

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Concrete Herald

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50 cents

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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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Opinion

Letters to the editor

Kudos for Concrete softball team

I am the assistant softball coach at Meridian High School. First, I would like to say, what a great group of girls this team and school has. I am not sure if this compliment should go to the parents first, or the coach or the program or school. We are a small school and our softball team struggles every year. We lose more than we win by a long shot and we know what it feels like to be in Concrete's softball team's shoes. There was nothing but class from this group of girls! They competed the best they could and with a smile on their faces. They were receptive to their coach and didn't get down on themselves or one another, and were great sports all around.

After the games, we gave a cheer and slapped hands and they were obviously disappointed in the loss, but had fun and were nothing but smiles. Then, further after the game, when we were in the outfield talking to our team, about three girls from Concrete yelled "thank you and good job," and then I believe it was the catcher, Aunya, I think her name was, yelled, "Good hit! Your home run was awesome!" to our pitcher, who had hit her first homerun over the fence in her entire career.

How amazing of an athlete to be so positive to another athlete. She stood out to me the whole game, but that was just really great. So please let them know we noticed their great attitudes and we would love to play them again anytime. Good luck in the rest of their season and stay positive!

Karly Connell, asst. softball coach
Meridian High School

Inslee's opposition to Trans Mountain Expansion project hypocritical

I usually try to stay out of the politics of other countries, especially when it comes to elections and those who are running for leadership roles. However, with the recent announcement of Washington Governor Jay Inslee's 2020 presidential election bid, I'm having a hard time staying quiet.

It is no secret that Gov. Inslee has been, and continues to be, a vocal opponent of the Trans Mountain Expansion project. Most recently at a joint news conference in Seattle with BC Premier John Horgan, Governor Inslee was asked how he would try to influence the project. His response: "Every way that we can under Canadian law."

Following the announcement that Governor Inslee will be running for president, I wrote him a letter voicing my concerns with his opposition to this vital project. In the letter I highlighted how important this project is to our country's economy, how many jobs it will create, and the projected \$46.7 billion in government revenues the expansion will provide from construction and first 20 years of operation.

See Letters, p. 38

Letters policy

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

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Commentary Keep Medicare Part D's six protected classes protected

By Linda Stalters
and Raymond Y. Cho

Recently, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed a troubling regulation that would weaken Medicare Part D, the federal program that helps 45 million American seniors and people with disabilities afford prescription drugs.

Part D is unique among government programs. The federal government allows people to purchase coverage from private insurers. The government subsidizes these plans, but otherwise lets Medicare beneficiaries choose the coverage that's best for them.

Congress put some guardrails on insurers when it created Part D. It required Part D plans to cover all medications in six "protected classes" of drugs, including antipsychotics, antidepressants, and anticonvulsants. These medicines help treat people with schizophrenia and other psychiatric illnesses.

The proposed regulation would amend the six protected classes rule and allow insurers to exclude many drugs from Part D plans. Millions of Americans who rely on these crucial medications would be left to fend for themselves. Congress must halt this regulation now.

Our nation is struggling to provide care for people with schizophrenia and other psychosis-based illnesses. These patients die 10 to 28 years sooner than other Americans, and hundreds of thousands of people with serious psychiatric illnesses have been "re-institutionalized" in state prisons and county jails.

CMS is advancing this rule as a cost-saving measure. But any short-term savings would be canceled out by increased spending on emergency rooms and the penal system, since more people with serious brain disorders will end up in jail.

In addition to antipsychotics and anticonvulsants, the six protected classes include immune-suppressants for treatment of transplant rejection, HIV/AIDS drugs, and cancer medications. The regulation also authorizes insurers

to use "fail first" policies on drugs in the six classes. These policies require patients to take cheaper, less effective medications first. Only when these drugs fail will the insurer allow doctors to prescribe newer, more effective drugs.

If patients must endure successive failures on the least costly medications first and bear the associated increases in cost, what message does that send? In particular, for patients with serious psychiatric illnesses, "failure" means a harrowing descent into a psychotic crisis often ending in an emergency room admission or worse.

Individuals who suffer from schizophrenia-related brain illnesses are clinically complex patients, in part, because their treatment regimen includes multiple medications. Due to genetic differences across individuals, each antipsychotic and antidepressant medicine produces varied outcomes and side effects.

It takes time to find the correct medication regimen. If insurers limit which medicines are available, patients will suffer.

The CMS proposed rule affecting the six protected classes in Part D would not save money; rather, it would cost lives. We implore Congress to ensure the six protected classes remain protected.

Linda Stalters, M.S.N. is the founder and CEO of the Schizophrenia and Related Disorders Alliance of America. Raymond Y. Cho, M.D., SARDAA's board chairman, is a professor of psychiatry at Baylor College of Medicine.

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House Democrats propose budget that includes new taxes

Proposal utilizes increased economic growth revenue to fund education and includes new taxes like capital gains and real estate excise

By Emma Epperly
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

The House of Representatives' budget proposal includes a capital gains and real estate excise tax along with business and occupation tax changes to raise revenue. The operating, capital, and transportation budget proposals were released on March 25 and detail the 2019–21 biennium. The total budget is \$52.8 billion for the 2019–21 biennium.

The approximate revenue raised from the proposed new taxes is \$1.4 billion for the 2019–21 biennium. The budget stays in line with many of the priorities in Gov. Jay Inslee's proposed budget, with slightly less funding in some areas.

"We've said before that a budget is more than just the numbers. It's a statement of

the things that we value, the things that we believe in," said Majority Leader, Rep. Pat Sullivan, D-Covington. "... It also means that we have to balance the wants and the needs. We are being fiscally prudent in the budget."

Sullivan said, as was stated by Democrats after last week's revenue forecast, that the anticipated revenue increase of \$554 million in economic growth will all go toward funding K-12 education because of the McCleary fix passed last session.

"The post Great Recession economy should have produced enough revenue to fund current budget needs, but it didn't, because we have the most upside down, antiquated tax code in the country," said Chair of the Finance Committee, Rep. Gael Tarleton, D-Seattle.

The proposed capital gains tax would be 9.9 percent tax on gains over \$200,000 for a married couple or \$100,000 for an individual in a calendar year. The tax would not apply to the sale of homes, livestock, agricultural or timber lands, and certain small businesses.

Some have criticized this as an income tax, including Senate Minority Leader Mark Schoesler, R-Ritzville.

"It's an income tax and it's insane," said Schoesler.

The real estate tax changes would give individuals selling homes under \$500,000 a tax cut, while those selling homes more than \$1.5 million and \$7 million would see different rates of increase.

The business and occupation tax changes benefit and affect specific industries.

"It's the kind of investment we make once in a generation to support the students who will be our leaders in our state and economy for decades to come," said Tarleton, of the workforce education investment.

Business and Occupation Taxes for employers in certain industries will see an increase from 1.5 percent to 1.8 percent, with those funds going to workforce education investments.

The proposed budget includes almost \$643 million for K-12 education to serve Washington's million students. Higher Education will receive approximately \$608 million.

Behavioral Health has been a bipartisan focus this legislative session. That focus continues to the budget with more than \$206 million going to various behavioral health programs.

Ending the rape kit backlog and reducing processing timelines has been a topic of discussion this session, and the budget allots more than \$11 million for the project.

Rural broadband access expansions are budgeted for \$9 million, likely with the creation of a Statewide Broadband Office

See Budget, p. 38

Library adds Kanopy and Lynda online services

For the next year, the Upper Skagit Library in Concrete will test the digital waters with two new services aimed at expanding the options it provides its patrons. Kanopy and Lynda.com will be provided to library users free of charge throughout the rest of the year, and if successful, may become permanent offerings.

Kanopy is an on-demand, library-based film streaming service to designed to rival Netflix, Hulu, and Amazon Prime, showcasing more than 30,000 of the world's best films. Parents will want

to look into one of Kanopy's newest services, Kanopy Kids, with titles specifically for younger library patrons.

For potential new filmmakers in the library's service district, there's Lynda.com, also known as LinkedIn Learning, after its acquisition by the business and employment service. An online learning platform, Lynda will allow patrons to acquire new skills for work, hobbies, art, and self-improvement, without having to pay for expensive college courses, by offering a plethora of in-depth classes on a variety of topics taught by professionals and industry leaders.

Classes on Lynda include filmmaking, art, graphic design, music, writing, business, marketing, project management, programming and coding, and in-depth looks at specific software used in all of these industries.

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THIS AND THAT

By J. K. M.

Theatre Artists for Social Action (TASA) and Concrete Theatre will present "Forty Dollars and a Bus Ticket" on Sun., April 7, at 2 p.m.

The play has been compiled from stories and interviews with previously and currently incarcerated people, and highlights the challenges of reintegrating into society. It asks the question, "How would you rebuild your life from here?"

The special live production combines two formats: Reader's Theatre, in which the actors do not memorize their lines, and Verbatim Theatre, a form of theatre that uses the precise words of people interviewed about a particular topic.

Admission is by donation; all donations will fund TASA, Second Chance Scholarships, and the Breaking Free program at Skagit Valley College.

TASA is a group of socially minded theatre artists whose intention is to focus

on the needs of marginalized people who live in Skagit County. Their purpose is to educate and advance the understanding of social justice issues in our community with a purpose in mind of motivating people to take action.

Concrete Theatre, located at 45920 Main Street in Concrete, is a film, performance, and event venue whose mission is to engage, enlighten, and entertain.

The annual **Skagit County Fire Dist. 10 Fireman's Dance** will be held this year at Lake Tyee HOA, 4571 Burpee Hill Rd., Concrete, on Sat., April 13, from 6 p.m. to midnight. The evening's lineup includes live music from the Dakota Poorman band, a potluck dinner, and a raffle. This event never disappoints and is a perfect date night. Contact Dist. 10 firefighters for tickets or buy them at the door; attendees must be 21+ to attend.

Boys & Girls Clubs in Anacortes, Burlington, Concrete, Mount Vernon, and Sedro-Woolley will be open for extended hours during summer break, Monday through Friday. Each themed week will include meals and snacks, field trips, and purposeful and intentional programs and activities that engage youth of all ages.

Rates, hours, and ages vary between clubs. In the Concrete Herald coverage area, the Concrete and Sedro-Woolley clubs will operate as follows:

Concrete Club

- Explore Summer hours: 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Contact: Brian Gustafson, brian.gustafson@skagitclubs.org, 360.419.3723, x46

Sedro-Woolley Club

- Explore Summer hours: 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Contact: Shane Collins, shanec@skagitclubs.org, 360.419.3723, x43

Go to www.skagitclubs.org for more information or contact your local Club.

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Council summary

Concrete Town Council met for regular meetings on March 11 and 25. The following are summaries 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.

March 11 regular meeting

- Grasmere resident James Demko presented a concern to council: He is trying to rebuild a house on a lot from which the original structure was removed, and is finding the water reconnection fee unbearable. The house is within the town's Urban Growth Area and is eligible for water service. Council discussed the methodology behind the water connection fee.
- Council approved the event application for the third annual Mount Baker Ultra Marathon, scheduled this year for June 1–2.
- *Current projects:* Town engineer Cody Hart provided an overview of the Cedar St. and S. Rietze project, including the water line work. Town Clerk Andrea Fichter provided an

update on the waterline funding and how it was a part of the funding application that had been approved, but the town has now been informed that TIB cannot provide any funding for upgrading the waterline. She stated the town will have to use local dollars to pay for this work. She stated there is money in the budget; it will have to be shifted to pay for this instead of other lower-priority projects.

Hart reported the Cedar St. project is out to bid, as well as the I&I (inflow and infiltration—sewer) project. He stated the bid opening for both of these projects will occur at the end of March. Hart also reported the water tank is under final design review by Dept. of Health and he hopes to get this out to bid next week as well.

Council approved the TIB agreement for the S. Rietze Design, the TIB agreement for the Cedar St./S. Rietze and pedestrian improvements construction, Task Order No. 2019–5 for S. Rietze Waterline construction management, Task Order No. 2019–6 for Cedar St. Waterline construction management, and Task Order No.

2019–7 for Cedar St./S. Rietze Rd. and pedestrian improvements construction management.

March 25 regular meeting

- *Public safety:* Sgt. Greg Adams reported the Sheriff's Office had worked with Dept. of Corrections to arrest three individuals with warrants. He stated there was one in town limits and two others in Cedar Grove, but those two had also had contacts in town limits.
- Councilmember Beth Easterday asked about the trailer along the highway in Birdsvew. Sergeant Adams stated this is being taken care of by the state. He stated trailers are more difficult to remove because they are considered hazardous waste.
- Mayor Jason Miller requested an extension of the lease start date for Thrive Direct, the healthcare provider for whom the town will provide a business incubator space in the old police station. The new start date is May 1.
- Clerk Fichter reported that after the last council meeting, she and the mayor had a conversation regarding the system development fees and

the possibility of allowing for reconnection fees for those properties that had been previously connected to utilities and were not brand-new construction. Fichter said the system development fees are based on brand-new construction and the cost to buy into the system. She also said that when the ordinance for the 3-year rule was implemented, the system development fees were far less than they are now, so it may have made sense to charge the full amounts. It may make more sense to charge a reconnection fee at lesser amounts. Mayor Miller noted that this would be only for properties that had once been connected and are now reconnecting to the system, whether it is sewer or water or both. Council approved the new, lesser reconnection fee schedule.

—Compiled from staff minutes

Keep track of your council

To have Concrete Town Council agendas and meeting minutes e-mailed to you automatically, e-mail your request to andrea@concretewa.gov or call 360.853.8401. Concrete Town Council meets the second and fourth Mondays of each month, at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

Join Us

5-year Anniversary Celebration

We're celebrating our fifth year of working together with United General District #304 to provide comprehensive healthcare services in Skagit Valley. You are invited to attend this free event; reservation is not required.

Thursday, April 18, 2019

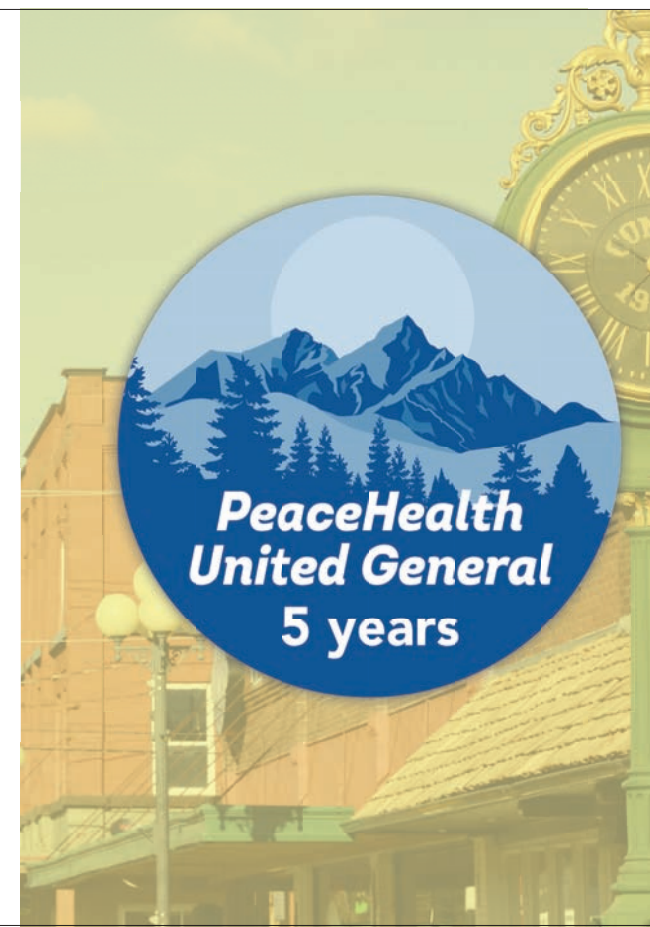
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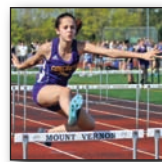
National Drug
Take Back Day Event

April 27th
10am-2pm

Concrete Community Center



Washington State
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Sports



Baseball, softball get slushy starts

The freak spring snow that dumped about 3 feet of the white stuff on Concrete in as many days made life difficult for spring-sport athletes. With their fields covered for the better part of March, the baseball and softball teams headed indoors to the high school gym and multipurpose room, focusing on fundamentals and drills.

"You can't really beat the on-field dirt time, you can't mirror game speeds," said first-year softball head coach Bob Hickman. "Luckily there were indoor facilities to work on the informational components—the head part of the game. We did indoor drills; I used almost every indoor drill I could think of to keep the players occupied, to introduce my ideas for defense and the fundamentals. We worked on hitting and coordination drills, location and velocity drills, basic batting mechanics. We did the best we could."

The Lady Lions charged into their season with March play that left them winless but hopeful. With only 11 players to field and a fair amount of new blood, Hickman said he was grateful for his seniors, who bring leadership to the equation.

"As a whole, it's an interesting dynamic," he said. "The seniors bring leadership, a few upper- and mid-classmen bring some experience, and a

few players who haven't played before. Every game we play, we still have little glitches that we can clean up—raw edges. But it's coming. With every game, a little something comes."

Kylie Clark proved that during the March 21 home game against Darrington, when she swatted a grand-slam home run over the fence.

"I think we have a lot of potential, even though we're raw and we're working things out," said Hickman. "We may be that little Cinderella team that shows up in the post-season and scares somebody."

Men's team strong with seniors

On the baseball front, head coach Randy Sweeney called his five seniors "the strength and the heart of our team." The seniors—Dalton Newby, Marshall Fichter, Tyler Coffell, Shayne Luttrell, and David O'Neil—spend time with the younger players, teaching them the lessons they've been taught, said Sweeney.

