to grow. Staked tomatoes produce the earliest and smallest harvest.

Check new plantings every few days and water often enough to keep the developing root system moist. Reduce frequency as plants become established. Water established plants thoroughly whenever the top few inches of soil are slightly moist. Mulch the soil with evergreen needles, shredded leaves or other organic mulch to keep the soil consistently moist and suppress weeds. Consistent soil moisture encourages more flowering and fruiting, while reducing the risk of blossom end rot, cracking, and misshapen fruit.

Melinda Myers is a gardening expert, TV/radio host, author, and columnist.

Council summary

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

- Public Comment:** Bill Reinard presented more information on the Skagit River Steelhead Gene Bank issue. Resident Brian Friend thanked everyone who helped with the passing of his horse.
- Mayor Cromley talked about the resolution regarding the Skagit River Steelhead Gene Bank designation. Council voted unanimously to accept Resolution 01–2016 opposing the designation.
- Mayor Cromley discussed the water rates and the brief utility tax audit we had that morning. Solutions for paying the taxes due were discussed. The current water rates were reviewed. Council voted unanimously to adopt Ordinance 318, which revises the water plan Ordinance 297, Addendum A, which increases the water rates by 20 percent for 2016.
- Mayor Cromley talked about the need for an ordinance for the council members to be members of the Fire Department. Mayor Cromley had
- e-mailed MRSC to verify if the mayor could be on the Volunteer Fire Department. MRSC's response was that mayors are not allowed to be a member of a volunteer fire department by state code. Council voted unanimously to accept Ordinance 319.
- Water Dept.:** Cas Hancock announced the 4 percent unaccounted water loss. Mayor Cromley reported issues with two water bills, one for the Johnson account and one for the Betlem/Coker account. Council approved a one-time forgiveness for the Johnson account's October bill, and modified the Betlem/Coker bill to \$45.
- Fire Dept.:** Mayor Cromley talked about the Department of Health medical grant and the American Red Cross redoing their memorandums of understanding. Council agreed to approve both.
- Street Dept.:** Mayor Cromley talked about the State TIB grant to switch streetlights to have LED lights. Council approved to sign the grant. PSE will change the lights in the next few months. Also, the maintenance crew has been filling/patching pot holes.

—Compiled from staff minutes

From the Mayor

Thank you to everyone who prepared for and participated in the Easter Egg Hunt!

I wasn't able to be there (I was chaperoning Girl Scout cookie sales), but I heard attendance was good. Please consider adding a donation to the can kept at the Hamilton Café for the Fire Department's Kids Fund.

Thanks to Ashley Horton and her Senior Project, every picture on the wall of the Slipper House living room has a new label and is scanned so we can share them online. It was great to see some of the family connections between photos of Hamilton's history. She also helped with the Christmas party and Kids Club, and attended a couple council meetings.

—Mayor Joan Cromley



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Winter hours are Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00am – 3:00pm or weekends by appointment
vintageaircraftmuseum.org
360.770.4848





Darrington



Library has new manager

Story and photo by Marla Skaglund

Asheley Bryson has been named Branch Manager of the Sno-Isle Library branch in Darrington. In 2008, Bryson was the last person Linda McPherson hired before her retirement.

With a background in management, Bryson has brought many new opportunities in learning to the library, with programs ranging from beginning writing, poetry readings, and visiting authors, to Lego Robotics and family coloring time. She has started a Classic Reading group which has included *Little Women* and *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*.

Bryson accepts everyone's ideas for different selections. Minecraft, an educational video game, is offered to anyone who wishes to play. April 4 will be the first "Read with Rover" reading activity for young students.

Bryson said she finds it very rewarding to be able to help someone find the book that propels that person to take up reading as a lifelong, enjoyable activity.

She plans to stay involved in the area by

attending different community meetings and continuing to offer new activities at the library. Several months ago the library hosted a TED (Technology, Entertainment and Design) conference by way of satellite feed. "The room was full," said Bryson. "I was happy to see several high school students come back after school." Another TED activity is scheduled for April 16 and will broadcast from Western Washington State University.

Bryson also is excited by the fact that attendance at different events has grown in the past year. "Four more folks are attending each event, which adds up to a substantial number overall," she explained. "I'm excited about the future here and look forward to keeping the library a welcoming place for everyone."

Editor's note: Sno-Isle Branch Manager Asheley Bryson provides a schedule for her column in every issue of Concrete Herald. Find it on p. 32 every month.



Asheley Bryson is the new branch manager for the Sno-Isle branch library in Darrington.

Snohomish County Sheriff's Report

March 23

Snohomish County Sheriff's deputies arrested an assault suspect after a short pursuit in the Arlington area.

Today at about 9:30 a.m., a victim arrived at the Sheriff's North Precinct reporting that another man had shot at him nearby. Deputies began investigating, determining the alleged shooting occurred near 128th St. NE and 34th Ave. NE in the Marysville area. Deputies broadcast suspect information, including a vehicle description, to all local police.

About 1:06 p.m., a Tulalip Tribal Police Officer spotted the suspect vehicle driving north on I-5 through Marysville. Sheriff's deputies and a Snohomish Police Dept. K9 deputy responded to the area and attempted to stop the suspect vehicle. It slowed, but refused to stop; deputies utilized the Pursuit Intervention Technique maneuver and stopped the vehicle just north of the Smokey Point Rest area.

During the follow-up investigation at the pursuit scene, the inside (left) lane of I-5 was blocked for some time, causing traffic to build in the area. The suspect's vehicle was impounded pending a search warrant for evidence.

The male victim is in his 40s and from the Stanwood area. The suspect is 40 and from Everett.

March 30

The Snohomish County Sheriff's Office is investigating an attempted child abduction that took place in the 1600 block of 316th St. NW, Stanwood, on March 26, at approximately 7:45 p.m.

This is a very rural area of the county where there is little to no foot traffic along the roadways and the majority of the homes are on acreage. The suspect approached the 10 year-old-female victim from behind while she was swinging on a rope swing in her yard.

Just prior to the assault, a child witness had seen a middle-aged white male adult on the roadway in front of the property on a bicycle. The subject was described as bald, skinny, and average height. He was wearing a blue or green sweatshirt or shirt. The bike was described as silver with black wheels.

Anyone with information about this incident is urged to call the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office Tip Line at 425.388.3845.

WSP detectives seek witnesses to collision

The Washington State Patrol's Major Accident Investigation Team (MAIT) is investigating a two-vehicle fatality collision that occurred at approximately 2:55 a.m. on Feb. 29. A Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) truck was parked on the inside shoulder of northbound I-5 at milepost 190 in Everett. The truck had a truck-mounted attenuator attached to the rear and an overhead arrow board directing traffic to stay right. The driver of a 1991 Ford Explorer drove onto the inside shoulder and was on the shoulder for several hundred feet before striking the rear of the WSDOT truck and catching fire. The driver of the Explorer was fatally injured and the WSDOT truck driver sustained minor injuries.

MAIT detectives are examining all aspects that lead to this collision and seek additional witnesses to the actual event or anything leading up to or after the crash. Anyone with information about the collision is asked to contact Detective Sgt. Jerry Cooper at 425.508.0602 or jerry.cooper@wsp.wa.gov.

Master Gardener Foundation offers \$1,000 horticulture scholarship

The Snohomish County Master Gardener Foundation is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to a Snohomish County resident enrolled in a Washington State college or university to study horticulture.

The winner of the Snohomish County scholarship also will have their application forwarded to the Master Gardener Foundation of Washington State for consideration for the \$1,000 Van Bobbitt Scholarship.

Deadline for submission is May 2.

For more information and to download an application, go to www.snomgf.org/scholarship.html.

StrutzFest returns after three-year hiatus

One of the Pacific Northwest's premier music festivals is back for a three-day run in Darrington.

StrutzFest 2016 is slated for July 28-30 at Darrington Music Park, just west of Darrington on SR 530. Ticket sales began on April 2.

The revived StrutzFest kicks off at 7 p.m. on Thur., July 28, with a performance by the winner of the KISM-sponsored "Road to Rockstar" competition, followed at 9 p.m. by Whiskey River.

On July 29 the music starts at noon with Flightline, followed by The Davanos, The Joe Slick Band, Strutz, and Heart By

Heart.

The final day of StrutzFest has The Michelle Taylor Band on the stage at noon, followed by El Loco, Blue Tattoo, The Led Zeppelin Experience (previously No Quarter), and Spike & the Impalers closing out the event.

A weekend pass includes early entry on Thursday for \$70. Day passes are \$50. A camping pass is available for \$40 (four people, one vehicle maximum per site).

For more information, go to www.strutzfest.com.

—J. K. M.

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Marblemount



Nature Notes

Nature: In living color

By Laura Busby

‘Blast Open the Pass’ dance on May 14

By Christie Fairchild

KSVU radio’s annual spring fundraiser dance should find folks shaking off their winter blues and celebrating the season a little later than normal.

Generally held the first Saturday in May, this year Mother’s Day takes that priority, so May 14 it will be. Most likely the pass will be open by then, but you never know, especially considering later season avalanches.

