

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Concrete Herald

Vol. 103, No. 4

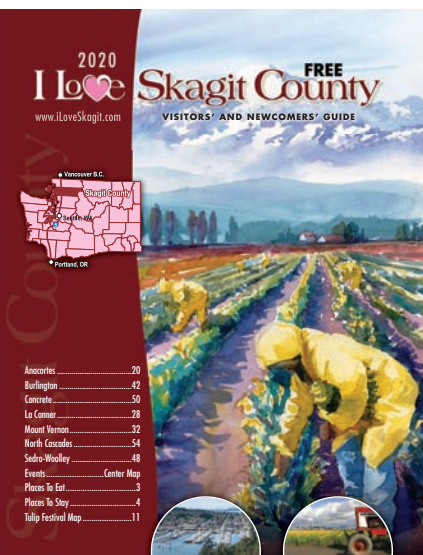
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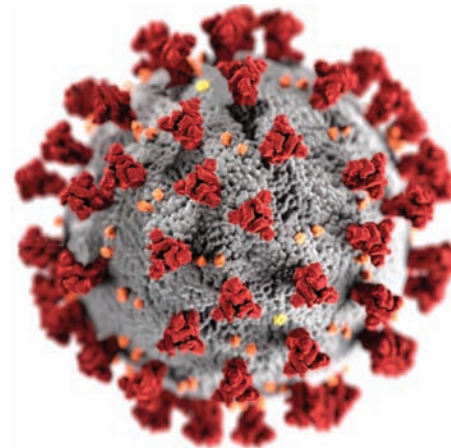
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Legislative wrap-up

At the end of this session, 400 bills awaited the governor's pen. *Page 5.*

School district distributes meals during shutdown

If students can't come to the food during the closure, bring the food to them. *Page 9.*

Aid package passes

Effort designed to protect families, workers, and small businesses, and ensure health care system has the resources it needs to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. *Page 12.*

Quilters aid clinic

A back order of medical face masks became an opportunity for quilters to help a local clinic. *Page 16.*

Concrete Herald

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

WNPA

Washington Newspaper Publishers Association

EST. 1987

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Message from the mayor

By Jason Miller

On March 23, Gov. Inslee issued a "stay at home" proclamation for Washington State. Inslee's statewide proclamation is not the same as a "shelter in place" order. We are still allowed to go outside, to the grocery store, and to do other essential business. But the order prohibits gatherings, both public and private, social, spiritual, and recreational. Even funerals and weddings are prohibited.

What does this mean for Town of Concrete and its citizens? Well, it means we're in the same boat as everyone else. It's not a boat anyone wants to be in, but the reality is that we're dealing with a highly infectious pandemic in the novel coronavirus COVID-19, so the most effective response, presently, is not to give it a path to success.

This means hunkering down for two weeks—possibly longer—not meeting in groups of any size, minimizing contact with other people, not venturing forth for any nonessential reason. Shouldn't be too hard for us Upper Valley folks. We do it every winter after the pass closes.

Seriously, though, we may do it, but we decide when we do it, and for how long. This is going to be a bit of a challenge for those of us—myself included—who value our autonomy and tend to give the side eye to anyone who tells us what to do.

In this case, however, the health and well-being of our entire Upper Valley community is at stake. According to the

Centers for Disease Control, anyone 65 years of age and older, and anyone with underlying health conditions such as a compromised immune system, chronic lung disease or asthma, diabetes, heart disease, or severe obesity is at greater risk. But we've recently learned that everyone, regardless of age, is at risk to some degree, even though those levels of risk vary from person to person. And reports are starting to demonstrate a frightening randomness: A 90-year-old recovers; a 12-year-old fights for her life.

For this reason, I urge everyone to heed Gov. Inslee's proclamation, keeping in mind the following:

1. Nobody is immune to COVID-19.
2. You might recover from an infection, but your 74-year-old diabetic neighbor might not.
3. If you decide to wander around in the general public unnecessarily, and you contract COVID-19 and pass it to a friend or family member who is more susceptible to it, they could die from it. It's not about you, it's about everyone else.

Let's give this a couple weeks—longer, if public health officials deem it necessary. Let's make every effort to minimize our in-person interactions with our fellow citizens. Let's ride this out, day by day. Go for a walk (alone). Clean your house. Organize your desk. Play with your dog (or cat). Hug your kids and/or spouse—if they're not exhibiting symptoms, that is. If you're a person of faith, pray like crazy. If you're not, reach out to whatever or whomever brings you comfort in trying times.

Stay home. Stay healthy. Oh, and let's call it physical distancing. Be social—from at least 6 feet away.

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

Opinion

Letters to the editor

"Spring has sprung ... the grass has riz", I wonder where the robins is?"

This little ditty, one that I attribute to my mom's humorous talent for words, is forever engraved in my memory, especially this time of year. She and I share our birthdays at the end of March, and even her name, Verna, means Spring. So I dedicate this article to her, as she celebrates her 95th spring!

This changing of the seasons is an exciting time. During spring (also known as the Vernal Equinox), Earth's axis is increasing its tilt relative to the sun, and the day length rapidly increases for the relevant hemisphere. Days and nights are both approximately 12 hours long each, hence the term "equinox," meaning equal night. The northern hemisphere begins to warm significantly, causing new plant growth to "spring forth," giving the season its common name.

While spring is a result of the warmth caused by changing orientation of Earth's axis relative to the sun, the weather in many parts of the world is overlaid by events which appear very erratic, taken on a year-to-year basis. Rainfall in spring (or in any season) is related more to cycles created by ocean currents and temperatures. Well-researched examples include the El Nino effect, the Southern Oscillation Index, and of course, Climate Change.

The beginning of spring is not always determined by fixed calendar dates. The phenological or ecological definition of spring relates to biological indicators: blossoming of plant species, certain activities of animals, the special rich smell of soil that has warmed enough for micro flora to flourish. In the upper Skagit, the croaking of the first frog, the cheeps of the

first returning robins, and the chattering of awakening squirrels are all welcome sounds, as are the sights of emerging stinging nettles and budding Indian plum bushes.

Spring is seen as a time of growth and renewal, of new life being born. The term also is used more generally as a metaphor for the start of better times, after weathering the long, dark, cold winter.

Let spring find you rejoicing in yet another new season, planning your garden, and shedding a few outer layers as you soak up some Vitamin D when the sun comes out!

Christie Fairchild
Rockport

Safe and sound banking system

Community Bankers of Washington and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) want to remind and reassure the public that the safest place for their money is in a federally insured bank, which all Washington community banks are.

Since 1933, no depositor has lost any FDIC-insured funds. The safety and soundness of the entire banking system is, and will remain, secure and unchanged.

If a bank has announced limited branch hours or specific lobby closures, it is in preparation to remain open and ready

See Letters, p. 19

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 first and last names 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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Cary Constantine is the new owner of Lone Star Restaurant in Concrete. He took over the popular eatery on March 16, and said the menu is still available via takeout and delivery.

New owner: Lone Star Restaurant

Cary Constantine is the new owner of Lone Star Restaurant in Concrete Town Center. He bought the business from former owners Cheryl Taylor and Brian Massingale on March 16.

That's right: He bought the Lone Star the day before Gov. Inslee closed every restaurant and bar in the state to on-site dining.

Fantastic. Constantine is clearly a fighter, though, so get in there and get some takeout, or have it delivered.

"I'm doing my best to keep it open so I can keep at least a few employees busy," says Constantine. "I don't care if I make any money, but this is a pretty weak economy up here, so I'm trying to keep a few people making money. So far we're making enough to keep the door open, but we'll see."

Constantine was an enthusiastic supporter of the restaurant before he bought it, so he knows better than to make any drastic changes, at least not right away. The menu will stay the same, for starters.

"Until I really get my arms around the business, we're not going to change anything. The people like the menu and the food, so if it ain't broke, we won't fix it. We don't want anyone going home hungry," he said, in reference to the restaurant's now legendary portion sizes.

The Lone Star hours of operation have remained unchanged: seven days a week, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. They deliver between Hamilton and Rockport ("within 10 miles," said Constantine) and they're available for takeout too. Simply call in your order and they'll take it from there. Stop by and grab a takeout menu, and you'll be all set.

"We're trying to be available if people need to eat," said Constantine.

—J. K. M.

At a glance:
Lone Star Restaurant
Where: 45930 Main St., Concrete
Hours: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., every day
Phone: 360.853.8800
Web: Facebook, Instagram

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Life in the time of COVID-19

By Jude Dippold

Like the dark clouds that regularly roll up the Skagit Valley from the gray northern Pacific, the seriousness of the COVID-19 pandemic settled over the area in March, casting a pall that lingers yet. While there is no end in sight to the threat posed by the global pandemic, there are more than enough bright spots in the valley to inspire confidence that the Upper Skagit will emerge, spirit intact, from the gloom posed by the threat.

Both area residents and businesses responded swiftly to Washington Governor Jay Inslee's March 15 order closing dine-in restaurants and recreational and entertainment facilities, and banning gatherings of more than 50 people. Residents began the practice of social distancing, and nonessential businesses either shut down or began offering alternative services to their customers.

At Albert's Market, one of the Upper Valley's most essential businesses, employees scrambled to deal with the sudden increase in demand as valley

residents stripped the shelves of items like toilet paper, sanitizers, and staple groceries like dried beans and rice.

"I never thought I would see panic buying here in Concrete," said Mike Frank, co-owner of the Grasmere store. Frank finds the run on toilet paper inexplicable. "It's absolutely weird. It's not like people need any more because of the virus."

Trucks from the grocery store's wholesaler have been arriving short on the store's orders, the inevitable result of being near the end of a long distribution chain with high demand throughout.

"The little guy is getting the brunt of it," Frank said. "It's getting to the point where it's ridiculous."

Other than supplies, the Albert's management has been focused on keeping both its employees and its customers safe.

"We're reminding people not to congregate," Frank said. "It makes sense to keep people separated, but there's always some people that won't listen. We want to do our part to keep people safe."

If people are sick, hopefully they won't come to the store."

In addition, the store's checkout stations are being sanitized frequently, and plexiglass protection screens have been installed to protect the store's employees and customers. Store employees are using masks as well.

"I don't think this is going to stop for a while," Frank observed, "we want to make sure we are there for the community."

Cascade Supply, another of the town's essential businesses, released a brief statement to let area residents know the business will be open to area residents.

"We are an essential store (according to state guidelines), so we are following the health guidelines for our customers and employees, and have been doing so all along," said Carol Rohan in a statement to *Concrete Herald*.

Being there for the community and their employees is a consistently expressed sentiment among Concrete's business owners when contacted by the *Herald*.

"I'm trying everything I can to keep my employees working," said Cary Constantine, the brand-new owner of Lone Star Restaurant and Waterin' Hole in downtown Concrete. "If it weren't for them, I would have shut it down."

That would have been deeply ironic for Constantine. He had just taken legal possession of the Lone Star the day before Inslee's order was issued, having purchased it from former owners Cheryl Taylor and Brian Massingale. Constantine, a former Boeing manager who bought the business as part of his effort to recover from the death of his wife, wants "to keep it local," but fears he may be forced to reduce hours to keep things going.

Currently the Lonestar offers both delivery and carry-out service. Kerry Constantine, Cary's daughter-in-law, reports that call-in business has been better than expected during the 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. business hours, but "we're just making it," despite being no longer able to employ waitstaff and a bartender.

"We're really glad we're here. We really like this community," said the former Bellevue resident. "I just hope everyone stays healthy," said Kerry Constantine.

That same concern for the community and its people is being echoed down Main Street at 5b's Bakery and Eatery, where Em Beals has closed the eatery

portion of the operation—a popular tourist destination—in response to the state ban on eat-in operations. Currently 5b's is concentrating on its wholesale operations.

"Our concern is for the safety and wellbeing of our employees. Everything else is secondary," Beals told the *Herald*.

"We are also reevaluating how we do things" with an eye toward safety. "We have always been very conscientious of food safety and cleanliness ... now we seem to be a close-knit group that is concerned about touching each other. Together yet apart."

As part of that reevaluation, 5b's has staggered its production crew shifts, creating a 20-hour-per-day operation. The object, according to Beals, is to have as few people as possible in the building at any one time.

Unfortunately, the popular bakery's wholesale orders are running at less than 50 percent of its previous rate, as more and more of its customers have been forced to curtail their own operations.

That worries Beals.

"We cannot continue to pay wages without revenue," Beals says, estimating that the bakery's operations have lost \$15,000 as of March 23.

Adding insult to injury, Washington State Department of Transportation's decision to pause clearing the North Cascades Highway through Washington and Rainy passes could severely impact 5b's tourist traffic once the eatery is permitted to resume operations.

