

# The Voice of the Upper Skagit County Concrete Herald

Vol. 100, No. 4

April

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50 cents

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### School Board names new superintendent

After a lengthy search, the Concrete School District Board of Directors named Wayne Barrett the new superintendent for the district during its March 30 regular meeting. Barrett will begin his new duties on July 1. *Page 12.*

### Sedro-Woolley Lions Club celebrates 80 years

The Sedro-Woolley Lions Club celebrated 80 years of service to its community with a banquet on March 25. *Page 16.*

### Talent Show entertains

The talent was as varied as the entertainment at the annual Darrington Community Talent Show, sponsored by the Darrington Historical Society, March 24 in the Darrington High School auditorium. *Page 24.*

## Music of the masters



Andris Vezis crafts violins using plans from Stradivarius, Guarneri, Bergonzi. *Page 11*

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# Concrete Herald

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley



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

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**Contacts**  
**Newsroom:** 360.853.8213 / editor@concrete-herald.com // **Advertising:** 360.853.8213 / ads@concrete-herald.com  
**Letters:** P.O. Box 682, Concrete, WA 98237 / letters@concrete-herald.com // **Classifieds:** P.O. Box 682, Concrete, WA 98237 / classifieds@concrete-herald.com

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From the editor

## Food bank “crossroads” could be a blessing in disguise

Much already has been said about the pros and cons of Skagit County selling the building in which the Concrete Food Bank is currently housed. When the county’s plan to sell the building at auction came to light, many immediately assumed the worst: that the food bank would be kicked out by whoever ponied up the cash, and might even have to close its doors.

While this worst-case scenario is, of course, not necessarily true, it’s also not necessarily the worst-case scenario. The food bank’s current building needs significant repair to its roof and foundation—two problem spots known to exist and ignored by the county, even though its rental agreement with the Food Bank Board specifically calls out those two areas as the county’s responsibility. And if a larger space could be found,

See Editorial, p. 7

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Artwork by KayLani Siplin

# Opinion

## Letters to the editor

### Food bank needs our help

Most Upriver residents chose to live here because they’re independent, self-sufficient people. At the same time, if a neighbor needs help, we’re ready to lend a hand.

Memorable examples follow:  
There was an outpouring of assistance, donation of supplies, and fundraising efforts after the devastating Oso mudslide. When the Concrete Theatre needed thousands of dollars to “go digital,” that goal was met! If a local individual is badly injured or experiences a major illness, we contribute toward medical expenses. We’ve raised funds for upgrading the local museum and relocating our library. We come together to aid when assistance is needed!

Now, an essential Upriver resource is in need of our help. The Concrete Food Bank’s current location, which they rent, is for sale. Food Bank management needs either to find a different building to buy or rent, or else to purchase the existing building, which will be sold in the near future. The operating budget of the food bank is tight already; funds for these additional costs are not readily available.

Is there a suitable building somewhere in the immediate area that could be rented reasonably so that the hungry folks can continue to receive basic food items to feed their families? Can we dig down deeper into our pockets and donate to a fund toward purchasing a building to house this essential service? I think we can! Let’s show our compassion for less-fortunate members of our community and our support of this vital resource by keeping the food bank operating.

Betty Seguin  
Concrete

### Kudos to Concrete Herald

Congratulations on your most well-deserved recognition as the Small Business of the Year! Can’t believe it’s been eight years and that you have sustained the paper in such admirable fashion, while serving as mayor of Concrete as well. Remarkable!  
Keep up the amazing work.

Larry Coffman  
Woodinville

### SCOG should prioritize maintenance/preservation

Do your gas tax dollars matter?  
The City of Mount Vernon is about \$15 million behind in road maintenance (Skagit Valley Herald 7.21.16). Other cities are in same boat.

Why are cities behind? Did cities and Skagit Council of Governments (SCOG) ignore Federal Highway Administration (FHA) directions to emphasize preservation/maintenance of existing roads/bridges for the last five years?

Who is this SCOG board? They are mayors, county commissioners, and other elected officials who meet monthly overseeing distribution of your gas tax dollars for local transportation projects.

See Letters, p. 38


### Letters policy

Letters of 200 words or fewer may be e-mailed to [letters@concrete-herald.com](mailto: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



I hope as many Concrete citizens as possible are planning to attend the branding workshop hosted by Imagine Concrete Foundation on April 15 (see ad, this page).

What is Concrete’s brand? It’s the intangible sum of our town’s attributes. It’s what other people think of when they hear the name, “Town of Concrete.” Our brand is how we perceive our town and how we want the world to perceive us. It’s everything the public thinks it knows about our town, both factual and emotional.

This effort to define our brand is designed to be one of the first steps toward rejuvenating our economy. In the old days, Concrete was a company town, defined for decades by its cement-producing industry. When that industry

left town, Concrete began a decades-long struggle to recover its economy and its identity. Its population dropped by two-thirds, supporting businesses either dried up or left, and, to a large degree, it lost its identity. During the 11 years I’ve lived here, several people have said to me, ‘Concrete no longer knows what it is; we don’t know who we are.’

Let’s start changing that! Join me, town staff, Town Council members, and other stakeholders on April 15 to talk about what we are and what we want to be. I believe once we have that nailed down, we can begin serious and aggressive efforts to attract the kinds of businesses that support our brand, and serve us locals and our visitors year-round.

I look forward to seeing you at the workshop! If you can’t attend, please send a family member or a friend to represent you, or send me a note or letter with your thoughts on the topic.

Concrete Mayor Jason Miller can be reached at [goodwords@frontier.com](mailto:goodwords@frontier.com) or 360.853.8213, or by sending correspondence to P.O. Box 39, Concrete, WA 98237.

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For more information, contact Jason Miller at 360.853.8213 or [goodwords@frontier.com](mailto:goodwords@frontier.com).





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# Concrete Food Bank at crossroads

With its building scheduled for the auction block in May, Food Bank Board considers its options for continued service.

By Haley McNealey

Edited by Katy Tomasulo

As of May 1, the Concrete Food Bank could find itself with a new landlord—and a lot of uncertainty. The food bank rents its facility at 45942 Main St. in Concrete Town Center from Skagit County and has occupied the building since 2004. Recently, the county announced its intention to sell the building at auction, and it plans to set the starting bid price at \$2,500 during the county commissioners' meeting on April 10. The auction would take place on or shortly after May 1.

The pending sale leaves the food bank with an unknown future. The Food Bank Board could try to buy the building, but if the auction bids rise too far above \$2,500, it likely won't be able to afford to do so. A new landlord could decide it doesn't want the food bank as a tenant, and force it to find a new location. And hoping a wealthy benefactor might materialize is a gamble.

At its regular meeting on March 27, Concrete Town Council and representatives of the food bank discussed initiating a plan of action for averting displacement of the organization. Councilmember Rob Thomas announced he would refrain from casting any votes regarding the food bank's future, citing conflict of interest since he has been on the board of directors for the organization for more than 20 years.

John Boggs, who lives near Concrete and is a volunteer advocate for the food bank, kicked off the discussion, stating the building is appraised much higher than \$2,500. Food Bank Board President Gladys Silrus and Vice President Marty Smith also attended the meeting.

Boggs described two potential avenues for securing the current facility, both of which are being investigated by himself and the board of directors. The first option is to contact the county and inquire about the possibility of transferring the building to the food bank at no cost to the board, if the county is willing to do so. However,

it is unclear whether the county, as a government entity, can legally transfer property to a nonprofit organization.

The second option is for the county to transfer to another government entity—such as Town of Concrete—which could then potentially take on the food bank as a tenant under an agreement similar to the contract currently held between the food bank and the county. According to town attorney David Day, the second option appears to be more plausible from a legal standpoint; it is more likely the county would be able to transfer the property to a municipality than to a nonprofit.

Silrus discussed the possibility of the food bank attempting to purchase the facility from the county, if only there was more time to secure funding. She reported a substantial amount of the organization's funding originates from the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, which might be willing to donate funds or even purchase the building, and she also stated the food bank would be willing to engage in fundraising activities with an extended timeframe. If the food bank does not secure ownership of the property at auction, it also is possible that a potential new owner would be willing to lease the building to the organization.

Councilmember Marla Reed stated the five-year contract that currently exists between the food bank and the county expired in 2015; since then, the food bank has paid \$287 per month in rent. Silrus confirmed most of the funding for rent is donated by the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe.

"I am interested in seeing what [the town] can do, so I want to ask the hard questions, because we need to make sure we are asking those hard questions so we can make an informed decision," said Reed.

Food Bank, cont. from p. 4

"If the town were to choose to enter into the transfer agreement, I see that as a move to buy time for the food bank so that it's not up against this deadline of approximately four to five weeks where [it has] to figure something out in a hurry," said Mayor Jason Miller.

If the food bank was forced to or chose to relocate, Miller said he favored the current Upper Skagit Library space. "I would ask that the town go through the transfer process and then immediately enter into a lease agreement with the Food Bank Board that gives them 18 months to find a more suitable home ... 18 months would be more than enough time for the library to vacate its current location and move into the Town Center, and that space to be prepped and ready for the food bank," Miller said. "The clientele for the food bank is, for the most part, the same clientele that is using the resources at the Resource Center. It would bundle those uses together ... It would significantly improve everything the food bank currently does." Miller cited more storage space and a newer facility as advantages of the alternative location, in addition to the close proximity to the Resource

Center.

Ultimately, the council determined it will be necessary to conduct an inspection of the building before making a decision. Mayor Miller contacted Commissioner Lisa Janicki on March 30 to request an extension on the timeline for auction, but was effectively denied; it appears the county will be making a decision regarding, at a minimum, the opening bid price for the property on April 10. Mayor Miller said Commissioner Janicki told him that the auction could be suspended and the property transferred to the town if the Food Bank Board and the Town Council make that decision prior to May 1.

In the meantime, the Food Bank Board of Directors planned to meet on April 4. Following this meeting, the Food Bank Board will report back to Town Council via letter with its decision to proceed with attempting to secure the building at auction or a request that the town proceed with the process of transferring the property from the county.

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

# Highway pavement upgrades under way in East County

This year, Washington State Department of Transportation contractor crews will preserve more than 50 miles of pavement in Skagit and Island counties stretching from Clinton to Concrete.

In March, Granite Construction crews began sealing cracks and repairing deep potholes on SR 20 between Sedro-Woolley and Concrete. Once weather improves, expect daytime work to resurface that stretch of highway with a chipseal process. The new surface is less expensive, but will result in more road noise for motorists. The project is expected to last through September.

A two-mile stretch of SR 20 on the

west end of Sedro-Woolley between the hospital and SR 9 west of the roundabouts will get new pavement and improved pedestrian ramps this season. This work is scheduled to start in July.

**What should travelers expect?**

Brief delays are expected around all of these projects for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians.


- Flaggers or pedestrian detour signs will be in place to help direct travelers through the work zones.
- Cyclists should consider using alternate routes during this work, as many surfaces could be rough and uneven, even during nonworking hours.

More work will occur on SR 20 near Anacortes.

As work is scheduled, travelers can check for construction updates online and sign up for Skagit and Island counties e-mail information at [https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WADOT/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=WADOT\\_22](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WADOT/subscriber/new?topic_id=WADOT_22).

—WSDOT



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FIND YOUR PARK

See Food Bank, p. 5



# East County Public Forum planned for May 17

East County residents with questions for the Skagit County Board of Commissioners—or representatives from various county departments and local agencies—are invited to attend a public forum on Wed., May 17, at 5:30 p.m., in the Commons room at Concrete High School.

The forum gives residents an opportunity to chat with county representatives at stations set up in the Concrete High School library before the Board of Commissioners takes public comment at 6 p.m. in the Commons room. Residents interested in making comments can sign up prior to the comment period and discuss any issue of interest.

Presenters will include:

- Will Reichardt, Sheriff
- Dale Pernula and Ryan Walters, Planning and Development Services
- Jennifer Johnson, Public Health

- Dan Berentson, Public Works
- Kevin Chao, EMS
- Brian Adams, Parks and Recreation
- Bill Henkel and Claudia Marken, Community Action of Skagit County
- Dale O'Brien, Skagit Transit

For more information, contact the commissioners' office at commissioners@co.skagit.wa.us or 360.416.1300.

## Town of Concrete is accepting applications to fill a vacancy on its seven-member Economic Development Commission.

The deadline to submit applications is May 2 at 4:30 p.m. Application packets are available at Town Hall, 45672 Main St., Concrete, WA 98237, during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Applicants may be asked to attend the commission meeting on May 10 at 6 p.m., at Town Hall for interviews.

## RESCHEDULED Let's talk about dying

By Linden Jordan

*Editor's note: A snow storm caused organizers of the following event to postpone it until Sun., April 23, from 3 to 5 p.m., at Concrete Community Center.*

I recently had a good friend die after suffering a stroke. He didn't die right away and was on life support in the hospital's Intensive Care Unit. His wife and adult children had to make a decision about what level of treatment to provide. He had no chance of rehabilitation. He had never been comfortable talking about death, so the family had no guidance regarding his last wishes. This is an all-too-common scenario, and it leaves families with the grief of loss, wondering what the deceased loved one would have wanted.

Most of us would like to ignore the fact of our death. There are so many more

pleasant topics to discuss with family and loved ones. And how do you bring up the topic, a critically important conversation to have with those you love? You do them a favor when you gather the courage to make decisions and let others know.

Join us as three knowledgeable professionals help us think about end-of-life decisions. Our speakers will be:

- Dr. Deborah North, a long-time internal medicine specialist at Skagit Regional Health who now is a Palliative Care doctor with Skagit Valley Hospital and Skagit Hospice.
- Dr. Anita Meyer, a long-time primary care doctor with Skagit Regional Health who now is a Palliative Care doctor with the hospital and hospice.
- Hannah Sullivan, who worked as a nurse for 20 years at United General/PeaceHealth United General Medical Center before joining the staff of Whatcom Hospice.

These professionals will talk about the reasons for preparing for your death, how to have difficult conversations with loved ones, and how to write what you want in a way that will help your wishes be honored.

## Council summary

*Concrete Town Council met for regular meetings on March 13 and 27. Following is a summary of those meetings. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are posted on the town's Web site at [www.townofconcrete.com/cminutes.php](http://www.townofconcrete.com/cminutes.php).*

### March 13 regular meeting

- Em Beals reported on the Map Your Neighborhood effort and the first responders meeting that was held. She stated there were approximately 30 people in attendance. They discussed development of a plan that would outline different emergency scenarios. She stated they have four more meetings over the next few months and will go through the various scenarios.
- **Public safety:** Sgt. Chris Kading reported there were 45 calls in February. He stated this is very low. He stated they received complaints regarding speeding and are performing emphasis patrols, especially in the school zone areas.

He said that he had submitted the year-end report and stated that calls within town limits have decreased over the years, while the calls within the county have increased.

Mayor Jason Miller asked for an update on the camping/staying issue along the bushes and at the public restroom at Veterans Memorial Park. Sgt. Kading stated that he has not received any new complaints or reports. He stated the Resource Center employees have been letting him know if they see any activity.

Discussion ensued on the RVs, camping, and garbage that is present along the Baker River bar, who owns the property on which this is occurring, and whether that property is located within town limits or on county land. Town Planner Marianne Manville-Ailles stated the town does not have any jurisdiction on property not within the town limits, but if these RVs are on property located within the town limits, then it becomes a zoning code issue. Sgt. Kading stated he will further research the location of the RVs and camping, and will

contact the property owners involved.

### March 27 regular meeting

- The Concrete Food Bank situation was discussed (see article, p. 4).
- **Public safety:** Sgt. Kading stated there have been approximately 13 calls since the last meeting. He stated he's looking forward to the pass opening, and that they will increase traffic patrols and make sure people are not speeding through town.

Sgt. Kading also reviewed a map that showed who owns the property and where the trailers are located on the properties near the Baker River bar. Discussion ensued on where the trailers are located and which properties they are bouncing back and forth between.

—Compiled from staff minutes

## Keep track of your council

To have Concrete Town Council agendas and meeting minutes e-mailed to you automatically, e-mail your request to [andrea@concretewa.gov](mailto: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.

Editorial, cont. from p. 2

what could possibly be the down side?

The only significant challenge to finding a new space will be moving the food bank's 10 freezers and five refrigerators, and having or installing sufficient electrical capacity at the new location.

The Food Bank Board planned to meet the evening of April 3 to decide how it wanted to proceed: Attempt to buy the building? Ask the town to transfer ownership from the county to the town, then spend the next 18 months looking for a new location? Do nothing?

Our food bank is an absolute necessity for many of our community members. It has weathered the waves of uncertainty for decades and emerged intact, albeit in different locations and with different operating strategies. In one form or another, change is again on the horizon for the Concrete Food Bank.

Let's hope any pushback against change itself isn't so forceful that the pushers neglect to take advantage of a potentially beneficial situation. They must keep the mission of what's best for the food bank first and foremost in their minds.

—J. K. M.



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# Sports



## Softballers roar into season

## Baseball off to a soggy start

With downpours and early spring snow, practices have been challenging for the Concrete High School baseball team, and the weather has produced three rainouts early in the season.