Besides enjoying delightful music by Jumbled Pie, the Marblemount Community Hall will be festively decorated, with a potluck supper kicking off the night at 6 p.m. Raffle prizes will be on display with chances all evening to buy tickets for that item or service you are pining for, as well as opportunities to learn more about our local community radio station, KSVU 90.1 FM, and the various ways to support it.

In addition, raffle prizes are still needed, so if you have something to donate, please call the station at 360.853.8588 and leave your name and number, and we will return your call. You are also welcome to drop

off raffle items at the station, Portable Classroom B behind Concrete Elementary School. Prizes in past years have varied from local paintings and photography to handmade jewelry, homemade jams and herbal concoctions, wine and cheese baskets, author-autographed books, movie theater tickets, gift certificates to local businesses, local grass-fed beef, firewood and gravel, and services such as babysitting and pony (muley) rides for children’s parties. So think creatively and join the fun. Help keep KSVU on the air and serving you.

Once again:

What: KSVU’s annual “Blast Open the Pass” Spring Dance

When: Sat., May 14
Potluck supper at 6 p.m.
Music and dancing from 7 to 10 p.m.

Tickets: \$8 per adult or \$15 per couple. Children 12 and under get free admission.

Construction begins on Cascade River Rd. in April

Cascade River Rd. will be closed to all vehicle and foot traffic from April 3 through May 13 during construction on Hard Creek Bridge. Drivers may experience up to 20-minute delays from May 14 to May 25.

The road closure will begin at the Lookout Mountain Trail parking area near milepost 7 and will affect hikers and climbers approaching the area from the east or west side. The closure includes Eldorado Peak and other peaks accessed via Eldorado Creek.

Cascade River Rd. provides access to the very popular Cascade Pass, Horseshoe Basin, and Sahale Arm Trails, as well as a scenic route for visitors hiking across the park to Stehekin. Boston Basin is a popular climbing area, with access to Forbidden, Sahale, and Sharkfin peaks, among others. This temporary road closure will ensure continued access to these areas in the future, with less potential for road failure.

For assistance with trip planning, suggestions for alternative spring hikes or climbs, or to learn about alternate hiking routes to Stehekin, contact the information desk at 360.854.7304.

The good news is ...

By Sasa and Starwalker

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

—Margaret Mead

Architect Rolf Disch built the Heliotrope (the first building in the world to capture more energy than it uses) and decided to dive further into his project called Sonnenschiff (Solar Ship).

The energy-creating building took off; over the years, Disch has built 60 more energy-positive electrical systems. Today, the village, Solarsiedlung (Solar Village) produces four times more energy than it consumes—let that sink in for a minute. This building actually puts out four times the energy it takes in. The village is located in Freiburg, Germany, which is known as the ecological capital of Germany and home to Europe’s largest solar research center.

For more information, go to <https://www.minds.com/blog/view/407634747297107968>.

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

What causes that brilliant color on the chin of a hummingbird or the vibrant red of a columbine? Light, in the form of colors and energy, enriches our daily lives. Colors are fundamental in nature. They provide food, enhance breeding strategies, and increase the possibility of survival.

Food for all

Color is essential for making food. Chlorophyll is a pigment that absorbs all wavelengths of light except green. It facilitates the conversion of sunlight energy into glucose (sugar) that plants need to live and grow. Without photosynthesis, nothing could survive. Atmospheric oxygen is a valuable byproduct of this process.

Flower power

Different plants have adapted to live in varying amounts of light. Low-growing plants in the forest, such as Indian plums and western trilliums, take advantage of the longer spring daylight and warmth to produce flowers. More light energy is available before the deciduous trees, like bigleaf maple, leaf out and shade the forest floor. Visit Rockport or Rasar state parks this month to see some spring woodland flowers.

Flowering plants utilize color as part of their survival strategy. Since plants can’t move, they are quite proficient in getting animals to travel for them. Many plants produce colorful blooms to attract pollinators and have bright berries to

encourage seed dispersal. Animals often benefit from the efforts of these “travel agents,” too.

Showy flowers often are designed for specific pollinators. Tubular red flowers containing large quantities of nectar, such as columbine, are appealing to hummingbirds, but they deter most insect pollinators by lacking scent and a place to land. Hummingbirds have the long beak required to reach the nectar, and they don’t need a landing site.

Many pollinators see a different portion of the light spectrum than we do. They may not see red, but can see ultraviolet (UV) light. Insect-pollinated flowers use UV light to highlight a “landing platform,” advertising the location of nectar and pollen. Bees and butterflies are important pollinators that see these flower advertisements.

Berries and fruits are brightly colored and can have a waxy coating that reflects UV light. Bright and UV colors draw attention and indicate ripeness. Many critters that eat the fruits leave the seeds behind or ingest them, depositing them later with “fertilizer.” The animals benefit, too. Salmonberry, for example, is an important, locally common food source for migrating birds.

The animal color palette

Color is also critical to animals. Animals display colors to attract mates, repel predators, and hide. Melanin is the primary pigment responsible for blonde,



A fawn’s coloring helps to conceal it from predators. *Creative Commons photo.*

tan, reddish brown, brown, and black. Animals don’t have the ability to make the range of pigments that plants have, so they also have structural mechanisms to show color. Warm-blooded animals (mammals and birds) have different cell types than cold-blooded animals (amphibians, reptiles, fish) for coloration.

Skin, fur, feathers, or scales that lack pigment are white. Albino animals are all white with pink eyes, due to a lack of melanin. They may appear yellow or yellow spotted because they can still have nonmelanin pigments. Albino animals are at a great disadvantage and often don’t survive. White animals that retain a normal eye color are called leucistic. Leucistic animals may be all white, spotted, or patchy white. These animals

are also at a disadvantage for survival, but can be found. Watch for robins and other common yard birds with odd patches of white.

Complex color creation

Birds are famous for amazing colors. Brilliant feather colors are made by structural design rather than pigment. Blue feathers, for example, have microscopic features on their surface that cause blue light to be reflected. Pigments can be a part of this process. Hold a blue feather at different angles; it will turn from blue to gray or brown as it loses light reflectivity and only the pigment remains visible.

Structural features are also responsible

See *Color*, p. 26

Color, cont. from p. 27

for iridescent colors. The dazzling throat of a hummingbird shines with iridescence when flashed, but looks dull without direct light. Male hummers use these colors to attract females and as threats over territory or feeding sites.

Another interesting way some animals gain color is through the food that they eat. House finches, for example, have a reddish color on their heads and chests. Depending on food availability, their color can vary from yellow to red. Amphibians and reptiles have three

layers of cells that combine pigment and structure to make their color. Frogs have one cell layer with yellow pigment and another that reflects blue light, creating green. They also have the ability to increase or diminish pigment, allowing them to change the intensity of their color.

Hide and seek

Bold or contrasting colors are useful to communicate warnings to potential predators. Many caterpillars warn of toxins and bad taste. Some butterflies

and moths have fake eyespots that cause predators to miss the mark in an attack. Skunks’ contrasting fur advertises their musk, which predators learn to avoid. Stinging wasps and bees are boldly colored with bands of yellow and black.

On the other side of this color equation are animals that are cryptic. The ability to blend in is a huge advantage for predator and prey animals alike. From moths to fawns, camouflage from predators is essential. Predators, like praying mantises and cougars, are more successful with

concealment.

Colors make this world beautiful. They also are amazingly complex and an integral part of survival in nature. Plants and animals use colors in diverse ways for everything from making and capturing food to reproduction. What role does color play in human lives?

Laura Busby is an Interpretive Specialist for Washington State Parks.

Marijuana, cont. from p. 33

sales are predicted to reach \$971.7 million, producing a tax pool for the state of \$360 million based on the 37 percent rate. At a 25 percent tax rate, state revenue would drop \$116.6 million in 2021.

Hurst’s and Condotta’s new proposal, in addition to lowering the tax, disallows local bans on legal marijuana sales, unless a ban is already in place. State statutes would preempt local ordinances.

Bans and moratoriums in cities have been cited as undermining the state’s ability to continue implementation of I-502, while also fueling the illegal industry.

“It’s fair to say that there are marijuana

sales going on in every community, whether or not you choose to have it tightly regulated and have it legal,” Smith said. “There’s still going to be a black market going on at the local level, even if you have a ban.”

Representatives of some cities, however, contend municipalities deserve the right to decide for themselves how to manage this new industry.

Candace Bock of the Association of Washington Cities said it’s wrong to think that just because the initiative passed, that widespread support for legal pot sales exists throughout the state. Even with the

bans, she said, people still have reasonable access to retail marijuana.

“What we’re trying to encourage is more flexibility around that local control,” Bock said at an earlier hearing on the measure. “These bans are not creating a significant access problem.”

The fight to find ways to keep the young marijuana industry growing while decreasing illegal sales is predicted to continue in future legislative sessions.

According to retailers like Bowers, who supports the tax reduction, squeezing out the black market will lead to more jobs within the legal industry.

“Someday it will be as simple running a cannabis shop as it is to run a coffee shop,” Bowers said. “Someday, growing cannabis will be like growing any other agricultural crop. In the meantime, we have to figure out how all this works.”

This story is part of a series of news reports from the Washington State Legislature provided through a reporting internship sponsored by the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation. Reach reporter LaVendrick Smith at lavendricksmith@gmail.com; follow him on Twitter: @LaVendrickS).