As the *Herald* goes to press, Beals and her team are evaluating their situation to map the most responsible way forward.

Just outside of Concrete at the Grasmere Plaza, two longtime fixtures on the area's dining scene, Perks and Annie's Pizza, are improvising their service to contend with the reality of the state's dining-in prohibition.

Annie's is aggressively pursuing take-out business and has instituted delivery service within a limited area, generally within an eight-mile radius of the store.

"We want to be there for people," says Danielle Howard, Annie's manager. "It's a trying time for everyone. We're doing the best we can," to maintain some semblance of normalcy. "People all over are going the extra mile. We want to do our part."

COVID-19, cont. from p. 4

To facilitate that, the staff at Annie's is wearing gloves and aggressively wiping down all the surfaces in the restaurant.

In addition, the staff is enforcing social distancing when people pick up their orders. "Calling ahead really helps" during Annie's 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. hours on Tuesday through Saturday, says Howard. Delivery service is available from 3 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday through Saturday. Menus are available at <http://www.anniespizzastation.net>.

At the other end of the plaza, Tonya Cabe, the new owner of Perks, a popular breakfast spot and drive-through, ran a one-woman show since on-premise dining has been banned, serving customers entirely through her drive-in window until shutting down in late March.

"People are pretty persistent in their habits," says Cabe. "They're happy that I'm open. I just want people to get through

this," said Cabe before her shutdown.

Cabe said the drive-through lines of customers kept her busy until she finally decided to close her door for the time being.

Of course there is no commerce without money, and Concrete's SaviBank branch has taken steps to ensure the safety of both its patrons and its staff. Most of the bank's business is being conducted either at the bank's ATM or through its drive-through window, according to manager Lynette Gentry. To further ensure safety, bank personnel are sanitizing their hands before and after each transaction. In-office service is still available on a one-at-a-time basis by either calling for an appointment or knocking on the door.

Aero Skagit ambulance service is available as always, but Manager Tony Smith says his staff has implemented all the recommendations of county, state, and

See COVID-19, p. 19

WDFW closes recreational fishing statewide

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) on March 25 announced its decision to temporarily close recreational fishing and shellfishing statewide in the wake of Washington Gov. Jay Inslee's order directing Washingtonians to stay home and stay healthy to limit the spread of the novel coronavirus COVID-19.

The closures began at midnight Wed., March 25, and were to last until at least 5 p.m. on April 8. WDFW will re-evaluate on April 6 whether the closure may need to be extended.

"This is not a decision we take lightly, but it's the right thing to do for the health and well-being of Washington's families," said WDFW Director Kelly Susewind in a press release. "Monday's extraordinary order for the residents of our state to stay home requires all of us to work together to ensure these measures have the intended effect."

Fishery managers had reported that some anglers have been seen crowding banks as concerns over coronavirus have continued.

"We've seen an uptick in outdoor recreation at some locations in recent weeks as people have looked for ways to get outside," said WDFW Fish Program

Director Kelly Cunningham. "We've had reports of crowded boat ramps and busy fishing on some rivers, which runs counter to the governor's direction to stay home and practice social distancing."

In addition, many salmon and steelhead fisheries require regular monitoring under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which includes conducting angler interviews at access sites surrounding the state's marine waters. The on-site, face-to-face nature of angler interviews puts people at potential risk of transmitting the coronavirus. Without such monitoring, those recreational fisheries must close to ensure ESA protections, according to WDFW.

WDFW and other state agencies previously closed all of their water access sites, including boat launches, and other public lands where people may gather. Local and tribal governments are taking similar actions across Washington.

WDFW Enforcement officers remain on duty and will be enforcing the closures. The lowland lakes opening day for trout remains scheduled for April 25, but will be evaluated depending on whether the governor's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order might be further extended.

For the latest updates on WDFW's coronavirus response, go to <https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/covid-19-updates>. Updates to openings and closures will be posted to that page.

For the latest information on the statewide response to this pandemic, visit <https://coronavirus.wa.gov/>.

—Submitted by WDFW

State requires sex ed, takes gun safety measures, bans free plastic bags

By Cameron Sheppard
WNPA News Service

K-12 (see related article, p. 11).
*SB 6561

Provides a student loan program for undocumented students who may be ineligible for federal student loans because of their citizenship status.

Rights and equity

HB 2602

Prohibits employers and schools from discriminating against hair textures and hair styles worn by members of various ethnic groups.

HB 2527

Protects participation in the U.S. census free of threat and guarantees confidentiality of information and identity of a census worker.

HB 2567

Prohibits the arrest of undocumented immigrants and others on courthouse property for civil matters.

SB 5900

Creates the position of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Coordinator within the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs to be an advocate for LGBTQ+ veterans.

SB 5165

Expands the Washington Law Against Discrimination to include a prohibition on discrimination based on immigration or citizenship status, unless deferential treatment on the basis of citizenship or immigration status is authorized by federal

See Bills, p. 22

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ANNIE'S PIZZA STATION



Past

Town hires new deputy clerk

When Concrete Town Hall reopens to walk-in services, visitors will see a new face at the deputy clerk desk. Concrete native Jennifer Past will begin her employment with Town of Concrete on May 1.

Past comes to the deputy clerk position with an extensive background in business administration, having worked as an office manager and administrator, in accounts payable and receivable, as a project manager, and as a records clerk.

"I'm excited to have this position and to follow in my grandma's footsteps," said Past, whose grandmother, Jerry Ledford, served as deputy clerk and treasurer decades ago. "I'm looking forward to giving back to my community."

Past replaces former deputy clerk Chaun Hopfield, who resigned from the position on March 5 after serving almost 4 years.

Small Business Admin. announces disaster assistance for Washington small businesses affected by COVID-19

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has amended its original disaster declaration to apply to all Washington small businesses, regardless of county.

Low-interest loans for working capital are now available to any small businesses suffering economic fallout from the COVID-19 outbreak.

SBA disaster assistance is now available in all counties within the state of Washington.

SBA Customer Service Representatives will be available to answer questions about SBA's Economic Injury Disaster Loan program and explain the application process.

Small businesses, private nonprofit organizations of any size, small agricultural cooperatives, and small aquaculture enterprises that have been financially affected as a direct result of the COVID-19 since Jan. 31 may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans of up to \$2 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses, which could have been met had the disaster not occurred.

Loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that can't be paid because of the disaster's impact. Disaster loans can provide vital economic assistance to small businesses to help overcome temporary losses of revenue.

Eligibility for Economic Injury Disaster Loans is based on the financial impact of COVID-19. The interest rate is 3.75 percent for small businesses. The interest

rate for private nonprofit organizations is 2.75 percent.

SBA offers loans with long-term repayments in order to keep payments affordable, up to a maximum of 30 years, and are available to entities without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship.

Applicants may apply online, receive additional disaster assistance information, and download applications at <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>.

Applicants also may call SBA's Customer Service Center at 800.659.2955 or e-mail disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance.

Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing may call 800.877.8339. Completed applications should be mailed to U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The deadline to apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan is Dec. 16, 2020.

For federal information about Coronavirus, go to coronavirus.gov.

For more information about available SBA resources and services, go to sba.gov/coronavirus.

—Submitted by SBA

THIS AND THAT

By J. K. M.

Until further notice, all live DJs at KSVU will not host their shows. All programming will be by automation through KSVR at Skagit Valley College. This is in compliance with the Governor's proclamation that all nonessential activities be put on hold in an effort to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

Also because of the current COVID-19 virus issues, and to comply with the advice of local and state health organizations, the **Skagit County Sheriff's Office** has closed its East Detachment office to walk-in services until further notice.

If you need to report in-progress criminal activity, call 911. If you need to report "cold" criminal activity or need to talk to a deputy, call the 911 business line, 360.428.3211.

If you need to contact the Sheriff's Office for information or services, please call 360.416.1911 during business hours, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Sheriff's Office reception area at the Mount Vernon office is closed until April 24.

Council summary

Concrete Town Council met for regular meetings on March 9 and 23. The following is a summary of those meetings. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are posted on the town's Web site at www.townofconcrete.com/cminutes.php.

March 9 regular meeting

Welcome Home Skagit President Larry Paise presented his final report for the season regarding the overnight shelter at Mount Baker Presbyterian Church. This week was to be their last week open, with the official last night planned for March 14.

Councilmember Marla Reed asked if they will offer the shelter next winter. Paise said they will meet to discuss the future of the shelter and to see if it is, in fact, needed here. He said the homeless community in this area is very independent, and a lot of them were not interested in the shelter. He said they will need to build relationships and trust with the homeless community before they make a commitment for next winter.

Council approved the event application for the Mount Baker Ultra Marathon, slated this year for May. Organizer Dan Probst said he had 75 runners registered this year, including two locals.

Council discussed the pending Waste Management franchise agreement. Mayor Jason Miller reported the townwide cleanup days that are offered in the spring are charged back to those who have garbage service. Councilmember Reed stated the town may want to look at charging a minimal fee—maybe \$5—for those who take advantage of the cleanup days, but do not have garbage service through Waste Management.

Mayor Miller said they will contact Waste Management and get an estimate of what it is costing rate payers to hold the annual spring cleanup event, and a draft contract will be brought before council.

The proposed merger between Concrete Volunteer Fire Dept. and Fire Dist. 10 was discussed. Major points were the probable decrease in revenues for property taxes, personnel and logistics, equipment and housing for that equipment, compliance with

national standards for equipment, mutual aid, service levels, and training. Concrete VFD Chief Darrel Reed attended the meeting to answer questions, and said he could understand both sides of the topic.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the council to research information regarding interlocal agreements, which might allow for resources to be shared without changing the political side of the departments.

March 23 regular meeting

This meeting was conducted with doors and windows open, plus more physical separation between councilmembers and one attendee. Mayor Miller asked Public Works Dir. Alan Wilkins, town planner Marianne Manville-Ailles, and town engineer Cody Hart not to attend, and to instead submit their reports in writing.

Council approved a Declaration of Emergency for the town, which in part will help the town streamline funding that it may need because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The motion to approve the declaration included

the appointment of Councilmember Rob Thomas as the councilmember to review and approve bills if needed.

- Council voted to suspend delinquent utility fees and any termination of services for all delinquent accounts for 30 days.
- Mayor Miller reported he'd written a letter to the Liquor and Cannabis Board, objecting to the pending renewal of The Hub's liquor license. He stated there have been many issues with this establishment over the years, demonstrating a pattern that he does not believe the owner has any interest in changing. He said this doesn't mean the board will decide not to approve the renewal.
- Mayor Miller reported that the deputy clerk job search had been narrowed to two applicants.

—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.



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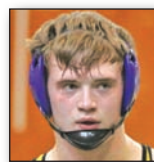
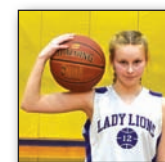
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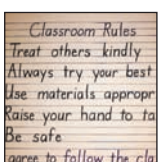
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Sports



Academics



Pandemic virus puts all sports in time-out

The Concrete School District pandemic shutdown on March 17 brought all of its sports programs skidding to a stop. The ballfields and track emptied out before you could say "play ball."

District Academic Director Randy Sweeney said he saw it coming.

"We had already stopped the middle School sports for the remainder of winter sports, waiting to see what would happen," he said. "Snohomish (County) and Seattle started canceling things; as they started shutting things down, we watched it move northward, and the next thing we knew, we had a statewide shutdown."

Sweeney told *Concrete Herald* that Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) has told

him to "keep everything on hold."

"We didn't cancel games; we postponed them," said Sweeney. There's still a chance that we could proceed with spring sports by getting in a few games and then continuing on to the league, district, and state games. We'll see what happens on April 27—if we go back to school. If we do, we have to have something in place to play games. I can't even guess at what might happen at this point, since things change daily. We'll have to start all over again, including the mandatory 10 practices for kids before they can compete."

"We're in a holding pattern," said Sweeney. "It's uncharted territory. There's no manual for this."

—J. K. M.



A sign on the fence at the Concrete High School track tells the story of a 2020 track season that is postponed at best.

WRESTLING AWARDS

Varsity Letters: Cody Carlson, Hunter Olmstead, Dominic Cassell, Anna Spangler, Cadance Landsiedel, Devon Howard, Robert Reed, Sean French, Killian McCormack, Peyton Sanchez, Shawn Powell, Leona Martinez (manager).

Gordy Evans Memorial Award: Hunter Olmstead. **Get 'Er Done Award, in Memory of Mark Richmond:** Cody Carlson. **Most Improved:** Robert Reed. **Team Captain:** Hunter Olmstead. **Coach's Award:** Robert Reed.