"We've spent an awful lot of time in the batting cage," said Head Coach Randy Sweeney, "but we seem to be swinging the bat well so far, maybe because of it. Still, it's been a terrible spring; I've never seen it like this before, ever."

The Lions were able to log only two

games in March because of the weather.

A March 15 at Bush found Concrete narrowly losing, 8-7. "We had a 7-4 lead going into the last inning, but our pitching didn't quite hold up," said Sweeney. "It was our first time out and the first time on the mound for our pitchers, but I feel we have the talent to make it happen and if the weather stays good for us, we can continue to work on things."

The next opportunity to play came two weeks later, with a March 30 home game against Orcas Island. The Lions came on strong in the early innings, but its pitching effort couldn't stay the course and Orcas got the win 15-6, despite two home runs from Lion Austin Weneker.

### Great senior leadership

Sweeney said the team has benefited from its returning seniors and the leadership they've provided. Tyler Labrousse, Grayson Luttrell, Solomon Holman, and Austin Weneker have been quick to pick up the slack and help guide the younger players.

This year, assistant coach Josh Fichter is joined by his oldest, Gibson Fichter, a former player for the team. Sweeney said he was happy to have the younger



**Above:** Solomon Holman waits for the throw from home to stop a stealing Orcas Island Viking during a March 30 home game.

**Right:** Grayson Luttrell pitches during the March 30 game.

**Below right:** Austin Weneker gave Luttrell a break on the mound later in the March 30 game, and served up his own special sauce.

Fichter on the field again, helping. "I'm surrounded by Fichters!" he joked.

As for this year's players, Sweeney said he's firmly optimistic. "I'm excited about what the big sophomore class is going to bring for us. And it's a great group of kids. They're coachable and have great attitudes; we're very happy with the mentality and the work ethic."

April kicks off with a trip to La Conner.

"We're looking for a little payback; they've beaten up on us for a few years," said Sweeney.

—J. K. M.

By Jason Miller

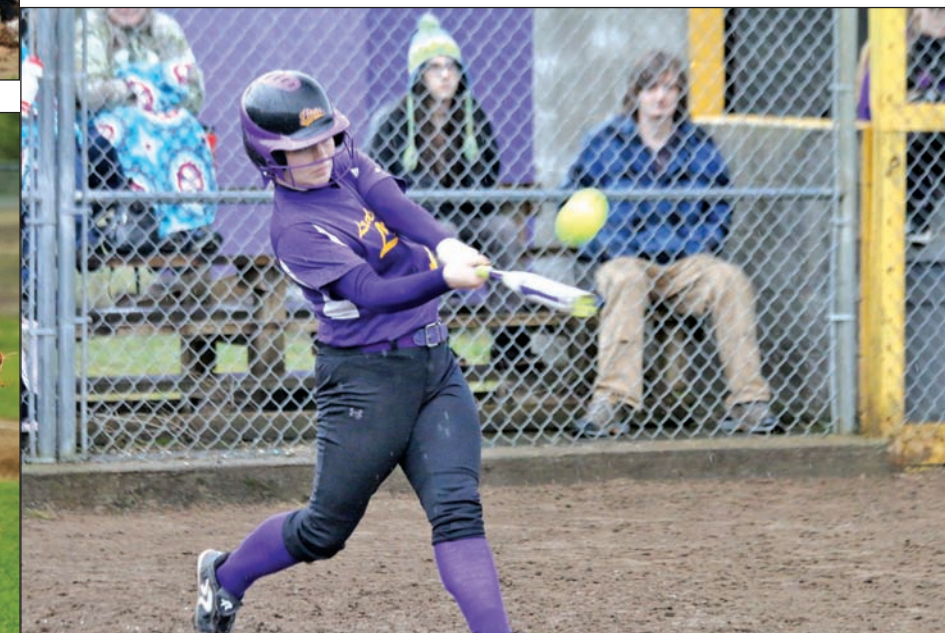
The Lady Lions fastpitch team managed to slip in some playing time between rain showers in March, starting their season with an unblemished record.

A March 18 rainout postponed the season opener to a March 21 home game against Mount Vernon's C team, which saw Concrete on top in a 20-0 rout.

The Concrete team already has faced rival Darrington twice this season, on March 23 and 27, and has come out on top both times, 13-2 and 15-0, respectively.

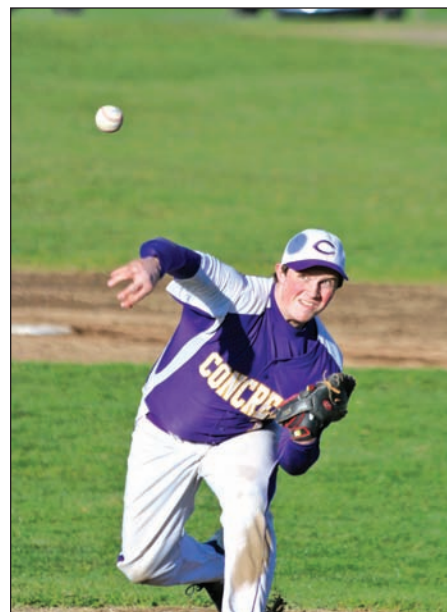
Between the Darrington games, the team took on Port Townsend on March 25 and tied the scoreless game.

—J. K. M.

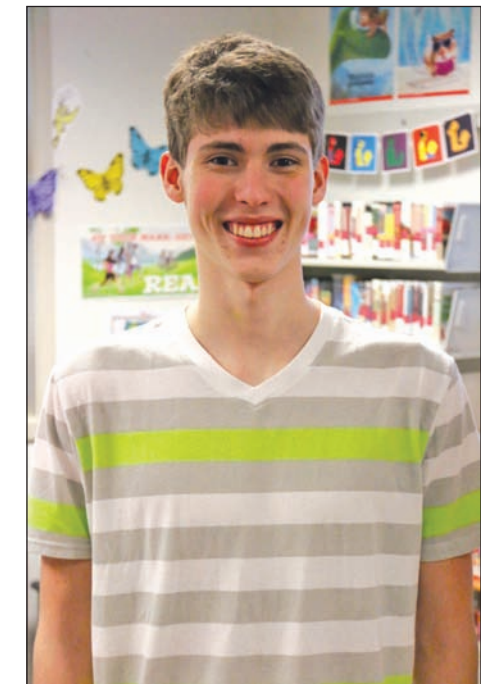


**Above:** Chloe Stidman digs deep and sends one soaring toward a Mount Vernon C team left fielder during a homefield battle on March 21.

**Below:** Iris Nevin tags a Bulldog runner at second base during the March 21 game, which gave the Lady Lions a W, 20-0.



## Athletes of the Month



### Athletes of the Month: Jalayne Hastings and James Schoolland

Jalayne Hastings is a junior guard on the Concrete women's basketball team. Jalayne received the honor of being named Female Athlete of the Month for Concrete High School based upon her consistent and improved play on the court as her team finished out their season strong. This is the first time she has received this award. "Jalayne became one of our most consistent players on both ends of the court, as she became solid on defense, and limited her turnovers on offense," said Coach Kevik Rensink. "She did whatever was asked of her by the coaches, and was voted the Most Improved Player by her teammates."

Junior guard James Schoolland was a force to be reckoned with on the basketball court this season. A solid shooter inside and outside, he "showed great commitment and led the team in rebounds and points per game," said Coach Daniel Schoolland. "He always worked hard, improved his defense, and led his teammates by example." Schoolland's efforts earned him a spot on the All League Second Team.

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



### SATURDAY 7PM!

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APRIL 22

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MAY 27

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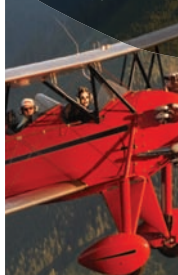
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# Track sprints into season

Hampered by the same dismal weather that set back the Concrete baseball and softball team practices, the Concrete track team nevertheless kicked off its season with three meets in March: at La Conner on March 15, at home on March 23, and in Friday Harbor on March 29.

This year's team is stronger in numbers and will benefit from returning seniors Blaine Storms (sprints), Hannah Rensink (throws), and Brian Torheim (throws). Junior Becky Azure returns as one of the team's top throwers.

The incoming freshman class and newcomer Emily Bridge (throws) have bolstered the team's ranks significantly. Freshmen Maniesha Hook (sprints, throws) and Levi Lowry (throws) already are making their presence known during meets. Bridge is demonstrating an ability to learn by leaps and bounds, turning in

solid performances particularly in the discus. Lowry brings plenty of power to the shotput; if he continues to hone his technique, he could be a state contender during his first year in high school.

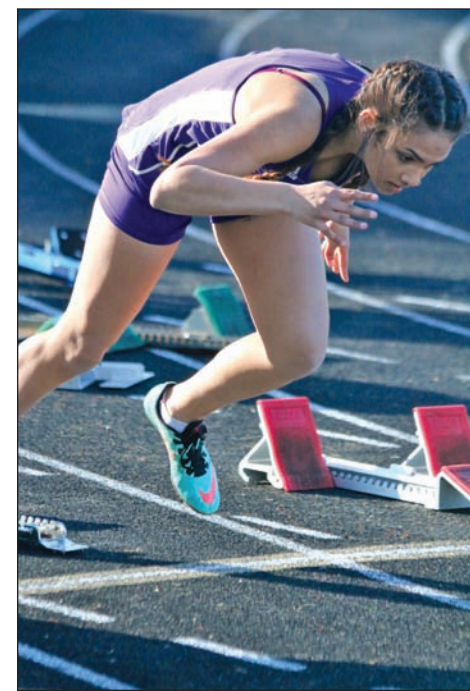
Sophomore Jonas Rensink is proving to be a threat all over, performing well in the long jump, discus, javelin, and high jump.

Personal records already are falling, especially among the women who throw things. At the team's most recent meet in Friday Harbor, Azure took first in all three of her throwing events, tying in the shotput with Hannah Rensink. Amazing!

The spirit award so far belongs to Taylor Chassaniol, who, after a miscount of how many laps he'd run during the 3200m at home on March 23, sprinted the final 200 meters on his second-to-last and his last laps, and set a new personal record.

—J. K. M.

**Clockwise from top right:** Blaine Storms competes in the 100m sprint during the team's first meet in La Conner on March 15. Becky Azure hurls the javelin in La Conner. Taylor Chassaniol begins the 3200m race in Friday Harbor on March 29. Freshman Maniesha Hook rockets out of the starting blocks in Friday Harbor.



# Music of the masters

## Andris Vezis crafts violins using plans from Stradivarius, Guarneri, Bergonzi.

It's cold outside and snow still lingers on the ground in late winter, but it's warm in Andris Vezis' kitchen. A nasty cold has driven him back into the house, away from his workshop, where he prefers to make music with his hands.

The Marblemount luthier—a builder of stringed instruments—has taken over the kitchen table. His instruments of creation lie in organized chaos: books, blueprints, templates, violins in various stages of completion, strange vials of liquids—base (or “ground”) coats and varnishes.

Vezis, 64, has been retired for about a decade. His former life of adventure—he worked for the U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service as a firefighter and hotshot, among other jobs—has become a life of study, contemplation, and creation.

He's been a musician all his life, but retirement reawakened his interest in creating violins. He's built 11 so far. As a child, his instrument for years was a Guarneri violin that had been run over in front of Carnegie Hall and repaired by his father.

These days, Vezis uses blueprints from Stradivarius, Guarneri, and other masters

to create his own masterpieces. He chooses wood locally and from all over the world, then methodically and lovingly puts in the time necessary to build one violin at a time: 350 hours.

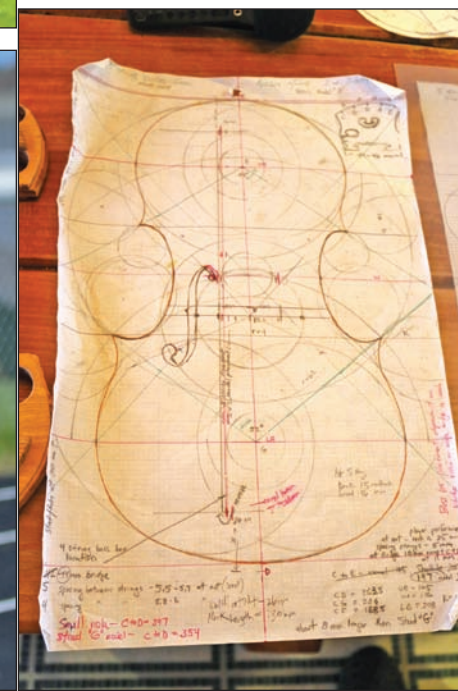
It's an art not of inches, but of millimeters and half-millimeters. The tolerances are so unforgiving, that even slight deviations can ruin the sound and end up in Vezis' wood stove. Others are nailed to the walls of his home, good for looking at, but not playing. Everything can affect the sound quality: the density of the wood, the ground coat, the varnish, the sound holes ... but for the most part, “it's just kind of following the map—the thickness, the length—everything has been worked on for centuries. Stradivarius and Guarneri were the innovators,” says Vezis.

He steps outside for a photo, carrying one of his creations. It's still cold. He lifts the violin into position and plays a few bars, the notes peeling off into the silence. It is an exquisite moment.

“Pretty good,” he says. “Pretty good.”  
—J. K. M.



**Above:** Andris Vezis plays one of his creations. **Below left:** Overlapping geometries eventually reveal a pattern that can be used to create a new violin. **Below right:** A lion head scroll with a wavy mane, carved by Vezis.



**SATURDAY 7PM!**

**OPENING NIGHT APRIL 22**

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# Academics



## School board names new superintendent

After a lengthy search, the Concrete School District Board of Directors named Wayne Barrett the new superintendent for the district during its March 30 regular meeting. Barrett will begin his new duties on July 1.

The board reached its decision after receiving 17 applications for the position and spending weeks to narrow the field to six, then three finalists, who were interviewed by board and community members.

Barrett comes to the position as principal of Highlands High School in the Omak School District, where he also serves as the Career Technical Education (CTE) director for the district and teaches welding classes at the high school and at Wenatchee Valley College.

Board President Crissie Wilson said the board's decision was reached after careful consideration of the applicants' qualifications. "Mr. Barrett had a significant background running his own school as principal, and he has completed his superintendent credentials," she said. "We liked his ideas for moving Concrete School District forward."

Wilson added the decision was "very hard" and thanked the district staff, community members, and Wayne Robertson and Mark Venn of Northwest

Leadership Associates, the consulting firm who helped guide the process.

"Anybody and everybody who came to the forums; that was a huge factor in how we chose," said Wilson.

### Bump in the road

Barrett's appointment did not come without some dissenters. Venn said there were people on both sides of the fence for each candidate, but Barrett's pending appointment brought several district employees to the March 30 meeting, many of whom stood and stated, "I can't in good conscience support this candidate."

An equal number of employees verbally supported Barrett at the meeting.

Upper Skagit Valley Education Association President Bill Howard said the opposing statements came from concerns with Barrett's relationship with the teachers union at Kiona-Benton School District.

"Some of the decisions that were made and problems it had caused in the workplace between staff and the administration—for me, it was troubling," he said. "I spoke to our board during a workshop and said, 'Take another look. Do you really want to bring that kind of problematic relationship with the union?'"

Howard said he met privately



Barrett

with Barrett, Wilson, and current Superintendent Barb Hawkings, and Barrett "gave me some very good assurances. I do think the board listened to us and took our concerns seriously. That's what we wanted. So the bottom line for me is the board allayed all my fears, showed they had done their due diligence. We are fine with the decision, and we look forward to working with him when he takes over on July 1."

Barrett said he plans to hit the ground running on July 1, starting with the process of developing relationships with district staff, teachers, and community members. He identified graduation rates and a lack of programming for students as the biggest challenges for the district, "but also the biggest opportunity."

"A well-rounded student has to have everything," he said. "To keep them engaged, you have to have something for everyone, whether it's performing arts, CTE, Advanced Placement courses—you have to have the ability to offer those items to keep them interested in school."

"I'm looking forward to working with Bill (Howard) and the other teachers; it's about us working together and developing trust, and putting that trust in the bank."

—J. K. M.

## YD update

Our first Monday night activity in March was going to be a scavenger hunt around town, but we were snowed out.

The next Monday we had Jeopardy Night, and "The Socks," led by team captain Madisyn Renzelman, won by dominating the second board and cleaning up on the daily doubles.

Then came Just Better Night, a scavenger hunt that requires the students to go around town and trade items for something "better." They do this until their time deadline, and then each team heads back to the school. The team with the most valuable item wins. This year's winning team was Kaden Becker, Michael Booker, Mikey Filtz, Tyler Nevin, and Jonas Rensink. Of the items the teams collect, we sell what we can and use the money for adventure trips.

Our last event in March was our Amazing Race, where students formed teams of two and raced around town, solving clues, eating things they would normally not eat, and running more than most of them do any day. Austin Wenneker, a senior, won back-to-back Amazing Races and received a free trip to our whitewater rafting trip in June.

We see new students every week, and have now had 105 high school students attend at least one event this year. Events coming up in April are Minute-To-Win-It, Scavenger Hunt, and an Outdoor Game Night at Veterans Memorial Park.