Seniors



Coffee Break Events remembered

By Patrick M. Kennedy

You remember the times when you drove down this highway before. Once when you were much younger and were escaping the boring day-after-day existence at your old home. You wanted to find something more interesting so you hit the road. And another time later in life when you and your mate decided on a quick vacation but didn't know where to go. Now you are passing one of the motels you stayed in on that trip. You stopped and got some take-out food and a bottle of wine and ate, drank, and laughed the night away, and got up in the morning and headed out again. When you were younger it was a different scene: You grabbed a six-pack at a grocery store and got a room and stretched out on the bed and drank beer and watched black-and-white TV... times have changed.

You become hungry and decide to stop at a roadside diner. You see one with a few cars and a couple semi-trucks in the parking lot and

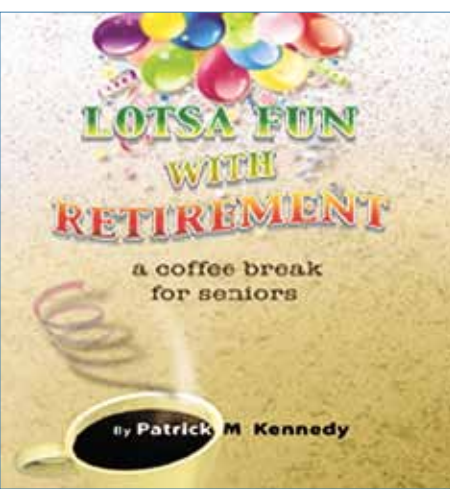
figure it's good. Inside you find an empty booth and make yourself comfortable. You look around. "Neato!" you say to yourself.

On all the walls are framed posters advertising old movies: Clark Gable in a love scene kissing some young lady, dancers in tutus advertising an upcoming ballet, a picture of three workers sleeping on a mile-high beam on the under-construction Rockefeller Center in New York, Robert DeNiro kissing some woman on a French street corner.

And here you are remembering the okay old days when you had fun. There's a framed poster of Charlie Chaplin in a movie called "Gold Coast," but you probably aren't of the age to have seen that movie. John Wayne in "The Oregon Trail" is one you probably remember seeing. Those were the good old days, when youth and other things were easier to take ... not now when it might be tough to climb the stairs to your living quarters.

In youth you were reckless, the wild youth chasing visions of a grand future, doing the impossible just because it was. Riding these highways trying to find the future you wanted to live. Maybe looking for someone you wanted to live with. But now, reminiscing and remembering the good times and forgetting the bad times. Life is that way these days. Life is like a new movie: You don't know how it is going to end, but you enjoy it until then.

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



Way Back When

79 years ago

April 22, 1937: The Dot & Helen Dress Shop, a new firm for Concrete under the direction of Dorothy Sheik and Helen Dwelley, will open for business Saturday. The dress shop will be opened in rooms upstairs in the State Bank building.

The proprietors have purchased a fine stock of "Rosalie" silk frocks and "Bobbie Lou" house dresses for their opening and intend to add to their stock as business demands. An effort will be made to keep pace with the newest fashions and provide the women of the Upper Valley an ideal shopping place for dresses.

April 29, 1937: The Concrete Department Store, which has been located in the same store building for the past 20 years, will move to a new location during the weekend. The store has purchased the Argerin Building on the corner of Main and Aldridge St., and for the past month, carpenters and painters have been getting the building ready for occupancy.

The building formerly contained two store rooms. The partitions have been torn out and the entire building made into one room. Enclosed show windows have been built and other fixtures installed to make it one of the finest buildings in the town.

J. E. St. John said that he expects to move his stock Sunday and Monday, and be ready for business in the new place Tuesday morning.

70 years ago

April 25, 1946: A scenic attraction for tourists that will be second to none in the county was brought within the realm of actuality last week, when head officials of the U.S. Forest Service approved the extension of the Simmons logging road to the summit of Mt. Sauk.

Sauk, which towers 5,510 feet above the Skagit Valley, has been used by the forest service as a lookout station for many years, during which time it could only be reached by four miles of steep trail from the road at Washington's Eddy, above Rockport. So it was only the hardest of hikers who visited the summit for the view or to fish in the well-stocked lake in the crater below the bluffs.

Extension of the logging road will mean a very short stretch of new construction, which will follow across the meadow on the west side of the mountain, go beneath the rock bluffs, strike the trail on the south ridge, and follow up from there to the meadow below the lookout.

60 years ago

April 19, 1956: It was a hectic night for the town police department last Saturday evening, when Marshal Fred Bianchini and Deputy Bob Ross were kept moving at high speed to stay abreast of happenings on Main St.

The excitement started when a man from the City Light project called his wife in Concrete to inform her that he was going to commit suicide. Then he disappeared.

The Marshal's office got an

Way Back, cont. from p. 28

immediate call from Newhalem, and the local law enforcers went into high speed in a search of the town for the would-be suicide.

In the midst of their search, a car unloaded Verlyn Wallace Jr. of Rockport in the middle of town, badly bruised and cut about the face in a one-car accident on Faber Hill. Bianchini and Ross put calls out for the doctor, questioned the injured man, and returned to the problem of the missing suicide.

A short time later, the missing man made a brief call from somewhere in town, talking only with central and hanging up before she could trace the call.

Then came a call that a woman had been hurt escaping from a "masher" in the alley behind the parking lot. More time out while they interviewed the woman, who said she'd become frightened by a man in a car who kept stopping near her. She had run, fallen over a log railing, skinned her shin, and hurt her toes.

The marshals located the man in the car and questioned him. He said he didn't realize he had been perceived as a menace to the woman's safety. That case closed, the men went back to join the search party, now augmented by friends of the missing man, Sheriff's deputies, and others.

Finally, with time apparently running out and suicide believed to have been accomplished, a call came from the Puget Sound power house that a fellow had just wandered in after climbing over the guard fence, and that he had intimated there were people looking for him.

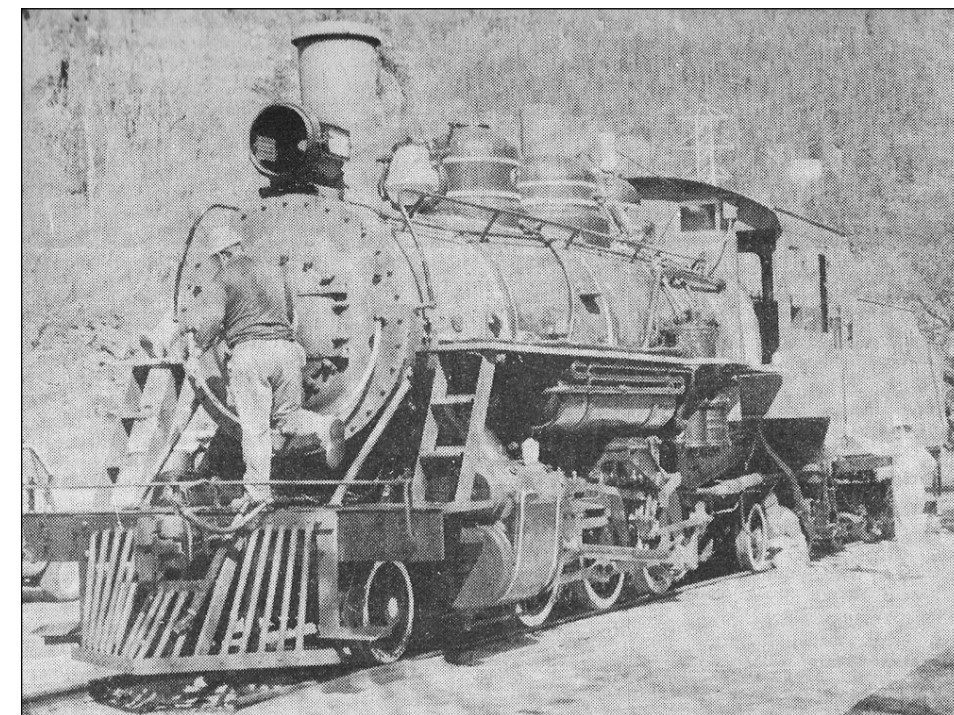
They fed him coffee until the police arrived, and he was taken in tow by Sheriff's deputies.

Bianchini and Ross admit that they don't want many more Saturday nights like this.

—Compiled from archives



30 years ago, April 3, 1986: Members of Pack 74 Cub Scouts spent an afternoon at Aero-Skagit Ambulance garage learning a few basic first aid practices, including an introduction in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) with "Resusci-Annie," pictured with them in the back row. Scouts include Denny Lee Allen, Ian Wilson, Clay Norris, Sean Patterson, Drew Sutherland, Jason Schmidt, Shawn Wilkins, Jeremy Blankenship, Jason Nelson, Joel Parker, and Ryan Thygeson. *Archive photo by Anne Bussiere.*



30 years ago, April 17, 1986: Old Engine No. 6 got some special painting and polishing from Seattle City Light crews as the historic steam engine settled into its "new" home in Newhalem. The engine spent about 13 years on loan to the Skagit River Railway in Concrete before returning to Newhalem for display. *Archive photo by Patty Moore.*

Verna's Kitchen

By Verna McClure

Beef Barley Soup



I'm lucky to have a friend like Pat Blunt who gave me the recipe. Thank you, Pat. The soup gets better (if you can believe it) each time you reheat it as the flavors have a chance to blend together.