"I have five seniors with great attitudes, and four seniors that I can send to the mound and feel confident in their performance," he said.

During their last March game—a doubleheader at Orcas—the Lions went 1-1. Shayne Luttrell dominated on the mound during the first game, with Marshall Fichter closing it out for

Concrete. The game went to the Lions, 10-2. The second game was a different story, but the Lions kept coming from behind. A glitch in record-keeping handed an official 13-12 loss to the Lions. At the end of March, their record stood at 1-1 in league, and 2-4 overall.

Calling the snowy season start "the roughest spring I've ever known," Sweeney said the players were glad to finally get outside. "They have a league title in their sights, and they're going to go for it."

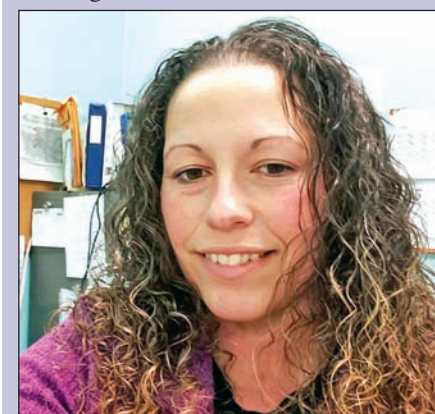
—J. K. M.



New coaches on the softball field

The CHS women's fastpitch team has two new coaches at the helm. Bob Hickman, a seasoned softball coach, has 22 years of experience under his belt, with time spent with little league teams, NSA teams, high school, and Skagit Valley College softball. He also was instrumental in creating the "Doncrete Ligers" (Darrington/Concrete) team a few years back. "I'm doing this for the girls," he said. "I just want to help them get better."

Volunteer assistant Sheena Daniels is a familiar face. She's coached at high school softball level for 4 years, and logged another 4 years with little league co-ed baseball and youth cheer. She's the PTO president, Concrete Youth Cheer coordinator and coach, and vice president of the Cal Ripken Little League Board. "I believe if the players are learning new skills, having fun, and working hard, that's a win," she said.



Tiana Brookshire hauls in a fly ball during a March practice session.



Raylee Ward bare-hands a grounder before throwing to first base during a March practice session.

Cement City Trail Run returns

Final preparations are under way for the Cement City Trail Run, scheduled for the morning of Sat., April 20.

Organized by the Concrete Lions Booster Club to raise money for extra-curricular activities for kids, the popular race begins at the Concrete High School track. The kid-friendly event begins with a half-mile walk/run around the track for elementary-age children. Races for grades K-3 begin at 9:15 a.m., followed by grades 4-6 at 9:30. Four \$5 prizes for the top female and male finishers in both age categories will be awarded.

The 5K walk/run and 10K run participants will begin their races at 10 a.m.

Ribbons will be awarded to all participants who complete the run. Medals will be given to male and female overall winners, as well as for age category winners. Prizes also will be awarded to the top three finishers in the 5K and 10K races.

Pre-registration is encouraged. To register, use the mail-in form in the event brochure (distributed throughout Concrete), or find the event on Facebook (Cement City Trail Run 2019) and register via the link. Runners may also register the day of the race from 8:30 to 9:45 a.m., in the multipurpose room at the high school.

T-shirts are available for \$20 (\$22 for larger sizes), but must be pre-sold; orders must be received by April 8.

Water and restrooms are available on site, with an aid station on the route. Runners will return to the track, where fresh fruit and snacks will be waiting.

—Janis Schweitzer

MEN'S BASKETBALL AWARDS

Varsity Letters: Kai Sahlin, Brandon Downing, Tyler Coffell, Tyler Nevin, Jonas Rensink, Michael Booker, Devin Blankenship, Levi Lowry, Dalton Newby.

Most Improved: Devin Blankenship.

Most Inspirational: Michael Booker. **Mr. Hustle:** Tyler Coffell. **Aggressive Athlete:** Dalton Newby. **2nd Team All-League:** Dalton Newby (point guard).

JV Letters: Bryan Ribera, Ethan Hall, Kyle Watts, Anthony Culver, Lukas Sahlin, Cohen Poolos, Owen Aamot, Aidrien Cassell-Seger. **Mr. Hustle:** Cohen Poolos. **Most Inspirational:** Kai Sahlin.

Athletes of the Month



Athletes of the Month: Izzy Ramos, Dalton Newby, Hunter Olmstead

Izabela Ramos is a junior forward for the Concrete Lady Lions Basketball team. She served as one of the team captains and always led by example. Although quiet, Ramos knows the program better than any other player, and is someone the younger players look up to and learn from. She is a great student, a good athlete, and always brings a team-first attitude to every practice and game.

Ramos values her teammates, their effort, and what they each bring to the team. She also values the basketball and each possession, which is huge for a team that is turnover-prone. Ramos led the Lions in shooting percentage and fewest turnovers. That is playing efficient basketball.

Coach Kevik Rensink said, "Congratulations on being recognized by the Concrete Lions Booster Club as our Athlete of the Month. Well done and well deserved. I love the way you represent yourself and our program."

Dalton Newby was absolutely key for the Lions down the stretch. Without his ability to handle the ball,

the offense would have been very tough to run. He more often than not would draw the opposition's toughest defenders as they would try to wear him out, frustrate him, and get him out of his element. "We had many talks about playing smart and how to stay out of foul trouble, because we couldn't afford to take him out of the game," said Coach Levi Stewart.

Newby averaged 3.8 assists on the season, as he was always looking to share the ball and hit the open man. His efforts did not go unnoticed by the rest of the league, as he was voted 2nd team All League by the other coaches. He was a guy for whom opponents game planned, and thought that if they could shut down Dalton, they would have a much easier night on both ends of the court.

Hunter Olmstead is "the wrestler all coaches want in their room," said Coach Jesse Dellinger. He works hard and leads by example. As a sophomore he took the lead of being the team captain and the rest of the team followed him.

"I challenged Hunter to be the best this season and not just aim for placing at state; I wanted his expectations to be on winning it," said Dellinger. "I knew his background and knew his potential and what he could accomplish. All season I pushed him to get better and better each day, and I would drill with him during practice to push him and make him work hard. It started to pay off. All season he exceeded my expectations and when state finally arrived, he wrestled tough, beating two state placers from the year before to reach the state finals."

Taking second in state is a huge accomplishment and something to be proud of. We are very proud of his accomplishments this season and excited to see what he can do in the next two years.

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

—Kathy Hurn

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Track & Field begins season with dozens of personal records

After struggling through pre-season practices that were burdened with the same snow-related delays as the CHS baseball and softball teams, the Concrete Track & Field team roared into La Conner on March 13 for its first league meet, setting 27 personal records (PRs) after snow prevented every last one of them from practicing in proper fashion.

Anna Spangler (14.77 sec.) and Devon Howard (14.81 sec.) took 4th and 5th, respectively, in the women's 100m sprint. Howard's time set a personal record (PR).

Our state-seasoned women's 4x100 relay team—Sierra Rensink, Kassidy Smith, Rebekah Rider, Anna Spangler—took 4th place with a time of 59.06 sec.

Our brand-new women's 4x200 relay team competed for the first time on a track. The relay team is composed of Devon Howard, Sierra Rensink, Ebby Buchta, and Anna Spangler.

Devon Howard PR'ed in the shotput with a throw of 21'5.5".

Devon Howard PR'ed at 67'10" in the women's discus and took second

place. Kassidy Smith took third at 65'4". Rebekah Rider nabbed fourth place at 65'3". Ebby Buchta PR'ed at 57'9". Carissa Cross and Sierra Rensink stayed in the game too, setting PRs with throws of 49'2" and 40'9", respectively.

Carissa Cross then stormed over to the javelin and set another PR, with a throw of 38'6".

In the women's long jump, Kassidy Smith grabbed second place with a soaring 13'10.5" jump, a mere half inch away from her PR. Not to be outdone, teammates Anna Spangler and Ebby Buchta tied for fourth place, jumping 12'11". Rebekah Rider sat comfortably in eighth place, with a jump of 11'11". Sierra Rensink jumped 10'7.25", which placed her in 12th.

In the men's 100m sprint, Hayden O'Neil PR'ed at 13.12 seconds. Kai Sahlin PR'ed at 13.32 seconds. Corbyn Higgins PR'ed at 14.54 seconds. Charlie Bartel PR'ed at 15.11 seconds. Collin Martin set his season record at 15.61 seconds.

In the 4x100m relay, Tyler Nevin, Corbyn Higgins, Devin Blankenship, and Hayden O'Neil competed on a track for the first time and notched a respectable 51.08 sec. effort, which earned them 6th place.

In the shotput, our resident big man, Levi Lowry, stepped into the circle and threw his first competitive toss 40'3.75", setting a PR and winning the event simultaneously. Jonas Rensink PR'ed at 28'7". Collin Martin PR'ed at 24'2.75". Charlie Bartel PR'ed at 19'8.75".

Over at the discus, Levi Lowry again flexed his muscles, setting another PR at 99'2" and grabbing 4th place. Jonas Rensink set another PR at 83'9". Collin Martin PR'ed at 73'11". And Charlie Bartel PR'ed at 41'3".

In the javelin, Hayden O'Neil's hunger and hard work earned him 4th place and a PR this time out, with a nice throw of 123'3". Levi Lowry was hard on Hayden's heels, with a throw of 118'3". Jonas Rensink set a PR with a throw of 103'9". Kendall Bass PR'ed at 102'5". And Charlie Bartel PR'ed again at 48'5".

At the high jump, Tyler Nevin showed off his impressive springs, capturing 3rd place with a jump of 5'0". Devin Blankenship followed, with a PR jump of 4'6".

Nevin continued his success at the long jump, snagging fourth place and another PR with a jump of 18'3.75". Kai Sahlin PR'ed at 16'1.75" and Devin Blankenship PR'ed at 14'6.25.

Our lone triple jumper, Michael Booker, represented with a jump of 32'5", enough to secure 6th place.

Friday Harbor meet

The team's second league meet, on March 20, was held in Friday Harbor instead of Concrete, since the snow on the Concrete track and field was a concern during the days leading up to the meet.

The Lion athletes continued to stack up PRs at Friday Harbor.

Hayden O'Neil placed second in the men's 100m, with a PR of 12.28 seconds. Kai Sahlin was sizzling hot at 12.34 seconds, which earned him 4th place. Anthony Bese PR'ed at 12.37 sec., Corbyn Higgins PR'ed at 12.85, Christian Joens PR'ed at 13.37, and Collin Martin set another season record at 14.35.

Concrete put a couple runners on the track for the men's 200m, and saw Anthony Bese grab 2nd place with a 26.30 second effort—and a PR. Christian Joens sat on 6th place with a 28.69-second run.

In the shot put, Lowry backed off his stunning La Conner performance, but his

35'6" toss was enough to earn him 2nd place. Rensink threw a PR of 29'3" and took 4th place. Collin Martin took 7th place with a toss of 22'11".

The Concrete men swarmed the discus, taking 4th through 7th places: Rensink PR'ed at 84'1", O'Neil PR'ed at 82', Lowry hurled it 76'8", and Martin PR'ed at 75'4". Joens and Kendall Bass brought up the rear with PR throws of 58'8" and 57'6", respectively.

In the javelin, the men went 4th, 5th, and 6th: O'Neil with 116'4", Lowry with 110'3", and Bass with 97'5". Bese threw a season record of 90'7", Rensink threw 90', Sahlin threw 89'4" (a PR), Booker threw 87'1", and Martin got another season record at 71'3".

Nevin and Blankenship went 1 and 2 at the high jump, with Nevin at 4'10" and Blankenship at 4'8", a PR.

At the long jump, Nevin grabbed 4th place with a leap of 17'3.5". Sahlin PR'ed at 16'2". Blankenship PR'ed at 14'9.5", and Booker rounded out the Lion showing with a leap of 14'1".

Booker crushed his triple jump PR by several feet, logging a 36'10.5" effort that earned him 2nd place. Blankenship PR'ed at 33'7", and Rensink PR'ed at 30'1".

The Lady Lions roared at Friday Harbor too. In the women's 100m, Anna Spangler took 3rd with a speedy 13.88-sec. PR, followed closely by Devon Howard in 4th place, at 14.03 sec.—another PR.

Our 4x100m relay team took 2nd at 58.31 sec.

Our 4x200m relay team took third at 2:05.34—an excellent effort for the first-year group of Howard, Ebby Buchta, Sierra Rensink, and Anna Spangler.

Howard grabbed 3rd in the shotput with a toss of 21'2". Unity Reynolds PR'ed at 20' even. And Carissa Cross set another PR at 16'9".

At the discus, the women made their presence known. Kassidy Smith took 2nd with a PR throw of 70'1". Rebekah Rider took 3rd with a PR of 67'2". Howard was 4th at 66'6", and Buchta PR'ed at 65.11". Carissa Cross took 7th at 43'6", and Reynolds took 8th with a season record of 35'4".

Reynolds and Cross took 2nd and 3rd in the women's javelin, with throws of 46' (a PR) and 36'4", respectively.

Buchta busted the long jump, taking 1st with her PR leap of 13'. Smith at 12'7", Spangler at 11'10.5", Rider at 10'11", and Rensink at 9'6" rounded out the 3rd through 6th spots.

—J. K. M.

A rocky start for proposed quarry

A proposal to expand an existing quarry has met resistance from Upper Valley residents.

Editor's note: The current owner of a portion of the land discussed in this article, Cunningham Family Trust, is in no way related to the Cheryl Cunningham/Marty Purvis family of Marblemount.

A proposed quarry expansion near Marblemount has local residents digging in and ready to battle the project, which they view as detrimental to the environment, animals, and their way of life.

According to application documents filed with the Skagit County Planning Dept. on Jan. 22, Vancouver, Wash.-based Kiewit Infrastructure Co. proposes to expand an existing 20-acre quarry to an approximately 79-acre operation. The proposal will remove approximately 3.8 million cubic yards of quarry stone during a projected 100-year period, to supply local demand and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) with rock suitable for construction and repair of marine jetties along the west coast of Washington and Oregon. The rock at the site meets the USACE density criteria for jetty construction and repair.

Quarry rocks and spalls would be removed from the site by truck and trailer, generating a maximum of 75 loads per day. The mining operation would require the removal of 2.7 million board feet of timber from approximately 90 acres of six parcels totaling 600 acres. Stumps would be removed and the area graded in preparation for quarry operations.

Construction of a one-mile-long gravel road is necessary to remove timber from the site and access the top of the slope. Because of safety concerns, mining would be initiated at the top of the slope and then terraced down to the base. Construction of the gravel road would require excavation of approximately 235,200 cubic yards and placement of approximately 550,400 cubic yards of rock and soil.

The subject site is located within the Rural Resource-Natural Resource Land

and Secondary Forest-Natural Resource Land zoning/comprehensive plan designated area, and within the mineral resource overlay.

Residents respond

The proposal is not without its supporters. One person wrote on Facebook, "Most of us are all for the mining of this area. Most of the people who are against this will never be affected by the mining. This will open up jobs and resources to our community."

That opinion appears to be in the minority. After news broke of the initial comment period, which lasted 15 days and ended on March 29, a flurry of activity broke out in the Upper Valley, including the creation of a Facebook page, "Stop the Marblemount Quarry."

A March 23 meeting drew upwards of 60 attendees to Rob Burrows' house, which is located about 1,600 feet from the site, according to Burrows. Burrows,

a planner, said he wanted to share information and fill in details for people who hadn't read the entire application, which is lengthy.

Burrows shared his concerns with *Concrete Herald*. He, his wife, and their 2-year-old daughter chose the location of their home "for the quiet setting, being close to nature. This clearly would be an invasion on the sanctity of our home. That's how everyone at the meeting felt—a sizable chunk of the Marblemount community, probably the majority."

Burrows' list of concerns is lengthy. "There would be blasting, heavy equipment moving around and banging rocks 12-plus hours a day, six days a week. That's crazy. I'm worried about the health of my daughter, living next to that noise, and her development. A number of neighbors are retired. We have folks with health problems who would be adversely

See Quarry, p. 26

Comment period extended, Public meeting planned

The comment period for the Kiewit quarry project has been extended to 4:30 p.m. on April 12. Comments may be mailed to the attention of John Cooper at Planning and Development Services, 1800 Continental Place, Mount Vernon, WA 98273 or submitted online at <https://www.skagitcounty.net/departments/planningandpermit/commentsform.htm>

A public meeting to further discuss the proposed quarry project is scheduled for Thur., April 11, at 6 p.m., at the Marblemount Community Hall in Marblemount.