Mental Health, cont. from p. 10

pick up garbage as you walk through your neighborhood; clean out cupboards, closets, drawers, boxes, basement, attics, storage units, garages; listen to uplifting music or watch movies and television shows that make you laugh; listen to audiobooks, watch inspirational talks, or read (or re-read) that self-help book that has been sitting on your shelf; go camping, do yardwork, clean up the outside of your home, or anything that you can do to enjoy the great outdoors; write e-mails and letters to people you care about or who have affected your life in a positive way; make or break a habit that

has been on your mind; forgive whomever you need to forgive so you can let go of the past; and share positive thoughts and messages in any way.

Also, limit your news watching and reading to 30 minutes per day—more than that is detrimental to your mental health!

By using your time and energy to focus on the things you can control, you will be better prepared to handle the things that are out of your control.

Rachel Richter is a Licensed Mental Health Counselor for Concrete School District.

School district staff, teachers, drivers distribute meals during shutdown

If students can't come to the food during the closure, bring the food to them.

That's the operating principle behind an effort by Concrete School District staff, teachers, and drivers to put breakfast and lunch into school district students' hands Monday through Friday.

"We're feeding students 18 and under, approximately 300 kids per day, about 600 meals per day," said Food Service Dir. Marla Reed.

Reed and her crew typically work one day ahead, assembling breakfast and lunch menus, and then putting them into brown paper bags for delivery. Reed said a typical breakfast may be cereal, string cheese, juice, and milk. A lunch is usually a sandwich, chips, fruit, and milk.

Each weekday starts at 6:30 a.m. for Reed and Transportation Co-manager Paul Carter, with the others arriving at 7 a.m. to prep the brown bags and get them loaded into the buses and vans for delivery at 8 a.m.

"I'm trying to rotate the teachers through the different delivery routes, so they can see and touch base with their students," said Reed.



Submitted photos.



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Skagit County public schools close March 17 to April 24

Following a declaration of Washington State Governor Jay Inslee on March 12, all Skagit County public schools announced they would close their doors from March 17 through at least April 24. The school districts made the announcement via a press release that included reasons for the the closure:

- The state's confirmed cases of COVID-19 continue to expand.
- Schools have a significant number of staff members and students who fall within the high-risk categories.
- Health officials can no longer map the contacts of infected individuals reliably.
- School districts within the region are experiencing unparalleled student absences.
- Many districts are on the brink of no longer being able to staff their schools because of staff absences.
- Mandatory school closures will save lives.

All Skagit County public schools were open on Mon., March 16. Parents were encouraged to retrieve any of their children's medications and other essential personal items that they need to have with them while schools are closed.

"Although children are not likely to become seriously ill from COVID-19, they can spread it to others who are at high risk," the release said.

"We want to assure the community that this is not a decision we have made lightly or without considerable thought and consideration," county superintendents said in the release. "As superintendents, we regularly make challenging decisions and this has been the most difficult in any of our careers. We recognize and understand the impact this will have on our families, particularly those who are most vulnerable."

Superintendents were asked to provide childcare, at no cost, to families who are in the medical field or who are first responders.

"That's one of our biggest challenges, because the only partnership we have is with Boys & Girls Club," said Concrete

School District Superintendent Wayne Barrett. "They've been shorted money, so the Concrete program isn't open right now," he said. "It's not an easy answer."

Continuous learning

The state requested that all public schools return to "required learning" on March 30, so the district is complying, even though some students' electronic access levels are lacking.

"Students with Internet access will use online platforms provided by their teachers for their learning and assignments (Google classroom, Edmodo, etc.). For families without internet, staff will be working to get your materials ready for pick up/delivery," Concrete High School Principal Christine Tripp wrote in an e-mail to families.

Barrett said that high school and middle school students would fare a bit better; they'll each get a Chromebook laptop.

The majority of the teachers will probably work from home," said Barrett. "They'll need Wi-Fi and Internet service at home; otherwise, they'll have to come in. The elementary is a little different; it will be packet-based with online opportunities. Packets are available in bins in front of the elementary school: pick up and drop off for grading."

Eying graduation

Statewide, the closure has dropped a grenade into many seniors' hopes for graduation. Even with leniency from the governor's office, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Washington State Board of Education, the situation is tenuous for some.

Barrett said graduation for the 27-member class of 2020 is looking promising.

"We're focusing on our seniors; they have to be a priority; we have to get them graduated," said Barrett. "We'll probably have to waive some credits, although I think right now everyone is pretty well set."

What happens after April 24?

The short answer? Nobody knows.

"My gut tells me it will be extended," said Barrett of the closure. "We're hoping for more of a heads-up if they do."

"I'm proud of the staff with what we've done so far, getting meals out there even through spring break," said Barrett. "We'll rotate through that break as best we can—do it with volunteers and anybody who's willing to take a turn. I think we'll be fine. Hopefully everybody will stay safe."

—J. K. M.

Improve your mental health

By Rachel Richter

"I just don't have time for that!"
"There isn't enough time in the day."
"I wish I had more time to ..."

With the reality of this pandemic we are experiencing as a society, slowing down is not just a suggestion, it is a necessary adjustment that will likely help to not only slow the spread of COVID-19, but also to aid in recovery from the symptoms that come with illness.

Anxiety, fear, and depression are normal responses to any crisis, transition, or the unknown. However, the unprecedented ripple effect from this virus has potential to intensify baseline feelings and emotions in every human being.

Good mental health does not mean being happy all the time; it means learning to adapt to new circumstances and mindfully care for emotions, thoughts, and subsequent actions. What can each of us do to help ourselves and each other in a time like this?

Start with the basic components of self-care: enough sleep, clean water, healthy food, moderate exercise. These are the elements that help with immunity, as well as brain health.

Sleep 7.5 to 9 hours per night. Humans sleep in 1.5-hour cycles, so make sure you are maximizing the detoxing, pruning, and cleaning effects of sleep by getting full sleep cycles every night. Low vitamin D levels can dysregulate melatonin, which can affect sleep, so make sure you get enough sunlight or supplement to raise or maintain vitamin D levels. In addition, you can supplement with melatonin around the time that the sun starts to set, to help support your body's natural chemistry. Always follow the dosage recommendations on the supplement.

Clean water is important, too. Boil or filter water, if you are unsure of the quality of your water. Drink half your body weight in ounces to follow the general guideline, but keep in mind that physical activity, heat, and caffeine increase the quantity you need, while eating fruits and vegetables lowers the amount. Dehydration can cause fatigue, which feels like depression, and many other issues related to mental health: brain fog, headaches, and memory.

Eat whole foods, preferably as many anti-inflammatory ones as possible. When talking about good mental health, we have to address the nutrients we are ingesting. Doctors, nutritionists, and friendly

neighbors and family members all have their own opinions on what is the perfect diet, which changes from year to year. The only thing that remains constant in the research is that anti-inflammatory foods lead to less inflammation in the brain and body. Allergies and many foods in our standard American diet can cause inflammation. Research and use common sense to decrease overall inflammation, helping your immune system and brain function, and giving you a better chance at good mental health.

Next, move your body! Take a walk or hike, stretch, do yard work, and get enough exercise to increase oxygen to your brain and body, and flush toxins out. The goal is to do what makes you feel strong and healthy, not exhausted and fatigued. Ten minutes of moderate exercise, three times daily, is achievable and sustainable for most of us; however, if you are not feeling well, take a rest day! Make it a social activity, with your family, or by communicating through phone calls, e-mails, chats, social media posts, and other methods. Moderate, daily exercise is something you can do to feel more in control of daily life during this season of physical distancing.

With a practice of the basic components of self-care, your mental health should have a solid foundation for handling any added stress. When waves of anxiety, fear, or depression hit, do not be surprised, be prepared. Use the opportunity to check in with yourself and go a little deeper: Practice diaphragmatic breathing techniques with slow, deep breaths; journal by starting with gratitude, then moving to concerns; and pray or meditate, as research has shown that both have mental health benefits.

Next, check in with someone you trust: a close friend, a family member, a pastor, a recovery sponsor, a counselor or therapist. If you do not want to burden anyone, think about reciprocating the favor, as compassion, meaning shared suffering, usually makes both talker and listener feel better. You can also anonymously call the Skagit County Crisis Line at 800.584.3578 or the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 888.273.8255; both operate 24/7. Most importantly, ask for help, if you need it.

Finally, use this time of mixed emotions and thoughts to do something good for yourself, the planet, or others! Ideas:

See **Mental Health**, p. 8

Sex education becomes a requirement for Washington public schools

By Leona Vaughn, Cameron Sheppard
WNPA News Service

Public school students will soon have a greater understanding of their sexuality, sexual abuse, and the importance of consent under a controversial new law passed by Washington state legislators. Senate Bill 5395 requires all public schools in Washington state to give public school children in kindergarten through 12th grade a comprehensive sexual education.

The curriculum must follow certain requirements, including encouraging healthy relationships, teaching students about sexual violence, educating them on consent, and being inclusive of students.

Supporters of the bill claimed that integrating a sexual education curriculum into the public school system would be beneficial to students by giving them a better understanding of sexual health, which will allow them to make better choices in their own relationships.

Some parents and opponents said the curriculum may confuse children, particularly when gender identity issues are discussed.

Supporters also argued the curriculum would give children the skills they need to identify sexual violence and how to respond to it, which could help them avoid situations involving abuse or assault.

According to the Rape, Assault & Incest National Network, "one in nine girls and one in 53 boys under the age of 18 experience sexual abuse or assault at the hands of an adult."

"I stand here as a victim," said Rep. Debra Lekanoff, D-Bow, at an earlier House debate. "If I had known then what I know now, I would not be living through the historical trauma that I have to live through every day."

Opponents of the bill expressed concern it would put children's innocence at risk. The amount of graphic content that may be associated with this subject has upset some parents who believe it's their responsibility to educate their children on sexual matters.

"I'm not sure why we're rushing to remove the innocence from our youth," said Rep. Mike Steele, R-Chelan, at the

earlier debate. "We put so much on them already. ... I don't know why we think it's appropriate to put more, to put such weight upon their backs at such young ages."

SB 5395 was passed by the House on March 4 with a vote of 56–40. The Senate concurred with the House's amendments and passed the bill in a late-night session on March 7 with a vote of 27–21. The bill was a straight party-line vote in both chambers, with Republicans opposed.

Discussion drew protest

Hundreds of concerned parents and residents converged on the Capitol on March 11 to protest the legislature's passage of a law to mandate comprehensive sex education from kindergarten through 12th grade in the state of Washington.

Informed Parents of Washington organized the protest in an effort to urge Gov. Jay Inslee to veto Senate Bill 5395, which was passed by the Democratic majorities in both the Senate and House, and now awaits his signature.

Parents and children held signs urging the governor to veto the bill.

Many Republican senators and representatives showed up to speak against the sex ed bill.

Rep. Tom Dent, R-Moses Lake, said he had issues with the "pornographic" nature of the curriculum, which he said students will be subjected to as early as kindergarten.

"Why do we want to take their innocence?" Dent asked the crowd, implying that exposing children to sexual material at such a young age would not be appropriate.

The bill includes provisions to allow districts to adopt their own sexual education curriculum, but Dent said developing a curriculum can be very costly for a school district.

Some parents, like Karen Larsen from Auburn, said they feel like this legislation is an overreach of the state government. Larsen said that, while she does not agree with the content of the curriculum, her biggest issue is that the policy usurps local control over education and curricula. Sen. Tim Sheldon, D-Potlatch, also



Protestors hold signs advocating for a veto on Senate Bill 5395 during a March 11 gathering at the capital in Olympia. Hundreds of concerned parents and residents converged to protest the passage of a law to mandate comprehensive sex education from kindergarten through 12th grade in Washington. Photo by Cameron Sheppard, WNPA News Service.

spoke to the crowd, claiming he was the only Democrat to vote against the bill.

Representatives such as Jesse Young, R-Gig Harbor, and Jim Walsh, R-Aberdeen, urged voters to remember their frustrations with the Democratically-controlled Legislature come election time

in November.

After a series of speeches from advocates and legislators, the throng of protestors crowded the halls outside the governor's office as they waited to leave written comments with Inslee's staff.

Inslee signed the bill on March 27.

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Hannah Hook pages for Rep. Sutherland

Hannah Hook, a freshman at Concrete High School, served as a page in the state House of Representatives in Olympia the last week of session, March 8–13. She was sponsored by her 39th District Rep. Robert J. Sutherland.

“It was an honor to sponsor Hannah. I hope she enjoyed getting a firsthand look at how the Legislature works,” said Sutherland, R-Granite Falls. “Understanding our state government and how it works is important for our young people. Hopefully she had a great time as a page, and made lasting friendships with the other pages.”