- 1 pound ground beef
- 5 cups water
- 1 can diced tomatoes
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped carrots
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1/3 cup barley
- 1/4 cup ketchup
- 3 cubes beef bouillon
- 2 teaspoons seasoning salt
- 1 teaspoon fried basil
- 1 bay leaf
- Salt and pepper to taste

Mix everything together and cook until the vegetables are done.

Concrete Center

April 2016 Activities

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

For the weekly schedule in April, contact the Concrete Center at 360.853.8400.

Obituaries

Harriette Frances Beatrice Larsen

Frank died on Sat., March 19, 2016, held tenderly by her sons and surrounded by her loving family.

She was born on Aug. 20, 1916, near Concrete. She was the granddaughter of Peter and Kristina Larsen, part of the early Skagit pioneers and homesteaders, and the daughter of Marius and Vera Larsen. The mighty Skagit River was her home and playground as a child. She was born in a tent on its banks, because her family home was being built, and learned to swim in its waters at an early age. Her parents settled in Van Horn, just east of Concrete, very near the Larsen family land.

She went to school in Van Horn, a busy little town in those days, and then "crossed the bridge," to attend high school in Concrete, graduating with the CHS class of 1934. During high school she met a little Italian guy named Albert Frank, and the "rest was history!" she liked to say, when she regaled all of us with the story of their wild and wonderful courtship ... always with a huge smile and a twinkle in her eye. Albert would grin, and never contradicted her in the telling of the tale, because he knew better.

After high school she went to Port Angeles, Wash., to care for the children of a well-known physician. During that time she became engaged to a young man of that community. Well, as the story goes, Albert heard about that situation, became enraged

and made a quick trip to Port Angeles to convince her to come home and marry him. And she did. On Aug. 7, 1937, in Mount Vernon, Wash., with his mother and sister standing by, they were married. That same afternoon they came home to Concrete, and Albert went back to work with a logging company, "the store" was not even thought of at that time. Harriette liked to joke that they never even had a wedding cake, so at their 65th wedding anniversary, we made sure that they got the works: three tiers of cake and covered in roses!

They built their own home, next to her parents in Van Horn, on the corner of Moen Rd. and SR 20, and lived there their whole married life. Several years after they were married, their son Richard was born, and Michael followed two years later.

Life was busy and hard in those days. Harriette's father owned a small gas station/store in Van Horn that he needed someone to operate because he did not want to pursue that kind of business. So in 1948, Albert and Harriette purchased the store from him, and the saga began. It goes without saying that Albert had business acumen: He was smart, ambitious, and he never had a "quittin'" time. So it wasn't too long before Harriette knew she had competition; if she wanted to spend time with him, she had better help him out at work. And she did, raising her boys in the back room of the store. In 1958 they built the store west of the Concrete town limits and operated both stores until 1969, when they sold the Van Horn store. As things progressed, Michael married and came home to join them in the business. Richard retired from teaching and followed, with his family, 20 years later. It became a "family" business once again.

She loved her grandchildren dearly and spoiled them beyond compare. The great-grandchildren were an added delight; still small and tiny, they were convinced she was an "elf!" She was smart, savvy, and "full of the dickens," and a perfect foil for Albert.

She worked alongside him for all those years, still working into her 90s, as he did also. By then it was their home away from home, and the only place they wanted to be. Giving in to "the boys" was difficult and not without some hardship, but slowly they let them take charge. Everyone knows Albert rarely left town, but Harriette began to give in to her wanderlust and love of travel to journey to many exciting and far-off places, which she continued until almost 90 years old. They still had their responsibilities and were adamant about getting them finished on their own—heaven help anyone who asked if they needed help. All of the hard work and toil, the late hours, they all took their toll. But they still came to work every day. That uncommon work ethic was too deeply ingrained.

We used to tease Richard and Mike about running an unlicensed "rest home" in the office at the store. It sort of was: Harriette still read her beloved books before bed at night, and loved her two cats that came to live with them.

Albert passed away in 2007 right before Christmas, and the light went out of her life. She was never the same. She was his "one man cheerleader" all those years, with an unflinching loyalty and love for a man she adored and lived with for 70 years, in the little house on the corner of Moen Rd. and SR 20.

The family wishes to thank Bess and Neil Prather of Cross Creek Adult Home, where Harriette resided for her last seven years, for their kind care and concern. Also, our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Lindsay, her favorite caregiver, faithfully standing by with care and love. No one could have done better. Becki Hoover was also a blessing to the family for always going down to do her hair and helping her to feel pampered, in her special way.

Harriette was preceded in death by her husband, Albert Frank; parents, Marius and Vera Larsen; her brother, Chester Larsen; and two sisters, Muriel Dewar and Ellen Spaulding.

She is survived by her two sons, Richard (Andrea) Frank and Michael (Vicki) Frank; six grandchildren, Richard D. Frank, Patrick Olson, Dianne Aamot, Michael W. Frank, Danielle Krieg, and Joseph Frank; 12 great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews she held especially dear: Betsy, Barb, and Bea (the "Three B's"), Kathy, Ron, and Randy; and a special little gal who became her employee and then her forever friend, Lorilyn Jones.

Memorials may be sent to:
Albert and Harriette Frank Memorial Scholarship Fund
P.O. Box 366
Concrete, WA 98237

Obituaries published in Concrete Herald

from May 2009 to present are posted online at:

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

Worth repeating

"Once very near the end I said, 'If you can—if it is allowed—come to me when I too am on my death bed.' 'Allowed!' she said. 'Heaven would have a job to hold me; and as for Hell, I'd break it into bits.'"

"Her absence is like the sky, spread over everything."

—C. S. Lewis, *A Grief Observed*

Skagit County Sheriff's Office Blotter

March 3

Deputies responded to the Rockport Pub for some disorderly subjects. A disagreement over music paid for on the jukebox led to the disturbance. Alcohol was certainly a factor, and several persons are being referred to the prosecuting attorney for charges of disorderly conduct, fighting, and public intoxication.

March 5

At approximately 4:45 a.m., a deputy observed a car parked facing the wrong direction on Lyman Hamilton Hwy. near Robinson Rd. in Lyman. The driver said she was checking her mail—or maybe she was checking other people's mail; that's not really clear. She was wanted on a warrant from the Mount Vernon Municipal Court; however, the jail was unable to accept her, so she was released to continue

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.

James, William Joseph

Age: 34
Race: B
Sex: M
Height: 5' 7"
Weight: 124
Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown
Address: Transient
James was

convicted of third-degree rape in Grant County in February 2003. His victim was a 13-year-old female who was known to him. James was 21 at the time.

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

Source: Skagit County Sheriff

her imaginary mail route.

March 8

A Lyman resident again called in a report of a cooking meth lab. The person was again certain that the smell was meth. The person calling must be smelling burning garbage or something similar. No meth labs have been located in the last several investigations. It makes one wonder how the person calling can positively identify that smell.

March 13

A car was left abandoned in a driveway in the 58000 block of SR 20 near Marblemount. Deputies attempted contact with the registered owner, to no avail. A few days later the owner called to advise she was missing her car after leaving it in that driveway. The woman has a few folks in mind that may have helped themselves to the car. If a vehicle is in your driveway, or on your property, feel free to call a tow and have it removed.

March 15

Deputies have responded to complaints of garbage and "general junkiness" as one caller described, to a property on the east end of Cockreham Island Rd. near Hamilton. The health department has visited this residence and sanctions may come in the form of civil infractions soon if the folks don't clean up their mess. In my experience, you can't legislate how folks decide to keep their property, and if tickets are issued, we'll likely find them in the trash as well. Remember that term "pride"; we could use more of that.

March 16

A gold Lincoln Navigator parked by the old Rockport Shell gas station in Rockport was discovered stolen from some folks in Stanwood. Deputies contacted the owners and they were unable to respond; therefore, the vehicle was impounded.

March 17

A 19-year-old man was being held in the Skagit County jail on several charges involving some oddly scary circumstances. It seems the young man showed up at a Lyman residence, spoke to the resident, and somehow stepped inside without her permission. She remained calm and told the man to sit down. He then went into another room, and he stepped out half undressed. He then completely undressed and began chasing her around the room. She fled to a neighbor's house as the deputy arrived. The deputy confronted the man, who seemed to "stare right past him" and had to be taken into custody by two deputies. The man was still in custody as of April 2. The woman did not appear to be injured.

March 25

Sergeant's corner

Dam safety

By Chris Kading



On March 16, the Skagit County Sheriff's Department and Upper Valley communities participated in a "Dam Failure" readiness drill with Puget Sound Energy (PSE) and Seattle City Light (SCL). This type of multi-agency readiness drill is mandated by the federal government every five years.

The exercise was a real eye-opener for many of the agencies involved. Months of planning went into this drill and many things went very well. The drill was meant to do exactly what it did: find the shortcomings and areas that need improvement.