The 30-Hour Famine also approaches, and several of the students have already started to fundraise. The students are collecting sponsors to raise money and awareness for poverty-stricken children in third-world countries. Our goal this year is to raise \$3,000 as a group. All of the donations that come in go to World Vision, so if you see a high school student, ask them if they are going to the Famine and if you can sponsor them. The 30-Hour Famine is April 21–22 at Baker Lake.

Please call us at 360.630.6063 if you have questions about the Famine or Concrete Youth Dynamics. Thank you for your continued support of our Upper Skagit Valley Youth.

—Kevik and Marta Rensink  
Concrete YD Area Directors

## CONCRETE MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

The following students at Concrete Middle School received a grade point average of 3.2 or higher for the first semester of the 2016–17 school year. An asterisk after a name denotes a student with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

### Grade 7 Honor Roll

Charlie Bartel, Briar Cain, Corbin Coggins, Payton Dickinson, Mason Elliott, Kiaunna Gardner, Georgia Gregush, Jasmyne Hansen, Carlen Herz, Devon Howard, Christian Joens\*, Searrah Martin, Ashley Parker, Anja Roozen, McKinley Wilson.

### Grade 8 Honor Roll

Kylie Clark, Carissa Cross, Brandon Downing, Hunter Kelley, Collin Martin, Leona Martinez, Hunter Olmstead, Rebekah Rider, Andrea Rogers, Kassidy Smith, Lily Whitford.

## CONCRETE HIGH SCHOOL

The following students at Concrete High School received a grade point average of 3.2 or higher for the first semester of the 2016–17 school year. An asterisk after a name denotes a student with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

### Grade 9

Christiann Barela, Elizabeth Buchta, Mariah Casteel, Lexi Denley, John Hansen, Jacquelyn Jackson, Samantha Mitchell, Izabela Ramos, Peyton Sanchez, Troy Schmidt\*, Devin Wilbur-Blankenship.

### Grade 10

Josabet Acevedo-Lara, Jonathan Akers, Tiana Brookshire, Shanon Clemons\*, Tyler Coffell, Faith Daniels, Mellydee Howry, Dalton Newby, Charles Parent\*, Jaidyn Swanson\*, Nora Towner.

### Grade 11

Whitney Claybo, Riley Fichter, Asusena Fregoso, Hannah Haskett, McKenna Kononen\*, Alyssa Roberts, Emily Schmidt, Robert Thompson Jr., Tanner Tygret.

### Grade 12

Diane Bergsma, Emily Bridge, Tessa Coffell, Ashlee Gilbert\*, Solomon Holman, Jaycelyn Kuipers, Grayson Luttrell, Tate Mathis, Riley Pritchard, Hannah Rensink, Blaine Storms, Tanner Wilson.

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*Barbara Hawkings*

Sunday, May 21, 2017  
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## 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.

360.826.4090

### 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  
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360.873.2504

### Sedro-Woolley

**Helping Hands Food Bank**  
601 Cook Rd., Sedro-Woolley  
Wed., 10–11:30 a.m. and 12:30–4 p.m.  
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\*Changes? Call 360.853.8213.

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# Clear Lake



## HISTORY CORNER

Pig Tail Alley, shown in the photo at right, was a neighborhood of homes built by Clear Lake Lumber Company around 1920 for company employees. The boardwalks in front of the houses improved access for the residents. The houses were wired for electricity. Most homes had two or three bedrooms, but did not have indoor plumbing. The last three houses on the right were painted brown. Marie (Wood) Ringhouse, longtime Clear Lake resident and present member of Clear Lake Historical Association, lived in one of the brown houses. Clear Lake Lumber Company filed for bankruptcy in 1925. When Puget Sound Pulp

and Timber Company became the owner in 1929, these houses were sold and moved throughout Skagit County. This neighborhood is now known as Cedar Street in Clear Lake. *Photos courtesy of Clear Lake Historical Association.*

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

Like the Clear Lake Historical Association on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/clearlakehistory](http://www.facebook.com/clearlakehistory).

—Deanna Ammons, historian



### Dam Safety, cont. from p. 18

dams, good things do not happen.”

Tacoma Power has proposed recently to draw down the level of Riffe Lake at the Mossyrock Dam on the Cowlitz River in Lewis County by 30 feet each summer. The proposal came in response to updated seismic data that indicated the dam’s spillway piers might be at risk of failure in a large earthquake.

In a public meeting March 3 in Mossyrock regarding the proposal, McCarty noted that a highly unlikely “intraslab” earthquake of magnitude 7.5 or greater in the vicinity of the Mossyrock Dam would create serious issues.

“But it’s all in the name of public safety,” McCarty added, referring to the information at hand being available to the public.

DOE engineers perform inspections on each high-hazard dam every five years. This includes a detailed inspection of critical features like spillways, as well as an engineering analysis of the dam under extreme flood and earthquake load, Hoyle Dodson stated. During inspections, engineers look for deficiencies such as cracking in the concrete, sloping, and even animal burrows.

Low-hazard dams are inspected every 10 years by DOE engineers. Eighty inspections are planned this year, as well as some minor maintenance work, Hoyle Dodson said.

Ecology also requires the owners of high hazard dams, like Tacoma Power and Seattle City Light, to perform their own inspections annually and to file an inspection form with the Department of Ecology’s Dam Safety Office.

Residents who live downstream from a dam should be aware of emergency evacuation plans and emergency alert systems in their counties, Hoyle Dodson added.

“Be aware if you live below a dam,” Hoyle Dodson said. “Be prepared to leave if there is a problem.”

*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 Enrique Pérez de la Rosa at [perezenrique17@gmail.com](mailto:perezenrique17@gmail.com).*



## Community Calendar



### APRIL

- 1–30 Blackout Poetry at Upper Skagit Library; instructions at library or [www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us](http://www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us); see notice, p. 32; info at 360.853.7939
- 6 Computer Gaming Day, Upper Skagit Library, Concrete; noon to 3 p.m., ages 8+, info at [info@upperskagit.lib.wa.us](mailto:info@upperskagit.lib.wa.us) or 360.853.7939
- 6 “Why Not Home?” (why medical professionals are choosing to give birth at home) screens at Lincoln Theatre, Mount Vernon, 7 p.m.; free admission; info at [www.whynothome.com](http://www.whynothome.com)
- 7–8 Bethlehem Lutheran Church Garage Sale, see ad, p. 39
- 8 Open house to remember St. James Episcopal Church, Sedro-Woolley Museum, 1 to 3 p.m.; see notice, p. 17; info at 360.855.2390
- 8 Darrington Community Dance, Mansford Grange, Darrington; potluck at 6 p.m., dancing from 7 to 9:30 p.m.; suggested \$7 admission
- 9–15 National Library Week; get a card at Upper Skagit Library, Concrete
- 14 Concrete Heritage Museum Pre-Easter Bake Sale at Albert’s Red Apple, 9 a.m. until sold out
- 14 Country Meadow Village Annual Easter Egg Hunt, 1501 Collins Rd., Sedro-Woolley, 2 p.m.; info at [davidgb@villageconcepts.com](mailto:davidgb@villageconcepts.com) or 360.856.0404
- 15 Imagine Concrete Workshop: “Branding Concrete”; Concrete High School Commons Room, 9 a.m. to noon; see ad, p. 3; info at 360.853.8213 or [goodwords@frontier.com](mailto:goodwords@frontier.com)
- 15 Concrete Lions Easter Egg Hunt, Concrete Elementary School, noon
- 15 Easter Egg Hunt at Ovenell’s Heritage Inn, 46276 Concrete Sauk Valley Rd., 1 p.m.
- 15 Storytime, songs, and crafts for young children at Upper Skagit Library, Concrete, 11 a.m.; info at [www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us](http://www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us) or 360.853.7939
- 21 Carnival at Concrete Elementary School, 5 to 8 p.m.; tickets 50 cents each
- 22 Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser, Marblemount Community Hall, 5 to 7 p.m.
- 22 Earth Day 2017 sponsored by Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, Howard Miller Steelhead Park, Rockport, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; free admission; see ad, p. 2; info at [www.skagitfisheries.org](http://www.skagitfisheries.org) or 360.336.0172
- 23 “Let’s Talk About Dying,” Concrete Community Center, 3 p.m.; free admission; see article, p. 6
- 26 Science Fair at Concrete Elementary School
- 27 Law Day: Free Legal Advice, Skagit Transit Center (10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) and Divorce Seminar in Superior Court Hearing Room C (2 p.m.), Mount Vernon; info at 360.416.7585
- 27 Blackout Poetry Open Mic at 5b’s Bakery, Concrete, 5 p.m.; info at [www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us](http://www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us) or 360.853.7939
- 29 8th Annual Have a Heart Run, Edgewater Park, Mount Vernon, 8:15 to 11:30 a.m.; register at [www.haveaheartrun.org](http://www.haveaheartrun.org)

### MAY

- 6 “Blast Open the Pass” spring fundraiser for KSVU, Marblemount Community Hall, 6 to 10 p.m. (maypole raising at 5:30 p.m.); see notice, p. 26; info at 360.853.8588
- 10 Marblemount Community Hall Annual Meeting and Open House, see notice, p. 26; info at 360.873.2323
- 13 Master Gardener Plant Fair, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; see notice, p. 34
- 15–19 Filing week for candidates for elected offices in Skagit County
- 17 East County Public Forum, CHS Commons room, 5:30 p.m.; see notice, p. 6
- 21 Retirement Party honoring Barb Hawkings, CHS gymnasium, 1 to 3 p.m.; see ad, p. 13

\*Community Calendar is updated daily at [www.concrete-herald.com/calendar](http://www.concrete-herald.com/calendar)

## 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](mailto:ember@cascaadedays.com), [info@cascaadedays.com](mailto:info@cascaadedays.com).

**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** meets the second Tue. of each month, Sept. through May, at 1 p.m., in the conference room of the East County Resource Center. 360.853.8347.

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

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

**Concrete Chamber of Commerce** meets the second Thur. of each month at 8 a.m. Meetings usually are held in the Pilots’ Lounge at Mears Field in Concrete. 360.466.8754 or [concretechamber@mac.com](mailto:concretechamber@mac.com).

**Concrete Heritage Museum Board** meets the third Wed. of each month, at 7 p.m. at the museum. Meetings are open to the public. 360.826.3075 or [www.concreteheritagemuseum.org](http://www.concreteheritagemuseum.org).

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

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

**Concrete School District Board** will hold its next work session on April 24, at 6 p.m. in the high school Commons. The board will hold its regular monthly meeting on April 27 at 6 p.m. in the same location. 360.853.4000.

**Concrete Town Council** meets the second and fourth Monday of each month at Town Hall, 45672 Main St., Concrete, at 6 p.m. 360.853.8401 or [andrea@concretewa.gov](mailto:andrea@concretewa.gov).

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

**Darrington Town Council** meets the second Wed. of each month at 7 p.m. at Town Hall, 1005 Cascade St. 360.436.1131 or [darrcityhall@frontier.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:clerk_lyman@msn.com).

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

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

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

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

**Sedro-Woolley School District Board** will meet on April 10, at 7 p.m. at the Support Services Bldg., and on April 24, at 7 p.m. at Samish Elementary School. 360.855.3500 or [kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us](mailto:kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us).

**Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center Board** meets the second Tue. of each month, 5:30 p.m., at Annie’s Pizza Station in Grasmere. Open to the public. [sauskister@frontier.com](mailto:sauskister@frontier.com) or [www.skagiteagle.org](http://www.skagiteagle.org).

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

**Upper Skagit Writers Group** meets the third Mon. of each month at 6 p.m., at 5b’s Bakery, Concrete. Open to the public and all skill levels. [cthomas@upperskagit.lib.wa.us](mailto:cthomas@upperskagit.lib.wa.us).

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

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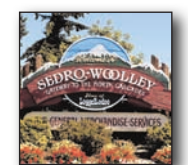
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Artwork by KayLani Siplin

**SKAGIT COUNTY WASHINGTON**  
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**SKAGIT FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT GROUP**





# Sedro-Woolley



## Lions Club celebrates 80 years

The Sedro-Woolley Lions Club celebrated 80 years of service to its community with a banquet on March 25.

The Lions Club of Sedro-Woolley was established on March 19, 1937, through the efforts of 13 local businessmen and 18 additional members. The group is a charter of Lions Clubs International, which celebrates its 100th anniversary in June.

In 1925, Lions Clubs International was asked by Helen Keller to be "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness." Ever since, the Lions' primary focus has been vision and prevention of blindness. What that means locally is an ongoing effort to provide eyeglasses to those in the Sedro-Woolley School District who can't afford them, and the collection of used eyeglasses for reuse in other countries. Here's glimpse of how the Sedro-Woolley Lions Club has helped its community through the years:

- 1944: Helped clean the beach at Clear Lake; provided labor for septic tank and sewer line installation.
- 1950: Began managing Loggerodeo parade.
- 1990 and 2003: Secured grant funds to help Hamilton flood victims.
- Today: Help people find glasses, focus on schools and student needs, Helping Hands Food Bank, conservation efforts.

For more information about the Sedro-Woolley Lions Club, call 360.856.2410.



**The Sedro-Woolley Lions Club 80th Anniversary Banquet** on March 25 included recognition of community members. The Citizen of the Year award went to Dr. C. Dan Siapco (above, with Lion Carol Torset). The Melvin Jones Award was given to Lion Gus Suryan (above right) by past Zone Chairperson Rose Torset. The Melvin Jones award is the highest recognition for a Lion to receive for their service in their community. **Right:** Keynote speaker Lt. Gov. Cyrus Habib.



### Mitchell Anthony Pepper serves as page for Sen. Pearson

Mitchell Anthony Pepper, a freshman at Sedro-Woolley High School, recently spent a week working as a page for the Washington State Senate at the Capitol in Olympia. Mitchell was one of 17 students who served as Senate pages for the 11th week of the 2017 legislative session.

He was sponsored by 39th Legislative District Sen. Kirk Pearson.

"I'm glad Mitchell decided to come down to Olympia," said Sen. Pearson. "It's great to hear that he learned a lot from the experience."

The Senate Page Program is an opportunity for Washington students to spend a week working in the Legislature. 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.

"This has been a really good experience as a first job," said Mitchell, "I've enjoyed working with people here."

Outside of school, Mitchell enjoys playing the violin and piano, and drawing. Mitchell, 15, is the son of Emily Pepper and Tom Carillo of Sedro-Woolley. Emily is a kindergarten teacher and Tom works in labor in their community. Mitchell has three siblings: Maddison Carillo, age 1; Jacob Pepper, age 13; and Alexis Fischer, age 16.

For more information about the Senate Page Program, go to <http://leg.wa.gov/senate/administration/pageprogram>.

### Concrete provider now in Sedro-Woolley

Pamela Hassler, PA-C, has joined PeaceHealth Medical Group as physician assistant at PeaceHealth Sedro-Woolley Family Medicine, 830 Ball St., Sedro-Woolley. She provides care to patients of all ages with a variety of medical needs, and is particularly interested in preventive health, wellness, women's health, pediatrics, dermatology, and fibromyalgia. Hassler had previously worked as a

physician assistant at Sea Mar Community Health Center in Concrete. Her research has been in the areas of anti-inflammatory diet, fibromyalgia, emotional health as it affects wellness, therapeutic lifestyle changes, and the effects of personal choices on health.



Hassler

### Briefly ...

The Sedro-Woolley Museum will host an open house to remember the legacy of the **St. James Episcopal Church** on Sat., April 8, from 1 to 3 p.m.

From its beginning in 1890 where the congregation met in St. Elizabeth's Hospital under the name of St. David's, to the demolition of the building and beyond, celebrate the history of St. James and pay homage to the many women who diligently raised monies that kept the church alive and well.

For more information, call the museum at 360.855.2390.

**Nathan's Boulder** will be dedicated on Sat., April 22, at 11 a.m. at its new location between Cascade Middle School and Evergreen Elementary School, 905 McCargile Rd.

The climbing rock honors the memory of Nathan Nakis, a Sedro-Woolley native killed in service to his country in Mosul, Iraq, on Dec. 16, 2003. Nakis, a 2002 graduate of Sedro-Woolley High School,

was called to active duty deployment with the National Guard when he was a student at Oregon State University. He was a combat engineer with Bravo Company of the 52nd Engineering Battalion.

Nathan's Boulder was originally built and installed as an addition to the Nathan's Wall climbing complex at Camp Black Mountain in 2008. When the camp was sold, the Nakis family worked to have it moved to the school site. Many people and groups donated funds for the move, including the Rotary Club of Sedro-Woolley, whose special projects committee led by Steve Massey and Patrick Janicki worked to build the permanent structure.

The event is open to the public. A light lunch will be served immediately afterward in the lobby of Cascade Middle School.

**Adriana Flores**, a Sedro-Woolley resident, recently earned a Master of Science from Simmons College in Boston. Flores majored in archives management.

—David Bricka,  
Carolyn Freeman, J. K. M.