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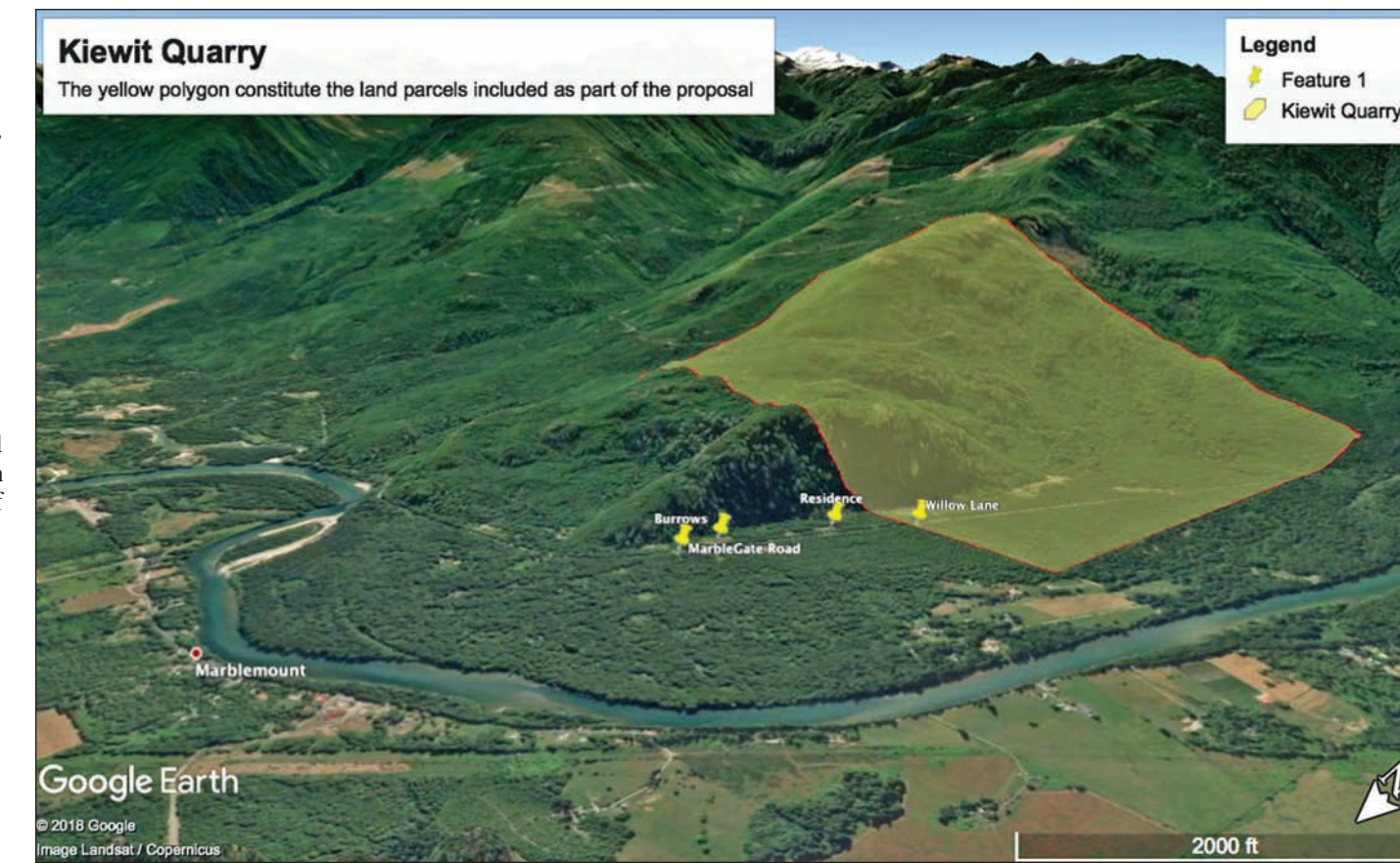
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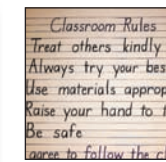
I-5 EXIT 232 - 5 MILES NORTH OF COOK RD SHELL ON OLD HWY 99 N



Right: This aerial screen grab from Google Earth shows the site of the proposed quarry expansion and its proximity to Marblemount and areas east.



Academics



YD update

The end of the school year is fast approaching, and although we have had many a good time already, we are going to pack in as many more good times as humanly possible before the students are released into the summer abyss.

Last month we had a ton of fun, and it started with "Just Better Night." On this evening the students divide into teams of four and one staff member, and are given an item of little to no value (such as a paper clip). They then go about the community trying to trade up for something better (something more valuable than they originally had). I tell them cash is okay, and junk is not. All of the cash, and items we collect that have a resell value, go toward World Vision on behalf of our 30-Hour Famine. The winning team brought in a working chainsaw, in the case, and with extra chains. That is some good trading! The winners were Jacob Hadaway, Cassidy Smith, Rebekah Rider, and Sierra Rensink.

The 30-Hour Famine went great! We are still bringing the donations in, so I won't have a total that we raised until next month, but some of the students went well out of their way to raise money for starving children. We are proud to partner with World Vision every year for this event to not just help raise money for their organization, but to help bring awareness of the needs around our globe to the high school students in Concrete. Twenty-four students participated in the weekend event, including some students from a youth group in Sedro-Woolley. This was the first time we had invited another group of students to join us in the famine, and we really enjoyed having them along for the journey, as well as their leader Colton

Maloney (former Concrete YDer). Colton was our keynote speaker for the weekend, and really spoke into the student's lives about what it means to live for yourself, or live for God and others. Thanks, Colton, for taking the time out of your busy schedule to help make an impact in the lives of our students.

The "Amazing Race" is always a favorite among the teens, as they get to run around town solving puzzles, conquering physical tasks, and eating things they would rather soon forget. The winning team also gets a free pass to our annual Rock-n-Roll Retreat, a \$100 value, for our whitewater rafting adventure the first weekend of June. Registration is now open for this trip, and spots are filling up fast. Make sure your son or daughter gets signed up soon for this once in a lifetime (or four times in four years if you are a Concrete YD die hard) trip! Jonas Rensink and Jacob Hadaway led most of the way, but were overtaken by Dalton Newby and David O'Neil in the last challenge (a word scramble). Congratulations to Dalton and David, and also to Jonas and Jacob, as they will receive a half scholarship.

The last Monday night event before Spring Break was Capture the Flag, and there is a reason we host this event twice a year: The kids love it! I am excited for our April schedule as well, with events coming up, such as our annual Couch Derby (April 8), Outdoor Game Night (April 15), Fear Factor (April 22), and the Town Scavenger Hunt (April 29). Be on the lookout for more information on our extended summer trips as well!

A big thanks to all of you who helped support one of our YD students for the Famine, and for your overall support of our youth in general. You are all appreciated!

—Kevik and Marta Rensink
Area Directors



Left: A slew of students took home certificates for flawless attendance during a special recognition assembly at Concrete Elementary School on March 29.



Above: Concrete Elementary School students were recognized for a variety of "over and above" actions during a recognition ceremony at the school on March 29.



Above: Destination Imagination participants from Concrete Elementary School were recognized during a ceremony at the school on March 29. The group was the first elementary team ever from Skagit County to participate in the competition. The program has been in place for 20 years, and has included high school teams in the past, but never an elementary team.

ALLELUJAH

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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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Clear Lake



HISTORY CORNER

Ransom H. Putnam was an early homesteader at the south end of Clear Lake. He arrived in the mid 1880s. Mr. Putnam can be seen standing next to the mule in the photo at right. Mr. Putnam built a log cabin, as most homesteaders did. Since it was important that someone be on the claim at all times, Ransom invited his sister, Alice, to live with him. Alice preferred a sawed lumber house over a log cabin, so a new house was built as soon as lumber was available. After that, the original log cabin was used for storage. When the Fox family purchased the Putnam farm around 1930, they used the log cabin as a one-car garage. After the Janicki family purchased

the property several years ago, they donated the log cabin to the Clear Lake Historical Association. *Photo courtesy of Clear Lake Historical Association.*

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

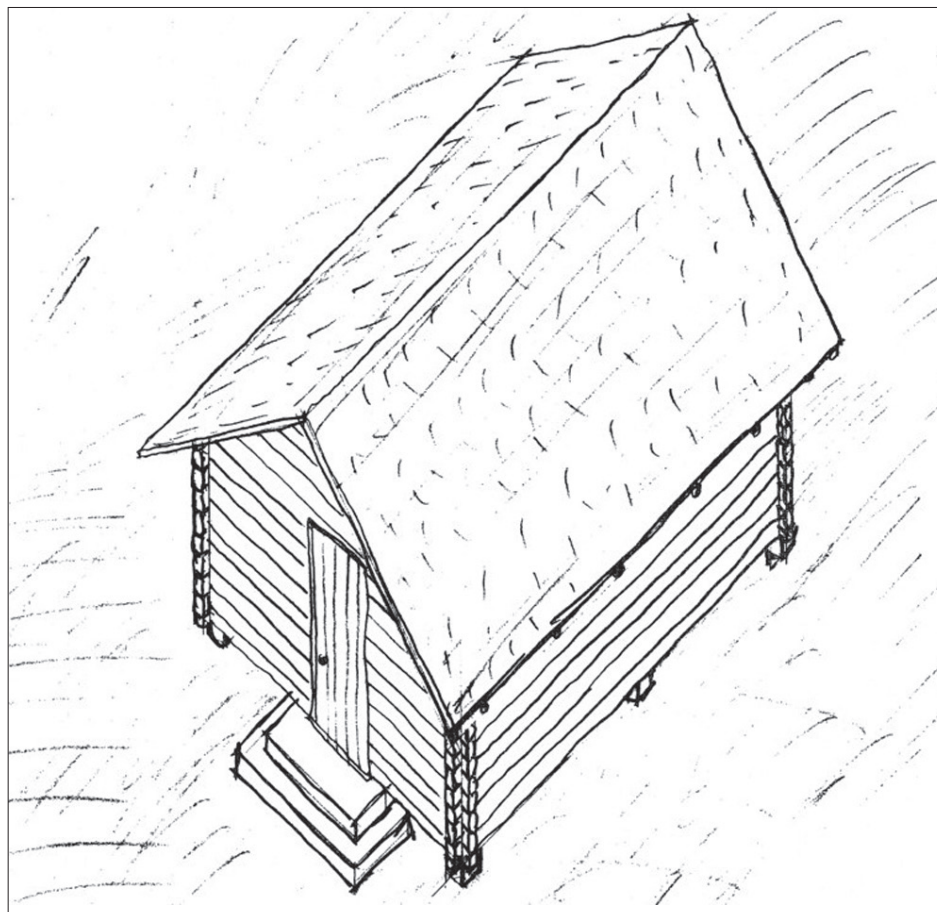
Like the Clear Lake Historical Association on Facebook at www.facebook.com/clearlakehistory.

The Clear Lake Historical Association has new office hours: Thursdays, from 10 a.m. to noon, and by appointment. For more information, send an e-mail to clha1987@gmail.com or call 360.856.6798.

—Deanna Ammons, historian



Below: Plans are now being made to reconstruct the Putnam cabin on the empty lot south of the Clear Lake Historical Association building (former IOOF Hall) in Clear Lake. A sketch of the planned reconstruction is shown. The reconstruction of this homestead cabin will be open to the public (by appointment) for educational purposes, to visit and learn more about how our early homesteaders lived. *Image courtesy of Clear Lake Historical Association.*



Did You Know?

The Skagit Regional Airport in Burlington now offers US Customs & Border Protection services, to serve international flights.



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Community Calendar



APRIL

- 2 Hamilton Town Council workshop, Hamilton Town Hall, 584 Maple St., Hamilton, 7 p.m.; info at townofhamilton.2010@gmail.com or 360.826.3027
- 9 Hamilton Cemetery Association annual meeting, Punkin Center Fire Hall, 34041 SR 20, 6:30 p.m. (new members welcome)
- 10 End-of-Life Series sponsored by Hospice of the Northwest: "Hospice Care and Home Health," Concrete Community Center, 45821 Railroad St., Concrete, 1 to 3:30 p.m.; free admission; info at 360.853.8400
- 11 Public Meeting re: Marblemount rock quarry proposal, Marblemount Community Hall, 6 p.m.
- 12 Imagine Concrete Workshop: "Community Safety in Town of Concrete," CHS Commons, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.; see ad, p. 4; info at 360.630.4303
- 13 Concrete Saturday Market Annual Vendor Meeting and Potluck, Concrete Community Center, 11 a.m.; info at concretesaturdaymarket1@gmail.com
- 13 Skagit County Fire Dist. 10 Fireman's Dance, Lake Tyee HOA, 4571 Burpee Hill Rd., Concrete; 6 p.m. to midnight; contact Dist. 10
- 13–14 Town of Hamilton Cleanup, Dumpsters located at 920 Pettit St. (bring card), 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; info at 360.826.3027
- 14 firefighters for tickets or buy at door; must be 21+ to attend
- 14 Hamilton Volunteer Fire Dept. Easter Egg Hunt, Hamilton Town Park, 1 p.m.
- 17 End-of-Life Series sponsored by Hospice of the Northwest: "After Death," Concrete Community Center, 45821 Railroad St., Concrete, 1 to 3:30 p.m.; free admission; info at 360.853.8400
- 18 PeaceHealth United General Medical Center 5-Year Anniversary Celebration, 2000 Hospital Dr., (main entrance), Sedro-Woolley, 5 to 6:30 p.m.; see ad, p. 6; info at 360.856.7530
- 19 Concrete Heritage Museum Good Friday Bake Sale, Albert's Red Apple, Grasmere, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; info at 360.853.8347 (jboggswash@aol.com) or 360.982.0423 (autohistory@hotmail.com)
- 20 Concrete Lions Easter Egg Hunt, Concrete Elementary School, noon
- 20 Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Double O Ranch, 46276 Concrete Sauk Valley Rd., 1 p.m. (after Concrete Lions Easter Egg Hunt)
- 20 Darrington Community Dance, Mansford Grange, 1265 Railroad Ave., Darrington, 6 to 9:30 p.m.; admission by \$7 suggested donation; see notice, p. 25; info at 206.402.8646
- 24 End-of-Life Series sponsored by Hospice of the Northwest: "Grief and Loss," Concrete Community Center, 45821 Railroad St., Concrete, 1 to 3:30 p.m.; free admission; info at 360.853.8400
- 26 Local poets Andrea Weiser and Jason Miller read their work at Upper Skagit Library, Concrete, 5 p.m.
- 26 Send-off party for Upper Skagit Library Dir. Brooke Pederson, 5b's Bakery, Concrete, 7 to 9 p.m.
- 27 Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group/Skagit Land Trust Earth Day 2019 planting party, Muddy Creek, Hamilton, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; see ad, p. 4; info at 360.336.0172 or outreach@skagitfisheries.org
- 27 National Drug Take Back Day Event, Concrete Community Center, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; see ad, p. 7
- 27–28 WoodFest Timber to Tech, Sedro-Woolley; see ad, p. 17

MAY

- 4 Blast Open the Pass benefit dinner and dance for KSVU 90.1 FM, Marblemount Community Hall, 5:30 to 10 p.m.; info at 360.853.8588

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

Community meetings

Cascade Days planning meetings will be held the third Mon. of each month, at 7460 S. Dillard, Ste. A (corner of SR 20 and Dillard), at 5:30 p.m. Meetings are not mandatory for volunteers. Info at ember@cascaadedays.com.

Christian Motorcyclists Assn Morning Star Chapter 39 meets the first Mon. of each month at Royal Star Buffet in Mount Vernon. Optional dinner at 6 p.m.; meeting at 7 p.m. 425.770.6154 or cmachapter39@gmail.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 Community Center Committee meets the third Friday of each month at 10:30 a.m., at the East County Resource Center in Concrete. Meetings are open to the public. 360.416.1733 or claudiam3@communityactionsskagit.org.

Concrete Economic Development Commission meets quarterly at 6 p.m. at Concrete Town Hall. Call 503.333.2406 for the date of the next meeting.

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

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

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

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

Concrete Resource Coalition meets the third Thur. of each month, at 2 p.m., in the Concrete High School library.

Concrete School District Board: The board will hold a workshop on April 22 at 6 p.m., in the high school Commons room. The board will hold its regular monthly meeting on April 25 at 6 p.m., in the high school Commons room. 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 andreaf@concretewa.gov.

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

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

Forest Park Cemetery District No. 5 meets the third Tue. of each month at the cemetery office on Compton Lane in Concrete, at 6 p.m. 360.708.3656.

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

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

KSVU staff and volunteer meet, second Tue. of each month at Portable B behind Concrete Elementary School, 4 p.m., open to public. 360.853.8588.

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

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.

Ohana Support Group meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Concrete Community Center, 45821 Railroad Ave., Concrete, at 6 p.m. 360.416.1733.

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

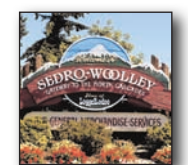
Sedro-Woolley School District Board: Meets April 8 at 5:45 p.m. at the Support Svcs Bldg. for a work session to discuss and review the School-Based Health Clinic feasibility study.

This meeting will be followed by a regular meeting at 7 p.m. in the same location. A second regular meeting is scheduled for April 22 at 7 p.m. at Samish Elementary School. 360.855.3500 or 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. saunksister@frontier.com or www.skagiteagle.org.

Upper Skagit Library District (USLD) Board meets the second Thursday of each month, 6 p.m. at the library. Public is welcome. 360.853.7939 or 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. em@5bsbakery.com.



Sedro-Woolley



Sedro-Woolley citizens made the short hop to Concrete on March 2 for the Mardi Gras celebration in Concrete Town Center. Above: With sister Joy Eberly somewhere nearby, Jaretta Osborne twirls with an alligator. Right: Jerry and Jeri Kaufman show off their dance moves. Photos by Rick Knight.



Four to be honored at Community Recognition ceremony

Sedro-Woolley School District will honor this year's recipients of the annual Community Recognition Program during a ceremony in the Sedro-Woolley High School auditorium on Thur., April 18, at 7 p.m. A reception will follow the awards. The 2019 honorees are:

- Wayne Cole, Memorial Recognition
- Mark Venn, District Recognition

- Dick Straathof, Community Recognition
- Cameron Cleeland, Athletic Hall of Fame

The recipients have demonstrated outstanding service to the community or demonstrated loyal support and outstanding accomplishments in areas such as community service, academics, performing arts, or athletics. These exemplary efforts are recognized as going beyond the typical measures of accomplishment.