Imagine living in Concrete and having the Lower Baker Dam fail. Depending on where you live in relation to the dam, you may be dry or you may be in immediate peril. Many of the preplanned evacuation procedures go out the window when you have just seconds to flee.

As one of many people tasked with trying to prepare for situations as

A clerk at the Marblemount Shell gas station observed a person listed as missing. The female was listed as missing on a TV news channel and social media. The clerk was able to snap a photo of the person's car before it left the area. The deputy checked the area all the way to Darrington and didn't locate her or the car.

March 26

An anonymous caller from the White Falls Lane area near Rockport requested a welfare check on a mother and son. Both were discovered to be lifelong heroin users and desperately trying to kick the habit. The deputies discovered both had warrants for their arrests on previous charges. They were booked into jail, where hopefully they can explore some treatment options. Heroin and opiate abuse is a very real concern on several levels. Heroin and opiate abuse will certainly kill you, but before then, you'll do whatever you need to feed that habit of opiate addiction. The revolving door of jail does little to affect personal choice. Intervention is needed, and deputies are trying to be sympathetic to that and balance jail bookings with folks who truly

massive as this, I really needed to know three simple things: Which dam failed, how long before we see the water arrive, and how deep is it going to get. As emergency managers, if we can get that information quickly, we can work diligently to save lives, and that would be our focus.

In the near future, members of Skagit County Emergency Management and elected officials from the Upper Valley communities will revisit our Emergency Action Plans regarding our community evacuations. PSE and SCL have long had a good working relationship with the Upper Valley communities. The Skagit County Sheriff's Department wants to ensure our communities that we're taking steps to respond to a crisis.

Drills such as this further enhance our knowledge of what needs to be done in disaster preparedness. Dam failure drills, Flood Awareness Week, and other events affect the entire community. Personal awareness and preparedness go hand in hand. The Skagit County Department of Emergency Management is one of many resources available to assist you in knowing your role and in doing your part to keep yourself safe.

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

need assistance. Jail is brutal on someone trying to come off of heroin.

March 28

A caller from Healy Rd. near Hamilton reported an unknown male subject was beating on the front door of their fifth-wheel trailer. A deputy arrived to find the man seated nearby. He said he was looking for a place to stay. The deputy trespassed him from the property and dropped him off much farther down the road.

A clerk at Loggers Landing in Concrete reported an intoxicated male in the store "trashing the store." When the deputy arrived, the intoxicated man had walked up to Superior and Main St. As the deputy activated his overhead lights, the man took off running westbound. The drunken man fell into some hedges, and the deputy attempted to handcuff him. The wrestling match began. The deputy was unable to ask for assistance on his radio. A citizen heard the commotion and called dispatch to say the deputy was fighting with a man, and a second deputy arrived shortly

See Sheriff's Blotter, p. 32

Worship directory

Assembly of God

Concrete Assembly of God
45734 Main St., Concrete; 853.8042
Sun. worship: 10 a.m.
Tue.: Men's meeting, 8:30 a.m.
Wed.: Adult Bible study, 6 p.m.
Thur.: Women's Bible study, 6:30 p.m.

Citipoint Church North Cascade

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

Baptist

First Baptist Church
12732 Hemlock St., Clear Lake
360.856.2767
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Sun. worship: 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Wed.: 7 p.m.
E-mail: pastorjohn@firstbaptistclearlake.com

Hamilton First Baptist Church

797 Hamilton Cemetery Rd. at SR 20
Office: 360.826.3307
Sunday School: 9:40 a.m.
Sun. worship: 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Lyman Church

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

Catholic

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

Covenant

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

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

Episcopal

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

Free Methodist

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

Methodist

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

Presbyterian

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

Lutheran

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

Nondenominational

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

Community Bible Church

45672 Limestone, Concrete; 360.853.8511
E-mail: cbcofconcrete@earthlink.net
Sun. School: 9 a.m.; Worship Svc: 10 a.m.
Childcare/Children's Ministries at both
Contact church for other ministries

The RIVER Gathering

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

Rockport Christ the King Comm. Church

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

Wildwood Chapel

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



CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

If you have ever thought you'd like to check out the Concrete Heritage Museum but haven't gotten around to it, consider helping out at our annual **Spring Cleaning** event, coming up in May. We get a work party together and spend part of a Saturday dusting, vacuuming, and washing the place down in preparation for opening on Memorial Day weekend, fewer than two months away. Once we choose the cleaning day, we'll post the date on our Web site, www.concreteheritagemuseum.org.

This is your chance to get a close-up look at the Museum and have all your questions answered by the experts, while contributing to the upkeep of this important community asset. If you like what you see, consider becoming a member; we'd love to have you!

Work is progressing on the **annex to the museum**, with new walls going up and drywall being applied in the coming weeks, and a new ceiling planned. Once that work is completed, many items

from storage will be installed, greatly expanding the exhibits at the museum.

Need a birthday or Mother's Day gift? The museum has several **books for sale**, including our latest, the *Concrete Heritage Museum Association Cookbook*. Books are available for sale at Red Apple and 5b's Bakery, or check our Web site for the complete publication list and ordering information.

Although the museum is still closed for the season, special tours can always be arranged. If you'd like a tour, please contact any of the officers listed on our Web site. We will open for the season on May 28, which is just next month. If you have friends or family coming for a visit this summer, we'd love to have you stop by.

For more information about the museum, contact museum president John Lloyd at 484.575.6374 or John Boggs at 360.853.8347. Our Web site is www.concreteheritagemuseum.org.

—Bill Pfeifer

At the Upper Skagit Library

Thank you, attendees and event organizers, for making the **"Frozen in Concrete"** library fundraiser an overwhelming success—we sold out! We also thank community members who came out to support Nicola Pearson and Maya Keegan at *The Lost Hour* Book Launch.

Our **April Poetry Contest** is back by popular demand. Join us as we celebrate National Poetry Month's 20th Anniversary. The theme of the contest is "Change," with a suggested Poem-a-Week challenge. April will include two events: a "Slam into Change" poetry slam and a poetry reading of the winning contest entries. Finalists will be entered to win full admission to the Skagit River Poetry Festival in May. Submission deadline is April 23. See contest guidelines at upperskagit.lib.wa.us or find hard copies at the library.

Craft Friday was April 1 at 5b's

Bakery. We made our own reusable market bag. Join us every first Friday of the month for crafts at 5b's.

We have a winner for our **Library Card Art Design Contest** in children and adult categories. Visit our Web site and Facebook page to view the winning art. The art will be featured on our new library card this summer. Thank you all for voting and participating in this contest.

New arrivals

In adult fiction, *Off the Grid* by C.J. Box.

In adult nonfiction, *Eruption: The Untold Story of Mount St. Helens* by Steve Olson.

In Children's, *Lenny and Lucy* by Philip C. Stead.

Upper Skagit Library Board of Trustees meeting, April 14, 5 p.m.

—Cora Thomas, library associate

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 31

thereafter. By then, the first deputy had the man cuffed and placed in his backseat.

The subject was booked into jail for several different charges. The deputy was unhurt, and, for the record, this deputy is one of the bigger ones we have on the force, which makes a bad choice for wrestling practice.

March 31

Deputies are investigating a subject camping and trespassing on the Baker River sand bar area south of SR 20 in Concrete. This area is owned by Puget Sound Energy, and the deputies have removed people from that section of riverbank in the past. This area is known for transient use, often without permission. Subjects found here could be cited for trespassing.

—Compiled by Sgt. Chris Kading

Marijuana, cont. from p. 6

elimination of illegal sales of marijuana in the state.

A 2015 report by the BOTEC Analysis Corp. found that, at best estimates, 28 percent of marijuana sales in the state happen illegally. The corporation is a California-based research and consulting firm that develops policy solutions on crime, justice, and drugs.

A late bill this legislative session by Rep. Chris Hurst, D-Enumclaw, and Rep. Cary Condotta, R-Wenatchee, is trying to combat the black-market sales of marijuana in the state and has been retained in its present status since the Legislature entered special session on Friday.

House Bill 2998 would reduce the state tax on marijuana from 37 percent to 25 percent, and would preempt municipal ordinances and regulations that would

ban the operation of licensed marijuana retailers, unless the city already bans retail marijuana activity or use. HB 2998 has been reintroduced for consideration during the special session that began Friday.

"This is not an advocacy that you should use the drug," Hurst said at a special hearing on the bill earlier this session. "We want to have a safe, tested, legal product for people who want to use it."

Hurst initially proposed reducing the tax from 37 to 25 percent with House Bill 2347 earlier in the session. That bill also had support from those within the marijuana industry. It, too, has been reintroduced for consideration during the current special session.

Proponents of the proposal say a decreased tax would help make prices of marijuana in the state competitive with black-market counterparts.

Bowers said a typical gram of marijuana in his store costs \$15, whereas high-

quality drug dealers sell the same amount for about \$10. If the tax was reduced to 25 percent, he argues he can probably drop his price to \$12 for a gram.

Hurst's initial proposal to reduce the tax didn't gain traction earlier, in part because the bill's fiscal note estimated it would cost the state \$87 million in revenue. Others say reducing the tax on retail prices would lead to an increase in state revenue because more people would buy from legal retailers.