Hook enjoys drawing and painting, band, photography, and origami.

As a page, Hook observed the

Legislature in action and was responsible for delivering messages and documents to legislators in their offices, committee meetings, and the House chamber during floor sessions. She also continued her studies for two hours each day and took part in page school, where she learned how a bill becomes a law.

Each week during the legislative session, students 14 to 16 years old from across the state serve in the legislative page program. They must have a legislative member as a sponsor, as well as permission from their school and parents. They are paid \$35 per day.

To learn more about the page program, visit: www.leg.wa.gov/PageSchool/Pages/default.aspx.

Coronavirus aid package passes

On March 27, *Concrete Herald* received word from Congresswoman Suzan DelBene’s (WA-01) office that the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (H.R. 748), a \$2 trillion relief package, had passed.

The package “will protect Washington state families, workers, and small businesses, and ensure our health care system has the resources it needs to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic,” said DelBene in a release.

The bill takes sweeping action to address the COVID-19 outbreak, including:

Health system support

- \$100 billion in surge funding for hospitals, especially important for Washington because it is already nearing surge capacity.
- \$4.3 billion for public health agencies in Washington that continue to work around the clock to address the virus.
- \$16 billion for personal protective equipment, which is running low in Washington.
- Additional payments to hospitals for each COVID-19 patient, which require greater resources than the average hospital stay.

Relief for workers and families

- A \$600 increase to weekly unemployment insurance for an additional 13 weeks.
- A direct payment of \$1,200 for individuals, \$2,400 for married couples, and \$500 per child to help families and stimulate the economy.
- \$3.5 billion for childcare and early education programs to help students who cannot attend school.
- \$3 billion in rental assistance for low-income families.

Economic stimulus

- More than \$375 billion in small business grants and loans to help pay expenses and keep employees on payroll.
- Puts guardrails and oversight on big businesses, such as prohibiting stock buybacks and executive bonuses

so they cannot misuse taxpayer assistance.

- Employee retention incentives for businesses closed because of COVID-19.
- \$35 billion to support continued operation of transit systems and airports.

Washington state priorities

- \$7 billion for affordable housing and homelessness assistance programs.
- More than \$10 billion for tribal COVID-19 response efforts, including more than \$1 billion for the Indian Health Service.
- \$19.6 billion nationally for veterans, including to treat COVID-19, purchase test kits, and procure personal protective equipment for clinicians.
- \$300 million for fishermen struggling with disappearing global markets because of the virus.

The CARES Act is the third bipartisan COVID-19 response package approved by Congress. Earlier in March, Congress passed an \$8.3 billion emergency funding bill that provided funds for vaccine development, telemedicine, small business loans, and public health response efforts. DelBene pushed to include a provision that backfilled state and local public health departments, which resulted in \$11.5 million in immediate funding for Washington and ongoing financial support.

“We are meeting a historic moment with historic action. Washington state has been facing this pandemic since the beginning and Congress must provide the hardest hit communities like mine with the critical support they need,” said DelBene.

Shortly after passing the CARES Act, Congress began immediately working on a second bill, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. This bill encompasses many provisions, including free coronavirus testing for everyone who needs it, enhanced unemployment insurance, and nutritional security for at-risk groups.

YD update

We were able to do the 30 Hour Famine before all group activities were officially canceled. It was like a sendoff for our Concrete Youth Dynamics students, as 17 students came together for one last event before being asked to take a six-week Spring Break, so to speak.

We had a great time over the weekend learning about what poverty looks like in third world countries and our community. We talked about how hunger takes the life of a child under five every five seconds.

Asking our high school students to go without eating for 30 hours is such a small ask in the realm of everything else taking place in the world. For some students it was easier than others, but they all made it, and were rewarded with Mama Powell’s homemade enchiladas.

The kids learned a lot about other cultures, the people of the Dominican Republic, and some of the hardships they encounter every day. Our students also learned about themselves and their fellow students, and had the opportunity to draw closer to everyone involved as we split into “tribes” and competed through various games, activities, songs, and skits—all for the right to eat first.

Congratulations to Zack Allard’s tribe for taking first place! Another big thank you to all of the students who raised funds to help end poverty, and to those of you who contributed. Together, we truly can make a difference locally and globally!

We tucked a community service project into the 30 Hour Famine too: Starting at the overlook to the Lower Baker Dam, and proceeding through town to Community Bible Church, the students and staff picked up garbage in Concrete. Together our students and staff picked up more than 3,500 pieces of garbage in town on a very quiet Saturday morning.

We also managed to squeeze in our annual RAVE and Town Scavenger Hunt before all YD activities were postponed until further notice. Adam Culver won the limbo contest at the RAVE, and Ashton Martin was our “Dance Champion.” Our winning team for the Scavenger Hunt consisted of Levi Lowry, Cassidy Smith, Sierra Rensink, Ebby Buchta, and Tasha Allard.

We still have a couple of big events planned for June and July, so we are hoping to be able to continue as planned with both Rock-n-Roll (3-day whitewater rafting trip to Leavenworth) and our 7-day Salmon River extended trip. I will do my best to keep everyone informed as to what

will be happening with Youth Dynamics as we proceed forward into these unknown times and circumstances. In the meantime, stay healthy and happy.

—Kevik and Marta Rensink
area directors

Concrete Resource Coalition



COVID-19

has certainly changed things for our community and the world. The coalition has had many conversations (via Zoom, e-mail, and phone calls) to discuss ways we can navigate this new norm. These conversations have brought us back to our mission and the purpose for why we were created nearly eight years ago: To serve East Skagit communities with programs, resources, and education that help build our community to be healthier and more resilient.

As a community member for the last 14 years, I’ve been humbled to see this resiliency in these trying times. I’ve witnessed it in many ways: Facebook posts asking neighbors what they need, local stores working hard to keep shelves stocked, Elementary PTO posting fun at-home activities, and the plethora of online resource sharing. I’ve watched several YouTube videos from Concrete School District staff leading kids in online instructions for art, reading, P.E., and more. My kids love seeing their teachers online; please keep it up.

Last, a big shout out to Marla Reed and her team for keeping families fed during this time. Having the meals delivered to bus stops for local families is one less stress. I also appreciate all the check-ins on Class Dojo and Remind from caring teachers who want to be a resource for our students. All of this is inspiring and makes me proud to be a part of East Skagit County.

Families, please take this time to focus on what we can control and enjoy during this extra time we have with our children. Continue to check in with each other and think of creative ways to connect socially with technology. I look forward to when school doors open again, when we go back to hugs and handshakes, but until then be safe and healthy.

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

Briefly ...

Skagit County Cattlemen/Cattlemen is accepting applications for a \$1,000 scholarship. A student applying for this scholarship must be a graduating senior from a Skagit County high school. The student shall be furthering his or her education in an agricultural field. The deadline is May 1. Go to skagitcountycattlemens.com for an application. Questions? Call 360.770.5380.

During the mandatory school closure, **Concrete Elementary PTO** will post daily activities to do from home. Post pictures of your students doing the activities and the PTO will try to add those pictures to the yearbook.

Also, for the 2020–21 school year, the PTO will look to fill the vice president and the president positions. If you are interested in fulfilling this position, reach out to current President Sheena Daniels on the PTO Facebook page.

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Clear Lake



HISTORY CORNER

The above photo shows the Clear Lake Club Room circa 1895. The building functioned as a saloon until 1906. It became the Leeper & Adams Drug Store around 1917 until 1925, then Olive Chambers purchased the property and operated a restaurant and bakery there. Beginning in 1951, Jim and Esther Becraft had a drug store at the site. Eldred and Evelyn Loop purchased the property in 1953, and it became Evelyn's Tavern. The building is now under new management and is again open for business as Evelyn's Tavern. Photo courtesy of Clear Lake Historical Association.

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

—Deanna Ammons, historian
Clear Lake and Day Creek



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Community Calendar



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Community meetings

Cascade Days planning meetings are held the third Mon. of every month, at the pilots lounge, Mears Field, 7879 S. Superior Ave., Concrete, at 6 p.m. Meetings are not mandatory for volunteers. Info at pr@cascaadedays.com.

Christian Motorcyclists Assn Morning Star Chapter 39 meets the third Sat. 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 Friday 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 2 p.m., in the conference room of the East County Resource Center. 360.853.8347.

Concrete Chamber of Commerce meets the second Thur. of each month at 11:30 a.m. Meetings are held at Annie's Pizza Station in Grasmere Village. 360.466.8754 or concretechamber@mac.com.

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 Heritage Museum Board meets the third Wed. of each month, at 6 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 its regular monthly meeting on April 30 via Zoom at 6 p.m. 360.853.4000.

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

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 Thur. of each month in the Pilots' Lounge at Mears Field in Concrete, at 7 p.m. Open to the public. 360.853.8213 or goodwords@frontier.com.

KSVU staff and volunteer meeting, 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 meets the second Wed. of each month at the hall, at 6:30 p.m. 360.873.2323.

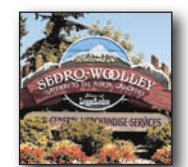
Sedro-Woolley Town Council meets the second and fourth Wed. of each month, at 7 p.m., in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 325 Metcalf St. 360.855.1661.

Sedro-Woolley School District Board: Meets for a regular meeting on April 13 at 7 p.m., at the Support Services Bldg. A second regular meeting is scheduled for April 27 at 7 p.m., at the Support Services Bldg. 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. sauskister@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@upperskagitlibrary.org.

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Sedro-Woolley



Quilters aid local clinic

By Judy Johnson

A back order of medical face masks became an opportunity for community members to help a local clinic.

Pioneer Center North, a Sedro-Woolley substance abuse and mental health residential inpatient program, had identified an immediate need for protective cloth face masks for their clients and staff. But they were stymied by the delay in delivery associated with high demand all over the country.

Linda Owens, an administrative staff member, reached out to her contacts in the Skagit County quilting community on March 19.

Members of Woolley Fiber Quilters, Quilters by the River, Bethlehem Lutheran Church Quilters, and some independent

contributors produced 400 colorful fabric face masks for the center's use in one week's time.

Rowell Dela Cruz, PCN's Program Director, expressed his gratitude. "I was so happy to hear this news, and I will forever be thankful to the community for their assistance."

Pioneer Center North in Sedro-Woolley has more than 70 staff members in a 141-bed facility for substance use disorders, opiate use disorder, and co-occurring disorders (mental health and substance abuse).



Above: Linda Owens delivers completed face masks to Pioneer Center North.

Left: Some of the more than 400 colorful fabric face masks created by members of Woolley Fiber Quilters, Quilters by the River, Bethlehem Lutheran Church Quilters, and independent contributors. Photos by Judy Johnson.



A few of the original members of Environmentally Concerned Students were captured in this photo from 1971. From left, Teacher/advisor Jerry Sommerseth, Bruce Koester, Steve Davis, Gary Bust, Dale Huggins, Judy Johnson. Photo submitted by Judy Johnson.

Earth Day turns 50

April 22 marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, a holiday for those who love and care for our natural environment and work to preserve it for future generations.

Sedro-Woolley High School students were among the first to recognize the original Earth Day and to create a high school environmental club—Environmentally Concerned Students—to focus attention on the deterioration of air and water quality in the Northwest and around the world.

Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson originated the idea for a national day to focus on the environment. Intended to be a "teach-in," in the parlance of the time, April 22, 1970, was selected and more than 20 million Americans participated.

For ECS, it was a day to engage district students in recognizing and

appreciating what each of them could do for the environment. Displays, science demonstrations, and art contests were used to emphasize the importance of cleaning and preserving our natural world.

Fifty years later, the original group of about 20 students are still environmentalists and still friends. "We are bonded for life in this crusade," said Judy Johnson, an original member, "and we are more committed than ever to the natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest."

Currently named Earth Club, SWHS still has a group of students who are learning to be dedicated caretakers of the environment.

Helping Hands Solution Center announces new food bank distribution model

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Helping Hands Solution Center of Sedro-Woolley launched a new food bank distribution model on March 23.

To ensure the safety of the families, volunteers, partners, and staff, Helping Hands has implemented a "pop-up" model of food bank distribution Mondays and Thursdays at the Food Pavilion parking lot in Sedro-Woolley (530 Crossroads Square). Families can now drive up between 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. on those days to receive food.

Individuals will remain in their car and open their trunk, allowing Helping Hands volunteers to quickly and safely place one box of food into the vehicle. The transaction should take no more than one minute. For those who walk up or bike up, the site will have a separate food distribution point that provides 6 feet of distance between volunteers and individuals.