The public is invited to attend this fun and entertaining evening. For more information, call 360.855.3500.



Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce entertained new and existing members in March. Top left: Yulia Garrison (second from left) and colleagues at Edward Jones at her St Patrick's day inspired open house on March 15.

Middle left: Allison Gilham cuts the ribbon at the Grand Opening of SaviBank on March 21.

Bottom left: One of the new owners of The Woolley Market, Jason Winship paused for a photo at the now-famous tap wall. Submitted photos.



Amy Boettcher and Michael McIver opened the Skagit Connection Hub during a Grand Opening celebration on March 12. The space is billed as "Skagit County's first co-working space for working professionals in need of connectivity," and is located at 221 Ferry St. in Sedro-Woolley. Photo by Pola Kelley.

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Pinewood Derby & More.
Sat. 9-4, Sun. 10-3

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Lyman



Heart to Heart Charity plans mommy/son fundraiser

Lyman-based Heart to Heart Charity will host a Mommy/Son Dinner & Dance fundraiser for the charity on Sat., May 18, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Nate Beasley building on W. 3rd St. in Lyman (behind the Fire Dept.). A live DJ, free 4x6 professional photographs, a three-

course meal, and a raffle are among the items on the program. Tickets are \$25 per couple (mom and son) and \$5 per additional sons. For tickets/info, contact hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com. Early ticket purchases are recommended.

Heart to Heart Charity is available to help low-income families. Anyone in need of assistance is encouraged to fill out an assistance request form, obtained by e-mailing hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com. The charity can help with food, baby items, blankets, and more. Watch the charity's Facebook page for ways to help and upcoming events. Heart to Heart Charity can be found online at www.facebook.com/hearttoheartcharity.

—J. K. M.

A Lyman Community Work Party is planned for Sat., April 6, from 10 a.m. to noon. Participants are asked to meet at Lyman Town Hall, 8405 S. Main, to kick off the activity. Bring tools or borrow the town's. Tasks are available for all ages and skill levels—anyone wanting to

help. A potluck meal will be provided by Heart to Heart Charity at noon, following the work party, at the old Town Hall building. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, call 360.770.2137 or 360.630.7361.

Lawmakers propose an increase in school levy rates

By Emma Epperly
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

Voter-approved school levy lid rates would rise from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property, under Senate Bill 5313, currently under consideration in the Senate Ways and Means Committee. The measure would also add a hold-harmless provision for school districts that would receive less in funding assistance from the state and would allow school districts to raise additional funds through levies needed for extracurricular programs and activities that many say are currently being cut.

Levies under this bill would revert back to the most recent rate approved by voters within the \$1.50 to \$2.50 range. If a district's most recently approved levy was over \$2.50, it would revert to the cap of \$2.50.

The bill continues to create differences in funding formulas based on school district size, with higher dollar-per-pupil rates for school districts with more than 9,600 full-time-equivalent students.

The McCleary decision in 2012 required the Legislature to fully fund "basic education." The Legislature had been found in contempt of court until 2018, when it adopted a plan to put billions of dollars toward K-12 education in coming years. As a part of its McCleary solution, the Legislature reduced the levy cap to its current rate of \$1.50.

Local Effort Assistance, or levy equalization, helps fund school districts at a disadvantage in the raising of enrichment levies because of low property values.

The main complaint to SB 5313 is that schools could lose state assistance funding if they do not raise their levies.

Emily Carmichael is a parent and a member of Washington's Paramount Duty, an organization advocating for progressive new revenue to fully fund public schools. Carmichael testified in support of the bill at the Senate Ways and Means Committee on March 21.

"We are here today to prevent devastating and inequitable cuts to public schools across the state. It's not just Seattle. In Highline, Yakima, Vancouver, North Kitsap, and beyond, districts are laying off teachers because of the levy caps," said Carmichael.

Dan Steele from the Washington Association of School Administrators spoke on the differing opinions on the bill from across the state.

"If you as a legislature decide to actually increase the levy capacity, we strongly urge you to include some kind of clear limits so that any new levy dollars do not go out the school district door inappropriately," said Steele.

Steele's association is also concerned that the hold-harmless provision is only for one year, and has urged the Legislature to extend it to two years.

Gretchen Maliska is a member of the North Thurston Public Schools Board of Directors. She testified in support of the bill, saying that her district would lose the ability to collect \$24 million dollars in levy funds. Their local levy was previously set at \$3.40 and has now been reduced to \$1.50 under current law.

"I know that our community expects us to provide the same quality programs to children as we did before the McCleary fix; however, this is impossible given our loss in local levy authority," said Maliska. Melissa Gombosky of the Spokane, Evergreen, and Vancouver Public Schools testified in opposition of the bill, saying it would cause the school districts she represents to lose funding.

SB 5313 will likely be a part of the proposed budget, which was expected to be released by the end of March.

SB 5313 can be found online at <https://app.leg.wa.gov/bills/summary?BillNumber=5313&Year=2019&Initiative=false>.

Read Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

"Ghost Gun" bill moves to Senate committees

By Emma Epperly
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

- Would make 3-D printed guns illegal, along with the sale of said guns
- Similar to the previously reported Senate Bill
- Recent case on ghost guns in New Jersey makes it a national issue

Undetectable and untraceable firearms and their creation would be illegal under proposed legislation. These types of firearms are being manufactured most commonly via 3-D printers and are often referred to as "ghost guns."

The Senate Law and Justice Committee heard public testimony on Engrossed House Bill 1739 on March 26. The Senate version, SB 5061, passed out of the Law and Justice Committee in January, but did not move out of the Senate Rules Committee. Differences between the two bills were described as "nonsubstantive" by committee staff.

Rep. Javier Valdez, D-Seattle, is the prime sponsor of the bill, which was requested by Attorney General Bob Ferguson.

"This is really about ensuring that our people out there in the state of Washington feel safe," said Valdez.

It's important to get out in front of this problem with growing technology, said Valdez, citing a case where 3-D assault weapons were being distributed in New Jersey last week.

The bill defines undetectable firearms as those undetectable by walk-through metal detectors commonly used at airports or a firearm where the barrel, slide, cylinder, frame, or receiver would not generate an accurate image when examined by x-ray machines.

Untraceable firearms are defined as any firearm manufactured after the effective bill of the date that cannot be traced by law enforcement via a serial number assigned by a federally licensed manufacturer or importer.

The bill also makes it a crime to help manufacture or assemble undetectable and untraceable firearms.

Bharat Shyam, a member of former Washington Governor Christine Gregoire's cabinet and emerging technology investor, testified in support of the bill. Shyman also cited the New Jersey

Attorney General's statement on ghost guns.

"It's really my job to understand emerging technology and the benefits and drawbacks of emerging technology and I believe it's your role to distinguish between these benefits and drawbacks and legislate accordingly," said Shyam. Pat Griffith, from the League of Women Voters, said the league supports the bill, calling it "common sense." Griffith mentioned that these guns are untraceable and that those who fail background checks should not be able to assemble guns, thus circumventing Washington's background check law.

Matt Vadnal, a former prosecuting attorney and representative from the Alliance for Gun Responsibility, also testified in support of the bill. Vadnal served for 30 years in the Army Reserve and is a former National Rifle Association member.

"During the present session, this legislature can stop a recent technological development that is worse, I submit, than the widespread availability of semi-automatic firearms with large capacity magazines," said Vadnal. "In Washington today, it is possible for an unlicensed individual to build a gun from parts they print on a 3-D printer or order online, all with no background check, no serial number, and no tracking."

David Schirle, a concerned citizen, testified in opposition to the bill. Schirle argued that there was no way for a "law abiding" citizen to make a gun they manufacture themselves traceable.

Mike Silvers, a concerned citizen, testified in opposition of the bill saying that guns without serial numbers are already illegal federally.

"You would have to have the best plastic available in a ball the size of a waste basket, and I mean a big waste basket, to contain that pressure for one shot. Anything smaller than that, you got a bomb in your hand," said Silvers.

HB 1739 passed through the chamber on March 1 with 55 in favor and 41 opposed. The bill was scheduled for executive session in the Senate Law and Justice Committee on March 28.

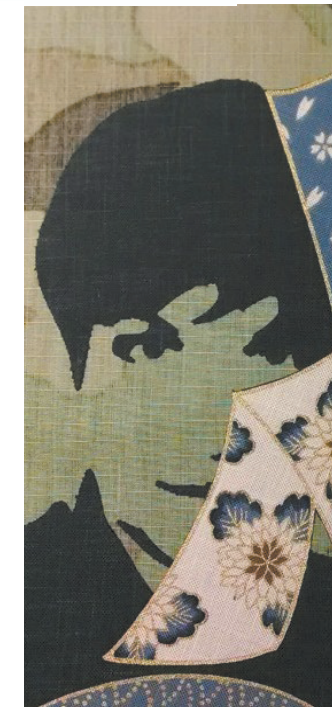
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SKAGIT FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT GROUP & SKAGIT LAND TRUST

EARTH DAY 2019

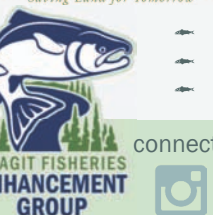
April 27th at Muddy Creek in Hamilton

volunteer to help plant 1,000 native trees and shrubs to improve streamside habitat and water quality off of Cascade Trail!

10 am sign in and intro
10-1 pm planting and activities
12:30 pm raffle and FREE lunch
1-3 pm nature discovery stations

Nature Discovery:

look for birds with the Audubon Society •
see real live baby salmon • play habitat
scavenger hunt



- first 100 volunteers get a FREE t-shirt and raffle ticket!
- bring non-perishable food donations for extra raffle tickets!
- carpooling recommended and applauded!

connect, ask, learn more: SKAGITFISHERIES.org//360.336.0172



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April 27 & 28 Free Event

Sedro-Woolley High School
1235 3rd St, Sedro-Woolley
Student Showcases, Vendors,
Raffles, Auctions,
Woodworking Demonstrations,
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English Tea by Reservation
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Above: National Honor Society inductees paused for a photo during an induction ceremony at Concrete High School on March 6. From left: Eleanor Parent, Kai Sahlin, Leona Martinez, Lily Whitford, Carissa Cross, Hunter Olmstead, Collin Martin, Troy Schmidt, Kassidy Smith, Rebekah Rider. *Not pictured: Christiann Barela.*

March in pictures



Above: Grub 'n' Groove hopped again at Marblemount Community Hall on March 23. Making beautiful music together are, from left, Richard Lewis, Becca Canright, John Bromet, Katie Philbrick, Lois Canright, and Jim Demko. That's Toby chillin' on the rug. *Submitted photo.*



Above: The Sahlin family from Marblemount was this year's Mardi Gras royalty during the annual celebration in Concrete. From left: Lukas, Corina (holding Chowder), Steve, Kai, and Eva. *Photo by Jude Dippold.*

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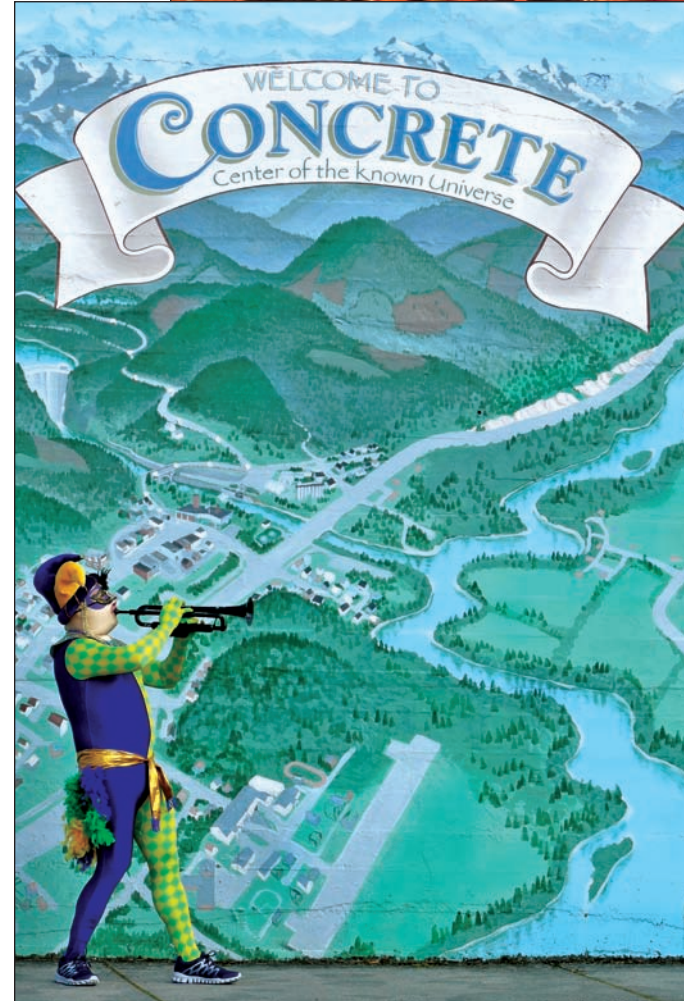
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Left: Concrete Boys & Girls Club youth joined Seattle Sounders FC players for an evening match on CenturyLink Field on March 9. They got to walk with the players and stay on the field during the National Anthem. *Submitted photo.* **Above: A jester toots his horn** beneath the famous Don Smith mural in Concrete Town Center during Mardi Gras in Concrete, March 2. *Photo by Rick Knight.*



Above: A diminutive bowler throws a giant ball at giant pints during the annual carnival at Concrete Elementary School on March 22. The evening was filled with games, a raffle, a cake contest and walk, and more.

Left: Dressed as the Mad Hatter, Concrete Mayor Jason Miller poses with his favorite peacock-like member of the Seattle Pub Crawl All-Stars during the annual Mardi Gras celebration in Concrete on March 2. *Photo by Jude Dippold.*

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Hamilton



Rockport



From the Mayor

There are lots of events happening in Hamilton in April!

The Hamilton Volunteer Fire Dept Egg Hunt is April 14 at 1 p.m. sharp. Prize and candy donations are accepted at Town Hall and the Hamilton Cafe.

The Town Clean-Up is the same weekend, April 13–14, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Dumpsters are available at 920 Pettit St. Flyers were sent in the mail with details. Please contact Town Hall



if you did not receive one or may need extra assistance. Please use this clean-up opportunity to make our town better.

On Sat., April 27, the Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group will host an Earth Day event locally. A planting party will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at its property just west of town, followed after lunch by a seining demonstration, a bird walk, and a short historic town walk. See the ad on this page for details.

Bree Nicolello at Forterra is continuing to meet with people to learn more about Hamilton. If you have a story to share or want to talk about interests or concerns about Forterra's project, please call her at 209.905.6916.

—Mayor Joan Cromley

Hamilton Cemetery Association Annual Meeting

April 9, 6:30 p.m.

Punkin Center Fire Hall, 34041 SR 20

New members are welcome.

SKAGIT FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT GROUP & SKAGIT LAND TRUST

EARTH DAY 2019

April 27th at Muddy Creek in Hamilton

volunteer to help plant 1,000 native trees and shrubs to improve streamside habitat and water quality off of Cascade Trail!

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- carpooling recommended and applauded!

connect, ask, learn more: SKAGITFISHERIES.org //360.336.0172



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Lawsuits target constitutionality of voter-approved gun control measure in Washington

By Madeline Coats
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

Two civil rights lawsuits in Washington state have challenged the constitutionality of certain bans enacted through the gun control measure, Initiative 1639.

Each lawsuit is built on the premise that the initiative deprives plaintiffs of rights under the Second and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution. The plaintiffs have remained the same for each case, whereas the defendants have been changed.

Two firearm dealers, four young adults, and two gun rights organizations joined forces to originally file a complaint against the state of Washington and Attorney General Bob Ferguson. That case was dismissed on Feb. 20 on account of the state and Attorney General's sovereign immunity; however, a new suit had already been filed on Feb. 8.

The new lawsuit featured the same plaintiffs—which include the National Rifle Association and the Second Amendment Foundation—suing Clark County Sheriff Chuck Atkins, Spokane Chief of Police Craig Meidl, and Director of the Washington State Department of Licensing Teresa Berntsen. Each defendant was summoned on behalf of their authority to revoke a license for violations of Washington laws governing sales of firearms.

Joel Ard, attorney of Ard Law Group representing the plaintiffs, explained how state authority can revoke a firearm license even though the action is legal under federal law.

“Craig Meidl has statutory responsibility under Washington state law to issue a state license to the firearm dealer, Robin Ball,” said Ard.

Ball, who is a plaintiff in the case, has a federal firearms license and another is a state license, which is issued and signed by Meidl, he explained.

Washington residents approved I-1639

by a vote of 59 percent last November. The law creates an enhanced background check system, requires individuals to complete a firearm safety training course, raises the age of possession to 21 years old, and establishes standards for storage of guns. It also redefines a semi-automatic rifle as an “assault rifle” under state law.

The plaintiffs accuse the defendants of acting under the cover of state law, otherwise defined as any authority using his or her power to willfully deprive a person of their rights and privileges protected by the U.S. Constitution. In this case, the violation challenges the civil rights of the plaintiffs guaranteed by the Second and Fourteenth Amendment, as well as the Commerce Clause.

Luke Rettmer, 19; Nathaniel Casey, 19; Armen Tooloe, 20; and Matthew Wald, 19; referred to in the suit as the “Young Adult Plaintiffs,” may not purchase a pistol or rifle under the initiative until they reach 21 years of age. With support from the dealer plaintiffs, the young adults claim that the measure burdens their Second Amendment rights.