Under HB 2347, the state is projected to receive in 2017 an estimated \$268.5 million in excise tax revenue from marijuana sales. If the tax rate is reduced to 25 percent, the revenue forecast drops to \$181.4 million. HB 2998 has a similar revenue forecast based on projected \$720 million in retail sales.

By fiscal year 2021 retail marijuana

See Marijuana, p. 27

April at the Darrington Library

Children and family programs

- Family Storytime, Wed., April 6, 13, 20, 27; 11 to 11:45 a.m.
- LEGO Robotics, Wed., April 6; 1 to 2 p.m. Ages 7 and up.
- Poetically Speaking, Wed., April 13; 3 to 4:30 p.m. Create your own magnetic poetry kit; write an original poem to share.
- Minecraft Build Challenge, Thur., April 28, 3 to 4 p.m. Build the best Minecraft structure. First come, first served. Ages 9–12.
- Poem in Your Pocket Day, Thur., April 21, all day. Carry a poem in your pocket and read it to others. Read it to library staff and get a simple reward.
- Me I Am, Wed., April 27; 1 to 2 p.m. Create a collage that is all about you.

Teen programs

- Video Game Flashback, Wed., April 20; 1 to 2:30 p.m. Play team wars with Atari Flashback 4 and Sega Genesis.

Adult programs

- Darrington Book Group, Wed., April 6; 5:30 to 7 p.m. Discussing *Two Years Before the Mast* by Richard Henry Dana. Potluck optional.
- Darrington Library Board meeting, Thur., April 14; 5 to 6 p.m. Open to the public.
- Darrington Writers Group, Fri., April 15; 3 to 5 p.m. Join this supportive group to get feedback and guidance from peers, a published author, and library staff.
- 3C Book Group: Coffee, Cookies, & Classics, Fri., April 29, 4 to 5:30 p.m. April's title: *Bless Me, Ultima*.
- Bikes for Books Finishers' Party, Sat., April 16, 1 to 2 p.m. Spring reading challenge ends with a party and bicycles for two lucky readers.

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

—Ashley Bryson, branch manager

Lions ROAR



In March the members were busy with meetings and the annual **Corned Beef Feed**. There were close to 70 attendees from our club, other local clubs, and the community. The club members thank all the local merchants and individuals who contributed items that were given as door prizes and raffled off at the Corned Beef Feed.

The Lions Club annual **Easter Egg Hunt** was held on March 26 at Concrete Elementary School. The Easter Bunny brought in more kiddos than recent years. Everyone involved had a great time.

On May 6 and 7, donation stations will be set up at Albert's Red Apple and the Post Office for **White Cane Days**. Please stop by and learn more about the Lions Club and the help that can be given to those who are visually impaired.

The Concrete Lions Club has access to **medical equipment**, such as wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs, and commodes, which can be lent to help those in need.

Contact any Lions Club member and we will do our best to help you.

The **April meetings** will be on the 6th and 20th in the front room at Annie's Pizza Station. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.; however, there is always a group that gathers around 6 p.m. to eat and socialize before the meeting starts. All current members mark your calendars. For those interested in becoming a member, submitting a request, or just wanting to see what we are about, please feel free to stop in.

As spring begins, it is the time to think about our commitment to ourselves and others. I encourage members of our community to think about and **join your local Lions Club**. Our club is your club. We are a club to serve you and our community. Our hope for 2016 is to increase our membership numbers times two. We all have friends and family who have seen the outreach of your local Lions Club, so now is the time to give great thought about being a member!

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

—Connie Smithhart

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Bookkeeping

UpRiver Bookkeeping Services

360.853.7667 or 360.708.9761
upriver21@hotmail.com
Reasonable rates
Payroll services to full-charge bookkeeping

Brew pubs

Birdsview Brewing Co.

Fresh micro beer brewed on our premises
Great food! Family friendly!
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38302 SR 20, Birdsview // 360.826.3406
www.birdsviewbrewingcompany.com

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31687 SR 20, Ste. 102, Lyman/Sedro-Woolley
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Complete family hair care, specializing in:
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More than 25 years' experience!
Call Kathy Monrad and Becki Hoover for appt
360.853.8684

Liquor stores

Concrete Liquor Store & Convenience Store

45895 Main Street, Concrete // 360.853.7149
Monday thru Saturday 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Sundays 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Gifts, Rocks, Tobacco, Cigars, and more!

Pawn shops

Gold Nugget Jewelry & Loan

New & Used guns, ammo, sporting goods
We Buy, Sell, & Loan Guns, gold, coins
Corner of Hwy 530 & Mt. Loop Hwy, Darrington
Mon.-Fri. 10–6, Sat. 10–5
360.436.1029 www.goldnuggetpawnshop.com

Ranches

Double O Ranch, LLC

46276 Concrete Sauk Valley Rd., Concrete
360.770.5380, 9–5 M-F, by appt. weekends.
All natural, grass-fed, USDA inspected beef
by the package, ¼ and ½ beef orders.
Burger available at Albert's Red Apple.

Restaurants

Cascade Burgers

45292 State Route 20, Concrete
Featuring great burgers, fries, and milkshakes
in a 1950s, family-style atmosphere!
OPEN DAILY: Mon.-Sat. 11–7, Sun. 11–6
Ask about our daily specials! 360.853.7580

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Full breakfast, espresso, sub sandwiches,
drive-thru and take-out. Find us on Facebook.
M–F, 5 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Sa.–Su. 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.
44586 SR 20, Concrete
360.853.9006

RV Repair

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360.826.3303 // rvrepair@frontier.com

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Corner of Hwy 530 & Mt. Loop Hwy, Darrington
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360.436.1029 www.goldnuggetpawnshop.com

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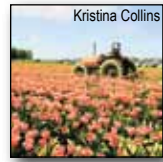
To add your business
to this directory, call
360.853.8213

or e-mail

editor@concrete-herald.com



Out & About



La Conner

StashFest returns to new location this year

La Conner Quilt & Textile Museum's biggest fundraiser event is back this month. StashFest 2016, presented by the museum, will be held on Sat., April 9, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This year the event will be at a new, much larger location, the La Conner Middle/High School, 404 N. Sixth St., in La Conner.

The fiber-arts event will bring together 26 artists from around Western Washington to offer exceptional materials for the committed fiber artist and fiber art enthusiasts to purchase, with a portion of the revenue going to support the La Conner Quilt & Textile Museum. The

museum uses this event to support both established and emerging artists who want increased exposure for their work. StashFest 2016 will also include artist demonstrations, a Youth Discovery Area, food vendors, free parking, and more.

"This event is so much more than simply a fundraising sale," said Amy Green, executive director of the La Conner Quilt & Textile Museum. "It is also a way for fiber artists to be inspired and learn from other fiber artists, and to introduce youth and adults to a variety of fiber art techniques and uses."

Available textiles will include hand-dyed shibori cotton; batik prints; hand-marbled and snow-dyed fabrics from artists such as Anita Luvera Mayer, Suzi Soderland, Debbie Krell, and others; as well as ethnic and vintage textiles from around the world. Shoppers will also find a selection of hand-crafted embellishments, such as buttons and pins made of pewter, glass,

clay, porcelain, and paper, and kumihimo braids. Fiber enthusiasts will find hand-spun yarns and a selection of rovings, both dyed and natural. An assortment of wearable art and finished products also will be presented.

The Youth Discovery Area will focus on the use of recycled materials and offer activities suited for multiple age levels. Visitors can also see a variety of demonstrations from the artists presenting at the event, as well as from visiting artists.

A complete listing of artists and vendors, as well as biographies, product descriptions, and photos are available on the museum Web site at www.laconnerquilts.org.

The La Conner Quilt & Textile Museum is located at 703 S Second St. in La Conner, and is open Wednesdays through Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and open every day in April during the Tulip Festival. Admission is \$7.

For more information, contact Amy Green at 360.466.4288 or amy@laconnerquilts.org.

Riquelme is next judge

Laura M. Riquelme was sworn in to serve as Skagit County Superior Court Judge on March 25 at 4 p.m.

Riquelme was appointed by Governor Jay Inslee to replace Judge Susan K. Cook, who retired on Feb. 29. Riquelme earned a bachelor's degree from University of Massachusetts and a law degree from Syracuse University College of Law, and has served as an attorney for Skagit County since 2004.

Burlington

Turkey Shoot to benefit Meals on Wheels

A Turkey Shoot supporting Meals on Wheels will be held at the Moose Old Skagit Gun Club, 14533 Josh Wilson Rd., Burlington, on Sat., April 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All levels of shooters are welcome. Purchase a Turkey Punch Card for \$30 and shoot six events. Everyone is guaranteed to win something.

Additional donations of cash are welcome. All donations will go directly to Meals on Wheels.

There will be other chances to win prizes, including a "Pig Shoot," where two lucky shooters will get a lot of meat.

Lunch will be available, courtesy of Mt. Vernon Moose Lodge #1640.

For more information, call the club Tue. and Thur. from 5:30 to 7 p.m., and Sat. between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at 360.757.4326.

The event is sponsored by Moose Old Skagit Gun Club SPC, Inc., Mt. Vernon Moose Lodge #1640, Masonic Lodge #77, Birch Equipment Rental and Sales, and Clay Learned of Learned Commercial Inc.