Helping Hands also will begin an emergency program to add additional mobile food deliveries and C.H.O.W. (cutting hunger on weekends, also known as the backpack program) deliveries. Safety protocols also are in place at the Marblemount and Anacortes locations.

Emergency food will be provided by appointment only. Call Helping Hands at 360.856.2211. Helping Hands also recommends following its Facebook page for updated information (<https://www.facebook.com/HelpingHandsFoodBank>).

—Helping Hands Solution Center

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Lyman



Lyman closes Town Hall to walk-in visits

Lyman Town Hall is closed to the public until further notice. The office is open for calls, but closed for walk-ins. Payments may be made over the phone with a debit or credit card, or check payments may be left in the black box outside the front door.

If you need to see clerk Debbie Boyd for an in-person appointment for things like notary services, etc., you may make an appointment. The Town Hall phone number is 360.826.3033.

Lyman Town Library is closed through April because of COVID-19. Organizer Elaine Kohler wanted to be sure everyone stays safe during this time. At the end of April, the situation will be reevaluated to

see if or when the library will reopen.

The annual Lyman Easter Egg Hunt organized by Amber Rooks has been canceled this year.

Also out of an abundance of caution, Heart to Heart Charity has postponed its Mommy/Son Dinner & Dance, originally scheduled for May 9. The event will be rescheduled for a later date. For more information, contact Tammie Werner at hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com.

—Tammie Werner

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Closed: State parks, WDFW, DNR, USFS

A flurry of unwelcome closures were announced, covering virtually every wild outdoor destination to which Washingtonians might flee for fresh air and to escape COVID-19.

On March 24, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Parks), Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced the closure of all state campgrounds across Washington to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Campgrounds will remain closed through April 30.

The closure includes roofed accommodations like cabins and yurts.

No new campers were allowed into Parks, WDFW, or DNR lands effective March 23. Current campers were to be "phased out" following instructions from land officials, according to a State Parks press release.

Day use areas and trails remained open at press time, but the release also urged people to stay away from ocean beaches, because too many were flocking to them.

State parks

Campers who have state parks reservations through April 30 will be notified and offered a full refund. Visitors can find the latest information about state park operations at parks.state.wa.us/COVID19.

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Although camping is not allowed, WDFW wildlife areas and water access areas remained open for public use at press time. However, because of theft and increased use of the restrooms at those sites, visitors are encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer and toilet paper.

For the latest information about WDFW

operations, go to wdfw.wa.gov/about/covid-19-updates.

Department of Natural Resources

DNR's camping will be closed to dedicated camping areas and dispersed camping or camping outside of designated camp sites.

For the most up-to-date information for DNR lands, go to dnr.wa.gov/recreation.

U. S. Forest Service

On March 27, the U. S. Forest Service (USFS) temporarily closed trailheads, campgrounds, and day use areas within the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest "to align with state and local Stay Home, Stay Safe measures and guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to help slow the spread of COVID-19" according to its Web site.

Day use areas include trailheads, visitor centers, off-highway vehicle staging areas, viewpoints, boat launches, interpretive sites, and picnic areas.

"We are following CDC and departmental guidelines regarding COVID-19, are closely monitoring the situation, and will evaluate potential impacts to the forest and respond as needed," said Jamie Kingsbury, Forest Supervisor with the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

The closure order is in effect through Sept. 30 unless rescinded earlier.

Forest Service offices are providing virtual services, and staff are available to answer questions by phone:

- Mount Baker Ranger District: 360.856.5700, ext. 515
- Darrington Ranger District: 360.436.1155

—J. K. M.

Studded tire removal deadline extended to April 30

This year, WSDOT has extended the deadline for studded tire removal to Thur., April 30, because of COVID-19 virus concerns and in support of Gov. Jay Inslee's guidance to help reduce the

spread of the virus by limiting social interactions.

Typically, studded tires are legal in Washington from Nov. 1 to March 31. State law gives WSDOT authority to extend the deadline when circumstances call for it.

—WSDOT

COVID-19, cont. from p. 5

national health authorities to ensure that no cross-infection occurs. Each ambulance is disinfected thoroughly after each run.

Smith recommends that patients experiencing mild flu-like symptoms avoid calling for ambulance service but instead consult with their family practitioner or one of the area hospitals' walk-in care centers, being sure to call first rather than simply walking in.

"In the meantime, practice social distancing and wash your hands frequently," he advises. "The time to call us is when symptoms advance to persistent shortness of breath."

Concrete Mayor Jason Miller said the town has closed its offices to walk-in traffic in order to protect both staff and town residents. The town is accepting utility payments by phone, at an outside dropbox, or by appointment for cash payments.

In addition to those office procedures, the town adopted a dispersed seating arrangement to allow town council to meet while still maintaining safe social distancing.

The town has made no decisions on this summer's big events in Concrete—the Fourth of July, Cascade Days, and the Old-Fashioned Fly-In.

"We'll have to wait to see how this plays

out before deciding anything," Miller said. "In the meantime, I urge everyone to practice physical distancing and not to leave home for nonessential tasks."

Personnel at the Concrete Post Office were not permitted to speak to the *Herald*, but Ernie Swanson, a communications specialist at the regional United States Postal Service's Federal Way offices, said there is "very little risk" associated with delivered mail, according to national health authorities. Swanson said latex gloves are available to mail carriers who want them.

"It's pretty much business as usual," he said, while adding that people should maintain distance while conducting business inside the post office.

While it may not quite be business as usual for residents and businesses in the Upper Skagit Valley in the face of the most serious health threat in more than a century, there's little doubt that the area is doing everything in its power to emerge unbowed into the bright day of a better tomorrow. Those dark clouds always lift in this valley, even if it takes a while.

Jude Dippold is the former managing editor of the Times Observer in Warren, Penn. He lives in Concrete.

Letters, cont. from p. 2

to meet all customers' financial needs throughout this pandemic—however long it may last.

Washington community banks are committed to protecting the health and safety of customers and employees. Full banking services can be accessed through other locations (if a specific branch is closed) or by utilizing technology, drive-through services, and/or person-to-person telephone interaction.

Consumers should be aware of recent scams in which bad actors pretend to be FDIC representatives to perpetrate fraudulent schemes. The FDIC warns that consumers may receive false information regarding the security of their deposits or their ability to access cash; this is a

scam. The FDIC does not send unsolicited correspondence asking for money or sensitive personal information, so please never respond to these requests.

To reiterate, the safest place for Washingtonians to keep their money during this time of uncertainty is a bank, where they will always have full access to it.

On behalf of the Washington community banking industry, I urge consumers not to let fear drive decisions and instead rest assured that our banking system remains safe and sound.

*John Collins, President/Exec. Dir.
Community Bankers of Washington
john@communitybankers-wa.org
360.754.5138*

New book by Skagit County author tells story of Flying Tiger

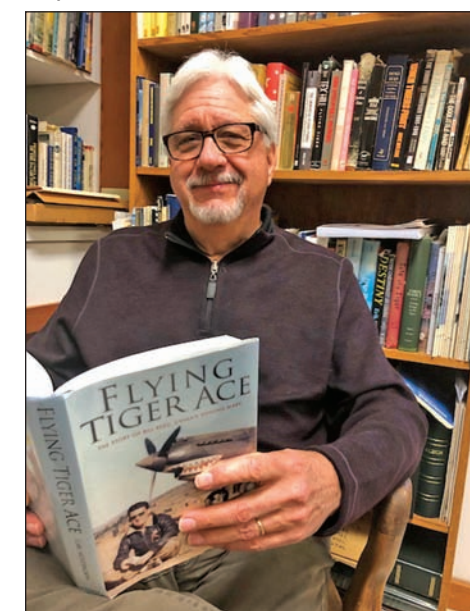
A new book by Skagit County author Carl Molesworth tells the life story of Lieutenant Colonel William N. Reed, a highly decorated World War II fighter pilot who was killed in China during 1944.

Thoroughly researched and illustrated with rare personal photographs supplied by the Reed family, *Flying Tiger Ace / The Story of Bill Reed, China's Shining Mark* is the compelling story of Reed's extraordinary life, focusing on his time spent flying with some of the most famous aerial units of World War II.

Bill Reed had it all: brains, looks, athleticism, courage, and a talent for leadership. After a challenging childhood in Depression-era Iowa, Reed joined the U.S. Army Air Corps, but the outbreak of World War II inspired him to resign his commission and travel to China to fly for the American Volunteer Group—the legendary Flying Tigers. He flew 75 missions in six months with the AVG before returning home to sell war bonds, then went back to China and resumed the fight with another unusual unit, the Chinese-American Composite Wing.

After 10 more months of intense combat, Reed lost his life in a desperate night parachute jump on Dec. 19, 1944. By the time of his death, he had shot down nine Japanese planes and had received numerous awards for bravery. Reed was inducted into the Iowa Aviation Hall of Fame in 1996.

The book draws heavily on Reed's own words and the author's deep knowledge of the China air war to create a moving biography of a hometown boy who fought with the Flying Tigers and died at age 27



Molesworth

defending the two nations he loved.

Molesworth is a noted military aviation historian who has written 15 books covering various aspects of air combat during World War II. A resident of Mount Vernon, Molesworth is a former newspaper and magazine editor now working as a freelance writer and editor.

A graduate of the University of Maryland Baltimore County with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English, Molesworth served in the U.S. Air Force from 1968 to 1972 before becoming an award-winning journalist and then transitioning to full-time book writing. He is best known for his writing about the China-Burma-India theater and the Curtiss P-40 fighter plane.

Osprey Publishing released *Flying Tiger Ace* on Feb. 20. For more information go to <https://www.carlmolesworth.com>.



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Upper Valley playwright **Nicola Pearson** (in black, center right, hands folded in front) enjoyed a fitting lead-in into Women's History Month (March). Pearson attended a Feb. 27 preview performance of a recently rewritten scene from her play, "Carried By the Current," at Edmonds Bookshop. "I don't know if it was the adrenaline from the actors reading the new dialogue that pumped up the audience or if it was the setting—this magical trove of shelves and cubbies dedicated to the written word—but the energy in the room was palpable," said Pearson. "It crackled with electricity." Pearson is trying to bring the play to Seattle. *Submitted photo.*

March in pictures



Rockport Bar & Grill keeps itself in business with takeout and curbside delivery. Everything customers need to know for the short-term "new normal" is on the Rockport fixture's readerboard out front.



Double Barrel Barbecue in Sedro-Woolley got right to the point with its readerboard last month. With Gov. Jay Inslee's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" proclamation closing restaurants and bars to on-site dining, eateries in Skagit County turned to takeout and delivery options.

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Supporting local businesses now helps ensure they'll be able to stay open or fully reopen when this public health crisis has resolved. Below are some of the Concrete-area businesses offering take-out food, gift certificates, and essential services. Please contact them directly or check our website (Concrete-WA.com) for more information on their hours, services, and any restrictions.

5b's Bakery
Albert's Market
Annie's Pizza Station



Birdview Diner
Cascade Burgers
Cinema Septic
Cascade Supply
Community Resource Center

Concrete Laundromat
Concrete Liquor Store
Concrete Self-Storage
Java Zone 2
Loggers Landing

Lone Star Restaurant
SaviBank
Shop and Save America
Young's Market



Info: 360.853.8784 • www.Concrete-WA.com • chamber@concrete-wa.com



Hamilton



Rockport



Bills, cont. from p. 5

or state law, regulation, or government contract.

*HB 5511

Establishes the Governor's Statewide Broadband Office with the goal of expanding broadband access across the state.

*SB 5600

Extends the three-day notice to pay and vacate for default in rent payment to 14 days notice for tenancies under the Residential Landlord-Tenant Act and changes rules of eviction process while giving more information and resources to tenants given an eviction notice.

*HB 2870

Establishes a Marijuana Social Equity Program that authorizes the Liquor and Cannabis Board to issue previously forfeited, canceled, revoked, and unissued marijuana retailer licenses to eligible applicants adversely affected by the enforcement of marijuana prohibition laws.

*SB 6313

Allows people to vote in a primary election if they are 17 years old, but will be 18 by the general election. Requires that the Department of Licensing provide an automated process for 16- and 17-year-olds to sign up to register to vote. Requires that public universities, if requested by the student government, and certain public university branch campuses, open student engagement hubs to provide ballots.

Criminal justice

HB 2785

Adds an additional public member and a representative of federally-recognized tribes to the Criminal Justice Training Commission for a total of 16 members. Requires one CJTC public member from east and one from west of the Cascade mountains, and at least one of the two public members must be from a historically underrepresented community or communities.

SB 6063

Requires the Department of Corrections to develop and implement uniform standards for determining when a patient's current health status requires a referral for consultation or treatment outside the department.