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# Lyman



# Day Creek



## Inslee signs levy-lid bill

By Grace Swanson  
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

On March 15, Gov. Jay Inslee signed into law legislation that will keep the local school levy lid at 28 percent until 2019. That lid was scheduled to drop to 24 percent in 2018.

“By this bill we are going to rescue our schools from the levy cliff,” he said during a press conference.

A levy cliff can occur when the levy lid—the amount that local school districts can raise through voter-approved special operating and maintenance levies—is lowered without additional funding coming from the state. This can lead to teacher dismissals, program cuts, and students without access to resources.

The law takes effect on July 23.

Inslee also added that passing this bill, SB 5023, won’t remove the legislature’s motivation to put forth a plan to fund basic education as mandated by the Washington Supreme Court in the McCleary decision.

“It clears the way for legislators to focus on the larger task at hand: fully funding education this year,” he said.

In 2010, the court determined that the state wasn’t fulfilling its constitutional duty to fund basic education and ordered the legislature to implement a funding plan by Sept. 1, 2018. Meanwhile the legislature’s delay in meeting its duty has accumulated a daily \$100,000 penalty, imposed by the Supreme Court in 2015,

that has now reached \$58 million.

Currently most districts may raise up to 28 percent of their operating revenue through voter-approved property tax levies. A levy base is calculated by adding state and federal funding. Voter-approved tax levies are intended to fund programs and expenditures outside of basic education, but districts sometimes use these funds to pay for basic education programs and functions when state dollars aren’t sufficient.

SB 5023 was passed by the House on March 9, with 87 in support, 10 opposed, and one excused. On March 8, the Senate passed the bill with 48 in support and one opposed.

Sen. Lisa Wellman, D-Mercer Island, was the main sponsor of the bill. This is her first session as a senator.

Amendments to SB 5023 put forward by Sen. Joe Fain, R-Auburn, were adopted on March 8 before it earned final passage. The changes require districts to create separate accounts for local and state funds. Also, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) must approve a local levy before a district can bring it to the voters.

In January the House passed a companion bill, HB 1059, freezing the levy lid at 28 percent. Democratic senators tried and failed to bring the bill to the floor a few days later. HB 1059 was given a public hearing in the Senate Committee on Ways & Means, but no further action was taken.

*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 Grace Swanson at grace.swanson47@gmail.com.*

**Read**  
**Concrete Herald**  
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

## Dam safety a state priority; few failures in more than century

By Enrique Pérez de la Rosa  
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

After the Oroville Dam crisis in February forced nearly 200,000 people to evacuate their California homes, Washingtonians may wonder if the dams that surround them are in danger of failing.

Dams in all 39 counties are regulated and inspected either by the state Department of Ecology or by federal dam safety engineers.

In January 2009 a leak at the Howard A. Hanson Dam on the Green River threatened the downstream communities of Kent, Auburn, Tukwila, and Renton. At that time the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is responsible for the dam’s inspection and maintenance, did not believe it was failing. Although danger to residents in the Green River Valley increased, there were no evacuations.

While the circumstances that led up to California’s Oroville Dam crisis were unique, the likelihood of dam failures in the United States is very high, said Mark Ogden, technical specialist at the Association of State Dam Safety Officials in Lexington, Ky. Dams in the United States fail every year, though not as dramatically as Oroville, he said.

Heavy rains that followed a long California drought raised the water in the Oroville Dam’s reservoir to dangerous levels, and dam operators were forced to release water into the Feather River through damaged spillways. Repairs on the Oroville Dam have already begun, but the crisis prompted officials across the country to review the risks of dam failure and evacuation plans.

“Maybe that’s the type of situation that will be more common with climate change,” Ogden said.

Dam engineers need to know how much water intake to expect every year, Ogden

said. Using rainfall data collected over decades, engineers can build a dam to withstand the highest probable flood.

Changes in the climate, such as the amount of water from snowmelt to rainfall, could make designs inadequate in the future, he explained. Snowmelt runoff is slow, steady, and predictable, while intake from rainfall is sudden and quick, Ogden said.

“You have a much higher peak flow, so you need to be able to design for that, plan for that,” Ogden said.

Guy Hoyle Dodson, a dam safety engineer at the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE), said proper design is the first line of defense and that protecting the public from disasters is a priority for the state.

“Safety is our major concern,” Hoyle Dodson said. “We’ve been extremely successful in preventing catastrophic dam breaches.”

Of the 1,189 dams in Washington, 1,055 are regulated by the DOE, while another 15 fall under U.S. Army Corps of Engineers jurisdiction. There are 134 dams exempt from DOE control. About 10 to 15 new dams are constructed every year, according to DOE.

Most dams in the state were built after 1950, but the oldest dam in operation was built in 1888: Chelan County’s Clear Lake Dam on the Chelan River.

All 39 counties in the state have at least one dam: Garfield has one, Asotin and Wahkiakum have two, and Jefferson six; all others have 10 or more; King has 126, the most.

Dams in the state receive a downstream hazard classification, a rating used to describe the potential loss of human life or property damage if the dam were to fail. About 37 percent of the dams under DOE jurisdiction are located above populated areas, and are therefore classified as having high or significant downstream hazards.

Inspections are vital because repairing a dam is not a simple operation, Tacoma Power Generation Manager Pat McCarty stated.

“It’s not like fixing potholes in the road,” McCarty said. “When you overtop

## Senate action eases building-permit anxiety over well-water sourcing; House action next

By Matt Spaw  
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

A Senate-passed bill allowing local governments to approve development using Department of Ecology (DOE) water rules awaits action in the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives.

It passed the Republican-controlled state Senate Feb. 28 on a 28–21 vote. It is now assigned to the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and awaits a public hearing date.

SB 5239’s primary sponsor is Sen. Judy Warnick (R-Moses Lake), who chairs the Senate Agriculture, Water, Trade, and Economic Development Committee.

The legislation comes in response to the Hirst decision, in which the state Supreme Court ruled that counties must determine what water is available before issuing building permits. SB 5239 would once again allow counties to rely on Department of Ecology rules when approving permit-exempt wells—those producing fewer than 5,000 gallons a day domestic use, to water livestock, or for lawn care.

Opponents worry the bill will infringe on senior water rights and harm in-stream flow—water available in streams and rivers. The bill allows permits to be mitigated—offset—in ways not requiring water replacement, such as improving stream habitats.

“Section four would allow out-of-kind mitigation. You can end up with a beautiful stream with a nice habitat, but no water,” said Center for Environmental Law & Policy Attorney Dan Von Seggern. “We want to see water put back in the stream instead.”

Supporters argue permit-exempt wells do not significantly impact nearby streams

and rivers because those wells account for one percent of water consumption. Opponents counter that the seasonal effects of permit-exempt wells are significant.

“Permit-exempt wells are typically year-round, but when people are using them for irrigation it’s largely summertime use, when stream flows are low,” Seggern said. “Permit-exempt water use can be significant when compared to stream flow in a given basin.”

Supporters of the bill are concerned that some property owners have been left unable to build on their land following the Hirst decision. They worry this will continue without a legislative fix.

“There won’t be any development opportunities in Eastern Washington if this doesn’t pass,” said Evan Sheffels, lobbyist for the Washington Farm Bureau. “This bill goes a long way in reversing Hirst.”

Emotional testimony from property owners has been heard in committee meetings. One landowner sold his previous home before finding his new land could not receive a well permit.

If there’s anything both sides agree on, it’s that the bill would reject and reverse the court’s ruling.

“This bill refers us back to the pre-Hirst status quo,” Seggern said.

*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 Matt Spaw at matthewspaw@gmail.com.*



A well-drilling project near a residential development. Photo courtesy of Washington Department of Ecology.

## Key provisions of SB 5239

- Says evidence of potable water for a building permit may include a water well report for a permit-exempt groundwater withdrawal that is not prohibited by Department of Ecology water resources rules.
- Allows a local jurisdiction to rely on Ecology’s water resources rules when approving a development, to determine if there is available potable water.
- Allows a local jurisdiction to rely on Ecology’s water resources rules in its comprehensive plan under the Growth Management Act (GMA).
- Provides that a water right permit may be conditioned to offset impacts to fish or other aquatic resources.

## Community notes

**Day Creek Community Pancake Feed**  
The annual Day Creek Community Pancake Feed is scheduled for May 13. More information will follow.

### Financial Peace class

Day Creek Chapel is offering a practical plan that can help you budget, manage your debt, and save for the future. This nine-week class taught by money expert Dave Ramsey can change your financial story in a matter of weeks. The start date will be announced soon. If you’d like to attend this class, call 360.840.2576. Materials for the class cost \$110.

### Cowboy Church

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

If you have an idea for a community gathering, contact Donna Pulver at 360.826.3003, or Kathy Henderson at 360.826.3581 or winningcircularanch@gmail.com.

—Kathy Henderson

## 2017 Community Potluck dates

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

## NEW library hours

The Free Library in Lyman is no longer open on Wednesday.

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



# March (and February) in pictures



**Left:** Concrete's own Gerald Wood, shown with Robin, his wife, celebrated his 90th birthday with family and friends at the Royal Star Restaurant in Mount Vernon on the exact date of his bellybutton day: March 11. The day included a buffet-style lunch, a birthday waffle, a rendition of Happy Birthday sung by restaurant employees, and a fancy tuxedo T-shirt—a gift from Gerald's daughter-in-law, Julie. *Photo by Gail Boggs.*

**Below left:** Romie Salipot, a 7th grader at Concrete Middle School, won teacher Vanessa Williams' Pi Challenge for 2017, memorizing the 1st 104 digits of Pi! He was awarded a dessert of his choice. *Submitted photo.*

**Below:** Creature, Lady of Anacortes, Ruler of Fidalgo Island, Prime Minister of the Salish Sea—a.k.a. Rowan Pratt from Anacortes—felt moved to perform a spirited, twirling dance during Mardi Gras in Concrete.



**Above:** Young Writers gathered at the Upper Skagit Library on March 25 for a celebration of their first published works, now available for checkout at the library. Standing behind them are John Burmaster of Baker River Woodworks, who built the bookcase on which the young writers' works are displayed; Concrete teacher Mia Roozen; and library Director Brooke Pederson. The young writers—some of whom are not pictured—are Vija Vezis, Madison Murcay, Kyli Selin, Joey Devries, Ashlyn Morgareidge, Hunter Throssel, Patti Huebner, Rylee Baker, Prudence Star, Kelsy Martin, Ashten Martin, Anna Kiele, Ava Kuipers, Owen Aamot, Haley Daniels.

**Below:** The Seattle Pub Crawl All Stars again appeared at Mardi Gras in Concrete, with a full contingent of costumed revelers that included—yes—the beloved Chicken Man!



**Above:** Mardi Gras in Concrete on Feb. 25 saw Chuck and Anne Bussiere crowned King and Queen. They were perfect! **Below:** Katie Kins of Clear Lake snagged the award for Best-Dressed Child. **Below left:** Matt Seguin (Betty's Seguin's son) from Kirkland wowed the crowd with his unicycle skill—and captured the Best Adult Costume award.







# Hamilton



# Rockport



## From the Mayor

Town Hall hours will be shifting slightly. Starting the week of April 10, Town Hall will be open from 1 to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays to help accommodate those who work in the morning. It will continue to be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesdays and from 10 a.m. to noon on Fridays.

A new playground set has been



ordered! It has monkey bars, two slides, and swings. The plan is to put it in the lot by the Post Office. It will be a great addition to our parks and lots of fun for our smaller set.

Thank you to the Harvest Ministry, Girl Scout Troop 43120, and all the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement volunteers who came out on March 18. It was miserable weather, but we got a lot of plants in the ground along the west side of the slough. They seined the slough to check for fish, and found baby coho and a baby chinook salmon, along with some other critters.

—Mayor Joan Cromley

## Council summary

*The Hamilton Town Council held a regular meeting Feb. 15. Following is a summary of that meeting.*

- Mayor Joan Cromley announced the resignation of Councilmember Bethany Betlam; the council position opening will be announced via publication.
- Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County Chief Executive Officer John Sternlicht spoke about the benefits to Hamilton in joining EDASC.
- *RV Codes:* Council discussed proposed codes for RVs in Hamilton. RVs would not be allowed as dwellings for anyone but the property

owner. There would be exceptions, requiring an extended permit. Yearly inspections were proposed. RV codes will be re-added to the next agenda.

- *Animal Ordinances:* Mayor Cromley suggested that council needed more time to discuss animal ordinances. It will be added to the next agenda.
- *Water Dept.:* Councilmember Brockman motioned that the Council forgive \$2,000 on Laura Stevens' water bill. Motion passed unanimously.
- *Fire Dept.:* An inventory of the fire department will be performed.
- *Street Dept.:* Tom Selin reported no issues, just more plowing and scraping.

—Compiled from staff minutes

## Briefly ...

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission invites the public to celebrate Spring and Earth Day with **two free days at state parks in April**. On free days, visitors don't need a Discover Pass for day-use visits by vehicle.

The first free day is Sat., April 15—a springtime free day. The next free day is Sat., April 22, in honor of Earth Day.

The free days are in keeping with legislation that created the Discover Pass. The pass costs \$30 for an annual pass or \$10 for a one-day permit and is required for vehicle access to state recreation lands managed by Washington State Parks, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The Discover Pass legislation provided that State Parks could designate up to 12 "free days" when the pass would not be required to visit state parks.

The remaining 2017 State Parks free days are as follows:

- June 3 (Saturday): National Trails Day
- June 10 (Saturday): National Get Outdoors Day
- Aug. 25 (Friday): National Park Service 101st Birthday
- Sept. 30 (Saturday): National Public Lands Day
- Nov. 11 (Saturday): Veterans Day
- Nov. 24 (Friday): Autumn free day

For information about Discover Pass, visit [www.discoverpass.wa.gov](http://www.discoverpass.wa.gov).

The public is invited to enjoy nature-themed **poems placed along the Skagit Land Trust trail at the Barr Creek Conservation Area**. Poets include noted Northwest poets, including a former Washington State Poet Laureate. The project was previously installed in three parks in Mount Vernon and at the North Cascades Institute.

The Barr Creek Conservation Area trailhead is accessed from Conrad Rd. off SR 20 near Rockport.

### Barnaby Reach update

The project Steering Committee

(Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Seattle City Light, The Nature Conservancy, and Skagit River System Cooperative (SRSC)) kicked off a new phase of technical work at the Jan. 24 Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting. Meeting presentations and summary are available on the project Web site: <https://barnabystudy.wordpress.com/meetings>.

Hard copies of project information, including reports, meeting summaries, project goals and objectives, and schedule are also available for review at the Upper Skagit Library in Concrete.

During the next year, technical work will consist of more detailed topographic and bathymetric (underwater) survey, surface and groundwater data collection, sediment and groundwater characterization, hydrologic analysis, and hydraulic (river and flood flow) modeling. This work will build on the previous analysis and modeling, and will provide a more complete understanding about the river, floodplain, tributaries, and groundwater, and how all those features are interconnected.

An advanced remote survey method called "Green LiDAR" will be used to create an accurate topographic map for the Barnaby Reach project area this winter/early spring 2018. This technique can penetrate water, which will be very important for the complex network of sloughs and channels in the project area. The project team will spot check with on-the-ground survey, but expect the remote technique to be accurate to within a few inches.

A field trip and community open house also are planned at the project site in April. This will be an opportunity to tour the site with the project sponsors and technical consultant, and hear information presentations. The date is still being finalized.

No decisions have been made yet on what alternative configurations will be modeled in this new phase of technical work—that step will come later. The project sponsors will alert the community when that time approaches, and have committed to discussing alternative configuration with the Stakeholder Advisory Committee and Community prior to beginning the work.

## Upriver Community Radio update

By Christie Fairchild

Having received the opportunity last spring of raised monies being matched by a local, anonymous donor, KSVU 90.1 FM radio has met that match and is now the recipient of a new transmitter on the tower. After five years of broadcasting at a mere 300 watts, the community radio station is now blasting out over 2,000, and folks from Marblemount and Darrington to Sedro-Woolley and Anacortes report very good reception.

In addition, our sibling station in Friday Harbor, KSJU 91.9 FM, is simulcasting our shows daily.

Many thanks go to the good folks at Skagit Valley College's KSVR radio for helping making this all happen. As our "mother ship," KSVR holds the rudder and controls the vessel that has become valued and appreciated community radio stations in all three locations: downvalley, upriver, and now the San Juan Islands.

But because of the new federal administration's plan to cut or even eliminate the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), any funding support that may have come from the CPB is in jeopardy, and local support is the only

thing that will keep these community voices alive.

KSVU's annual spring fundraiser, "Blast Open the Pass," is scheduled for Sat., May 6, in the Marblemount Community Hall. Raising and "dressing" the May Pole at 5:30 p.m. kicks off the evening and is especially fun for the kids. A potluck supper begins at 6 p.m., with live music by Undecided, followed by Jumbled Pie at 7 p.m.

In addition, a raffle and silent auction of local goods and services will add some excitement to the night, as well as critical funds to keep the radio station alive and well.

Run completely by volunteers, KSVU needs these funds for paying rent for the studio space, utilities for that building, and tower rental for the transmitter, as well as repairing and replacing the second- and third-hand recording and broadcasting equipment.