Note: No turkeys or pigs will be shot.

Mount Vernon

Pomona Grange announces contests

Pomona Grange will hold a contest judging entries in several categories, including photography, crafts, needlework, and sewing, on Wed., April 6.

The event will be held at Fredonia Grange, 14245 McFarland Rd., Mount Vernon, from 9 a.m. to noon.

For details on individual categories, contact:

- Needlework, crafts, sewing: Jean Swift, cjsswift@comcast.net, 360.757.4491.
- Photography: Susan Custance, valleywindow1@hotmail.com, 360.399.7876.

For information on April 6 only, contact Fredonia Grange at 360.424.8483.

Sponsor a Flowering Cherry Tree to honor a veteran.

For Only \$50

For only \$50, you can remember a beloved veteran who served in any of the U.S. armed forces. Make your payment at Concrete Town Hall no later than Sept. 18. Trees will be planted along the west edge of Veterans Memorial Park during the week of Sept. 21. Your veteran's name, rank, military branch, and years of service will be included on a sign near the trees.



There's room for 11 trees; first come, first served.

For more information, call 360.853.8401.

AREA FOOD BANKS

Clear Lake

Community Covenant Food Bank

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

Concrete

Concrete Food Bank

112 E. Main St., Concrete
Second and fourth Tue. each month,
Noon–3 p.m.
360.853.8505

Darrington

Darrington Food Bank

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

Hamilton

Hamilton Community Food Bank

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

Lyman

Shepherd's Heart Food Bank

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

Marblemount

Bread of Life Food Bank

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

Sedro-Woolley

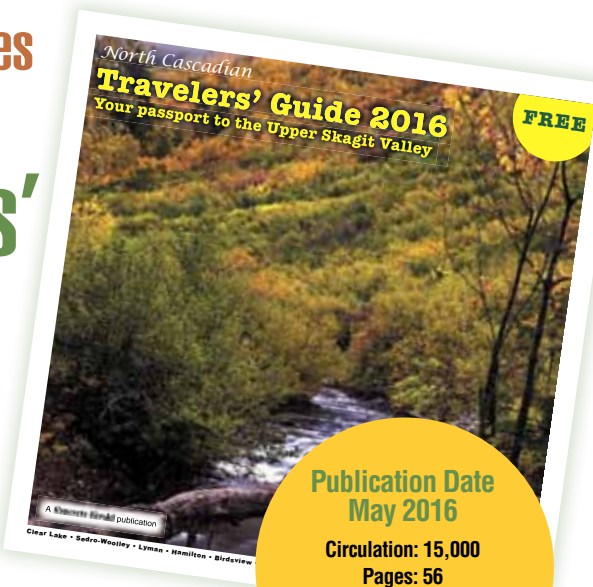
Helping Hands Food Bank

601 Cook Rd., Sedro-Woolley
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Open every Wednesday
360.856.2211

*Changes? Call 360.853.8213.

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Reach visitors to the Upper Skagit Valley by advertising in the 2016 North Cascadian Travelers' Guide.



Publication Date
May 2016

Circulation: 15,000
Pages: 56

Deadline for ads
and payment:
April 18, 2016

The Travelers' Guide showcases the history and events for visitors to:

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

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

Call 360.853.8213

A Concrete Herald Publication

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Smile



Dwelleysms

Wit from former
Concrete Herald editor
Charles M. Dwelley

“A town is no bigger than the number of citizens willing to devote a bit of time to making it the best home possible. Of late, Concrete has been shrinking at an alarming rate. Snatch about a dozen key people from our midst and we’d vanish from the map.”

“The primary battlers for presidential nomination are much like the beaters who go through the woods driving the game toward the men with the guns. They do all the hard work and somebody else will take home the kill.”

“Proposal of a county curfew for youngsters lacks constructive imagination. It should be for parents who don’t spend enough time at home to know where their offspring are spending their time.”

—June 7, 1956

“Traffic courts are overlooking the most obvious charge in handling speeding cases. Any number could easily be listed as attempted suicide.”

“No more jokes about the village idiot. He isn’t so funny since he started driving a car.”

—June 14, 1956

“People like champions, especially if they clobber a lot of citizenry to get there. To be best in any field seems to set the individual on a pedestal no matter what his personal qualities. Then it comes as a shock when a champion acts like a human being. That’s why it’s so hard to stay up there—the play acting is what creates the strain.”

“Keeping up appearances is quite a strain until you note that the only people who seem to keep a smile on their face are wearing their oldest clothes.”

—June 21, 1956

“We note that another attempt is going to be made to sell the insurance people on the fact that shakes and shingles are not a fire hazard for which home builders should be penalized. There is no better proof than just a peek around—some

of the oldest homes in the West are still standing with shingled roofs bringing them all the way without damage. Old things sometimes are best—and you can’t beat cedar for a roof.”

—July 5, 1956

“Of the several ways to become rich, most are connected with the odious discomfort of thrift, prudence, and hard work. Lacking in popular appeal, most of us deplore the theory as unexciting, unrealistic, and unattainable.”

“The robbery at Bacon Creek may have been just a mistake. Maybe the victim was just going too fast and somebody thought he was in Lyman.”

“A lot of people should keep their confidence tied to their wrist. So much of it is being misplaced these days.”

“Up to now, Congress has investigated everything under the sun except for why Congress can’t do a decent job in its own field of endeavor.”

“Being young would be the most delightful period of a man’s life, if he could afford it at the time.”

“It’s catching: A bulge in the pocketbook is most always followed by a bulge at the waistline.”

—July 12, 1956

“It is now suggested that all political campaigns should be paid for out of the nation’s tax funds so that all candidates will be free of financial ties. Great stuff! Now let each voter be paid \$5 for voting—and taxed \$4 if he guesses wrong—and we’ll be right on the trail to true capitalistic democracy.”

“Americans spend \$35 billion a year in efforts to entertain themselves. No mention is made of the additional sum spent in recuperating.”

“Summer TV: a marathon commercial with occasional brief pauses for entertainment.”

—July 26, 1956

Concrete Harold

By Joyce Harris



Public Service Announcement

By Stig Kristensen



Crossword: “Gemstones”

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

Across

- Stylish, in the '60s
- Asian area
- Rapture
- Hidden winner, ____ in the hole
- Get too many
- Lode load
- Wizard of Oz footwear
- African flower
- Encounterer
- Card game
- Footnote abbr.

- Live
- Airs
- Drudge
- Bust
- Pan type
- Field of play
- Flowering plant
- Cheer starter
- Flock
- Principle of life, in Hinduism
- Fancy neckwear
- Military Order, for short
- Overcoats
- Darth Veda's side
- Cool one's heels

Down

- Rattle
- Eyepiece
- Fillet
- In place of
- Blvd.
- Saxophonist, Joshua
- Leprechaun land local
- Fully fit
- Legal action
- Create an email
- “Mud”
- “Catch-22” pilot
- Go word
- Vote of support
- Before the finals
- In a consistent manner
- Eustacian area related
- Poi source
- Cosmetics company

Down

- Advance
- Elaborate display
- Bummed
- Spots
- Nor partner
- Agave rug fiber
- Bee ____
- M ____: Chinese owned area
- Craft
- Meadow
- Granola cereal
- Goatees
- Familiarize
- Off course
- Wee hour
- Periodical publications
- Surveyor's work
- Without purpose
- Commuter line
- Squeeze (out)
- “Cool” amount
- Call off
- Biddy
- Swamp

Sudoku

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

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

*Solutions to both puzzles are on p. 39.

Funny as Facebook

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

- “James: ‘No, don’t play this song, it’s sad.’ Me: ‘I know, it’s deliciously sad.’ James: ‘Don’t quote Anne.’ Love having a brother who has read *Anne of Green Gables*.”
- “You know you have passed into a whole other level of ‘old’ when you get a text message from Amazon that your shipment of herbal supplements and nursing bras will be delivered today and you do a little jig in excitement. Yup. Exciting times.”
- “I just booked a summer vacation rental that doesn’t allow hair dryers. And some say I’m not one to live dangerously.”
- “Is it just my imagination or is there some sort of silent alarm that goes off when a husband (unaccompanied by a wife) walks into Costco? I get these looks from the help. Like, ‘you can’t be trusted with the checkbook’ and ‘move along you don’t need a big screen’ and ‘your wife called and you already have those tools.’”
- “I’m now in the denial and self-loathing phase of vacation planning: ‘Oh, I don’t need to go see that thing I’ve been wanting to do since I was a little kid, because we need a new mop at the house and that is more important.’ Thankfully all the things I’ve booked are nonrefundable, so it would bother me more to let that money go to waste. I’m on to you, Little Voice Of Doubt In My Head.”
- “For, unbelievably, the second time in my life, I have looked out my living room window to see a squirrel carrying a vodka bottle up a tree. The last time was a couple of years ago. He got about halfway up and dropped it. At that point he gave up. Probably switched to beer. I am starting to think I should play the lottery. Or maybe step on the scale. Today could be my lucky day.”
- “Middle of Spring Break Random Thoughts: This snow is stupid. I desperately need a vacation. I never should have taught the children to speak.”