The dealer plaintiffs, Daniel Mitchell and Robin Ball, are suing the defendants under the Commerce Clause for their inability to sell rifles to nonresidents of the state because of I-1639. According to the text of the lawsuit, 30 percent of the sales at Mitchell's store were residents of other states, resulting in a loss of profit.

The National Rifle Association and the Second Amendment Foundation represent the Organizational Plaintiffs on behalf of their members.

Senior Editor of the Second Amendment Foundation Dave Workman said that the lawsuit is still in federal court and the defendants have yet to respond.

“Most of the law doesn't take effect until July 1,” said Workman. “The challenge right now is that these four young adults stripped of their Second

See Gun Control, p. 23

Gun Control, cont. from p. 22

Amendment rights cannot purchase any sort of semi-automatic gun.”

The three defendants have stated their intention to enforce the measure, including the bans on sales of self-loading rifles to young adults and non-residents, according to the text of the lawsuit. Meidl and Atkins were unavailable for comment, and Meidl's attorney refused to talk. The auditor's office is being represented by six attorneys from the Office of the Attorney General, which has promised to fight hard.

“I will defend Initiative 1639 against any legal challenge,” said Ferguson in an open letter to law enforcement officials. “My office defeated the legal challenge to the previous gun safety initiative passed by the people, and I am confident we will defeat any constitutional challenge to Initiative 1639 as well.”

Attorney general and governor fire off letter to gun dealers

Gov. Inslee and Attorney General Bob Ferguson sent out yet another letter on March 7 in regard to the initiative, this one aimed toward 262 firearms dealers in the state of Washington.

Regardless of local officials' opposition to enforce the law, firearm dealers are required to follow state law, the letter states.

“Despite what some of these sheriffs would have people believe, no one has the ability to pick and choose which laws to follow,” said Inslee. “It's very simple: Our state's voters overwhelmingly approved stronger background checks and gun safety measures, and dealers will be required to comply with those laws.”

The letter informs dealers about their license requirements and the possibility of revocation, should they break the law.

See the letter here: https://agportal-s3bucket.s3.amazonaws.com/uploadedfiles/Another/News/Press_Releases/I-1639%20Gov-AG%20Ltr%20to%20Gun%20Dealers.pdf

House passes bill to eliminate philosophical or personal objection to vaccines

By Madeline Coats
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

In a 57–40 vote, the Washington state House of Representatives on March 6 passed a bill that would eliminate the philosophical or personal objection used to exempt children from receiving the vaccines required to attend school in Washington.

Engrossed House Bill 1638 adopted six amendments out of 42 requested before final passage. The companion bill, Senate Bill 5841, will be considered next.

The measure was co-sponsored by 15 representatives and introduced by Rep. Paul Harris, R-Vancouver, the only Republican sponsor.

“This is a bipartisan issue,” said Harris. “We need our community immunity to be high.”

Clark County has an ongoing outbreak of measles, with two more cases diagnosed on March 5, Harris said. He recounted the role vaccines have played in eradicating illnesses throughout recent history.

“I think it is easy to forget when these diseases leave us, but there were many cases in our history that resulted in death,” he said.

The legislation removes the philosophical or personal exemption for all or part of the vaccine immunization requirement for school enrollment in the state.

A child is prohibited from attending a school or daycare center without proof of full immunization or a certificate of exemption from a healthcare practitioner, the bill states. A parent or guardian may sign a written certification if their religious beliefs oppose the required immunization.

According to the Department of Health, full immunization includes vaccines

See Immunizations, p. 27

State Parks announces 2019 free days

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission again offered 12 free days this year, in which day-use visitors won't need a Discover Pass to visit state parks by vehicle.

The remaining 2019 State Parks free days are:

- April 20, 22
- June 1, 8, 9
- Aug. 25
- Sept. 28
- Nov. 11, 29

State Parks, in coordination with WDFW, will once again offer a free day

on Sun., June 9, as part of WDFW's Free Fishing Weekend. This day, combined with the June 8 free day for National Get Outdoors Day, will give visitors an entire weekend to explore state parks for free.

State Parks free days are in keeping with 2011 legislation that created the Discover Pass, which costs \$30 annually or \$10 for a one-day visit. The pass is required for vehicle access to state recreation lands managed by Washington State Parks, WDFW, and the Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR). The Discover Pass legislation directed State Parks to designate up to 12 free days when the pass would not be required to visit state parks. The free days apply only at state parks; the Discover Pass is still required on WDFW and DNR lands.

For more information about the Discover Pass, go to www.discoverpass.wa.gov. Find a park here: <http://parks.state.wa.us/281/find-a-park>.

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Darrington



Jade opportunities considered in March

Story and photo by Marla Skaglund

A sizable number of attendees gathered at the March Darrington Strong meeting, held monthly at the Darrington Library, to hear Nathaniel Cook, President of Washington Jade, speak on the vast amounts of nephrite jade that can be found in the hills and valleys surrounding Darrington.

Armed with a PowerPoint video presentation, he showed the crowd where some of the deposits of nephrite jade can be found. He also spoke of how the jade is “mined” in the most environmentally friendly way as not to disturb the flora and fauna. After dislodging and removing a jade boulder, the area is left as if no one were there.

There are a total of 23 jade claims in the area, Segalson Creek being one of the areas. Magnetic survey equipment is used to find deposits of jade, which is the least invasive way of locating jade deposits.

The basic green color of jade comes from the amount of iron present in the stone. Hiking the hills in search of jade requires one to be observant of the area.

There are quite a few locations where it can be found, including Whidbey Island near Oak Harbor, along the Skagit River, Deer Creek near Oso, the Darrington area, river banks around Wenatchee, and the Blewett Pass area. The best places to search are banks along rivers and creeks.

In the case of a spot devoid of plant life, serpentine can be found. Most native plants don't like the toxic soil produced by decaying serpentine, although maidenhair ferns can be found nearby. Jade deposits can be found by observing how different species of trees are growing in a particular area.

Washington Jade, locally owned and

operated, also works with local miners, artisans, and crafters to establish a marketing plan for sales. Member Manager Rodney Cook, Ph.D., spoke of the possibilities that the Darrington community could sustain a jade community composed of miners, harvesters, cutters, craftpersons, artists, marketers, and exporters, all contributing revenue to the local economy. Several mining areas located around Darrington could produce employment for local residents.

Deposits of this size are rare and quite valuable. Cook feels a carving school would be an excellent addition to the community. Washington Jade is prepared to offer assistance to local would be jade carvers and artisans with scholarships, grant writing assistance, and different sized jade pieces to work on.

Washington Jade has located a large nephrite jade boulder that they would like to donate to the Oso Slide Memorial site, and is currently in need of heavy equipment to bring the boulder up from its resting place.

In Washington, artifacts have shown that jade was used in trade and was an important part of early tribal cultures. A cottage industry harvesting local jade has followed. Currently, there is a large international revival in jade, which is aiding in forming the grassroots jade culture in Washington.

—Marla Skaglund



Nathaniel Cook

Council summary

Darrington Town Council met for regular meetings on Feb. 28 and March 13, 2019. The following is summaries of those meetings. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are available at Darrington Town Hall.

Feb. 28 regular meeting

- The town is still operating under its current interlocal agreement with Snohomish County for law enforcement service. The town is waiting to hear back about different suggestions that had been made to amend the contract. Councilmember Gary Willis' biggest concern is the backfill stipulation, which states that when the officer scheduled to work for the town takes vacation or sick time, that there would not be an officer that backfills that coverage.
- Discussion included the possibility of adding Dept. of Licensing duties back into Town Hall. Willis is for; Mayor Dan Rankin is reluctant for work load reasons, but agrees it's a good business to have in the community.
- Solar panel project: The town did not get the Commerce grant, the reasoning being that they did not get the NEPA letter. There had been a letter sent to Commerce, stating that an environmental review was not necessary. The grant was still denied because the NEPA letter was not received. A conference to contest the denial was scheduled for March 1.
- Council voted to approve the Port of Everett's acquisition of the Kimberly-Clark property.
- The town entered the Best Tasting Water Contest. The winner was to be announced the evening of March 7.
- Council approved the CERB contract for the Wood Innovation Center cultural Resource Survey.
- Council approved the contract with NW Cascade Cabins and Remodeling for the fire station reroof. The grant funding will cover all but \$14,000. Money in the capital improvement funds will cover the out-of-pocket costs.
- Chalamar Nichols updated the council on the Rally to Remember Oso.

March 13 regular meeting

- Council approved a Monument Protection Plan to protect and preserve survey monuments within Town of Darrington.
- A Bear Awareness In the North Cascades meeting is planned for May 23, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This meeting is not open to the public; it is for elected officials and municipal staff.
- Council discussed July 4 fireworks. Entertainment Fireworks has gone out of business; this was the company that was on contract to do the fireworks display for the town this year. Another company, Pyro Spectaculars, is booked because of the absence of the first company, but they can do it on July 6. In 2020 they can do it on July 4. Same prices. Council voted to move the display to July 6.
- Community Cleanup is April 13. Hampton is open for wood debris on April 13 as well. Tires will not be accepted this year.
- About 50 percent of the town's snow budget was used during the recent snowfall.
- Mayor Rankin went to the Mountain Loop Feasibility Study open house. He discussed some of the options that are being looked at for updating the Mountain Loop. Their next phase is going to be looking at funding sources and estimated costs for each phase.
- Council heard the Shoreline Master Plan that the Planning Committee is working on.
- Council discussed a town hall that the library has planned. The library also is planning two job fairs: one on March 15 and one on March 26.
- Council discussed the Street Fair, including the possibility of adding organizations to the effort and moving the event to Old School Park.

—Compiled from staff minutes

For more Darrington information, go to www.destinationdarrington.com, www.facebook.com/destinationdarringtonwa, or <https://www.instagram.com/destinationdarrington>.

Bill to raise the age to purchase tobacco to 21 heads to governor

By Emma Epperly
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

The legal age to purchase tobacco and vape products is about to rise from 18 to 21 under a bill headed to the governor's desk after a 33-21 vote by the Washington State Senate on March 20.

The bill states its focus on “public health, safety, and welfare by reducing youth access to addictive and harmful products.” Washington would be the ninth state to raise the minimum age for all tobacco products, and others are considering making the change, according to the American Lung Association. The bill would not make it illegal for those under 21 to possess tobacco products.

Tobacco product use is increasing among young people in the United States, with more than 1 in 4 high school students using tobacco products in 2018, according to the Centers for Disease Control. E-cigarettes make up 20.8 percent of tobacco products used among high schoolers, according to the CDC. The CDC Web page on youth tobacco use mentions JUUL devices, the most commonly sold e-cigarette nationwide. JUULs are small USB-shaped devices that have refillable pods. Each pod can contain the same amount of nicotine as a pack of cigarettes. JUUL's Web site and packaging indicate that their product is “the alternative for adult smokers.” The company has acknowledged its role in the rise of e-cigarette use and has a youth prevention section on its Web site, along with guidelines for marketing and social media. Among these guidelines are statements like, “JUUL is not appropriate or intended for youth” and, “We do not feature images or situations intended for a youth audience.”

For the 4.9 million youth who use tobacco products, Washington's purchase age change may not stop them from buying tobacco products, said Sen. Doug Ericksen, R-Ferndale.

“So it's not illegal for an 18-year-old to have cigarettes, it's simply illegal for

them to purchase cigarettes, and it's not illegal for them to purchase them on a tribal reservation shop. So that's really my main concern on the equity and fairness issue,” Ericksen said.

Since Native American tribes are sovereign nations, federally recognized tribes and their lands fall under federal law. Federally the minimum age to purchase tobacco is 18, making it legal on tribal lands in Washington for those 18 to 20 to purchase tobacco products.

Sen. Patty Kuderer, D-Bellevue, cited both personal experiences and the dramatic reduction in odds that individuals will pick up the habit of smoking after the age of 21 as the reasons she strongly supports the bill.

“For me it goes back to when I was a young teenage girl, and my grandfather was dying from emphysema,” Kuderer said. “If you have ever watched someone who is struggling to breathe, I can tell you that I will never forget the sound that he made or the look in his eyes. And if you could see that too ... you would know you would never want anyone to suffer from a smoking-related illness.”

Sen. Bob Hasegawa, D-Beacon Hill, was unsupportive of the “equation” of vaping to other tobacco products, saying vaping is less dangerous than cigarettes and a good alternative to smoking, and that “by not categorizing vaper as the boogie man,” lives lost to smoking cigarettes could be saved.

Sen. Mike Padden, R-Spokane Valley, proposed an amendment to allow for veterans and active duty military to buy tobacco products under the age of 21. The Washington Military Department submitted a letter to the Senate Ways and Means Committee, saying, “Raising the age for purchasing tobacco products is good for the health of our service members, as well as the readiness of our military.” The amendment was not adopted.

House Bill 1074 was brought forward by request of Attorney General Bob Ferguson and the Department of Health. The bill was largely bipartisan, with Rep. Paul Harris, R-Vancouver, the prime sponsor. It passed out of the House with 66 votes in favor and 30 opposed. The bill will take effect Jan. 1, 2020.

The bill heads to Gov. Jay Inslee's desk, where he is expected to sign it into law. Inslee tweeted his support on March 20, saying, “Tobacco 21 is the most preventative, cost-effective policy we can adopt to protect the health of our youth.”

Washington State Patrol focused on school bus safety

In response to feedback regarding dangerous driving behavior around school buses, Washington State Patrol (WSP) troopers on March 29, decided to combine forces with the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office Aggressive Driving Apprehension Team (ADAT), the SCSO aviation unit, and the Commercial Vehicle Division in the north Snohomish County region to try and remove as many risky drivers from the roadway as possible.

The area of focus was the Arlington School District bus routes. In a two-hour time frame, there were three separate drivers that failed to stop for the stop paddle on the buses while the children were getting on. One of the three drivers was arrested for Driving While License Suspended and a warrant for a previous Driving Under the Influence arrest. The fine for failing to stop for a school bus stop paddle is \$419.

Community Dance

The last Darrington Community Dance of the season is scheduled for Sat., April 20, at the Mansford Grange, 1265 Railroad Ave., Darrington. The evening begins with a potluck at 6 p.m., followed by dancing from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Live music will be provided by Cobbler: Jessie Partridge on fiddle and Jay Finkelstein on guitar. Caller is Alex MacLeod.

Admission is by a suggested donation of \$7; all proceeds go to the band and the caller. For more information, call 206.402.8646.



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Local sales taxes going up in several Washington cities, counties

Increases help pay for transportation, public safety, and more

Consumers in several Washington cities and counties will pay more in sales tax on purchases starting April 1. New tax rate increases will go to pay for criminal justice, emergency communications, facilities, public safety services, and cultural access programs.

Cities in Snohomish County and unincorporated Snohomish County will get a bump of one-tenth of 1 percent.

The sales tax rate in Arlington and Stanwood will rise to 9.2 percent.

The sales tax rate in Darrington, Gold Bar, Granite Falls, Index, Lake Stevens, and Sultan will rise to 9.0 percent.

Local shrimp season begins May 1!

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Marblemount



Newhalem



Hall activities

May's festivity is scheduled for May 4 from 5:30 to 10 p.m. It's the annual KSVU fundraiser Blast Open the Pass. The evening begins with the traditional, all-ages Maypole Dance at 5:30, continues with a potluck at 6 p.m., and concludes with live music courtesy of Jumbled Pie and Undecided, and dancing till 10 p.m. A raffle and a silent auction also are planned. Donations at the door are as follows: \$8/adult or \$15/couple, \$5/teens (ages 13-19), and kids age 12 and under are free.

For more information or to donate a raffle or auction item, call KSVU at 360.853.8588 and leave a message with your name and phone number.

Marblemount Community Hall has a new board president. Outgoing President Matt Del Bosque has passed the torch to Steve Wilson after Wilson was elected by the board of trustees to fill this year's balance of Matt's term.

The Vice President position is vacant at the moment. Syvella Kalil was elected by the board in February to fill the first vacancy this year, and Connie Clark-Anderson and Mina Wilson were elected to fill two of the other vacancies, with April's main business being to elect the last two board positions to bring the total to the desired nine.

The Annual Meeting is coming later in May and will be in May's news.

—Merlene Buller,
Christie Fairchild

Quarry, cont. from p. 11

affected by this, veterans with PTSD. This affects my property rights too."

Burrows said there's a concern over groundwater in the area too. "We're on the old flood plain of the Skagit River here; our wells aren't that deep; any wastewater is eventually going to infiltrate into the aquifer. You can't stop oil leaks. The stormwater plan is just to store it in ponds and let it infiltrate into the groundwater; it seems all those chemicals (from unexploded blasting ordnance) would infiltrate too."

Finally, the Burrows house lies near the same cliff line that would be quarried. Burrows said already there have been large boulders that have broken away from the cliff face, 100 feet from their house. "With all the blasting and vibrations through that rock formation, that could loosen fractures and bring stuff down onto our property or house. I looked at the geohazard report and found that our house lies within the hazard zone."

Archaeologist Andrea Weiser lives in Marblemount and wrote a five-page comment letter to the Skagit County Planning Dept. that included a litany of criticisms in several categories. Weiser's top three issues with the proposal are:

- Environmental impacts during the next 100 years.
- Concerns about noise and road safety.
- Impacts to people who live and recreate in the area.

"Think about the direct and indirect impacts," said Weiser. If you were to put a circle around the site in terms of how far the noise impacts would go, it could be more than a mile. You'll be able to see it from Cascadian Farm."

The trucks would use either SR 530 or SR 20 to connect to I-5—or both—said Weiser. It would affect bridges and road safety and maintenance, and likely would affect Concrete and Darrington.