If you value community radio, or just need to shake off the winter blues, come on May 6 and help KSVU "Blast Open the Pass." For more information or to donate items for the raffle, call 360.853.8588 and leave a message with your name and return phone number.

Christie Fairchild is a volunteer for KSVU 90.1 FM, Upriver Community Radio.

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## Birdsview Buzz

Happy spring, everyone! Now that the weather is hopefully drying up a little, it's time to get outside again.

A belated happy 44th anniversary to Ed and Pam Giecek.

### April birthdays

- 11 Woody Deryckx
- 14 Jason Voigt
- 27 Kim Lance

### Other April happenings

On April 16 the brewery will be closed for Easter.

April 29 is April Brews Days in Bellingham. Come join us and almost 70 other breweries.

Pack your patience this month and for the rest of the summer, because WSDOT will be doing road construction from Sedro-Woolley to Concrete on SR 20.

Have a great April!

—Kris Voigt

**A global Bible-teaching live simulcast event for women with PRISCILLA SHIRER** will be held on Sat., April 8, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Hamilton First Baptist Church, 797 Hamilton Cemetery Rd. and SR 20, Hamilton.

Admission is \$25, with snacks provided. Bring a brown bag lunch. RSVP to Pastor Ron Edwards at 360.333.8187 or email [ronedwards170@gmail.com](mailto:ronedwards170@gmail.com). Scholarships are available; for more information, contact Pastor Edwards.

## Public can comment on salmon fisheries at meetings and online

State fishery managers have scheduled more than 12 public meetings through mid-April—including three in eastern Washington—as they continue to develop this year's salmon fishing seasons.

A schedule of meetings is available at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/northfalcon>. The Web site also includes a commenting tool, salmon forecasts, and more information about the annual salmon season-setting process, known as North of Falcon.

The public meetings are opportunities for anglers, commercial fishers, and others interested in salmon to discuss regional and statewide fisheries issues with representatives from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

In Washington, salmon are co-managed by the state and treaty tribes. Management activities include restoring fish habitat, working cooperatively on salmon production at hatcheries, and setting salmon fishing seasons.

As fisheries managers develop this year's salmon seasons, public participation is vital, said Jim Unsworth, WDFW director.

Unsworth noted that some people have asked the state to allow the public to attend state-tribal negotiations. Treaty tribes are not subject to state open meeting laws, so both parties would need to agree to open negotiations to the public.

"These government-to-government meetings must occur for fishing seasons to be set," Unsworth said. "Refusing to meet with the tribes because they will not allow the public to attend these negotiations would be very unproductive for everyone involved."

Unsworth said he understands the closed negotiations are a source of frustration for many in the salmon-fishing community, but hopes people will be respectful of the process.

Fisheries managers will continue to keep people informed throughout the negotiations and work with the tribes at making the process as transparent as possible, Unsworth said.

The annual process of setting salmon fishing seasons is held in conjunction with public meetings conducted by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC). The PFMC is expected to adopt final ocean fishing seasons and harvest levels at its April 7–11 meeting in California. The 2017 salmon fisheries package for Washington's inside waters is expected to be completed by the state and tribes during the PFMC's April meeting.

## Continue the cycle

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# Darrington



## Talent show entertains with eclectic lineup

Story and photos by Marla Skaglund

The talent was as varied as the entertainment at the annual Darrington Community Talent Show, sponsored by the Darrington Historical Society, March 24 in the Darrington High School Auditorium.

Lillyona Nelson started the production with a solo vocal number followed by Bertha Nations, Dianna Morgan, Ronald Conley, and Rayna Conley filling the room with bluegrass music.

Mara Warren along with Aida Warren and Carlee Sage, got chuckles from the audience with their delightful rendition of The Duck Song. Rachel Heiner never missed a note on her saxophone, followed by a hula hoop/dance routine by Aida Warren and Carlee Sage.

Intermission was called and everyone was encouraged to sample the cookies and liquid refreshments offered.

After intermission the audience was treated to an example of DanceSport

featuring various ballroom styles, including waltz, foxtrot, and samba by Gabriel White and Shelly Gelkin. They returned several times, with costumes changed, to share the various ballroom dance styles. Gabriela Botamanenko once again wowed the crowd with her blistering electric guitar talents.

Daniel White and Kaylah Camerino shared their talents in ballroom dancing also. Mary Jo sang while Casey Haines sang and played several numbers on the ukulele to the delight of the crowd.

The audience was treated to the talents of the Darrington Drum Line under the guidance of Cami Hanna. The line featured Austin Foster, Aksel Espeland, Danny Helling, Danni Cook, Keegan Thompson, Gaia Briscoe, and Ashin Whittaker, who gave an exuberant drumming demonstration to conclude another successful annual Darrington Community Talent Show.



Above: Ronald Conley, fiddle, and Rayna Conley, mandolin, play bluegrass music for the audience at the Darrington Community Talent Show. Right: Darrington Community Talent Show Masters of Ceremony Danny Helling and Erika Morris.



Continue the cycle

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Above: Governor Jay Inslee tells Rick Knight, Ride to Remember Oso organizer, how much he enjoyed riding the entire 30-mile distance. Photo by Marla Skaglund.

## Ride to Remember Oso draws 300

The skies were blue, the sun was shining, and fresh snow glistened on the mountaintops as almost 300 registered bicycle riders left Arlington along SR 530, heading east for the Ride to Remember Oso/Celebration of Strong Communities, held in Darrington March 19.

The JoJo Trail Ride was organized and started at the Fortson Mill Site, six miles west of Darrington, named for 13-year-old JoJo Mangual, who died in the landslide. Each participant on the ride wore the number "43" on their riding tag.

Riders were greeted with cheers and applause once they arrived at the Darrington Community Center. A designated safe area had been set up for the riders to park their bikes and participate in the activities in the gym and outside. Tables featuring local projects were set up in the gym.

Visitors were entertained with bluegrass music, lending a cultural note that is

very much Darrington. Featured artists included Bertha Nations, original founder of the Bluegrass Association; Dianna Morgan, Bluegrass Association; and Ronald Conley and Rayna Conley, students.

Outside, Darrington firefighters were cooking hotdogs, kettle corn was popping, and everyone was taking in the fresh air. Darrington Mayor Dan Rankin, Arlington Mayor Barb Tolbert, Snohomish County Executive Dave Somers, Congresswoman Suzan DelBene, and Sauk-Suiattle Tribe Vice Chairman Kevin Lenon and Ken Klein, executive director of technology, facilities, and county responsibilities were among the local leaders present.

Ride organizer Rick Knight grinned from ear to ear as he greeted riders on the warm spring day.

"You just couldn't ask for a better day," Knight said. "It's just beautiful today."

—Marla Skaglund

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## Snohomish County Sheriff's Report

Snohomish County Sheriff Ty Trenary issued the following statement on March 21:

Yesterday, the Department of Homeland Security issued an "Immigration and Customs Enforcement Declined Detainer Outcome Report" that included the "highest volume of detainers issued to noncooperative jurisdictions between January 28, 2017 and February 3, 2017." The Snohomish County Sheriff's Office was included in a list of jurisdictions across the U.S. that do not comply with ICE detainer requests. In an accompanying news release, Acting ICE Director Thomas Homan stated that when local law enforcement fails to honor ICE detainers "... it undermines ICE's ability to protect the public safety..."

That is simply untrue. This unsubstantiated claim is offensive to me and the communities that I and the men and women of the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office proudly serve. If ICE truly felt that these offenders were a danger to society, they would establish probable cause and seek an arrest warrant, just like

any other law enforcement agency. Since our policy to no longer honor detainer requests has been in place, ICE has produced zero warrants at our jail.

I am also baffled as to why my agency would be listed as a county that has a policy of "non-cooperation," as we have a clear track record of working with ICE when they are conducting a criminal investigation on one of our inmates.

As with most of the Sheriff's Offices who operate large jails in Washington and Oregon, Snohomish County has not honored ICE detainers since April 2014. This was as a result of the federal district court decision, *Miranda-Olivares v. Clackamas County*, which ruled that honoring ICE detainers without probable cause is a violation of the 4th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Not honoring ICE detainer requests has nothing to do with whether Snohomish County is a "sanctuary" jurisdiction and has everything to do with following the letter of the law.

My agency's mission is Community First, and I believe in policies and processes that maximize public safety, while treating everyone fairly, with dignity and respect.

—Compiled from SCSO releases

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# Marblemount



# Newhalem



## Spaghetti Feed, annual meeting keep hall buzzing this spring

Spring has sprung and the hall is hopping!

### Spaghetti supper fundraiser

Saturday, April 22, from 5 to 7 p.m. is the date and time for our Fundraiser Spaghetti Supper, a great way to meet your neighbors. A sumptuous meal of spaghetti, garlic bread, green salad, dessert, and beverages will be made fresh in the hall's kitchen, and your meal will be accompanied by the serenading of local Rockport musicians Richard Lewis and John Bromet.

Please come, bring a date, and support your upriver community hall.

Meeting for the community hall, including a dessert potluck, events, and information shared by the Board of Directors, and an election to install a new board member and officers.

Having recently received its federal nonprofit status—501(c)(3)—the Marblemount Community Hall plans to continue to increase the varied opportunities hosted by the hall to keep our upriver communities alive and well. Please show up! It's only through community involvement that this valuable, independent service and venue keeps its doors open—for YOU.

For more information or to volunteer, leave a message at 360.872.2323.

—Christie Fairchild

### Annual meeting

In addition, Wed., May 10, is the Annual

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

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**Olivia Greso of Marblemount** (middle) performs during a dress rehearsal of "The Little Mermaid," which ran for 10 showings in March at the Lincoln Theater in downtown Mount Vernon. Greso's character, an electric eel named Flotsam, cavorted and sang with fellow eel Jetsam on stage with the dreadful Ursula.

## Senate budget protects hatcheries, begins Fish and Wildlife turnaround

The release of the Senate budget proposal on March 21 marked the beginning of a positive turnaround of the troubled Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). The budget provides safeguards for crucial agency functions, such as hatcheries, while initiating the rebuilding of an agency in crisis.

Agency management recently revealed to legislative leaders a significant budget shortfall. Because of this, a major hunting and fishing license fee increase plan was proposed by WDFW to increase agency revenue.

"The agency wanted to correct this by initiating a hefty increase in hunting and fishing license fees without the promise for more opportunities," said Sen. Kirk Pearson, R-Monroe, chairman of the Senate Natural Resources and Parks Committee.

Pearson received hundreds of letters in opposition to WDFW's fee increase proposal from across the state.

"The problem is not a money problem,

it's a leadership problem," said Pearson.

The Senate budget provides \$5 million from the general fund to protect hatcheries and core agency functions while bringing in outside performance and management support.

"It's important that we provide stability to the agency while we begin a much-needed overhaul that will help protect and grow the state's hunting and fishing opportunities," said Pearson. "This budget keeps the core of the agency in place while we correct the past problems that placed the agency in this situation and help it get on stronger footing."

The budget proposal also provides funding for an outside consultant to identify and fix management and organizational issues while running a zero-based budget exercise to address ongoing budget issues.

"This budget for WDFW reflects the needs of an agency in crisis," said Pearson. "Dwindling fish populations, diseased and scattered wildlife, and animal conflict problems have set back the WDFW's mission over the past few years. By giving them the tools they need to be successful, we can protect and grow the hunting and fishing opportunities now and in the future."

## Comment period extended on proposed alternatives for grizzly restoration

The National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will extend the public comment period regarding the proposed alternatives for the restoration of grizzly bears to the North Cascades ecosystem by 45 days, through April 28. The agencies received several requests for an extension to the comment period from members of the public and local elected officials.

The goal of the public comment period is to gather comments regarding the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); public comments received on the draft EIS will be evaluated and considered in the

identification of the preferred alternative, which will be published in the Final EIS.

The alternatives analyzed in this draft EIS include a "no-action" alternative, plus three action alternatives that would seek to restore a reproducing population of approximately 200 bears through the capture and release of grizzly bears into the North Cascades ecosystem.

The alternatives were developed by a planning team with input from the public, local, state, and federal agencies, and the scientific community.

The public may view the draft EIS and submit written comments through April

28, online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/grizzlydeis> or via regular mail or hand delivery to:

Superintendent's Office  
North Cascades National Park Service  
Complex  
810 SR 20  
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

Actions proposed on National Forest System lands under the draft EIS are subject to the USDA Forest Service's pre-decisional objection process. This comment period constitutes the

opportunity to establish eligibility to object to the Forest Service's draft decision under the regulations at 36 CFR 218. For more information on this process, go to <https://www.fs.fed.us/emc/applit/includes/20160531final218objectionbrochure.pdf>.

The grizzly bear was listed as a threatened species in the contiguous United States in 1975. The species was listed as endangered by the state of Washington in 1980.

## North Cascades Highway clearing scheduled to begin April 10

Heavy snowpack could keep it closed until June.

The planned April 10 starting date for clearing State Route 20 over the North Cascades is nearly a month later than the typical mid-March date, but weather, snow slides, and many still-full avalanche chutes make it unsafe to begin the work any earlier.

Clearing the North Cascades Highway usually takes four to six weeks, but the estimate this year is that it could take up to eight weeks. The latest reopening ever for the North Cascades Highway was June 14, 1974. This year's clearing work could extend into June as well. The high volume of snow through the 34-mile closed section is responsible for the estimate of up to eight weeks to reopen the highway.

"An early opening is in time for the lowland fishing season opening, the third week in April. A typical opening is by

the first weekend in May for Winthrop's "49'er Days," said Washington State Department of Transportation Twisp Maintenance Supervisor Don Becker. "We've only been closed through Memorial Day once in 40 years, but it could happen this year."

On a March 16 assessment trip, WSDOT avalanche and maintenance staff found snow 25 feet deep on the highway under four of the 11 Cutthroat Ridge avalanche chutes. Below Liberty Bell Mountain, the three main chutes were still full of snow, but had 35- to 45-foot accumulations on the highway below them.

Once the clearing begins, bicyclists and skiers are allowed beyond the closure gates Friday through Sunday, but not Monday through Thursday when WSDOT crews are working.

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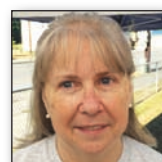
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# Seniors



## Coffee Break Stubbed my toe

By Patrick M. Kennedy

I stubbed my toe on a raised crack in the sidewalk down the street. When I was a little kid, it was no big deal. As a senior, though ... big deal.

All seniors have been there every once in a while. That moment when you're rushing around barefoot or almost barefoot, and BAM! You slam your toe into the corner of a light pole, sign post, or some other object in your path, bringing excruciating pain shooting through your big toe. How can you tell how much damage was really done? Did you just stub your toe, or is it something worse?

Knowing the difference between a stubbed toe and a broken toe is crucial to preventing further injury. It's important to assess your pain accurately (and often) to determine if you'll need an X-ray and further treatment. Here are some more tips to help you decide what's best to do next.

Time will tell: How long the pain remains will be a clue to whether

or not it's broken. If it only hurts for a couple of hours, then it's probably just stubbed. If it hurts the rest of the day or longer, you may have a fracture or a broken bone.

**Bruising:** When you stub your toe, it's normal to expect some bruising and even some blood under the toenail. But, if the discoloration lasts for a few days, if it spreads, or if it seems like there is too much blood under the nail, you might have a broken toe.

**Think it's broken?** Then it's time to get some help. Elevate your toe and ice it until you can see your podiatrist for further examination. Depending on the severity of your break or fracture, specialists may recommend splinting the broken toe; securing your toe to another toe to prevent further strain; using protective and corrective footwear; or even resetting the fracture with surgery.

*Patrick M. Kennedy is the author of Lotsa Fun with Retirement. Find it at Amazon.com. For more, go to [www.funwithretirement.com](http://www.funwithretirement.com).*

## Way Back When

### 70 years ago

*April 10, 1947:* Concrete Town Council members moved toward fulfillment of pre-election promises Monday night at their regular session when they passed a first reading on a nuisance ordinance. The ordinance defines the various public nuisances, provides for their control, and establishes penalties for violators. Included as one section is reference to dust, smoke, and soot from industrial or private sources.

This section calls for elimination of such items as cement dust from the cement plant, plus soot, smoke, and other such disagreeable nuisances that might be forced upon the town if not controlled by law.

Other items contained in the ordinance are written to eliminate dumping of refuse within the city limits, unauthorized obstructions on streets or alleys, unauthorized excavations, unnecessary noises, shooting of guns within the city limits and careless use of airguns or slingshots, seditious language on streets or alleys, and unauthorized and disorderly houses.

The penalties provide for fines up to \$100 for conviction of violators; each separate day of violation can be construed as a separate offense.

### 60 years ago

*April 4, 1957:* The change of ownership of the Concrete cement plant property from Superior Portland Cement, Inc., its founder,

to Lone Star Cement Corporation, took place on Monday morning with hardly a ripple of excitement. The change was made official at 11 a.m.

The new official title of the local operation is now Lone Star Cement Corporation, Superior Division, and it will be operated without too many changes in policy for the present time, with Ned Nelson as vice president of the division and Harold E. Thompson as treasurer.