The Man in the Mud Room

By Nicola Pearson

Editor's note: This is the final installment of a monthly serialized story by award-winning author and playwright Nicola Pearson of Sauk City. Previous installments are at www.concrete-herald.com.

Lange answered at a clip. "What's going on?"

"I've got news," said Deller, sounding like she was walking through a wind tunnel.

"Us too. You go first."

"The lab got back to me and there's blood on that length of vine maple you picked up from under my car."

"Whose blood?"

"Don't know that yet. We're going to need a sample of Margi's if we're to make that match. But the lab technician did say it's human, because the blood we got from down by the creek was deer blood, so she made a point of checking what was on the vine maple."

"Deer blood?"

"Mixed with cat hairs, so my guess is it was a cougar kill and the Search and Rescue dogs got distracted by the scent." The wind tunnel died down and Lange heard a jangling, followed by a toc and the squeaky sigh of vinyl being sat on. "What have you got?" Deller asked, and he heard her slam a car door, creating silence around her voice.

"We caught up with the petty thief and he's taking us to the road that services the power lines off the Rockport-Cascade Rd. He says he saw a woman being 'put' there."

"Uh-oh."

"Mmm hmm."

"Was the woman Margi?"

"Sounds like it, yes."

"Any sense of what he means by put?"

"Yes, but ..." Lange looked across at

Suleka. She was leaning forward over the steering wheel, her hands clutching it tightly, and he got the impression she was lost in her thoughts. But she had an uncanny intuition when it came to tuning into conversations, so he swiveled away from her and mumbled into the phone. "I'm going to wait and see before I confirm that sense."

"Who put her there?"

"Mary Lynn McCracken. At least it was her car he saw." Lange looked down as they crossed the Skagit yet again and saw

two men, standing on the bank, watching the river go by in front of them. Probably thinking it wasn't a good day to fish, not with the water so murky.

Deller interrupted Lange's musings. "This is the guy who's been stealing food from people's houses in that area? You're sure it wasn't him who put Margi on that power lines road?"

"That's not the sense I get."

"So you trust him?"

"Enough to get a search warrant for McCracken's car."

"You're thinking blood in the trunk?"

"Now that I know about the vine maple I am."

Deller sighed, a long, sad expulsion of air. "Okay, I'm on it. And I'll send Deputy Collins to join you on the power lines road. What about Sam Breckenridge? Should Collins bring him along too?"

"Maybe not. It won't be pleasant if Margi's been out there since Saturday."

"Unless she's alive."

"Don't go soft on me now."

He heard the jangling sound again, followed by the low growl of an engine. "I'm not soft," she told him. "Just hopeful."

They hung up at the same time and Lange pushed his phone into his jacket pocket. His fingers felt a slip of paper, and he remembered McCracken giving him the address of the birthday party in Birdsvew. He pulled the phone back out and checked the time; 12:10 p.m. already. He pulled the paper out of his pocket and began to copy the address into a text to Deller.

"I didn't see any blood in the trunk of Mary Lynn's car, you know," Suleka volunteered from beside him.

His fingers hovered over the tiny keyboard on his phone as he wondered how she knew what Deller had said. "Maybe the tray of gourds was covering it," he replied and went back to typing.

"Margi never hurt anyone that I know of. It doesn't make sense that Mary Lynn would want to kill her."

"Murder often doesn't make sense."

"For psychotics maybe. But why would someone like Mary Lynn ...?"

Lange pushed send, watched the message change color, and then slipped the phone back into his pocket. He looked at the skinny trees on his side of Hwy 530 again and thought about how many times

Suleka had driven this stretch of road to take care of his needs. Maybe it was time to take care of hers. "Here's what I think happened," he started and watched Suleka's grip on the steering wheel relax as she leaned back in her seat. "I think Margi wasn't depressed at all; she was happy. I think she got that angry letter from Shelby and showed it to Sam and he blew it off. Told her not to worry about it; that the affair was over. Maybe he even told her he was planning to end it when he went away with Shelby that weekend. Who knows? But I think he was planning to give Margi that ring he'd bought because he'd seen something new in her. A spark. She was good at painting those wildlife gourds and she was feeling it. I could feel it when I touched them. And Sam could feel it too. And he was proud of her. I heard it in his voice when he was telling me about her artwork. So he tells her not to worry, that she should go to the retreat while he went and dumped Shelby and that when he got back he wanted to take her out, give her something special. I don't know, that's just conjecture on my part. But it feels right. So Margi calls up Mary Lynn on Friday night and says she wants to go to the retreat and could they ride together? Mary Lynn says of course and maybe they talk about taking their wildlife gourds up to sell them, maybe they don't, but either way, when Mary Lynn shows up on Saturday, Margi shows her the box of gourds she plans to take up to the retreat. And the Machiavellian part of Mary Lynn rears its ugly head. She sees dollar signs when she looks at Margi's gourds, she sees art that is way better than anything she could ever make and she wants the glory. It's not fair that it go to a mousey little woman who's perennially poor and who can't even keep a husband from straying. So when Margi leans over the trunk of her car, to put something in or rearrange something that's already in there, Mary Lynn sees her chance and smashes her over the head with a thick branch of vine maple, killing her." Lange softened his eyes as he looked at Suleka.

"That's all it took."

"How would she know how hard to hit her?"

"She wouldn't. But she couldn't risk Margi coming around to point the finger at her, or get the money she planned to make off her gourds. So she hit her hard enough to make sure there were no repercussions. I imagine Margi fell forward into the trunk, Mary Lynn scooped her legs in behind her, put her wildlife gourds in the car somewhere, and then walked through the cabin to see if there was anything else

she could take while she was at it. She was thinking artwork, I imagine, but when she found the ring, she couldn't resist."

Suleka's mouth dropped open once

again. "You think she took the ring too?"

"I'm not sure. But I'm betting it turns up would you?" She looked at Lange, her brown eyes moist with feeling. "Margi would have liked that."

He dialed Deller's number as Suleka slowly opened her door.

"What about the note?"

Lange shook his head. "There never was a note. Mary Lynn made that up to implicate Sam, something I expect she thought up when she was doing her walk-through of the cabin. She also called Margi at that time, evidence that she tried to track her down, and heard the phone ringing in Margi's purse on the counter."

A small knock on the back window of the cab made them both glance over their shoulders. Joe was peering at them, pointing an index finger off to their right. Suleka acknowledged his message with a hand up in the air and then did almost a complete U-turn onto a dirt and gravel lane climbing the ridge they'd been driving alongside. "You know," she told Lange as the Nissan began bumping through potholes, "you're making Mary Lynn sound a lot smarter than I ever thought she was."

"We used to say, when I was on the job in New York, that if criminals put their brains to good use instead of bad, they'd be some of our most successful citizens."

They rode in silence for a good long while, seeing the power lines coming toward them and the road stretching away into the distance above them. The path was dry and grey, a desolate, well-hidden utility road in the midst of land that had been logged and replanted, its short, scraggly trees providing cover on both sides of them. The sun bounced off every ounce of autumn gold on the hillside ahead of them, sending rays of warmth into the solemn quiet of the truck, then the Nissan lugged up around a hairpin turn and Lange saw the sign he had been dreading. Ravens, blue jays, and a couple of bald eagles circled in the sky above a steep drop off on the downhill side of the vehicle.

"Brace yourself," he said softly to Suleka. But she had seen the carrion feeders too and let the truck roll to a stop even before Joe hammered on the window again. Lange threw open his door and they both heard Joe shout, "That's where the Grandma Lady dumped the body." They looked back to see him pointing over the side.

"Do you have cell service here?" Suleka asked Lange.

Mud Room, cont. from p. 38

He pulled his phone out of his pocket and looked. "Yes. Why?"

"Call Deller and get her to bring Coco,

"I'm not sure. But I'm betting it turns up would you?" She looked at Lange, her brown eyes moist with feeling. "Margi would have liked that."

He dialed Deller's number as Suleka slowly opened her door.

The end.



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Crossword solution, from p. 37

1	M	O	D	4	F	A	R	E	8	A	S	T	10	J	O	Y
14	A	C	E	15	O	V	E	R	B	U	E	16	O	R	E	
17	R	U	B	18	Y	R	E	D	S	L	I	P	19	P	E	R
20	A	L	O	E	23	M	E	E	T	E	R	25	E	T	A	
22	C	A	N	A	23	T	U	N	E	31	S	32	S	L	A	V
29	A	R	E	30	N	A	B	35	C	A	S	T	I	R	O	N
37	B	A	S	E	B	A	L	L	D	I	A	M	O	N	D	
41	A	C	H	I	L	L	E	A	42	S	I	S				
43	L	A	I	T	Y	44	A	T	M	A	N	45	B	O	A	
48	M	O	P	H	50	U	L	S	T	E	R	51	W	A	I	
52	E	M	P	I	R	E	53	W	A	I	T					
54	E	M	E	R	A	L	D	A	S	H	55	B	O	R	E	R
58	K	I	N	64	G	A	L	L	I	L	E	O	65	D	N	A
66	E	L	D	67	S	T	Y	L	I	N	G	68	S	T	Y	

See Mud Room, p. 39

Classifieds

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