Weiser's daughter, Vija, 9, also submitted a comment, which read, in part, "I took my time out of homework to do this because I don't want our home, our people, our water to be polluted because of a mining operation. This is not the place to do it. This is a retreat for people to get away from noise and sound of the city and traffic and pollution ... please don't destroy our home!"

"It would be a travesty for the community," said Burrows.

—J. K. M.

North Cascades Highway spring clearing has begun

Lower snowpack, favorable weather could speed this year's SR 20 opening

A sure sign of spring in the Pacific Northwest is the announcement that the clearing of 37 miles of State Route 20 connecting the Skagit and Methow valleys began on March 25.

Washington State Department of Transportation's west side maintenance crew began clearing the scenic highway from Colonial Creek to the Ross Lake Overlook at Diablo Gate. From the east side, crews cleared from Early Winters up 7 miles to Silver Star Gate—and kept going. By mid-morning on March 26, crews had cleared one lane for an additional 7 miles to Lone Fir (campground).

The barricades will remain in place at Early Winters because crews will need to remove some trees that pose a danger to travelers before it's safe to allow people

beyond the gate.

The crews expect to meet between Rainy and Washington passes within four to six weeks. The work can take longer if there is late spring snow or move more quickly if warmer temperatures accelerate snowmelt.

Once crews clear the snow, they will make necessary repairs to the highway, including guardrails, signs, stripes, and pavement patches. Only then can the gates open to travelers. The reopening will provide:

- Another route between western and eastern Washington for travelers.
- Access to more miles of US Bike Route 10.
- Access to hiking trailheads and campgrounds.

During an assessment trip on March 18, WSDOT avalanche and maintenance staff found 6 feet of snow at Rainy and Washington passes; that's 4 feet less than last year.

Public access between the closure gates is allowed during the winter months, but during the Monday through Thursday clearing process, that space is a legal work zone closed to the public because of the heavy equipment used in the clearing.

In spring 2018, crews needed seven weeks to clear the highway. Clearing started on March 26, and the highway reopened on May 11. The latest opening was in 1974, when the highway reopened on June 14. During the winter of 1976 to 1977, there wasn't enough snow to ever close the highway.

—WSDOT

Immunizations, cont. from p. 23

for chickenpox, diphtheria, measles, German measles, haemophilus influenzae type B disease, hepatitis B, mumps, pneumococcal disease, polio, tetanus, and whooping cough.

Rep. Jesse Young, R-Gig Harbor, spoke in opposition of EHB 1638. Young explained how his daughter was almost killed from the booster shot for measles, mumps, and rubella when she was born. He said her temperature rose to 106.7 degrees and stayed there for four days. "A person with an experience is never at a disadvantage for a person with an argument," he said.

Young recommended a no-vote until more scientific studies promoted other methods of immunization. He asked to reframe the argument of pro-vaccine vs. anti-vaccine to a specific debate between pro-science and more pro-science.

"I am asking for more science," he said. "We need a definitive solution."

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Seniors

Verna's Kitchen

By Verna McClure

Carrot-Orange Loaf



- 2 cups flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
¼ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon allspice
½ teaspoon nutmeg
Grated peel of one orange
2 large carrots, peeled and grated (1 cup)
½ cup butter or margarine, softened
1 cup brown sugar
2 large eggs
1 cup finely chopped nuts

1. Stir together flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, allspice, and nutmeg. Set aside.
2. Combine orange peel and carrots and set aside.
3. In a large bowl, cream butter, then gradually beat in sugar until light and fluffy.
4. Beat in eggs one at a time until well blended.
5. Stir in flour mixture and carrots until well blended. Stir in nuts.
6. Turn into a greased 9 x 5 loaf pan and bake in a 325-degree oven for 50 to 60 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean.
7. Cool in pan 5 minutes, then remove loaf to cool on rack.

Way Back When

100 years ago

April 26, 1919: The Superior Portland Cement Company is installing in its big plant in Concrete a new kiln for burning cement that will be about 240 feet long, and is believed to be the largest kiln of its kind on the Pacific Coast. The company has a crew of men taking down the two largest kilns in the Washington plant, and these are being moved to the Superior plant, where they will be combined into one huge kiln. The work of moving the big kilns has been in progress for several weeks and is now well under way. The cement foundations for the big kiln are now being constructed, and the work of installing the kiln will begin soon.

90 years ago

April 25, 1929: There seems to be a number of youngsters around

See **Way Back**, p. 29

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40 years ago, April 26, 1979: Skagit River Railway's Engine No. 6, which provided Seattle City Light transportation between Rockport and Newhalem from 1928 until 1953, is inspected, certified, and ready to roll again, SRR President Art Stone said. According to contracts with Burlington Northern, the nonprofit SRR line will be able to use BN track between Concrete and Sedro-Woolley for excursion train trips beginning May 19. *Archive photo.*

Concrete Community Center

April 2019 Activities

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

For an Energy Assistance appointment, call 360.428.1011, beginning 8:30 a.m., the first Wednesday of every month.
Enjoy jigsaw puzzles, walking group, games, and more every day.
All subject to change. For latest information, call 360.416.1733.

Monday

All 9 a.m. Edge Analytical water sample pickup
All 10 a.m. Community Closet

Tuesday

All 10 a.m. Community Closet
All 1 p.m. Oasis Teen Shelter Outreach (at Resource Center)

Wednesday

All 10 a.m. Community Closet
All 1 p.m. GED preparation (Res. Ctr.)
All 1 p.m. End of Life Series
4/24 6 p.m. Backyard Gardening

Thursday

All 10 a.m. Community Closet
All 1 p.m. GED preparation (Res. Ctr.)
4/4 10 a.m. Income tax assistance (at Resource Center)
4/4 12:30 p.m. Pinochle
4/11 10 a.m. Income tax assistance (at Resource Center)
4/11 6 p.m. Ohana Support Group
4/18 12:30 p.m. Pinochle

Friday

All 10 a.m. Community Closet
4/19 10:30 a.m. Community Center Advisory Board
4/19 12:30 p.m. Commissioner Janicki

Saturday

All 7 p.m. AA meeting
4/13 11 a.m. Sat. Mkt. vendor mtg.
4/27 10 a.m. United General Drug Take Back

Sunday

4/7 11 a.m. County Tire Roundup

Way Back, cont. from p. 28

Grasmere who are in the habit of shooting at birds of different kinds without figuring out where the shots are going. There have been a number of complaints made from that community in regard to boys shooting at crows, robins, and other birds, and even pet doves, with the shot rattling over nearby houses and outbuildings. Last Monday, Gus Olson was working around his garage when several shots were fired, apparently at a couple of doves flying nearby, and

the charges of bird shot missed his head by inches, the shot being imbedded in the garage walls close to where he was standing. As most of the birds are protected by federal laws, and there is no open season on any birds at this time, it is likely that some of the boys who are doing the shooting will wind up in court unless the practice is stopped. According to the complaints, most of the shooting is being done by boys.

60 years ago

April 9, 1959: The golden (50 years) anniversary of Town of Concrete almost went unnoticed, until Town Clerk Alice Leonard happened to be going through back records this week and discovered that it was on April 9, 1909, that the Articles of Incorporation were filed for the new town. The first council met on May 8, with Dan D. Dillard, local mill owner, as first mayor.

—Compiled from archives



40 years ago, April 19, 1979: Concrete High School's Class of 1979 spent Monday sweeping sidewalks, cleaning litter, and washing windows along Main St. as a voluntary service project. Those taking part in the surprise cleanup included, from left, Judy Martin, Barbara Lemon, Mary Newby, Dennis Earley, John Zitkovich, and Larry Binchus. *Archive photo.*



Rick Lemley
Doug Hutter
Tobi Stidman



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Obituaries

Nora Fleming Young was born Jan. 6, 1935, to Thomas Francis Fleming and Isabella Campbell Fleming in Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. She was their youngest surviving child and was preceded in death by both her parents, all of her siblings and her husband, Harry Walter Young.



It was Nora's wish not to have the date of her passing commemorated, but to be remembered in her favorite season: spring. Having lived most of her life in the subarctic, Nora's favorite day of the year was the Vernal Equinox.

Nora will be remembered by her family as a warm, irreverent, and compassionate person who always had a book in her hand. Starting in her childhood, Nora made a point to learn something new every day. While other girls had crushes on performers, Nora had one on Albert Einstein.

Nora had a lifelong love of creative writing, with literature, history, technology, and nature being her favorite subjects. She greeted every new bud that popped its head up, reaching for the sun. Nora delighted in all living things: a beautiful flower, four-legged companions of all types, and people of any age or background.

Nora pursued a higher education, both summa cum laude and magna cum laude, eventually earning her doctorate while working full-time in various state and government positions. She continued progressing, ultimately becoming both mentor and professor to those who sought to learn as well. Nora

eventually opened her own counseling practices while in Fairbanks, Alaska, Sedro-Woolley, and Prescott, Arizona.

It was Nora's humor and honesty that resonated in her writings, short stories, and life.

Though Nora accomplished many of her personal and professional goals, she ultimately wished to be remembered for her curiosity, love of debate, and her willingness to help others. There was nothing that a warm cup of tea could not make better. Like her sister, mother, and grandmother before her, Nora would make sure no one left her home hungry or thirsty.

Nora first came to the United States in 1952, along with her mother, to visit her eldest sister, Judy Walker of St. Louis, Missouri. Nora traveled much of the U.S. and eventually met Harry Young while working in Los Angeles. They married in Las Vegas on Feb. 5, 1955, and came to live in Northwest Washington to be near his family. They eventually spent many years in Alaska before returning, once again, to the Skagit Valley.

Nora is survived by all three of their children: Harry Scot Young (Kenna) of Arizona, Byron Leigh Young (Norma) of New Hampshire, and Erika Anne Ernst (Rolf) of Idaho; her grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Nora dealt with several health issues for many years and credited technology with enabling her to live longer than she, herself, ever expected. Unfortunately, after a brief hospitalization, Nora unexpectedly passed away in the early morning, while living with her daughter and son-in-law.

Before the first snowfall, with a sunny day ahead of her ... holding the promise of learning something new.

Obituaries published in Concrete Herald

from May 2009 to present are posted online at: www.concrete-herald.com/obituaries. For more information, contact Concrete Herald at 360.853.8213 or editor@concrete-herald.com.

Sunday School lesson

An unexpected love

By Matt Del Bosque

Jesus was not what the world expected. Jesus loves people. Not a fake kind of love, but a deep genuine love.

One of my favorite stories of Jesus in the Bible is in the book of Matthew. Jesus calls a man named Matthew, who is a tax collector, to become one of his followers. What was so shocking about this moment was the fact that Matthew was a traitor. He was a Jewish man who worked for the Roman government and he made his living ripping off his own people. Tax collectors were considered to be some serious lowlifes by society in that culture. But it was this lowlife that Jesus called to become one of his disciples.

The major religious parties at that time, the Pharisees, were absolutely appalled by this action. They thought Jesus had lost his mind because they knew that they were better than tax collectors and they

assumed Jesus would snub his nose at them as well. But he didn't.

Here's how this story ended in the Bible:

"Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners. But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, 'Why does your teacher eat with such scum?' When Jesus heard this, he said, 'Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do.' Then he added, 'Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: "I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices." For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners'" (Matthew 9:10-13 NLT).

The arrogant, religious people saw others that weren't like themselves as scum. Jesus saw these sinners as humans in need of a savior.

My challenge to all who read this is to have a heart for people like Jesus does. We are not better than anyone else. The Bible teaches, "all have sinned and fallen short." Meaning that we all make mistakes and we all need Jesus. If we love people like Jesus loves them, it will dramatically change our world around us.

Matt Del Bosque is pastor for Citipoint Church North Cascade in Marblemount.

Read Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Skagit County Sheriff's Office Blotter

Feb. 27

A neighbor in the 46000 block of Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove witnessed a theft of a washer and dryer from a residence next door. The owner of the items advised the Sheriff's Office that the witness did not want to talk with deputies. The victim requested extra patrol of the area.

Feb. 28

Deputy Esskew took a call of a vehicle parked so close to public right of way that the snowplows could not get safely by while plowing the roads. He attempted to contact the owner. Deputy Esskew left a voice mail to move the vehicle. Deputy

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.

Dalling, Jeffrey Lynn

Age: 71
Race: W
Sex: M
Height: 5' 9"
Weight: 175
Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown
Address:

Marblemount

Dalling was convicted of indecent liberties in July 1984. His victim was a female who was known to him and younger than 14. He also was convicted of third-degree molestation in Skamania, Wash., in 1998. His victim was an 8-year-old female who was known to him. Physical force was used.

Dalling 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



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 a.m.
www.citipointchurch.com
E-mail: mattd@citipointchurch.com

Baptist

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

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

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

Catholic

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

Covenant

Community Covenant Church
12605 Highway 9, Clear Lake
360.856.1023 // covenant@wavecable.com
www.clearlakecov.org
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Sun. worship: 11 a.m.

Call for weekly youth group/Bible studies

Episcopal

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

Free Methodist

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

Lutheran

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
46372 Main St., Concrete / 360.853.3714
www.uprivergrace.com
Sun. worship: 10 a.m.

Methodist

Central United Methodist Church
1013 Polke Rd., Sedro-Woolley

360.856.6412 / centralumcsw@yahoo.com
<http://centralumcsw.org>
Adult Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Sun. worship: 11 a.m.

Mormon

Concrete Group Meeting
7879 S. Superior Ave., Concrete
(Pilots Lounge at Mears Field)
360.540.7502
2nd and 3rd Sundays each month:
Sacrament mtg., 1 p.m.
Potluck, 2 p.m.

Nondenominational

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

Community Bible Church

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

Presbyterian

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

Esskew reminds everyone that a vehicle must be parked safely off the public right of way and in a manner that allows maintenance workers to perform their job, and in such a way that it does not negatively impact public safety. Deputy Esskew thanks you for your compliance.

Around 6 p.m., Deputy Devero took a call of a domestic disturbance on Baker Dr. in Cedar Grove. The victim said that her husband had been acting strangely, becoming increasingly paranoid and having fits of rage. On this night he pulled a TV down and damaged it. He then threw a large piece of wooden shelf at her, missing her, but putting a hole in the wall. Deputies booked the suspect into Skagit County Jail.

March 1

While patrolling Concrete Sauk Valley Rd. near Concrete, Deputy Keith Hill paced a vehicle traveling 50 mph in a posted 35 mph zone. He stopped the car and identified the driver from frequent contacts. The driver did not have a valid driver's license. Deputy Hill cited the suspect for driving with a suspended driver's license.

A property owner vs. tenant found Deputy Wiggins on Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove, trying to solve the dispute of a property owner shutting off the power to a residence for which the tenant had not paid the power bill. Deputy Wiggins explained that though a property owner cannot randomly cut off the power, it was a civil issue and the Sheriff's Office had no jurisdiction to become involved.

While parked on the Lyman Hamilton Hwy near Robinson Rd., Deputy Craig Caulk observed two vehicles traveling east at a very high speed. One vehicle was traveling 57 mph in a 35 mph zone and the second vehicle was traveling 67 mph as it came up behind the first vehicle. Deputy Caulk stepped out of his patrol vehicle and directed both vehicles to stop. He issued a speeding ticket to the driver of the first vehicle, and issued a speeding ticket to the driver of the second vehicle, along with a criminal citation for first-degree driving with a suspended license, and driving without an interlock device.

March 2

Two juveniles alleged that a third juvenile had pulled a knife and threatened them while at Silo Park in Concrete. Deputies Hill and Koback investigated the incident. After interviewing all the involved parties, they determined that the incident was unfounded and that it was part of an ongoing dispute between the juveniles.

Late at night, Deputy Wiggins responded to the Eagle's Nest Hotel in Concrete for a welfare check of a female who was asking for help, but was very uncooperative with dispatch. When Deputy Wiggins arrived, he contacted the female, who asked for a ride to Friendship House in Mount Vernon. Deputy Wiggins explained to her that Friendship House did not accept anyone that late at night. The female became upset and started insulting Deputy Wiggins. Since she had weather-appropriate attire and was not in any danger, he cleared the call.

March 3

As he was driving through Concrete, Deputy Hill observed a car with a shattered front windshield and expired vehicle registration driving on Concrete Sauk Valley Rd. He stopped the vehicle and contacted the driver, who had a Washington ID card, but no driver's license. In addition, the driver did not have insurance on the vehicle and though mandated to have an ignition interlock device in the car to prevent her from driving intoxicated, surprisingly did not have one. Deputy Hill discovered during the course of his investigation that the driver also had a warrant for failure to appear on a DUI. Deputy Hill provided

the suspect with a ride to the Skagit County Jail so she could take care of her legal concerns.

March 5

Deputy Moore investigated a possible domestic disturbance on Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove. The reporting party said that a friend had been visiting when his girlfriend burst through the door and punched the friend in the face, possibly breaking his nose. Deputy Moore contacted the reporting party, who refused to provide her name. The alleged victim and suspect had both left the residence. Deputy Moore checked the area, but was unable to find either party.

March 7

Washington State Patrol requested that the Sheriff's Office assist with an accident near milepost 93 on SR 20. Deputy Montgomery responded to that location and discovered a green minivan on its side off the shoulder of the road. The driver said that as she was going down the road, her rear tire came off the car, causing her to lose control. Thankfully, no one was hurt. After Washington State Patrol (WSP) arrived, Deputy Montgomery provided the driver and her passenger a ride home.

See Sheriff's Blotter, p. 33



[Chief Darrel Reed]

Interested?

Call Town Hall at **360.853.8401** or drop in to fill out a quick application.