*HB 2632

Modifies the crime of false reporting, and elevates the crime to a felony if it involves certain conduct and results in death or bodily harm. Creates a civil cause of action for a victim to recover damages associated with false reporting.

*HB 2640

Exempts the ICE detention facility in Tacoma from the Growth Management Act based on the premise that it is "not an essential public facility," and therefore prohibits it from expansion.

*SB 5720

Increases involuntary mental hold from 72 to 120 hours, not counting weekends.

Healthcare

*SB 5386

Directs the Collaborative for the Advancement of Telemedicine to develop

training that may be taken by health care professionals who use telemedicine technology.

*SB 6259

Directs the Health Care Authority to negotiate to include reimbursement for services by behavioral health aides certified by tribes or the Indian Health Service in the state Medicaid program. Declares the intent of the Legislature to address the ongoing suicide and addiction crisis among American Indians and Alaska Natives.

*SB 6087

Limits out-of-pocket expenses for a 30-day supply of insulin to \$100 and requires the Health Care Authority to monitor the price of insulin.

*SB 6088

Establishes the prescription drug affordability board. Requires the board to identify prescription drugs priced above a certain threshold and authorizes the board to conduct cost reviews of drugs and set upper payment limits for state purchasers.

Taxes

*HB 2803

Allows tribes to keep some state sales tax, business and occupation tax, and use tax via a compact with the governor regarding goods sold and business transacted on tribal land.

*SB 5147

Exempts feminine hygiene products permanently from sales and use tax.

*SB 6212

Expands use of the existing affordable housing property tax levy to include affordable homeownership, owner-occupied home repair, and foreclosure prevention programs for low-income households with income at or below 80 percent of county median income.

*SB 6068

Exempts work done on large private airplanes from the sales and use tax to incentivize aerospace maintenance and alteration work in communities like Moses Lake.

Environment

HB 2311

Changes greenhouse emissions standards and goals based on the newest

available climate science.

*HB 2528

Recognizes timber and forestry industry as one that absorbs atmospheric carbon and produces net-negative atmospheric carbon.

*HB 1114

Establishes a goal of reducing food waste in the state by 50 percent of 2015 levels by 2030.

*SB 5947

Requires the Department of Agriculture to develop a sustainable farms and fields grant program to award grants to certain activities, including on-farm fossil fuel input efficiency measures, agroforestry, and carbon farming.

*SB 5323

Bans retail stores from distributing single-use plastic bags and allows them to charge eight cents each for a reusable plastic or paper bag.

*HB 2722

Establishes minimum recycled content requirements for plastic containers of certain beverages sold, offered for sale, or distributed in Washington. The required post-consumer recycled content would rise to 50 percent by 2030. Establishes fees as high as 30 cents per pound for beverage manufacturers who fail to meet minimum post-consumer recycled content requirements.

Firearms

HB 2555

Requires gun dealers to conduct background checks on persons buying certain parts; specifically, frames or receivers, which are the pistol or rifle parts that provide housing for the hammer, bolt, and other mechanics of a firearm.

HB 2467

Establishes a centralized state background check system for firearms transfers.

*SB 6288

Creates the Washington Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention within the Department of Commerce Office for data collection to prevent instances of gun violence and suicide.

*HB 2622

Expands enforcement on persons ordered to surrender firearms over no contact and extreme risk protection orders.

Officials warn of charity scams during COVID-19

Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson and Secretary of State Kim Wyman are warning Washingtonians looking to make charitable donations during the COVID-19 crisis to be wary of scams.

"In this unprecedented situation, many of us are searching for ways to help," Ferguson said. "Unfortunately, scammers look for ways to prey on Washingtonians' good will. Washingtonians should know that my office is on the lookout for individuals preying on our generosity during this crisis. If you see any suspicious or fraudulent solicitations, file a complaint with my office."

"With past emergencies as an indicator, Washingtonians always step up to help those in our state, country and around the world in need during a crisis," Wyman said. "As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our communities, charitable giving opportunities rise. So, too, do charity scams. I want to caution our fellow Washingtonians to pause before you donate. Scammers may use high-pressure tactics to force you to make a donation. Take your time and ask the right questions to make sure they are a legitimate organization before you give them your money."

Ferguson and Wyman said there are several common sense ways to avoid being scammed by those seeking donations.

- Don't give in to high-pressure solicitations that demand you make an instant commitment.
- Do your research before giving.
- Check to see if the charity is registered with the Secretary of State at www.sos.wa.gov/charities/.
- If the organization is registered, you can review a summary of its tax status and financial records.
- If the organization is not registered, or you would like further information, contact the Secretary of State's Charities Program at 800.332.4483.
- Check the charity's rating by Better Business Bureau at www.give.org. More resources for donors can be found at www.sos.wa.gov/charities/resourcesfordonors.aspx.
- Call the charity directly to make sure it has authorized the solicitor to collect donations on its behalf.

For more information, go to the Secretary of State's information page for donors (<https://www.sos.wa.gov/charities/donors.aspx>) or call the Charities Program at 800.332.4483.

To file a complaint about a charity or commercial fundraiser, go to the Attorney General's Web site at www.atg.wa.gov/file-complaint.

—Submitted by
Office of Attorney General

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Washington state parks and wildlife areas close following governor's order

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (Parks) and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) on March 24 announced the temporary closure of all state-managed parks, wildlife areas, and water access areas for at least two weeks starting Wed., March 25. The closure is in response to Gov. Inslee's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order issued on March 23.

Entrance gates and facilities were closed, and on-site public services were

suspended. Essential staff are present to preserve and protect resources.

Camping and other overnight accommodations on state-managed recreation lands will remain closed through April 30.

The public can find the latest information about State Parks and WDFW operations at state.wa.us/COVID19.

More updates are located at wdfw.wa.gov/about/covid-19-updates.

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THE TRAVELERS' GUIDE SHOWCASES THE HISTORY AND EVENTS FOR VISITORS TO:

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A Concrete Herald Publication

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CALL 360.853.8213

Hamilton Cemetery Association Annual Meeting

April 7, 6:30 p.m.
Punkin Center Fire Hall
34041 Hwy 20

Postponed until further notice

New members are welcome



Darrington



Snohomish County Sheriff's Report

March 6

The Snohomish County Sheriff's Office and the Snohomish County Helicopter Rescue Team have acquired a new helicopter-based search system in an effort to increase rescuer safety and the odds of saving lives in the backcountry.

The RECCO technology is a two-part system, featuring an active detector carried by the helicopter and a passive reflector, carried by the person needing rescue. Large areas can be covered quickly by flying at 60 mph at a height of 300 feet while scanning a corridor about 300 feet wide until a signal is received. This equates to searching 250 acres in as little as six minutes.

RECCO reflectors are incorporated in more than 200 leading outdoor brands including jackets, pants, helmets, boots, and harnesses for both winter and summer use. Additionally, reflectors are available for sale that can be easily attached to any part of your gear. Wearing RECCO reflectors increases searchability.

Snohomish County is the fourth location in North America to be equipped with this technology; it is currently in use in Utah, Montana, and British Columbia. The ability to search with the RECCO device from the helicopter will reduce ground searchers' exposure to risk from avalanche hazards in the winter, and will speed up the search process year-round.

—Submitted by SCSO

Earthdance Festival, other summer events still on the calendar

The virus has not yet shut down every last scheduled event in the Darrington area.

Earthdance Re/Evolution Festival

The Darrington Music Park still plans to be the hub of entertainment this summer, beginning in June with Earthdance Re/Evolution Festival June 18–21. This new festival will feature local and national acts, camping, speakers, workshops, and more, and is family friendly, with kids 16 years old and younger able to attend at no cost. Earthdance is one of many peace organizations, groups, and projects that align with the Day of Peace. In this varied field of activist and public service groups, Earthdance combines music, community, social consciousness, support of charities, and activism, asserting that peace is as much about living fully and thriving, as it is about protesting war.

Darrington Bluegrass Festival

In July, the Darrington Bluegrass Association will host its annual Darrington Bluegrass Festival from July 17–19. This year marks the 44th year of the festival, which attracts bluegrass music lovers from every state in the nation and beyond. National favorites as well

as local acts will keep everyone's toes tapping.

Summer Meltdown Festival

Summer Meltdown Festival will celebrate its 20th year from August 6–9. Summer Meltdown started on San Juan Island in August 2000. Back then, producer Josh Clauson and his band Flowmotion were on a mission to perform as much music as possible. They threw parties like Meltdown as a fun way to bring folks together and raise money for tours and recording. With the attendance climbing each year, the festival continues with a family-friendly atmosphere, vendors, art exhibits, and music into the wee hours.

Darrington Street Fair

The 4th annual Darrington Street Fair will happen August 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Darrington Street will close to accommodate vendors and visitors. This year a new water game, Beat the Bucket, will keep folks cool and entertained. Once again, local talent will perform in Pioneer Park, and there will be face painting, a bouncy house, and the 2nd annual quilt show.

—Marla Skaglund

Council summary

Darrington Town Council met for a regular meeting on Feb. 12, 2020. The following is a summary of that meeting. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are available at Darrington Town Hall.

Feb. 12 regular meeting

- Guest speaker JoAnne Milton addressed the council regarding the Darrington Street Fair. Milton asked for approval to close Darrington St. from Mountain Loop Highway to Sauk Ave. for the Street Fair, on Aug. 8 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., help with the garbage cans, and possibly outhouses. The outhouse at the airport has been upgraded to a handicapped double and therefore cannot be moved. The only other outhouse is at the cemetery, which does not belong to the town.

Councilmember Gary Willis suggested that the street be shut down from Elwell Ave. to allow more access to the streets south of Darrington St. Council approved.

A visitor asked about the motorcycle run. He is concerned with who will be putting that together. No one present planned to organize that event if it were to happen.

- Amy Lucas and Ryan Larson presented an update on the UGA and Comprehensive Plan. They are trying to get on the county docket for the 2020 Comprehensive plan. They presented a proposal to amend the comprehensive plan, along with a brief explanation of the process. Council considered a UGA swap proposal—a swap of land, acre for acre. Councilmember Kevin Ashe asked if the property owners that will be affected will be notified. Yes, two notices have been sent and the Planning Commission has held an

open house. Snohomish County is the only jurisdiction that can make these amendments to the UGA. The application needs to be turned in to the county by Oct. 31, then the county will process the application. If approved, the town would then take measures to enact the swap.

- On the topic of the feasibility study for on Mountain Loop Highway, council was charged with voting to support one of four options: Continue existing conditions, minor road and drainage improvements, a 25 mph design speed, or a 40 mph design speed. Council approved the 25 mph design speed.

The study is data for the Forest Service and the county to use to decide what they would like to do with the highway.

If the program goes forward, it will be several years before funding is gathered and the project will start.

- Council approved Gary Willis and Kerry Frable as Mayor Pro-tem for 2020.
- Council terminated the Whitehorse Community Park Potable Water and Joint Operation and Maintenance Agreements.
- Council voted to direct Mayor Dan Rankin to sign a memorandum of understanding between Snohomish County Parks Dept., Town of Darrington, Darrington School District, and DJAA to manage, operate, schedule, maintain, and make capital improvements to Sno-Co Whitehorse Community Park.

—Compiled from staff minutes

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

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Washington scrambles to boost supply of life-saving protective items for healthcare workers

By Cameron Sheppard
WNPA News Service

Millions of N-95 masks and other types of personal protective equipment are being delivered to Washington State as public health and emergency response officials scramble to obtain the equipment needed to respond to the growing COVID-19 outbreak.

Jerrold Davis, assistant secretary for disease control and health statistics at the Department of Health, said there is significant global demand for these kinds of items and right now the state does not have enough to satisfy the needs of its communities.

Davis explained that the state's joint operations team at Camp Murray, composed of the Department of Enterprise Services, Department of Health, and Emergency Management Division, is working collaboratively with many partners to procure the gear they need. He said health departments across the state

report the quantity of equipment that they need and the joint operation team works to fulfill them.

Respirators, surgical masks, gowns, thermometers, and sanitizing equipment have been delivered by the thousands. Linda Kent, public affairs official for the Department of Enterprise Services, said millions more have been requested as the DES and other state agencies are working “creatively,” to fulfill a critical need.

Davis said requests have been made for gear from the national stockpile and Federal Emergency Management Agency, and even public equipment donations are being accepted.

Kent said the team is “leaving no stone unturned,” as they reach out to private retailers and distributors for these products, even working with manufacturers and urging them to “switch gears,” and join in the effort to supply life-saving equipment.

Healthcare professionals already are having to take measures to conserve

the increasingly valuable protective equipment.