### 50 years ago

*April 26, 1967:* Playing on a field newly put in top condition, the Concrete Town Softball Team feels they must have put too much energy into the preliminary work. They wore out two pitchers trying to stop Mount Vernon's fast club and failed, 10-2.

A big thrill of the game was a good crowd, reminiscent of the old baseball days in Concrete. The terrace was lined with cars and spectators.

The field job was done Saturday after permission had been received from school authorities for the remodeling job. It took 11 men, Rusty Solomon and his grader, and Al Harris and the city dump truck 10 hours to do the job. One reward was a statement by the Mount Vernon manager that "this is the best field in the league."

The field will get good use, as it also serves as home for the grade school and the Pony League players.

### 40 years ago

*April 21, 1977:* A cloud-seeding program started Friday and will

See **Way Back**, p. 29

## Concrete Community Center

### April 2017 Activities

Mon. - Fri., 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Lunch served at noon

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

### Monday through Friday

Jigsaw puzzles, walking group, card games,  
dominos, and more

### Wednesday through Friday

10 a.m.-noon Senior Club

All subject to change. For latest information:  
[www.facebook.com/concretecommunity](http://www.facebook.com/concretecommunity) or call  
360.416.1377.

### Tuesday

4/11 6 p.m. East County Water Rescue  
(with dinner)

### Wednesday

Till 4/19 4 p.m. Incredible Years Class

### Thursday

All 2 p.m. GED prep  
Till 4/13 10 a.m. Senior tax prep  
4/6 12:30 p.m. Pinochle  
4/13 1 p.m. Fall Prevention Roundup  
4/20 Noon Upper Skagit Spinners  
4/20 12:30 p.m. Pinochle

### Friday

All 2 p.m. GED prep  
4/14 12:30 p.m. Commissioner Janicki

### Saturday

4/22 10 a.m. Community Cleanup and  
Potluck

### Sunday

4/9 Noon Saturday Market Potluck  
4/23 3 p.m. Death and Dying Forum

## In Memoriam

### Adolph Nieshe

6 September 1937 - 11 March 2017

Another icon of the Concrete community has passed. Many people will only remember Adolph as "the guy with the flag who led the parades," but he was so much more.

Adolph was always willing to roll up his sleeves or open his wallet to help someone. The most lasting demonstration of this was his leadership of Concrete's Heskett-Arnold Post 132 of the American Legion. A little more than a decade ago, the post became fractured and was in turmoil. Adolph stepped up when the leadership position was vacated and no one wanted to try and put the pieces back together. He led by example: His honesty, integrity, and work ethic inspired others to keep the post going for another decade.

Although financial realities caused the Legion Hall to be sold, Adolph was instrumental in ensuring the legacy of community service the hall represented would not be forgotten. Toward that end, he helped make the expansion of the Upper Skagit Library a reality. That new library will open this fall in the old Legion Hall.

Adolph also led the post in creating the post's Living Legacy Trust to benefit



Nieshe

the youth of Eastern Skagit County by promoting literacy and educational programs, with the proceeds from the sale of the hall.

Through his efforts, Adolph Nieshe made a lasting contribution to this community. He will not be forgotten.  
—John Boggs

### Way Back, cont. from p. 28

continue through June 30 in the Baker River, Upper Skagit, and Lake Chelan watersheds, a Puget Power spokesman reported this week.

The objective of the program is to increase natural precipitation by 10 to 20 percent in the watershed areas. Two planes flying out of Boeing Field in Seattle will seed moisture-laden clouds with dry ice particles in an effort to augment the below-normal snowpack. The State Department of Natural Resources contracted for the project with North American Weather Consultants of Goleta, Calif.

The \$136,000 program is being paid for by three electric utilities:

Puget Sound Power & Light Company, Seattle City Light, and Chelan County Public Utility District. Each utility is contributing approximately \$45,000 to the cost of the project.

The three watersheds will be seeded simultaneously. Dry ice particles will be dropped through clouds from above at an altitude of 14,000 to 20,000 feet.

Generators on the ground that produce silver iodide crystals will be used on the west slopes of the Cascade Mountains, in addition to the aerial seeding.

### 30 years ago

*April 9, 1987:* Dubbed the "April Fool's Fire," a 75-acre brush and forest fire in Rockport the afternoon

## Verna's Kitchen

By Verna McClure



This is moist and makes a nice and quick dish that's great for company. Eat well and don't forget to laugh!

### Chicken Casserole

1 cup rice  
1 package onion soup mix  
Cut-up pieces of chicken  
1 can celery soup  
1 can mushroom soup  
1 ½ cans water

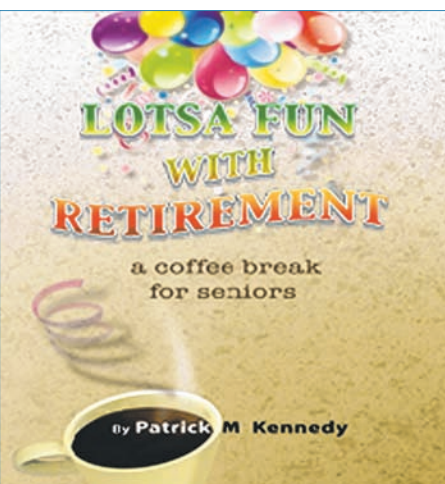
1. Place rice in a baking dish over the bottom (as a layer).
2. Lay the chicken pieces over the rice in a second layer.
3. Pour soups and water over the chicken pieces and rice.
4. Cover with foil or lid and bake in a 350-degree oven for one hour or until done.
5. Remove foil or lid and bake for a few minutes longer to brown the chicken.

of April 1 caused concern for several hours as firemen from three departments and crews from the Dept. of Natural Resources worked to contain the outbreak.

Although an official cause has not been determined by DNR fire investigator James Heyl, the fire apparently began as a brush fire west of Howard Miller Steelhead Park on the edge of Rockport neighborhoods.

Warm and dry easterly winds brought the blaze quickly up the hill into Rockport State Park timber, where it was reported at about 1:45 p.m. by passing motorists.

—Compiled from archives



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# Obituaries

**Adolph Nieshe**, 79, a longtime Birdsview community resident, passed away unexpectedly at his home on Sat., March 11, 2017.

He was born in Floodwood, St. Louis County, Minn., on Sept. 6, 1937, one of 13 children of William and Anna (Muth) Nieshe. The family moved to Skagit County in 1945, first to Marblemount, then settling in Birdsview. He attended school in Concrete.

Adolph joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1956, proudly serving his country until 1962. After his discharge, he returned to Birdsview. He was employed by Goodyear-Nelson, which later became Northwest Hardwoods in Sedro-Woolley, where he worked maintaining the boiler and as a night watchman. He worked at the mill for more than 30 years.

After his retirement, he became very involved in many community events throughout the year. He was an active member of the Heskett-Arnold Post 132 American Legion in Concrete, and the 40 & 8 Club. Adolph very proudly carried the flag for the Legion during parades. He was very dedicated in helping the Marines' Toys for Tots Christmas drive.

Adolph is survived by his children Michael Nieshe of Sedro-Woolley, David Dunlap and wife Betty of Russellville, Ark., Anna Nieshe of Sedro-Woolley, and Andrew Nieshe and wife Jessica of Concrete; grandchildren Justine, Clay, Kaylee, and Riley Nieshe,



and Samuel, Michael, and Shannel Dunlap; brothers Wilbur, George, and Gene Nieshe; sister Delphia Dickinson; and numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Carl, Fred, Lory, Ray, William, and Lawrence Nieshe; and sisters Louella Johnson and Mercedes Olson.

The family suggests that memorials in honor of Adolph be made to a charity of your choice.

Inurnment and a Life Celebration will be held at a later date. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Lemley Chapel, Sedro-Woolley.

## Obituaries published in Concrete Herald

from May 2009 to present are posted online at: [www.concrete-herald.com/obituaries](http://www.concrete-herald.com/obituaries).

For more information, contact Concrete Herald at 360.853.8213 or [editor@concrete-herald.com](mailto:editor@concrete-herald.com).

## Worth repeating

"I love those who can smile in trouble, who can gather strength from distress, and grow brave by reflection. 'Tis the business of little minds to shrink, but they whose heart is firm, and whose conscience approves their conduct, will pursue their principles unto death."

—Leonardo da Vinci

"I had reasoned this out in my mind, there was one of two things I had a right to, liberty or death; if I could not have one, I would have the other."

—Harriet Tubman

# Sunday School lesson

## Fans or followers?

By Bruce Martin

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

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

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

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

of the prophets Zechariah (9:9) and Isaiah (62:11): "Do not be afraid daughter of Zion; see, your king is coming seated on a donkey's colt." This point was not missed by the crowds who lined the streets that day. In fact, the Bible tells us they laid down their coats and waved palm branches, welcoming Jesus as a conquering hero and shouting "hosanna" (save us now!). Though many people recognized the fulfillment of prophecy that God had sent Jesus to them, they did not understand the greater plan of salvation God had in store for them and all of mankind. Their desire was to throw off the oppression of the Roman government, and they were sure Jesus was that kind of hero and savior.

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

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

A second group that is mentioned were the people who had heard about the resurrection of Jesus' follower Lazarus.

See Sunday School, p. 38

# Skagit County Sheriff's Office Blotter

## March 4

A caller reported two kids should be contacted by a deputy in town. The caller reported seeing the youth with rifles. The deputy confirmed they were BB guns and cautioned them on where they were shooting. They were understanding and respectful.

## March 10

A local sewing business in town called 911 to have deputies remove a female from their store. The gal was very intoxicated, but cooperative. She agreed to be transported, so a deputy poured her into his patrol car backseat and drove off to meet her unimpressed husband.

## March 18

Washington State Patrol requested a

## 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.

**Hodgman, Joseph Elias**

Age: 36  
Race: W  
Sex: M  
Height: 6' 4"  
Weight: 210  
Hair: Brown  
Eyes: Blue  
Address: 525xx SR 20, Rockport



Hodgman was convicted of first-degree child molestation in Skagit County in July 2005. His victim was a 4-year-old female who was not known to him. He was 22 at the time. While on supervision, he had sexual contact with a 14-year-old female.

Hodgman 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

deputy check the area near milepost 86 for a man throwing rocks at passing cars. No one was located.

## March 19

Deputies responded to a well-known address on Hamilton Cemetery Rd. near Hamilton for a noise complaint. Upon arrival they contacted a resident, who had a warrant and a commitment to go to jail. The jail was willing to accept him for booking, but apparently he wasn't willing to go. So he ran, and ran, off into the darkness. Deputies pursued him for a short distance, but he's had some practice at this, so he outran them. He is now facing escape charges. Please call if you see Mickie.

## March 20

A deputy on routine patrol of the Robinson Rd. park area near Lyman observed an unoccupied green Honda. He ran the plate to discover it was listed as stolen by the Burlington Police Department. The owner was contacted, and the vehicle was impounded. There are no suspects at this time.

## March 21

The SCSO animal control officer is looking into a report of a chocolate lab suffering injuries consistent with being struck or choked. It's not clear at this point if the cause was accidental or otherwise. The investigation is ongoing.

## March 22

A motorcyclist was late to return home while riding in the area of the Cowboy campsite off Medford Rd. near Hamilton. His motorcycle broke down, and he called to say he was trying to walk out. Searchers were contacted, but prior to any search and rescuers deploying, the man was able to walk out on his own.

## March 25

A caller near the Lyman Park in Lyman called to report a man in a dark sweatshirt lying under one of the picnic tables. He was gone when the deputy arrived. I know we've had incidents of drug usage in the public restrooms nearby, so we appreciate calls like this to check on suspicious circumstances. Keep calling, please.

## March 27

A caller from the Utopia Rd. area near Lyman reported an odd encounter. While driving home, a white sedan met them on the road and asked if they wanted to buy some drugs. Unfortunately a license plate wasn't seen, but deputies checked the area for the car.

Several Hamilton callers reported hearing a large explosion on the south side of the Skagit River, south of the Shangri-La area. It was determined that rock blasting was occurring in the Finney-

Cumberland area.

Deputies have responded to complaints of derelict trailers and vagrancy around the Baker River sand bar area in Concrete and just outside town limits. This area is private property, but has been receiving extra attention by authorities to prohibit the increasing blight on the landscape. Deputies have contacted several people and had them vacate the area, and a large metal gate will soon be installed to limit access. This may cut down on the approximate 2,000 lbs. of garbage that has been removed from the area during the past four to six weeks.

## March 28

Deputies responded to a Concrete address for a domestic disturbance. After an investigation, deputies booked a 34-year-old female into jail for domestic assault.

A concerned Marblemount mother called to report a pair of overdue skiers

in the Hidden Lake area. Skagit County Search and Rescue crews were assembled and began searching. The man's car was located and the searchers started their trek up to the Hidden Lakes lookout tower. A few hours later, the pair were able to ski their way out of the area. Overdue, yes, but unharmed. They were reunited with very concerned relatives. Many thanks to the National Park Service and Skagit SAR personnel for their willingness to respond **March 29**

A caller from the Shields Court area in Concrete reported a violation of a protection order. The person calling 911 had just obtained a court order prohibiting contact by another person. That person was served by a deputy, but has violated that order by continually texting the original person. Deputies have been looking for that person, and they'll likely be booked into jail for the new offense.

—Compiled by Sgt. Chris Kading

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



[ Chief Darrel Reed ]

**Concrete Volunteer Fire Dept. needs firefighters!**

- Do you have a heart for your community?
- Willing to volunteer?
- Free training!

**Interested?**

Call Town Hall at **360.853.8213** or drop in to fill out a quick application.



Applicants must live within town limits.

# 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](http://www.citipointchurch.com)  
E-mail: [matt@citipointchurch.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.svcc.us/scm)

## Covenant

**Community Covenant Church**  
12605 Highway 9, Clear Lake  
360.856.1023 // [covenant@wavecable.com](mailto:covenant@wavecable.com)  
[www.clearlakecov.org](http://www.clearlakecov.org)  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

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

## Episcopal

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

## Free Methodist

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

## Methodist

**Central United Methodist Church**  
1013 Polke Rd., Sedro-Woolley  
360.856.6412 / [centralumcsw@yahoo.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.facebook.com/therivergathering)

## Rockport Christ the King Comm. Church

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

## Wildwood Chapel

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



## CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

The presentation on **preserving photographs** went well, with a full house. Our many thanks to Samantha Rickert of the North Cascades National Park for her expertise, with practical and useful information. So many of our national treasures, unbeknownst to us, are buried in shoeboxes in our attics, fading or otherwise deteriorating away. If you missed the workshop but still have questions about caring for your treasure trove, contact us. We can either help you or refer you to the right person who can. Our annual **pre-Easter bake sale** is scheduled for Good Friday, April 14, at Albert's Red Apple, starting at 9 a.m., until we're sold out. Other bake sales are planned, but dates are not yet determined. Keep an eagle eye out!

The old adage that "one man's junk is another man's treasure" was verified once again this past month. We converted some old VHS tapes of presentations from the Skagit County Historical Society to DVDs for our research library. Titles include:

- "The State Bank of Concrete, est. 1914" (Don Ross Sr.)
- "Skagit Power" (The Seattle City Light Skagit Project) (Bill Newby)
- "A History of Fish and Trees in the Skagit River Basin (Cindy Halbert)

- "Fire Lookouts in the North Cascades" (Dr. Fred Darvill)
- "Cascadian Farm" (Gene Kahn)
- "Early Mining Along the Tributaries of the Skagit River" (Ken Martin)
- "Native American Archeological Sites" (Robert Whitlum)
- "Marblemount History" (Bob Keith)
- "Skagit Land Trust" (Andrea Xavier)
- "Women Who Climbed Mt. Baker" (John Miles)
- "Chinook Jargon: The Medium of Trade, Tales and Treaties" (Duane Pasco)

A draft listing of the Museum Assn's project priorities was developed. We may not move as fast as we used to, but we are continually making improvements and progress. Items on the list include cleaning up the outdoor displays and performing some much-needed maintenance in preparation for the new library, which will be located across Hub Alley.

The Concrete Community Center is working to arrange a recurring, monthly community dinner and presentation. If there is some particular aspect of the area's history you'd like to see presented, please let us know by sending an e-mail to [jboggswash@aol.com](mailto:jboggswash@aol.com).

—John Boggs

### April at the Darrington Library

#### Children and family programs

- We Read Book Club: "Frog & Toad" Guided Reading Tips, Mon., April 3, 5 to 5:15 p.m.; get tips on reading with your emerging reader.
- Family Storytime, Wed., April 5, 12, 19, 26; 11 to 11:45 a.m.; all ages welcome, caregiver required.
- LEGO Club Robotics, Wed., April 5; 1 to 2 p.m.; ages 7 and up.
- Drop-In Scratch Studio, Sat., April 8; 1 to 2:30 p.m.; basic coding skills introduced and expanded; save your work by creating a SCRATCH login at <https://scratch.mit.edu>. Grades 3 and up.
- We Read Book Club: "Frog & Toad" Discussion, Mon., April 10, 5 to 5:30 p.m.
- Drop-In Computer Help, Mon., April 10, 24; 1 to 2 p.m.; general computer skills and Sno-Isle digital resources.