Concrete Volunteer Fire Dept. needs firefighters!

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



Applicants may live inside or outside town limits.

CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

What's in a Name—Part 1

While doing some historical research, I came across several other sister cities similarly named Cement City. Readers will recall that Town of Concrete was created in 1909 by merging Cement City on the east bank of the Baker River (Washington Portland Cement Company) and the town of Baker on the west bank of the Baker River (Superior Portland Cement Company).

Although the use of cement in one form or another can be traced back to Roman times, it wasn't until the 1800s that the modern variety of Portland Cement was developed by the Aspdin family, using a stone quarried on the Isle of Portland in Dorset, England.

Two key factors helped propel this new process into common usage by the early 1900s. The first was the development of a reliable and quick land transportation networks, of which the train was the vanguard, followed by motorized trucks. The second was the industrial revolution, which made its debut in the mid-1800s, but reached a fever pitch in the early 1900s in America with thousands of newly arrived immigrants to operate the machines in large factories that were quickly replacing the individual craft

shops. Those factories created a building boom wherever a crossroads of raw materials, cheap labor, and a sales market existed. Cement and concrete filled the niche of a reliable, long-lasting building material that was easy to ship using the rail and road networks, and could be cast in any shape. So it's not too surprising that a lot of small towns of that era have more than just a few similarities.

I found that the towns that share a name connection to Concrete were founded in the early 1900s and fall into two camps: those that were constructed of cement or concrete, and those that were centered around a cement factory.

Cement City, Penn., is still an intact neighborhood, built by the American Steel and Wire Company as a solution for housing their workers. Appropriately, Denora is the home of the Smog Museum—another tribute to the industrial age.

Don't miss our annual Good Friday Bake Sale (April 19) at Albert's Red Apple, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Until our season opening the end of May, special museum tours may be arranged by calling/e-mailing 360.853.8347 (jboggs@wawg.com) or 360.982.0423 (autohistory@hotmail.com).

—John Boggs

Civil Air Patrol

Exciting activities are planned for your local Civil Air Patrol groups of Skagit Composite Squadron, United States Air Force Auxiliary. The weather is allowing for more outdoor activities and we have several upcoming events planned.

On April 6 our cadets will participate in Civil Air Patrol's Orientation Flight Program at Skagit Regional Airport. The program is designed to introduce cadets to general aviation through hands-on flight experiences in single-engine aircraft.

On April 13 we will staff a recruiting booth at Heritage Flight Museum's Fly Day, Skagit Regional Airport. Also at Skagit Regional, cadets and accompanying senior members will see a live U.S. Navy Search and Rescue helicopter demonstration on April 17.

Cadets will be able to get inside the aircraft, as well as view from the ground

an in-air demonstration of helicopter search and rescue.

On May 1, we will be at NAS Whidbey for participation in Navy 3rd class swim qualifications. Facilitated by Navy divers and personnel, the training consists of basic water safety, including how to use clothing as a flotation device.

Interested in aerospace, search and rescue, and community service? We are looking for adult senior members, as well as cadet members, ages 12–18. The Concrete group of Skagit Composite Squadron meets all but the first Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m., at Concrete High School. E-mail inquiries can be sent to kelly.siebecke@wawg.cap.gov or the squadron commander at robert.shupe@wawg.cap.gov.

—2d Lt. Kelly A. Siebecke

At the Upper Skagit Library

The Upper Skagit Library will celebrate **National Poetry Month** in April. Stop by the library and see our display with poetry books, poetry prompts, and a blackout poetry challenge. We will also have a Magazine Cut-Out Poetry Craft Class on April 20 at 3 p.m. Poets Andrea Weiser and Jason Miller will read some of their poetry on April 26 at 5 p.m. All activities and events are free.

If you haven't heard, as of March 1 there is a link on our Web page to lynda.com. On **Lynda.com** you have access to hundreds of learning opportunities, such as software development, photography, improving problem-solving skills, music producing, and even becoming a blackbelt. All free!

Drop-in Computer and Tech Tutoring is on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We are having a **Spring Break Scavenger Hunt** from April 1–6. Grab your phone (or camera) and head out for some fun. There is a theme to this scavenger hunt: reading. Your hunt will include pictures while reading at the Welcome to Concrete sign, with a flashlight, and more fun places. To score a bonus, take a picture of you reading with Sasquatch. Pick up the full instructions at the library or find them on our Web site. Open to all ages. Complete your hunt by April 6 and win an awesome prize!

On April 5 the **Upper Skagit Library Board Annual Retreat** will be held at the new Upper Skagit Library building, located at 45952 Main St., Concrete, from 1 to 4 p.m. Open to the public.

The **Upper Skagit Library Board**

monthly meeting is on April 11 at 6 p.m. Public is always welcome.

National Libraries Week is April 7–13. This year's theme is Libraries=Strong Communities. Tuesday, April 9 is National Library Workers Day; stop in and say hello to your neighboring librarians.

Join us on April 13 and 27 at 11 a.m. for **Storytime**: stories and a simple craft.

What we learn becomes a part of who we are. Help us become better at what we do by **filling out our survey**. You can pick it up at the library or go to our Web site. Survey closes on April 13.

A few **new titles**: In fiction, *Wolf Pack* by C. J. Box. In biography, *George Lucas: A Life* by Brian Jay Jones. In young adult, *The Unwanted: Stories of the Syrian Refugees* by Don Brown. In juvenile, *Just Right: Searching for the Goldilocks Planet* by Curtis Manley.

Our beloved director, **Brooke Pederson**, has accepted a position with the Whatcom County Library System on Lummi Island. She will start her new job on April 24, but will continue to help the Upper Skagit Library with the transition to its new building. Thank you so much, Brooke, for all you have done for everyone in the community! Join us at 5b's Bakery on April 26 from 7 to 9 p.m. for a send-off party and craft. Bring a book to swap. A luminary craft, drinks, and treats will be provided.

Check us out at www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us, or find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Subscribe to our newsletter for a monthly update of new items and events happening at the library.

—Tess Carroll, Library Associate

April at the Darrington Library

Children & Families

- Family Storytime, Wednesdays, April 3–24; 11 a.m.; all ages welcome; caregiver required.
- LEGO Club, Wed., April 10, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.
- Rainy Day Play, Sat., April 6; 2 to 4 p.m.; caregiver required.

All Ages

- Darrington Friends of the Library Annual Book Sale, Sat., April 13, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Adults

- Darrington Book Group Book Discussion: *The Garden of Small Beginnings*, by Abbi Waxman, Fri., April 5, 4:30 p.m.

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

—Asheley Bryson, branch manager

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 31

While parked at Lyman Mercantile, Deputy Wiggins observed a vehicle matching the description of one from an earlier eluding call. Deputy Wiggins attempted to stop the vehicle, but it accelerated away from him, reaching speeds of nearly 100 mph. When it became evident that the vehicle was not going to stop, Deputy Wiggins ended the pursuit to protect the public from the driver's erratic driving. Later in the evening, other law enforcement offices were able to stop the vehicle, and Deputy Wiggins was able to identify the car and driver as the one he had pursued. Officers booked the driver into jail for felony eluding and several other charges. After the pursuit, Deputy Wiggins, along with Deputy Clark and Deputy Brown, responded to a domestic disturbance in the 59000 block of SR 20 in Marblemount. The information given to Dispatch was that the female had threatened and choked the victim, then chased him with a knife. The victim had fled the residence wearing

only his underwear, and was hiding in the car. When deputies arrived, they contacted the victim, who confirmed the story. Deputy Wiggins interviewed the suspect, who gave a conflicting and inconsistent story. After investigating the incident, deputies arrested the suspect for felony assault and took the suspect to jail.

March 8

A citizen reported that his neighbor had been in a domestic dispute with his girlfriend. When Deputy Esskew arrived, the suspect immediately contacted him and advised that he knew he was going to jail. Deputy Esskew asked him why and he said because he knew he was not supposed to be at his girlfriend's house. Deputy Esskew contacted the girlfriend. The girlfriend had a video of the suspect at her bedroom window threatening to have her arrested, cursing at her, and calling her unspeakable names. The victim told Deputy Esskew that she was afraid of the suspect. Deputy Esskew arrested the suspect and transported him to jail.

Assigned to a burglary call, Deputy Wolfe went to the 9600 block of

Thunderbird Lane east of Concrete and contacted the property owner. The victim told Deputy Wolfe she had come home to discover her back door had been damaged. It appeared someone had been attempting to break into the residence, but was unsuccessful. There are no suspects.

March 9

Near the 45000 block of Baker Dr. in Cedar Grove, Deputy Wolfe stopped a car for no front license plate. A check of the driver showed that his driver's license was suspended and he had two warrants: one for driving under the influence and one for driving with a suspended license. Deputy Wolfe arrested the suspect and took him to jail.

While sitting around a campfire discussing who had the best criminal history, two males got into an intense argument. As the argument grew hotter, it became physical. One subject hit the other and knocked him down. While the victim was on the ground, the suspect decided to choke the victim. When deputies arrived, they found the victim in the residence bleeding from the mouth and with red

marks around his neck. After talking with the victim, the suspect described as a white male with dreadlocks was located nearby. Deputy Wolfe took the suspect into custody and Deputy Brenner booked him into jail for second-degree assault.

March 11

PSE reported that during the weekend, someone had climbed the fence and had taken one of their vehicles. An employee discovered the undamaged vehicle the next morning at a local church parking lot. There are no suspects at this time.

March 16

Deputies Tweit and Vanholsbeck investigated a possible domestic on Sobek Lane. They contacted the victim, who said that she and her boyfriend's son, who lives at the same address with her, had gotten into an argument and he had thrown a pop can at her, hitting her in the back. Deputies interviewed the suspect, who said that the victim never shuts up and is always antagonistic toward him. Deputies arrested the suspect and took him to jail.

See **Sheriff's Blotter**, p. 35

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Bookkeeping

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

Brew pubs

Birdsview Brewing Co.
Fresh micro beer brewed on our premises
Great food! Family friendly!
Open Tuesdays through Sundays
38302 SR 20, Birdsview // 360.826.3406
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

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.
Gifts, Rocks, Tobacco, Cigars, and more!

Pawn shops

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

Ranches

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

Restaurants

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

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

Septic services

Cinema Septic
Inspection, troubleshooting and pumping
Serving all of Skagit County
Fred West, owner. 360.466.8753
fred@cinemaseptic.com
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. 10–6, Sat. 10–5
360.436.1029 www.goldnuggetpawnshop.com

Towing services

Cascades Towing
Professional flatbed towing. Winch outs, lock outs, jump starts, and fuel deliveries.
Motorcycle and equipment towing. Junk vehicle removal. Lowest prices.
360.853.8599 // www.cascadestowing.com

To add your business to this directory, call 360.853.8213 or e-mail editor@concrete-herald.com



Northwest Garden Bling
■ Gift shop
■ Stained glass & glass supplies
■ Souvenirs

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



Out & About



State

Native American Voting Rights Act signed into law

By Emma Epperly
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

The Native American Voting Rights act was signed by Washington Gov. Jay Inslee at a widely attended ceremony on March 14. “We believe these three steps will allow tribal members to help us form a more perfect union and make good decisions about our destiny,” said Inslee of the changes the bill makes.

The state House of Representatives passed an amended version of the bill with

a 95–3 vote on March 5. House members voting against were Reps. Bob McCaslin, R-Spokane Valley, Ed Orcutt, R-Kalama, and Matt Shea, R-Spokane Valley.

The bill passed the Senate on Feb. 6 with 34 in favor, 13 opposed, and two excused. All 13 senators in opposition were Republicans; however, Minority Leader Mark Schoesler, R-Ritzville, and other Republicans voted in support.

“This legislation provides us the opportunity to remove those barriers to be able to call to the Native Americans and tell them they matter,” said Rep. Debra Lekanoff, D-Bow. Lekanoff is the first Native American woman elected to the House and previously worked for the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community.

“The excitement of an aunty going down to pick up her ballot with her little granddaughter and going to the kitchen table and filling it out and walking just another half a block and dropping it in a

dropbox, on the reservation, in the middle of our America is wonderful for me,” said Lekanoff.

“We welcome everyone to participate in our electoral process,” said Rep. Jim Walsh, R-Aberdeen in support of the bill. The passed amendment, proposed by Walsh, requires that a tribe’s ballot box must be accessible to the county auditor via a public road.

The Native American Voting Rights Act would allow the residential address portion of a voter registration form to be filled out with a nontraditional address. The bill modifies the minimum information required for voter registration under state law, to allow for “unmarked homes” and “a nontraditional residential address may be used when a voter resides on an Indian reservation or on Indian lands.”

The bill also allows for voters to list a building designated by the tribe in their

precinct as their residential address, if need be.

The House State Government and Tribal Relations Committee amended the bill to let tribes choose a building, which is not a ballot pick-up location, to be used for mailing address purposes only. The amendment made other minor changes. The underlying bill modifies the minimum information required for voter registration under state law to allow for “unmarked homes” and “a nontraditional residential address may be used when a voter resides on an Indian reservation or on Indian lands.”

With Inslee’s signature of the bill, the Native American Voting Rights Acts was the second bill signed into law in the 2019 session.

Daylight saving all the time proposed for state

By Madeline Coats
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

Washington residents could vote to make daylight saving time year-round under a bill state senators passed on March 12.

Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5139 was approved in a 46–3 vote, just two days after clocks were set forward. The measure is co-sponsored by a bipartisan group of five senators and was introduced by Sen. Jim Honeyford, R-Sunnyside. This is the third year in a row Honeyford has pitched the daylight saving bill.

“With the time change, we find there’s more auto accidents, more heart attacks, more strokes and children don’t do as well on tests in school,” said Honeyford.

According to the proposed legislation, research has shown that changing between standard time and daylight saving time has negative impacts on public health, agriculture, economic growth, and crime. Scientific studies indicate a number of health consequences as a result of the time switch, including increased suicide rates and more frequent workplace injuries, the bill states.

See Daylight Saving, p. 38

Sheriff’s Blotter, cont. from p. 33

Deputy Wolfe stopped a car on Cedar Grove Ave. in Cedar Grove for a nonfunctioning license plate light. The driver had a suspended driver’s license and no insurance. Deputy Wolfe cited the driver for the violations.

March 17

A victim reported that she was assaulted while at her home on White Alley in Concrete. Deputies Wolfe and Murdock investigated and determined that during an argument, the victim’s boyfriend had pushed her down. Deputies arrested the suspect and booked him into jail.

March 18

Department of Corrections (DOC) went to the 46000 block of Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove to attempt to serve an escape warrant on a suspect believed to be living at that location. DOC arrested the suspect. During the investigation, officers found drugs at the residence. Deputy Moore responded to assist and arrested the female roommate for possession of drugs.

March 19

Deputy Moore, Sergeant Adams, and DOC officers served several arrest warrants at a residence in the 46000 block of Baker Loop Rd. Deputies arrested one suspect for a Skagit County warrant, but he was booked and released because of medical issues. Another suspect was located and arrested on an active DOC warrant for escape. After fighting with the suspect for an extended time, officers secured the suspect in a body control/restraint device and transported him back to prison.

A resident of Cape Horn called to advise that his ex-girlfriend had showed up at his house and had taken keys to a rental car. He said the ex-girlfriend had left after throwing some of his things out the door. Deputy Koback contacted the reporting party, who advised him that he and his ex-girlfriend had gotten into an argument over an electronic device. Before leaving, the ex-girlfriend had asked to use the bathroom. According to the reporting party, she took the opportunity to pour cement from a construction project down the toilet. The reporting party denied any physical assault occurred. Prior to arriving, Deputy Wiggins located the ex-girlfriend. She reported that while she was in the bathroom, her ex-boyfriend had come in demanding to know what she was doing and accusing her of pouring cement down the toilet. He then assaulted her by pushing and hitting her. She was able to leave. She had several marks on her,

indicating that she was truthful. Deputies

arrested the boyfriend for assault and booked him into jail.

March 20

A citizen reported a disorderly male near Logger’s Landing in Concrete. Deputies Wiggins and Case contacted the suspect on Main St. Deputies were able to identify the suspect and confirm that he had a warrant out of DOC for a probation violation. When deputies asked him if he anything in his pockets, he replied, “Some meth, would you like it?” Deputy Case politely told him yes, he would like it. The suspect took a baggie out of his pocket that contained a white powder and gave it to Deputy Case. Deputies arrested the suspect on the warrant and possession of drugs. Deputy Wiggins transported the suspect to jail.

March 23

Deputies responded to a weapons offense call on Noble Ave. in Hamilton. The reporting party said that he had been in an argument with another person over the reporting party blocking the road. The other person backed up to turn around and spun his tires in the victim’s yard. The victim followed the suspect back to his residence and confronted him. The victim then left and went back to his residence with the suspect following. When they got back, the suspect pulled out a gun and threatened to shoot the victim. The suspect then said, “You’ll never catch me” and left the area. As Deputy Devero was investigating the incident, Sedro-Woolley officers advised him that they had pulled over the suspect and detained him. Deputy Devero contacted SWPD and took custody of the suspect. Deputy Devero arrested him for second-degree assault and booked him into jail.

Deputy Wolfe stopped a car on Healy Rd. for no front license plate. The driver had been stopped earlier this month and was cited for driving with a suspended driver’s license. A check showed that the suspect’s license was still suspended. Deputy Wolfe arrested the suspect for driving with a suspended license, and cited for no insurance.

March 24

A citizen called to advise that her vehicle, which was parked on Littlefield Rd. in Rockport, had the window shot out. Deputy Wolfe contacted the victim at the address and determined that the window in the car had been shot out by what he believed to be a shotgun. After the investigation, it was determined that the incident was a result of a bad drug deal. The suspects could not be located at the time, but the investigation is ongoing.