Davis said the gear that is being obtained is being distributed to the most affected regions, including King County and nearby Western Washington counties where the virus is spreading quickly.

Kent said the need for personal protective equipment will be ongoing as the healthcare community prepares for the “long haul,” of this outbreak. As the coronavirus pandemic develops, Kent said there will be “no way to predict what the need will be with great precision.”

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

County Council adopts biennial budget ordinance

On Feb. 26, the Snohomish County Council adopted Council Chair Nate Nehring's ordinance to move to a biennial budget for the County. The ordinance sets 2023 as the implementation date for the biennial budget.

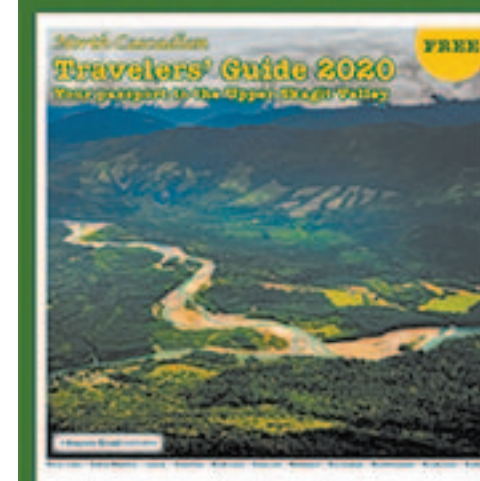
Biennial budgets are adopted with two years of revenues and expenditures. This allows better planning for programs and spending priorities while saving time in the second year of the biennium. The two-year budget would be adopted in 2022 for the 2023-2024 biennium and a mid-budget review would happen in 2023 to make adjustments based on unexpected revenues and expenditures.

Other counties and cities, including Pierce County and many cities in Snohomish County, have reported benefits in moving to a biennial budget.

For more information, contact Councilman Nehring's office at 425.388.3494 or nate.nehring@snoco.org.

—Submitted by Nate Nehring

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Marblemount



Newhalem



Community hall closed until further notice

Marblemount Community Hall Board of Directors President Steve Wilson has announced that the hall is closed until further notice, because of the outbreak of the novel coronavirus COVID-19.

Typically, Marblemount Community Hall and grounds are available to rent for personal and public events, including weddings, memorials, picnics, meetings, classes, and public dinners. It also serves as the area's Red Cross emergency shelter and hosts a book-drop and free Wi-Fi, thanks to the Upper Skagit library. We are also now a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Board members are all volunteers and take no salary. They hold board meetings the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.; everyone is welcome to attend. The annual meeting is scheduled for May 13 at 6:30 p.m. for the public to attend. Depending on the outbreak, this may be canceled, along with all other functions in May.

The mission of the Marblemount Community Center is to enhance the quality of life of the residents of the Upper Skagit Valley by providing an inclusive gathering space. Some of the

activities may include, but are not limited to, fundraisers, senior services, group meetings, educational activities, and events to enhance tourism.

In this time of closure, the WiFi will still be available in the parking lot, in the comfort of your vehicle.

Our 2020 calendar lineup is:

- The April Grub and Groove has been canceled.
- May 2: Blast Open the Pass, 6 p.m.
- June 27-28: Redmond Bicycle Group (overnight)
- Aug. 1: Private party
- Aug. 2: Salmon Bar-B-Que, noon to 5 p.m.
- Aug. 23: Old Timers' Picnic, 1 to 4 p.m.
- Sept. 5-6: Sasquatch Conference and Festival 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days
- Oct. 31: KSVU Harvest Festival and Halloween Dance, 6 to 10 p.m.
- Nov. 21: Community event, 6 to 9 p.m.
- Dec. 6: Holiday Bazar, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

—Syvella Kalil

Blast Open the Pass—or not?

The 9th annual pass re-opening celebration organized by KSVU Upriver Community Radio originally set to take place on May 2 may have to be postponed. As with many, if not all, public gatherings scheduled for the near future, the "Blast Open the Pass" dance at the Marblemount Community Hall may just have to wait.

The culprit? The current coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and its virulent and nasty habit of mass infection.

However, whether it's possible or not on May 2, here's the event's particulars:

- **What:** Maypole raising, potluck supper, live local music and dancing, raffle and silent auction of local goods and services, and a chance to shed your woolies!
- **Why:** To raise funds for keeping KSVU radio alive and well, and to celebrate the pass reopening, signally the end of our winter (and the beginning of tourist season).
- **When:** May 2 or TBA at a later date.
- **How:** Pay at the door: adults \$8 or couples \$15, teens \$5, and kids 12 and under free.

Stay tuned to this newspaper, fliers posted hither and yon, or our Web site (www.ksvu.org), or phone us at 360.853.8588 and leave a message.

The radio station, as everywhere, is under quarantine, so currently live programs are not possible. But we are streaming via the Web for now.

—Christie Fairchild

The good news is ...

By Sasa, Starwalker, and Two Hats

How to access the resilience and wisdom of our hearts? I will make this simple.

1. Breathe easily. Being in nature helps a lot for me.
2. Shift focus to your heart. Put your finger, your hand(s) to your heart, whatever feels comfortable to you.
3. Think of something or someone, anything or anyone, to be grateful for and breathe that in for a minute. This provides a manual uplink to our hearts. This allows our body to relax, expand, and pick up more information from our environment.
4. To take this further, we can ask our heart questions. Simple and to the point is best. How do we know what our heart sounds like? If we hear a long story with lots of reasons to or not to do something, this is our busy brain. If we hear simple, to-the-point responses, this is our heart speaking to us. To become stronger at connecting with our hearts, we can go out into nature and connect with nature.
5. I also find that creative arts help me hear my heart speak. Mostly for me it is my song and artwork, but it could be anything that helps one feel centered and at peace and harming none.

For more simple info to help you be in the best health mentally, physically, and emotionally, go to <https://cascadiaeffect.weebly.com/> and YouTube https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC94cPAv5r1WY3xwAyy9rkng?view_as=subscriber.

We will have Sasa's Sound Forest Live Musical Reiki and Cosmic Relief Funstuff, so stay tuned and subscribe if you want notices. Deep love to you all. I am present and I am healing.

Contact Sasa at cascadiaeffect@gmail.com. Experiences may be shared at <http://cascadiaeffect.weebly.com>.

Some Skagit, Snohomish landowners now have legal water source 2019 agreement with Ecology, Seattle City Light takes effect

Water is now available for some Skagit River basin landowners in Skagit and Snohomish counties affected by a 2013 state Supreme Court ruling.

The Skagit River Basin Mitigation program, established by Washington State Dept. of Ecology, provides a legal right to water for approximately 340 affected landowners who did not have a legal water source for nearly seven years. It provides water for limited new domestic uses in Skagit County too. The new

continuous release of water into the Skagit River also provides additional water for fish in the river.

To establish the mitigation program, in 2019 Ecology agreed to purchase water from Seattle City Light near Newhalem, in the upper Skagit River watershed. The purchased water is tied to a senior water right owned by Seattle City Light and used at its Skagit River Hydroelectric Project.

Ecology will work directly with affected

landowners to provide documentation that records their legal water source and partner with Skagit County to provide documentation needed for county building permits.

"As a watershed partner, Seattle City Light was pleased to work with the Department of Ecology and the tribes to help resolve a significant water issue in the Skagit Watershed," said Debra Smith, Seattle City Light general manager and CEO. "This solution helps to meet the

needs of local communities along the river while supporting fish, which aligns with our environmental stewardship priorities."

The program is part of Ecology's ongoing water supply work in the Skagit basin. Ecology continues to look for opportunities to implement long-term water solutions in the Skagit River Basin through collaboration with watershed partners.

—Submitted by Dept. of Ecology

North Cascades Pass clearing suspended until further notice

On March 26, Sec. of Transportation Roger Millar suspended most maintenance work due to COVID-19 safety concerns, and implemented an "Essential Maintenance" approach to further comply with the state's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order to safeguard public health. Under these guidelines, WSDOT paused most maintenance across the state, including work to reopen the North Cascades Highway. Similar work pauses are occurring on Cayuse and Chinook Passes.

State Route 20 remains a valuable route for the movement of goods and as an alternative evacuation route in the case of a natural disaster. A date to return to normal maintenance work has not yet been determined.

Clearing work started March 23 at Early Winters Campground on the east side. The blower work had cut out both lanes to milepost 173, then a single lane to milepost 172. A thick layer of ice remains on the uncovered pavement.

The west side closure point is milepost 130 (Colonial Creek Campground). The east side closure point is milepost 177 (Early Winters Campground).

—Submitted by WSDOT

North Cascades National Park Service Complex modifies operations to implement latest health guidance

In response to the Stay Home, Stay Safe proclamation issued by Gov. Inslee, North Cascades National Park Service Complex has announced additional modifications to operations to support federal, state, and local efforts to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

As of March 25, North Cascades National Park Service Complex offered no services outside those that support visitor or resource protection.

At North Cascades National Park Service Complex, the following services and operations have been suspended in order to comply with the state order, including providing restrooms, collecting trash, maintaining access roads, and operating campgrounds, boat ramps, and visitor information and services:

Closed campgrounds: Hozomeen, Colonial, Newhalem, Gorge, Goodell, Lakeview, Purple Point, Harlequin, High Bridge, all group sites.

Closed boat ramps: Colonial, Goodell, Gorge.

Closed access roads: Cascade River Rd., Thornton Lakes, Upper Goodell Rd.

The National Park Service will notify the public when it resumes full operations, and provide updates on at nps.gov/noca

and social media channels.

Updates about NPS operations will be posted on www.nps.gov/coronavirus. Check with individual parks for specific details about park operations.

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Seniors

Verna's Kitchen

By Verna McClure

Rhubarb bread



This was my mother's recipe (from Minnesota). It's very good!

- 3 cups brown sugar
- 1 1/3 cup oil
- 2 large eggs
- 2 cups buttermilk
- 5 1/3 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 3 cups diced rhubarb

1. Mix ingredients in order given.
2. Pour into four greased loaf pans.
3. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes.

Editor's note: In memory of our dear Verna, this column will continue until her recipe inventory has been exhausted.

Way Back When

80 years ago

April 25, 1940: Abb Clark, well-known resident of Rockport and pioneer storekeeper, passed away Friday at the Memorial Hospital in Sedro-Woolley after being bedfast there for the past three years. Had he lived three more days, he would have reached his 75th birthday.

Clark was born in Crossnore, North Carolina, on April 22, 1865. He came to Rockport in 1905 and after a few years, opened the store.

70 years ago

April 13, 1950: Harry M. Thomas, electrician at the cement plant, is in the hospital this week recovering from an unusual accident that occurred at his home Monday noon. His throat was cut ear to ear when he apparently fell on the blade of a power saw.

Thomas had been ill and had just returned from the hospital the day before. He was believed to have fainted while working at the saw.

He was found by Max Heyer,

who went looking for him when he failed to come in for lunch. Heyer found Thomas lying some distance from the saw in a pool of blood. The doctor was called and Thomas was believed dead until he moved his head a bit. Then first aid was given and he was rushed to the hospital for transfusions. Thomas' throat had been cut quite deeply, gashing both jugular veins and the windpipe.

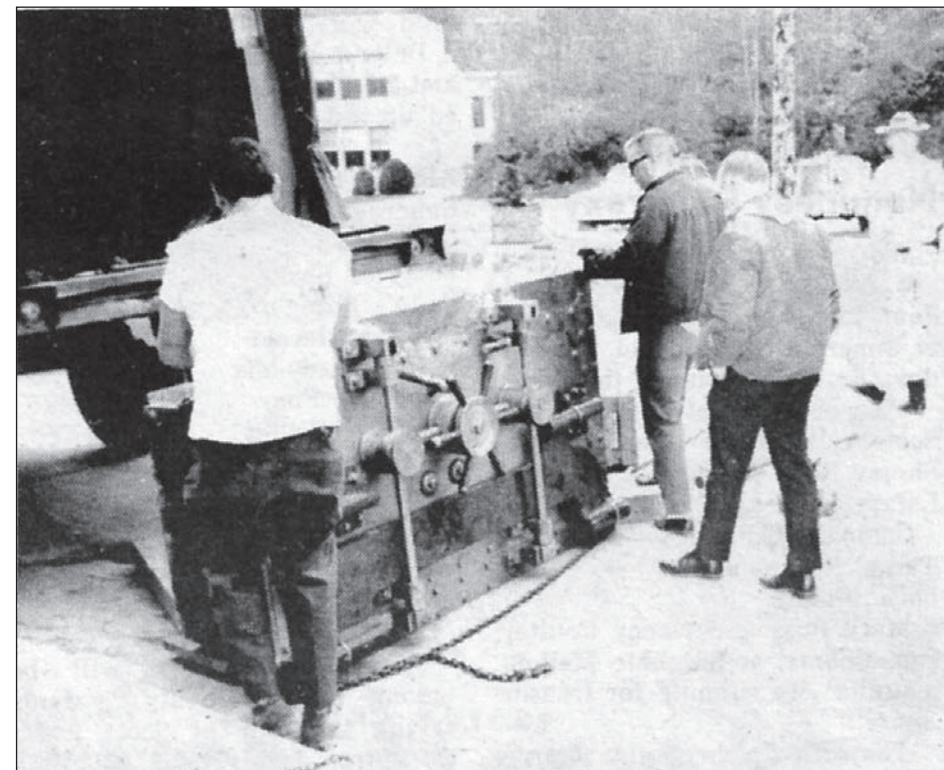
Thomas is reportedly holding his own with frequent transfusions, and despite the injury to his throat, has been able to talk to relatives.