- LEGO Club Free Play, Wed., April 12, 3 to 4 p.m. Ages 5 and up.
- Half-Day Movie Matinee: "Pete's Dragon": Wed., April 19, 1 to 3:30 p.m.
- Writers Ink, Fri., April 21; 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.; a group for any age writer to improve their skill.
- Bikes for Book Talks Spring Reading Challenge continues through April 24. Read books and talk for a chance to win a new bike. For K-8 students.

#### Teen programs

- Teen Advisory Board meeting, Tue., April 11, 3:30 to 4 p.m.

#### Darrington Book Group

Discussing *Euphoria* by Lily King. Wed., April 5, 5:30 p.m. Newcomers

See Darrington Library, p. 38

## At the Upper Skagit Library

Create **Blackout Poetry** at the Library to celebrate April Poetry Month. This hands-on visual exercise is accessible for many ages and lends flexibility to doodlers and drawers. All you need is a page full of words and markers. Take a page from a discarded book, newspaper, or magazine, circle words for your poem, and block out the rest of the words. Find instructions and supplies at the library or use your own materials. Participants may share their creations at a Blackout Poetry Open Mic on April 24 at 5 p.m. at the library. On May 9 at 7 p.m., Upper Skagit Library and Concrete Theatre will host a presentation by Washington State Poet Laureate, Tod Marshall. For more information, go to [www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us](http://www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us) or call 360.853.7939.

Attention, kids! **Computer Gaming Day** at the library will be held on Thur., April 6 from noon to 3 p.m. All 11 computers will be available for gaming with your friends, or bring your own computer and play along. Healthful snacks will be provided by the Concrete Farm to School Program, and the famous blender bicycle will make an appearance too. For ages 8 and up. For more information, contact Library Director Brooke Pederson at 360.853.7939.

**National Library Week** is April 9

through 15. We invite you to visit our library, meet our staff, and learn more about our services. It's simple to apply for a library card; just show us a photo ID and current physical address. Residents who live within the Concrete School District can get a card for free.

Read young authors' books! Concrete students from the **Young Authors Program** now have their books available for check-out at the library.

**Storytime with Miss Brooke!** Mark your calendars for April 15. Families with young children are invited to join us for stories, songs, and a simple craft.

#### New on our shelves

In adult fiction, *A Trail Through Time* by Jody Taylor.

In adult nonfiction, *Irresistible* by Adam Alter.

In young adult, *King's Cage* by Victoria Aveyard.

In children's, *Raindrops Roll*.

We now have educational Bingo games for check-out, including counting, shapes, and learning the alphabet.

The next Upper Skagit Library Board of Trustees meeting will occur on April 13 at 5 p.m.

—Cora Thomas, Library Associate

## Lions R-O-A-R



This month's Concrete Lions Club **regular meetings** will be on April 5 and 19 at Annie's Pizza. 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 existing members, mark your calendars.

The Lions Club thanks the volunteers who helped plant Christmas trees for future sales. The group made a quick job of it, and we are very grateful.

#### Coming events

The Lions Club annual **Easter Egg Hunt** will be held on April 15 at noon at Concrete Elementary School. Members, please be there at 11 a.m. for setup.

On May 5 and 6, 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.

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

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

I encourage members of our community to think about and join your local Lions Club. Our club is your club. We are a club to serve you and our community. Our hope for 2017 is to double our

See Lions Club, p. 33

Lions Club, cont. from p. 32

membership numbers. We all have friends and family who have seen the outreach of your local Lions Club, so now is the time to give great thought about being a member!

*Concrete Herald* will honor the International Lions Club 100th Anniversary in its May issue, along with our local Lions Club. Please watch our Facebook page as we explain who we are, who we've been, and who we will be in your future.

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

—Connie Smithhart

*Read Concrete Herald*  
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

To add your business to this directory, call 360.853.8213 or e-mail [editor@concrete-herald.com](mailto:editor@concrete-herald.com)

#### Bookkeeping

##### UpRiver Bookkeeping Services

360.853.7667 or 360.708.9761  
[upriver21@hotmail.com](mailto: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!  
Open Tuesdays through Sundays  
38302 SR 20, Birdsview // 360.826.3406  
[www.birdsviewbrewingcompany.com](http://www.birdsviewbrewingcompany.com)

#### Construction

##### Don Payne's Backhoe Services

Extensive experience, reasonable rates  
Trenching for electrical and plumbing lines, site preparation, road- and lot-clearing  
360.853.7838 / 770.0178 / #PAYNE\*066BC  
[dpaynes2001@yahoo.com](mailto:dpaynes2001@yahoo.com)

##### Donald K. Moore Construction

Dump truck / Sand / Gravel / Topsoil  
Complete excavation and lots, to acreage cleared / log loads, underground utilities avail.  
Licensed, bonded, and insured  
360.853.8525 / Reg. #DONALKMO15KE

#### Gifts

##### All Valley Storage & Gifts

31687 SR 20, Ste. 102, Lyman/Sedro-Woolley  
Our prices can't be beat! Beanpod candles, home/garden items, decorating ideas, more!  
360.826.6001 / [allvalleystorageinc@live.com](mailto:allvalleystorageinc@live.com)  
Online: [www.allvalleystorageinc.com](http://www.allvalleystorageinc.com)

#### Hair salons

##### Hair Fitness

Complete family hair care, specializing in:  
PERMS / COLOR & CUTS / WAXING  
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](http://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

##### Perks Espresso & Deli

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

#### Self-storage

##### Concrete Self-storage

Located on Fir Street, Concrete  
Heated and nonheated, security surveillance, coded entry, 4x5 to 15x32 units, locks for sale.  
Customer service is our top priority!  
360.853.8100/[concreteselfstorageinc@live.com](mailto:concreteselfstorageinc@live.com)

#### Septic services

##### Cinema Septic

Inspection, troubleshooting and pumping  
Serving all of Skagit County  
Fred West, owner. 360.466.8753  
[fred@cinemaseptic.com](mailto:fred@cinemaseptic.com)  
[www.cinemaseptic.com](http://www.cinemaseptic.com)

#### Thrift stores

##### Second Floor Thrift Store

Antiques, Vintage, Collectibles, Thrift  
Inside & upstairs at Gold Nugget Pawn Shop  
Corner of Hwy 530 & Mt. Loop Hwy, Darrington  
Tue.-Fri. noon–6, Sat. 10–5  
360.436.1029 [www.goldnuggetpawnshop.com](http://www.goldnuggetpawnshop.com)

#### Towing services

##### Cascades Towing

Professional roadside assistance. Flatbed towing and winch-outs. Lockouts, jumpstarts, fuel delivery, and motorcycle towing. Licensed and insured. Lowest prices around!  
360.853.8599 // [www.cascadestowing.com](http://www.cascadestowing.com)

##### Dave's Towing 360.853.7433, Concrete, WA

For all your roadside service needs.  
Call Dave's towing for fast, courteous response.  
**10 years' experience can get any job done.**  
We tow all motorcycles, RVs, and trailers.  
Storage, cash for clunkers, remove junk autos.  
Registered, insured, bonded. 360.853.7433

# Outreach aims to keep middle school boys busy

Ever since the Boy Scouts troop left Concrete, Art Torheim has been bothered by a lack of organized activities for middle school-aged boys. The Marblemount man, who attends Community Bible Church in Concrete, said he wanted to "give them something positive to be involved with. At least they'll have something to do, other than get in trouble."

To that end, Torheim formed CBC Young Men's Outreach, which plans monthly outings for boys ages 10 to 18, with special attention focused on the middle school years.

The group is easygoing and faith-based,

with a short message about Jesus Christ included during every outing. This year the boys will enjoy the snow at Mount Baker, take a weekend canoe trip at Baker Lake, hike and fish along Jackman Creek, and travel to the Museum of Flight in Seattle, among many more scheduled events.

Torheim's goals for the group are simple. "I want to give these kids something to do, let them have fun, and store a little bit of God's word in their hearts. While they're having fun, it'll keep them out of trouble, and if they hit the bottom at some point in life, maybe Christ will help them climb out of it."

Several church members and community members have come alongside Torheim to help make his efforts successful, including Dan Sanford, Jarrod and Valerie Lee (who hopes to develop a group for girls), Mike Criner, Mike Farthing, Dave McLaughlin, Gene and Maureen Ford, and Torheim's wife, Tonya. "She helps me stay organized," said Torheim. "I wouldn't have stood a chance with this if it hadn't been for them."

For more information about the CBC Young Men's Outreach, contact Torheim at [us5nm@frontier.com](mailto:us5nm@frontier.com) or 360.873.4181.

—J. K. M.





# Out & About



**Northwest Garden Bling**

- Gift shop
- Stained glass & glass supplies
- Souvenirs

**360-708-3279**  
nwgardenbling@frontier.com  
44574 Highway 20 – Concrete, WA 98237

## Mt. Vernon

### Master Gardener Plant Fair in May

The 23rd Annual Skagit County Master Gardener Plant Fair is scheduled for Sat., May 13, at the Skagit County Fairgrounds south entrance.

The fair will be open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., and will offer its usual array of plant varieties. Organizers say there will be 41 varieties of tomatoes, vegetable and flower starts, native plants, perennials, herbs, trees, shrubs, and Mother's Day gifts. Credit cards (Visa or Mastercard), cash, and checks will be accepted.

Visit educational booths to learn about solving plant problems, sharpening garden tools, native plants, rain gardens, shore stewards, composting, and sustainable agriculture. Stop by the Master Gardener Information Booth to learn more about the group's volunteer programs.

For more information, go to <http://extension.wsu.edu/skagit/mg/plant-fair> or contact Sandra Swarbrick at 360.387.3799, 206.919.4346, or [slswarbrick@mac.com](mailto:slswarbrick@mac.com).

—J. K. M.

## Burlington

### Ware receives pilot award

The Port of Skagit announced on March 15 that Commissioner Dr. Kevin E. Ware has earned the Wright Brothers "Master Pilot" Award. The award was presented by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) at a ceremony on Feb. 25.

The award is considered by many as the most prestigious award the FAA issues to pilots. The Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award recognizes individuals who have exhibited professionalism, skill, and aviation expertise for at least 50 years while piloting aircraft as "Master Pilots." The award was presented to Ware at a ceremony conducted at the Northwest Aviation Conference and Trade Show in Puyallup.

Ware is a professional pilot and flight instructor who holds an Airline Transport Pilots License and has more than 10,000 hours of accident- and incident-free flight time in a broad range of aircraft including corporate jets, floatplanes, and helicopters. He also has extensive international flight experience. Ware has been a Port of Skagit Commissioner since 2002.

"I am honored to be recognized by the FAA," said Commissioner Ware. "It is truly a unique opportunity to join such a prominent group of aviators. Thank you to everyone including my family for your



Ware

longtime support of my passion."

"Having a pilot of Ware's experience as a port commissioner has made a world of difference in how the airport is operated, both in terms of safety and benefit to the public," said Tim Lewis, president and owner of Corporate Air Center at the Skagit Regional Airport. "His 50 years in aviation is revealed in his depth of knowledge of airports and aircraft, and that knowledge relates to the betterment of the community and businesses at the airport."

### Public invited to fight hunger by turning canned goods into art

Creativity, engineering, and art will come together to help fight hunger at the inaugural Skagit County Construction on Sat., May 6, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Cascade Mall, 201 Cascade Mall Dr., Burlington.

From trees to baseball to sailboats, teams can use their imagination to construct 10-foot-by-10-foot-by-10-foot structures entirely out of nonperishable food to be donated to Skagit Food

Distribution Center.

Construction is an international organization coming to Skagit County for the first time through Leadership Skagit 2017's team Verdant Samish. Organizers are hoping it will add more than 8,000 lbs. of food to area food bank shelves this spring.

The public is invited to watch creations from start to finish. All of the Construction art installations will be available to view at Cascade Mall through May 12.

To get involved and help fight hunger through Skagit County Construction, send an e-mail to [skagitcountycanstruction@gmail.com](mailto:skagitcountycanstruction@gmail.com).



Mike Brondi (left) from Blue Heron Farm in Rockport chats with potential customers during a plant fair in the Fairhaven neighborhood in Bellingham on March 25. Brondi and his wife, Anne Schwartz, were there with a full contingent of bamboo plants, standing like tall sentinels over their booth space.

## Stress less

Stress is your body's response to events in your life. Exciting, frightening, confusing, or irritating events can cause a physical, emotional, or chemical reaction in your body. Getting married, having a new baby, losing a job, or having difficulty with a friend or family member can all be sources of stress.

### How does stress affect your health?

When in a stressful situation, the body instantly responds with a surge of hormones. These hormones cause your heart to beat faster, elevate blood pressure and blood sugar, and quicken breathing. Chronic stress can cause medical problems such as high blood pressure, heart disease, ulcers, arthritis, migraine headaches, and many other ailments.

### What can you do?

- Breathe! Inhale to the count of five and exhale to the count of five. You can do this anywhere—at the grocery store or at a red light.
- Learn what helps you to relax: Take a warm bath, listen to calming music, read a book, do a crossword puzzle.
- Daydream. Picture yourself in a safe and relaxing environment: on a warm beach or in the peaceful mountains.
- Talk positively to yourself with affirming thoughts and feelings.
- Balance your work and personal life.
- Build a strong support system of friends.
- Learn to slow down.
- If you have a personal spiritual faith, take time to pray and listen.
- Shift from being self-centered to others-centered.
- Keep a sense of humor. Laugh at yourself. Smile at people. Really!

When you make a big smile, your body releases chemicals that help you to relax.

- Release grudges. (The old saying "Holding a grudge is like taking poison yourself in the hopes the other person dies" is so true.)

Do you feel like the stress in your life is getting out of control? Schedule an appointment with your primary care provider; they can help.

PeaceHealth Medical Group Family Medicine:

- 2061 Hospital Dr., Sedro-Woolley 360.856.7230
- 830 Ball St., Sedro-Woolley 360.855.1411
- 835 E. Fairhaven Ave., Burlington 360.856.7960

Or go to [www.peacehealth.org/phmg/sedro-woolley](http://www.peacehealth.org/phmg/sedro-woolley).

—Submitted by  
PeaceHealth Medical Group



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# Smile



## ... from the Concrete Herald archives ...

When a doctor called at a house to attend to a birth and had been upstairs a few minutes, he came down and said to the husband, "Have you got a corkscrew?" He was given one and went back upstairs. A few minutes later, he came down again and said, "Got a screwdriver?"

He was given one. Again, he went up. A few minutes later, he was down for a third time, asking for a mallet and a chisel. "Good gracious, doctor," the worried husband cried, "Is it a boy or a girl?" "Don't know yet," replied the doctor, "can't get my medicine case open."

— § —  
"Why do you want your little boy to sleep in that high bed?"

"So we can hear him if he falls out."  
— § —

A social worker was talking to a girl with an unenviable family life. "Where is your father?" "Oh, Pop's in the penitentiary." "What about your mother?" "She's in the insane asylum." "And your sister?" "Oh, she's in the reform school for the past two years."

"Well, that leaves just you and your brother. Where is he?" "He's at Harvard." "What, in a college? And what's he studying?" "Oh, he's not studying anything. They're studying him."  
— § —

Remember that we are not rewarded for having brains, but for using them.

## Dwelleysms

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

"People always find little things charming. Even in personality, where a miniature ego becomes a gem of character."

"Be stout-hearted. If the doctor doesn't have a pill for it, the legislature has a bill for it."

"If we ever want to conquer the world, all we have to do is arm our tourists and overwhelm it."

—Feb. 15, 1967

"Value your freedom? Then you'd better get a pen in hand and write your state senator about the bill to give highway patrolmen the right to stop any car to check for a driver's license or anything he feels is appropriate. Boosted as an aid to safety on the highway, stopping a hundred law-abiding drivers to catch one who hasn't paid his driving dues not only cancels constitutional rights, but sets a dangerous precedent. Even a criminal in the act of his crime has more protection of his rights. If the motorist is denied the right to drive peacefully, not violating traffic rules, then the next step will be to check pedestrians for Social Security numbers and paid tax receipts."

"You can't buy love, but it can run into a lot of installment payments on the accessories before you find it out."

—Feb. 22, 1967

"Nothing in the newspapers these days but war, money, food, and women. Come to think of it, we've never figured out how to get along without any of them."