—Compiled by Sgt. Greg Adams

New imaging technology provides earlier breast cancer detection

A 3.7 second scan time is all that stands between a woman knowing or not knowing whether she has breast cancer. Breast imaging technology has significantly advanced in recent years; now there is three-dimensional (3-D) imaging available.

“3-D technology provides better, earlier breast cancer detection for women across a variety of ages and breast densities,” said Rod Dalseg, director of Professional Services at PeaceHealth United General in Sedro-Woolley.

Globally, breast cancer remains the most common cancer among women. According to the American Cancer Society, approximately one in eight women living in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer during

their lifetime, and early detection is key to long-term survival.

Critical to early detection is the quality of the diagnostic mammogram. Dense breast tissue can obscure lesions on a traditional two-dimensional (2-D) mammogram, making cancers harder to detect. According to Dalseg, nearly 50 percent of women between the ages of 40 and 74 have dense breast tissue, increasing their risk of cancer and the risk that breast cancer may go undetected by conventional 2-D mammograms.

A good analogy for 3-D mammography is the pages in a book. When you look down at the book cover, you cannot see the pages inside. But when you open it, you can turn through the entire book, page-by-page, to see everything between the covers. Like pages in a book, 3-D imaging allows layers of tissue to be viewed individually, and hidden or difficult-to-detect pathology is revealed.

The addition of this lower-dose imaging technology provides more accurate images than conventional 2-D imaging, detecting 20 to 65 percent more invasive breast cancers.

—Submitted by PeaceHealth
United General Medical Center

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NARFE plans Mount Vernon meetings

The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) will hold its local spring meeting and program on Tue., April 9, at 1 p.m., at the Mount Vernon Senior Center, located at 1401 Cleveland Ave. in Mount Vernon.

Admission to the gathering is free. Attendees are encouraged to meet with and ask questions of congressional representatives about legislation that affects current federal employees, NARFE members, retirees, and spouses.

Following the program, attendees may meet NARFE officers and other members, to learn more about NARFE and its activities in the U.S.

For more information, call 360.738.6496 or send an e-mail to narfe196@gmail.com.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH (STEM)

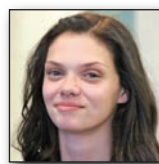
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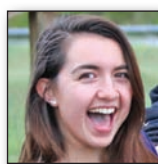
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Smile



Collin's realm of truly awful jokes

Q: What do you call a cow with epilepsy?
A: Beef jerky.



"Here," said the editor, "you use too many words. You say, 'He was poor but honest'; you have only to say that he was honest. Again you say, 'He was without money and without friends.' Simply say he was without money."

— § —

Oscar Hassenpfeffer cured his son's wildness by a simple operation: He cut off his allowance.

— § —

An Enumclaw, Wash., editor complains that some of the New Deal propaganda is so poorly worded that he has to rewrite it before throwing it into the waste basket.

— § —

A Chicago banker says he would like to run a newspaper for just one day. But any editor we know would like to run a bank for only a few hours.

Dwelleysms:

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

"If the world crime rate continues to mount, the earth may be cited in space as a moving violation."

"The young fellow who used to start with a hat full of dreams and make his fortune apparently disappeared in the bare-headed fad."

—Feb. 26, 1969

"High screams from Upper Valley taxpayers who are being assessed upward on the same basis of booming areas. The whacks taken at our basic economies the past year do not justify an increase at this time. Never hit a guy who is trying to get up."

"A college education is no longer necessary to be a working man, we are told. It is necessary, however, for those who never intend to work."

—March 5, 1969

"A worthy ambition these days for a young man is to make enough money to be appointed to a presidential cabinet post."

"After combing the daily papers for at least one happy item, we do not wonder that the mood of many is one of frustration. So people smoke, drink liquor, fight authority, chase the opposite sex, read forbidden literature, and encourage destruction of all standards of decency. All forms of protest that enable one to keep busy instead of standing in a corner, red-faced with embarrassment."

—March 12, 1969

Public Service Announcement



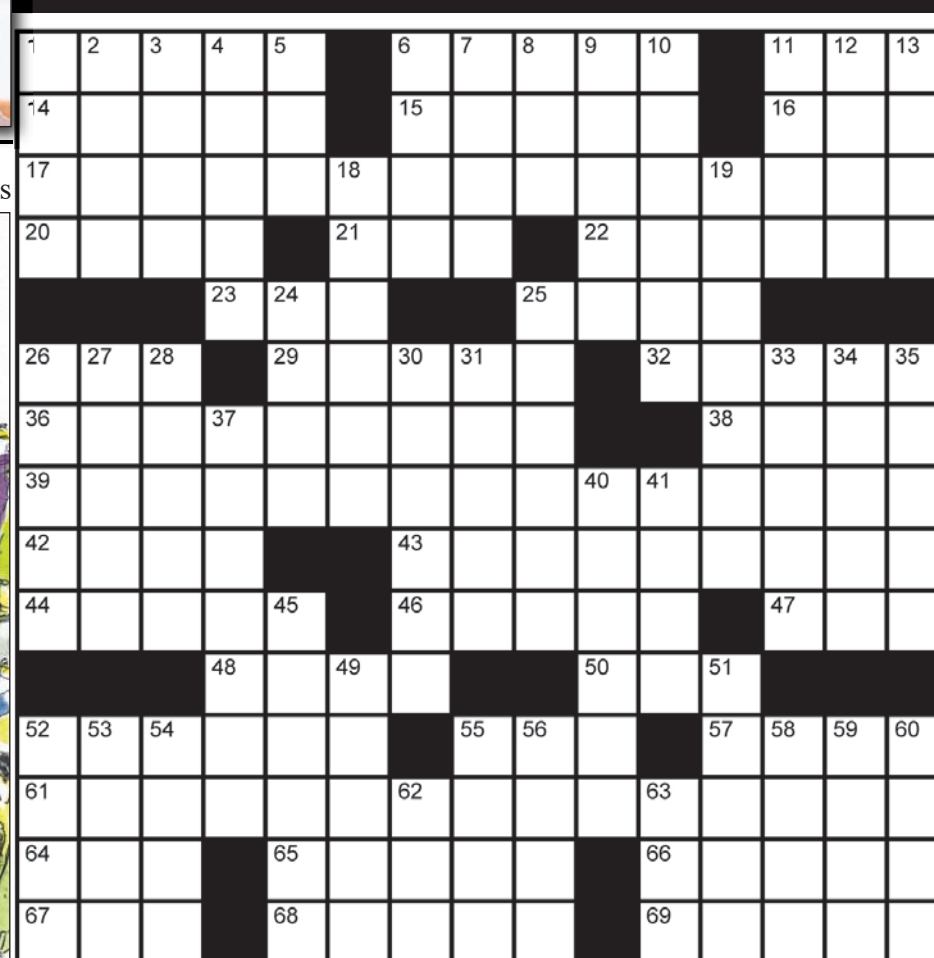
Concrete Harold

By Joyce Harris



By Stig Kristensen

Crossword: "Hush!"



Across

1. Burnett
6. Tiny openings
11. Mud bath locale
14. Swears
15. Aquarium fish
16. Euripides play
17. Simon and Garfunkel classic
20. Kind of socks
21. Bolt down
22. "American Idol," for one
23. Increase, with "up"
25. Look-see
26. French collagist
29. Food fish
32. Saudi Arabian money
36. At an easy pace
38. Bit of dust
39. Noiseless
42. ____ de force
43. Pregnancy part
44. Pitchers
46. Shoestrings
47. Cow chow
48. Facility
50. Catch red-handed
52. Not wholesale

55. Groundskeeper's supply
57. Derby
61. 1982 Streep flick
64. Moving option
65. Codeine source
66. Literally, "for this"
67. Thickness
68. Tears
69. Dilly

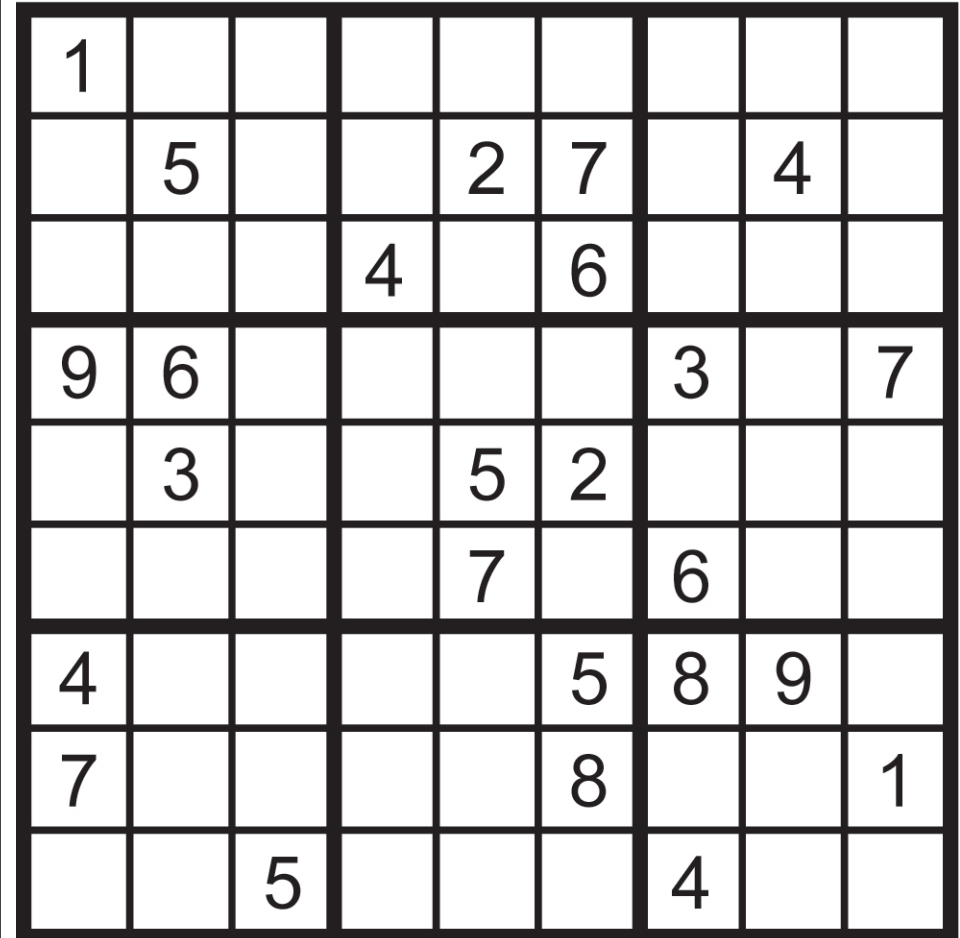
Down

1. Wine holder
2. Shakespeare, the Bard of ____
3. Debauchee
4. Dog tag datum
5. Kind of trip
6. Ancient gathering place
7. Hit the road
8. " ____ De-Lovely"
9. Hackneyed
10. Food tray
11. Trigonometry function
12. Somewhat, in music
13. From the top
18. Exacting
19. Inuits

24. Needle holder
25. Purging medicine
26. Winged
27. Plant more seeds
28. Provoke
30. See 28-Down
31. "The Nutcracker" lead
33. Sonic ____
34. Bewildered
35. Distrustful
37. Dreamlike
40. Pecuniary punishment
41. Tableland
45. Popeye, e.g.
49. Inclination
51. Modern ____
52. Invitation letters
53. List ender
54. Wee
55. Poker variety
56. Resistance units
58. Turkish title
59. Some candy, to a Brit
60. Carve in stone
62. Flipper
63. Catch a few Zs

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. 39.

Funny as Facebook

The following funny was pulled verbatim from Facebook status updates in March:

- "Testing our marriage and parenting skills by disassembling one loft bed and assembling a new full bed for the tween. There are three crabby people in this joint at present."
- "I'm going to stop eating girl scout cookies... NOW. Okay... NOW! Really going to stop riiiiiiiiight... NOW! Dammit. NOW! OK really this time will stop riiiiiiiiight aboooouuuuut *chomp chomp chomp* NOW!"

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under the governor's office, which already has passed the Senate.

Ranking Republican on the House Appropriations Committee, Rep. Drew Stokesbary, R-Auburn, said he does not see the need for an increase in taxes.

"We can easily write a budget that funds all of our state priorities without raising any new taxes," said Stokesbary in an e-mail Monday. "This includes fixing the governor's broken mental health system, addressing the homelessness crisis, improving the K-12 special education funding formula, growing millions of new chinook salmon to feed the Orca, and even giving raises to state employees."

Governor Inslee claims that his concerns with the Trans Mountain Expansion are due to the increase in oil tanker traffic. However, as I noted in my letter, 46 percent of Washington State's crude oil products came from inbound oil tankers in 2017. Not only that, but the state has the fifth highest oil refining capacity in the United States and production has increased under his leadership.

I went on to explain that the Trans Mountain Expansion will increase the number of tankers needed from five per month to approximately 34, meaning an additional one ship each day, and how our previous Conservative government took measures to strengthen an already robust tanker safety system. It is also

important to note that tolls paid on the Trans Mountain Expansion will pay for the Western Canada Marine Response Corporation to reduce spill response times for all ships from 6 hours to 2 hours in the Port of Vancouver, and from 3 days to 6 hours through the Salish Sea and across the west coast of Vancouver Island.

As you know, the National Energy Board recently renewed its support for the Trans Mountain Expansion. I firmly believe that the development of our natural resources is vitally important to the future of our local, and national, economy. Like many of you, I have followed the development of this project closely and I continue to believe that it can be completed in an environmentally responsible way.

That said, I am deeply concerned that someone who is running for president of the United States would have such a vocal and hypocritical position of a Canadian project. Canada's energy sector is second to none when it comes to developing oil and gas, with some of the highest environmental standards in the world. If the governor is so concerned about the environment as he claims to be, maybe instead of looking over the fence and telling us what to do, he should start at home first.

*Bob Zimmer
Member of Parliament
Prince George-Peace River-
Northern Rockies*

Policy

Electing a city councilman is when it comes open it's posted in the Concrete Herald and runs for the next month. What you have too offered that would make Hamilton a better place to live write it down and turn it in. Generally the following month they will be either satisfied with the turn out with the people that have applied for the position or run the city councilman's position another month.

It's been my experience there is no consideration for the fact that I have been to college or just graduated from Office Careers with a certificate in Medical Billing and Coding with medical terminology which qualifies me for the position of city councilman or even Mayor of Hamilton. The fact is I have more education is not considered; it's all about the appointment of friends and associates to positions of authority, without proper regard to their qualifications.

How much clearer can this be anything else is discrimination just because I have not lived here long enough" is what one councilman said to me, it's all just the opposite. It's my knowledge that the city council is not held to a higher level of standards. My one acre of land scalped, flower beds neat and clean and all buildings are painted and sided. All my RV tenets have their Hamilton sticker.

*Renee Barley
Hamilton*

Classifieds

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- Assistant Program Instructor, \$12/hour, full time, mid-June to September 2.

Both positions are based at the Environmental Learning Center (MP 127.5 SR 20). Shared staff rental housing may be available.

- Retail Assistant, \$13/hour, full-time, mid-May to end of September. Position is based at the Newhalem Visitor Center (MP120 SR 20).

Apply online at: www.ncascades.org/employment

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Daylight Saving, cont. from p. 34

ESSB 5139 includes a referendum for the residents of Washington state to vote on the adoption or rejection of year-round daylight saving time at the next general election in November 2019.

The bill requires approval from United States Congress to amend federal laws allowing states to remain on daylight saving time. President Trump voiced his support for the idea on March 11, tweeting: "Making Daylight Saving Time permanent is O.K. with me!"

In an attempt to create more consistency, California, Oregon, and Idaho are also working on legislation to eliminate the semiannual time change.

Sen. Mark Mullet, D-Issaquah, spoke in support of the bill, saying that the measure

sends a powerful message to the federal government to take the issue seriously.

"I think the important piece about the referendum clause is we're sending a message to Washington, D.C., about what the residents of Washington State think about the option of going to permanent daylight savings time," he said.

Substitute House Bill 1196 was passed by the House of Representatives in a 89-7 vote on March 9. The legislation allows the state to follow Pacific Daylight Time throughout the year, should federal law change.

The House and Senate will now work toward a compromise on differences between the two bills.

Sudoku solution

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

Crossword solution

1	C	A	R	O	L	6	S	L	I	9	T	O	S	12	P	A
14	A	V	O	W	S	15	T	E	T	R	A	18	I	O	N	
17	S	O	U	N	D	S	21	O	F	S	I	L	E	N	C	E
20	K	N	E	E	24	E	A	T	22	T	V	S	H	O	W	
26	A	R	P	28	R	E	V	25	P	E	E	K				
29	31	T	E	N	30	C	H	32	R	I	Y	A	34	35		
36	L	E	I	37	S	U	R	E	38	M	O	T	E			
39	A	S	Q	U	I	E	T	A	40	A	M	O	U	S	E	
42	T	O	U	R	43	T	R	I	M	E	S	T	E	R		
44	E	W	E	R	45	L	A	C	E	S	47	H	A	Y		
48	E	A	S	49	N	A	B									
52	R	E	T	A	I	L	55	S	O	D	57	R	A	C	E	
61	S	T	I	L	L	O	62	F	I	U	63	N	I	G	H	T
64	V	A	N	65	O	P	I	U	66	A	D	H	O	C		
67	P	L	Y	68	R	E	N	D	S	69	P	E	A	C	H	

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