—March 1, 1967

## Public Service Announcement



## Concrete Harold

By Joyce Harris



### Across

- End
- Drops
- Jollified
- Baptist leader?
- Poisonous to one's soul
- Split to unite
- Baked dish
- Pea family plant
- Certain contract
- Early years in a century
- Musical instrument, in Vietnam

- Bake, as eggs
- White mineral
- Humanities degs.
- "Glass \_\_\_\_" (Beatles tune)
- Variety of T7-Across
- Seller's guarantee
- More than tickle
- Mirliton
- Schmaltz
- Lover of Dido, in myth
- Sheer fabric
- Spout
- Billiards move
- 1944 Wilder flick
- Any Time

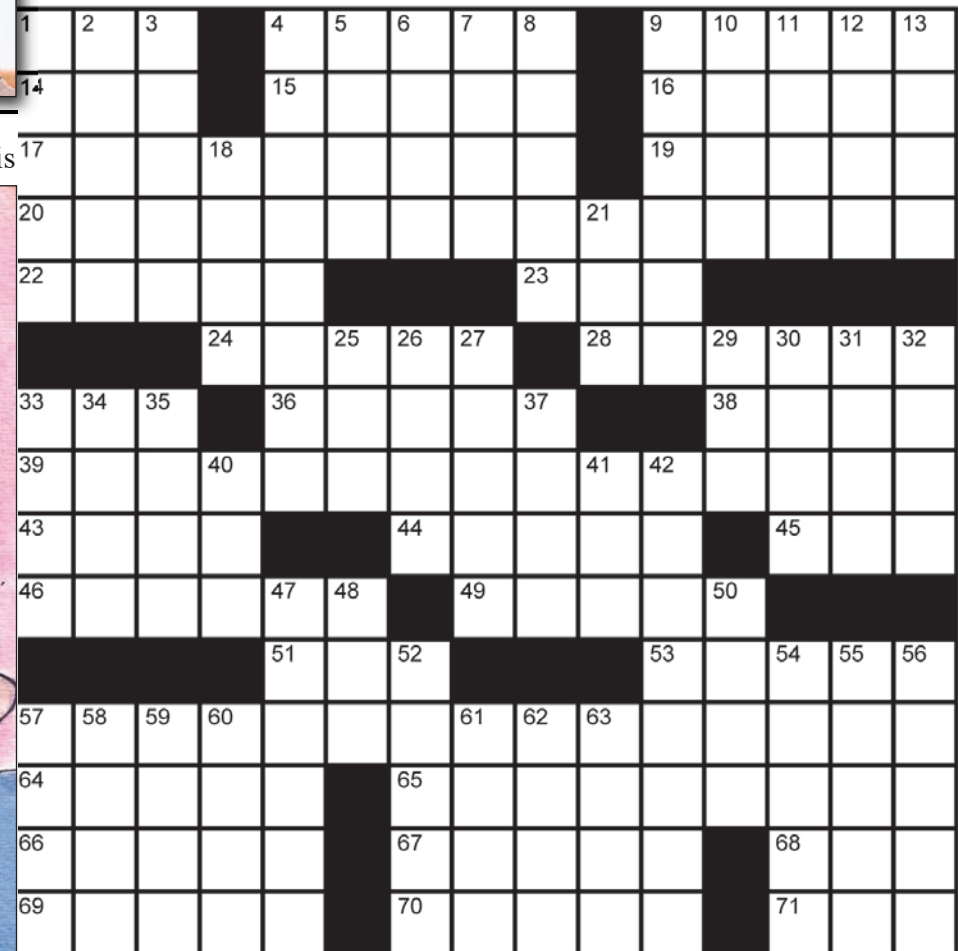
- Persian prophet
- Spore mass
- What's happening
- Groove-billed \_\_\_\_
- Biblical city
- Belt for beatings
- Lobster coral

### Down

- Silent
- Fatuous
- Out of style
- Rubber, e.g.
- Red giant in Cetus
- Smooth
- Locker room supply
- Built for speed
- Extortion, for one
- Jewish month
- Pith helmet
- Kind of proportions
- Just say no
- Phoenix \_\_\_\_
- Identify
- Connections
- Insurer's calculation
- Small tree
- Elhi org.

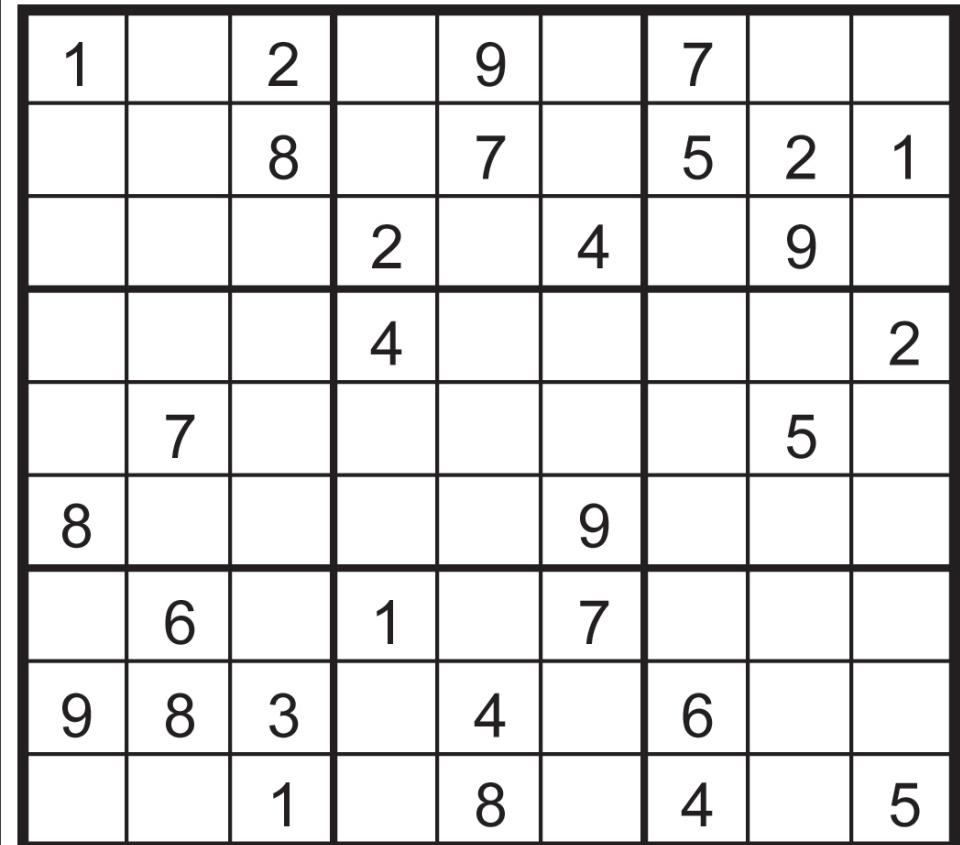
- Vocalized
- \_\_\_\_ the Fourth Generation" (Asimov story)
- Waldorf salad ingredient
- Arizona city
- Spindle
- Cross
- Fascist
- Ham holder
- Palillo of "Welcome Back, Kotter"
- Flat sharer
- Shining
- Freelancer's enc.
- Family members, in the U.K.
- "Carmen" composer
- "Norwegian Wood" instrument
- Gregg grad
- High nest: Var.
- Likes
- Kon-Tiki Museum site
- Like some bookstores
- Lymph node swelling
- Bagel topper
- A Barrymore
- Donkey's years

## Crossword: "Playing it safe"



## 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.



\*Solutions to both puzzles are on p. 38.

## Funny as Facebook

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

- "I've got seven boys with seven Happy Meals by myself today ... what's your super power?"
- "Luca: 'Mom, guess what? Never trust a killer clown.' Me: 'Honey, has mommy not taught you anything? We don't trust clowns in general.'"
- "Going from chicken owner to nonchicken owner is a strange transition. Maybe now when I see a raccoon walking down the street in the morning, I'll be all 'Aw, so cute!' and not 'STUPID MURDER BEAST, DIEDIEDIE!' Like I said, it is strange."
- "I am not above using their girlfriends to manipulate my sons into seeing 'Beauty and the Beast' with me."

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Nonelected engineers from local jurisdictions act as SCOG's Technical Advisory Committee. This committee has never emphasized preservation/maintenance of roads and bridges, even though public input and open houses considered it top priority. No wonder Mount Vernon is \$15 million behind. If these projects had been funded for the past five years as FHA had directed, our cities would not have had to impose new taxes. Skagitonians pay 67.8 cents per gallon gas tax at the gas pump. Ask Anacortes and Sedro-Woolley residents about the increased car tab costs, and Mount Vernon shoppers about increased sales taxes, all in the name of road preservation/maintenance. Mount Vernon's sales tax increase collects \$1.3 million per year. More than \$5.1 million in grants is up for grabs this spring. The SCOG board had a chance at its March meeting to place more emphasis on preservation/maintenance, but declined, ignoring all public input and deteriorating roads by again following their advisory committee's emphasis on nonmotorized facilities.

SCOG is its own entity, with little government oversight. Citizens are their only oversight at the ballot box. Why doesn't SCOG listen to Skagit citizens?

Aileen Good  
Sedro-Woolley

### Alzheimer's an ongoing battle

The Alzheimer's Association's 2017 Facts and Figures report found a soaring prevalence, lack of effective treatment, and enormous costs for Alzheimer's and other dementias.

In Washington State, with more than 110,000 people living with Alzheimer's, it is the third-leading cause of death. The 5.5

million Americans with Alzheimer's will grow to almost 16 million by 2050.

The federal government has been making progress toward shining light on Alzheimer's and other dementias, having doubled the small research budget in the last three years. Congress requires the National Institutes of Health scientists to submit a professional judgment budget each fiscal year to help guide the size of funding for Alzheimer's research.

I urge Congresswoman Suzan DelBene to support the scientists' recommendation of a \$414 million increase in Alzheimer's research. This increase will help achieve the national goal of a treatment for Alzheimer's by 2025. The Congresswoman has been very supportive of our efforts in recent years, for which we are most grateful.

I care about this because I've lost loved ones to Alzheimer's, and I don't want the disease to claim more victims who are dear to me.

Visit [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org) or call 800.272.3900 to learn more and get involved with the fight against Alzheimer's.

Pete Minden  
Kirkland

### Sunday School, cont. from p. 30

They came "... not only because of Him (Jesus) but to see Lazarus, who had been raised from the dead" (John 12:9). In fact, the resurrection of Lazarus had caused such a stir that "the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well" as Jesus.

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

resurrection of Lazarus.

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

As we take a step back from the crowd and commotion and focus on what was really taking place that day we are told that few recognized "the time of God's coming to you" (Luke 19:44c). Neither the great crowd, the followers, the disciples, nor those religious leaders understood the spiritual impact and importance of this event. The key to God's perfect plan was revealed by Jesus' final destination that day.

As the nation watched, every eye upon Him, Luke's gospel tells us how Jesus entered the temple that day and began to drive out those who were buying and selling in the temple, declaring, "My house will be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of robbers" (Luke 19:46). This was the second time Jesus had done this. The first is recorded in John's gospel (John 2:13). Jesus went straight to the heart of the spiritual need and problem of the nation. He did not go to the seat of civil government, He did not go the university or to the economic experts. Instead He went to the place that represented the heart of the nation's spiritual need.

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

faded.

As we celebrate during the Easter season and worship, let us do so with a true understanding. Jesus came to give His life as a sacrifice for our sin upon the cross, then to rise on that third day victorious over death, sin, and the grave (Luke 24:5-7). Forgiveness and new life come to each and every person who places their faith in Jesus Christ. He has called us all to serve Him together in the strength He provides to be not just fans, but true followers.

Bruce Martin is pastor for Concrete Assembly of God in Concrete.

### Darrington Library, cont. from p. 32

welcome. Potluck optional. Next discussion: Oct. 4.

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

—Asheley Bryson, branch manager



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### Crossword solution, from p. 37

1	T	I	P		O	M	I	T	S		F	E	T		13
14	A	N	A		V	I	R	A	L		E	L	O	P	E
17	C	A	S		E	R	O	L	E		L	U	P	I	N
20	I	N	S		U	R	A	N	C	E	P	O	L	I	C
22	T	E	E		N	S				K	E	N			
24					S	H	I	R			G	Y			
33	M	A	S		O	N	I	O	N						
39	E	X	P		R	E	S	S	W	A	R	A	N	T	Y
43	S	L	A		Y				K	A	Z	O	O		
46	A	E	N		E				N	I	N	O			
51					G	A	B								
57	D	O	U		B	L	E		I	N	D	E	M	N	I
64	I	S	S		U	E			Z	O	R	O	A	S	T
66	G	L	E		B	A			E	V	E	N	T		
69	S	O	D		O	M			T	A	W	S	E		

### Sudoku solution, from p. 37

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

# Classifieds

## MOVIES & EVENTS AT THE HISTORIC CONCRETE THEATRE

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## FOR SALE

Truck: 1993 Ford Ranger 4x4 w/canopy, \$3,400 obo. 360.853.7433.

Truck: 1998 Chevrolet Silverado, \$4,200 obo. 360.853.7433.

## GARAGE SALES

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 1006 Wicker Rd., Sedro-Woolley. April 7 and 8; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Indoor/fundraiser to support church upkeep and Family Promise.

## NOTICES

### NOTICE OF SALE

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Skagit County Resolution R20170043, and in compliance with RCW 36.34.080, Skagit County real property, legally described below, will be sold at Public Auction by the Skagit County Treasurer on April 21, 2017 at 10:00 A.M.. Public Auction will be held at 1101 East College Way, Mount Vernon WA.

Property to be sold is commonly known as: 1101 E. College Way, Mount Vernon, WA 98273 (prior Salvation Army building)

**Tax Parcel #:** P25952, 340417-2-021-0206

**Legal Description:** Tract A, Short Plat No.

MV-3-91, approved March 13, 1991, recorded March 14, 1991, in Volume 9 of Short Plats, pages 329 and 330, under Auditor's File #9103140017; and being a portion of the Southeast ¼ of the Northwest ¼ of Section 17, Township 34 North, Range 4 East, W.M.;

TOGETHER WITH a non-exclusive easement for ingress, egress and roadway over, under, across and through a certain Tract 30 feet in width, the center line of which is described as follows:

That portion of Tract B and C, of Short Plat No. MV-3-91, approved March 13, 1991, recorded March 14, 1991, in Book 9 of Short Plats, pages 329 and 330, under Auditor's File No. 9103140017; and being a portion of the Southeast ¼ of the Northwest 1/14 of Section 17, Township 34 North, Range 4 East, W.M., described as follows:

Beginning at a point on the West line of Continental Place, such point being the Southeast corner of Tract C and the Northeast corner of Tract B (said point being 111.0 feet south 0°16'12" East of the Northeast corner of said Tract C); thence North 89°37'00" West a distance of 180 feet to the West line of Tract C and the terminus of this line description,

ALSO TOGETHER WITH a non-exclusive easement for ingress, egress, and utilities over and across a parcel having a width of 15 feet along College Way and 290 feet in depth lying adjacent to the East line of the subject property; and

**Tax Parcel #:** P25970, 340417-2-023-0204

**Legal Description:** Tract C, Short Plat No. MV-4-75, approved February 27, 1975, recorded March 14, 1975, in Book 1 of Short Plats, page 23, under Auditor's File No. 814649; and being a portion of the Southeast ¼ of the Northwest ¼ of Section 17, Township 34 North, Range 4 East, W.M.;

EXCEPT that portion conveyed to the State of Washington by Deed Recorded December 20, 1990, under Auditor's File No. 9012200081; and

**Tax Parcel #:** P107836, 340417-2-023-0400

**Legal Description:** That portion of Tract "B", Short Plat No. MV-4-75, approved February 27, 1975, recorded March 14, 1975 in Volume 1 of Short Plats, page 23, under Auditor's File No. 814649 records of Skagit County, Washington and being a portion of the Southeast ¼ of the Northwest ¼ of Section 17, Township 34 North, Range 4 East, W.M., and being more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the Southeast corner of said

Tract "B", Short Plat No. MV-4-75; thence North 0°08'23" East 65.00 feet along the East line of said Tract "B" to the Northwest corner of Tract "A", Short Plat No. MV-3-91, approved March 13, 1991, recorded March 14, 1991, in Volume 9 of Short Plats, pages 329 and 330 under Auditor's File No. 9103140017, records of Skagit County, Washington; thence North 89°37'00" West 8.00 feet on a Westerly projection of the North line of said Tract "A", Short Plat No. MV-3-91; thence South 0°08'23" West 58.00 feet parallel with the East line of said Tract "B", Short Plat No. MV-4-75; thence North 89°37'00" West 11.0 feet parallel with the South line of said Tract "B", Short Plat No. MV-4-75; thence South 89°37'00" East 19.00 feet along said South line of Tract "B", Short Plat No. MV-4-75 to the point of beginning;

SITUATE IN THE COUNTY OF SKAGIT, STATE OF WASHINGTON.

**Minimum Bid:** \$745,000.00

**Auction Location:** 1101 E. College Way, Mount Vernon, WA.

**Payment:** Cash or certified check is due within two hours of the conclusion of the auction, in the Office of the Treasurer at 700 S. 2nd Street, Room 205, Mount Vernon, WA.

**Terms of Sale:** Skagit County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to waive irregularities. Property is offered As-is/Where-is without representation, warranty, or guaranty as to the quantity, quality, title, character, condition, size, or kind, or that the same is in condition or fit to be used for the purpose for which intended.

The successful bidder agrees to assume possession of the property as of the date of conveyance.

Witness my hand and official seal of this March 28, 2017.

Katie Jungquist, Skagit County Treasurer

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**Pages:** 56

**Deadline for ads and payment:**  
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