How the accident occurred may not be known until the victim is able to give his version.

April 13, 1950: Boy Scouts from Rockport, Concrete, and Marblemount will sponsor the operetta "Lonesome Valley" at the Concrete High School gym next Thursday evening, April 26. Proceeds from the program will be used to help finance summer camp programs for two of the troops. Marblemount intends to use its share to help finance the five boys who will attend the National Jamboree at Valley Forge, Penn.

The composer-director of the operetta is Burton Gifford, choral director at Sedro-Woolley High School for the past seven

See **Way Back**, p. 29



50 years ago, April 29, 1970: A **weighty vault door**, weighing more than 5 tons, was trucked to Concrete last week for installation in the State Bank of Concrete to replace the door burned through by bank robbers earlier this month. The door was formerly used in the old Seattle First National Bank and is guaranteed burglarproof. *Archive photo.*

Way Back, cont. from p. 28

years. At one time, Gifford served as principal and teacher at Marblemount; the title of the operetta is taken from the nickname of his brother's ranch across the river from Marblemount.

—Compiled from archives

East County

April 2020 activities

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Due to Coronavirus concerns, most of the regular programs and activities have been temporarily suspended. Please contact the East County Resource Center weekdays if you have any questions: 360-416-1733.

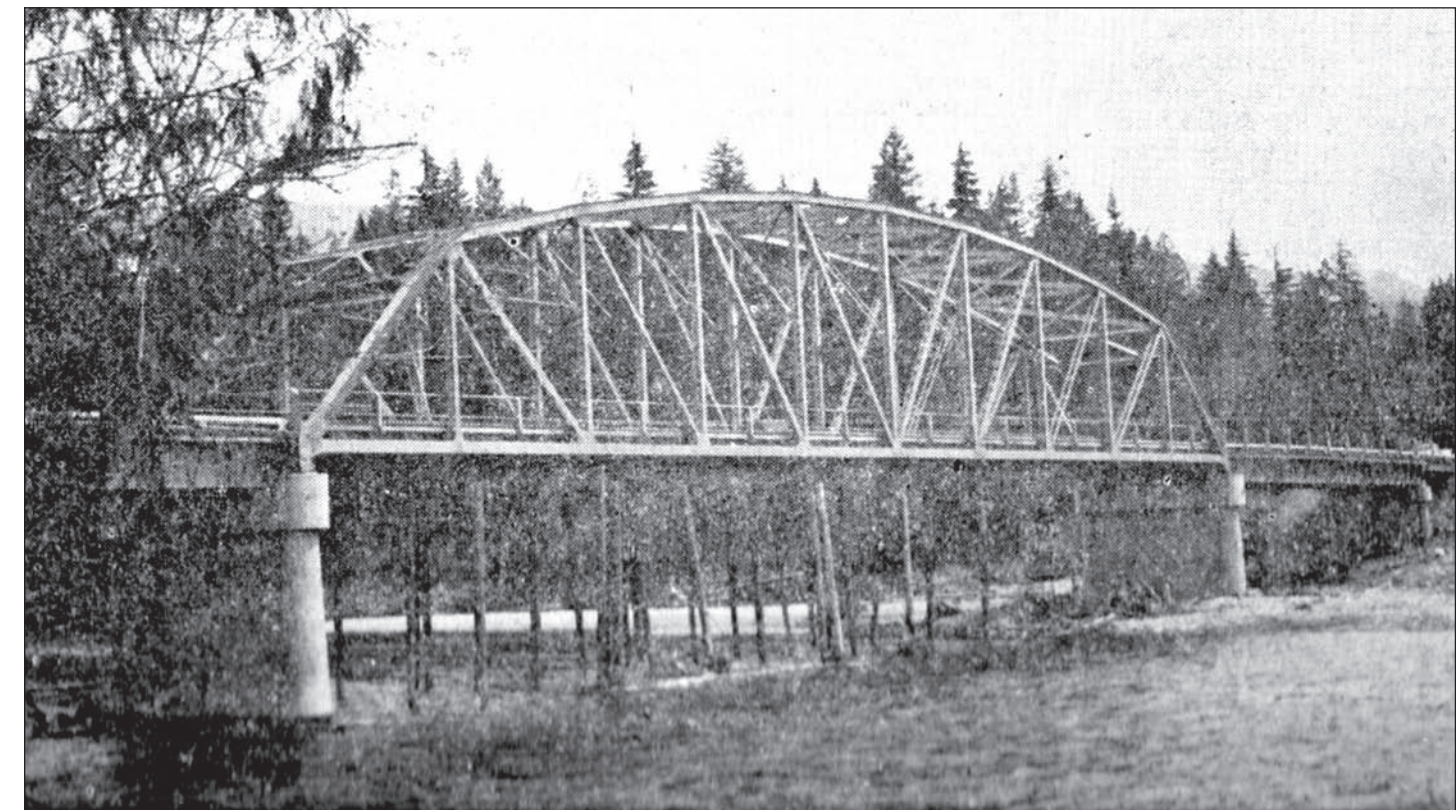
Under advisement of state and local public health authorities, Community Action is taking the following steps to keep our clients, staff, and community safe:

Community Action, East County services remains open and is providing limited services to meet emergency resource needs. We are making some adjustments to our delivery of client services by serving one person at a time and practicing the 6-ft. social distancing recommendations.

Meal program lunches are available on a to-go basis at the Concrete Community Center weekdays from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Thank you for your understanding and support. Please contact the Resource Center if you have questions.

Claudia Marken, East County Manager
Community Action of Skagit County
P.O. Box 792
Concrete, WA 98237
360-416-1733



Top: 60 years ago, April 28, 1960: Only minor work remained to be done on the Sauk Bridge, for which a dedication was planned May 6. The span promised to cut travel time to Darrington in half. *Archive photo.*

Above: 40 years ago, April 17, 1980: **Volunteers attempted to salvage a small airplane** after it flipped into the Skagit River east of Concrete Saturday, injuring pilot Ed Hawkings and his daughter, Mary. A passing motorist saw the accident and said the plane had hit power lines crossing the river and flipped completely over, landing upright. *Archive photo by Don Ross.*

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Obituaries

Philip D. Royal

Nov. 2, 1936 – March 15, 2020

Rev. Philip D. Royal, 83, of Sedro-Woolley, Wash., died with his loving family at his side on Sun., March 15, 2020.

From the age of 19, he fought a long battle with Type 1 Diabetes, which he faced his challenges with both his faith in God and the love of the people in his life.

Philip was born Nov. 2, 1936, to Howard B. and Lena M. (Cravens) Royal at the old Memorial Hospital in Sedro-Woolley, and was of Irish and Scottish descent. Early childhood with his sister Gail was spent in Birdview, Wash. and Arcata, Calif., as well as Olympia during his father's logging career. After Phil and Gail's mother died in an automobile accident when they were young, the family adopted sisters Beverly and Karen into their lives. Phil graduated from Concrete High School with the class of 1955.

Phil started his early working life with some commercial fishing and cold-storage alongside his father Howard and best friend Don Coulter, who later married his sister Bev, and they remained life-long friends. After fishing he did some logging (which Howard had taught him). During his marriage to Claire (the mother of his three children), the diabetes saw him move from blue collar to white collar work. He loved raising pigeons for 4-H Club in Olympia during that time. Phil also enjoyed hunting and fishing for



as long as he was able.

By the early 1970s, Philip was back in Skagit County following his accepting Christ as his Lord and Savior, and ministry work would become his passion. In 1982 the blindness caused by his Diabetes did not stop his commitment to the work he loved in ministry, especially with children, where he created the moniker in the Upper Skagit Valley as "Frontier Phil," "leading with song, tall tales, frontier yarns, and devotions." He helped create in the Pacific Northwest a Christian Boy Scouts called "Royal Rangers," and was a past member of Skagit Valley Genealogical Society. He was also a Savage and Boyd descendant of the "Pioneer Family of the Year" in 2012 as voted by the Skagit County Pioneer Association.

Though his many trials in his personal life and the physical abuse of his diabetes could have kept a lesser man down, his faith in his God was always strong and a source of inspiration to the people he ministered to. After his wife's passing, his final ministry was singing to the workers and his fellow residents at Life Care Center. He was preceded in death by his beloved father, mother, wife Donna, sister Gail (Robert) Nelson, and daughter Dianna (Royal) Miskimens, plus his brother-in-law and best friend in life and ministry, Don Coulter.

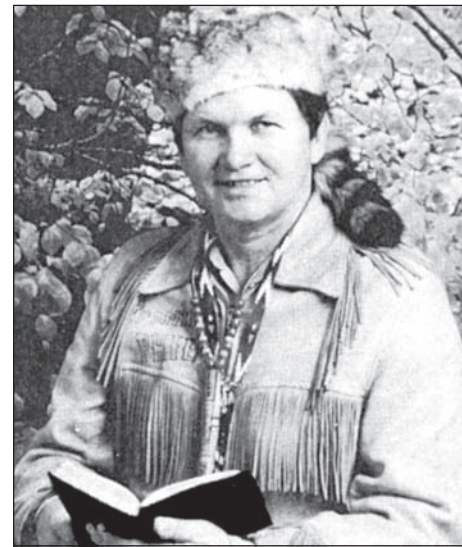
Those who survive and miss him include: son Dan (Maureen) Royal, Mount Vernon; daughter Bonnie (Mike) Lowe, Stanwood; sister Beverly Coulter, Burlington; Karen Heiser, Portland, Ore.; brother Timothy (Anne) Royal; and sister Robin (Garry) Mickelson and their mother Jackie Royal; son-in-law Dean Miskimens; stepson Derek Downing, Bellingham; and stepson, Steven Dunn, Seattle. His grandchildren include Steven (Reasa) Woody, David (Linda) Royal, Jon (Katelyn) Royal, and Maleena Marshall; blended grandchildren include Adam, Drew, Christopher, Bobby, and Melissa. Many great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

The Royal family would like to thank Life Care Center of Skagit Valley, especially those who worked with Phil there:

Julie, Doris, Moe, and Aida, among the countless others there the last five years, whose work has always been appreciated.

Donations in Philip's name can be made to American Diabetes Association or Skagit Valley Genealogical Society. His immediate family will lay his ashes at Hawthorne Lawn Cemetery in Mount Vernon, Wash., and a public "Celebration of Life" will be published at a later date following the cessation of the Coronavirus disruption.

Psalms 100:1-4: 1 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! 2 Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!



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 Skagit County Sheriff's Office Blotter

Choose faith, not fear

By Rob Thomas

It's about to get much worse.

Whether or not the people of Israel understood that, Jeremiah the prophet did. It was around 586 B.C. For two years, the nation of Babylon had laid siege to the city of Jerusalem. With food in short supply, people were literally starving to death in the streets. When the enemy finally broke through the gate, the king, Zedekiah, had his eyes plucked out. His sons were murdered. The city was plundered. The people were taken into captivity (2 Kings 25).

The prophet Jeremiah's response? He wept. He grieved. He wrote. Specifically, he wrote the Old Testament book of Lamentations. The word means "grieving." In fact, in the earliest translation of this book, the following words were written in a note prefixed to the first chapter, "And it came to pass after Israel was taken captive and Jerusalem made desolate, Jeremiah sat weeping, and lamented with this lamentation over Jerusalem and said ..."

Because the book is five short chapters tucked between the 52 chapters of the book of Jeremiah and the 48 chapters of the book of Ezekiel, it is easy to miss. But, in light of what we are facing in

See Sunday School, p. 39

Feb. 21

An alleged victim called in to report that he had been assaulted by his wife. Deputy Wiggins and Deputy Arndt responded to the 46000 block of Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove. They interviewed the caller and his wife. After speaking to both and to another witness, they determined that the caller had assaulted his wife. He was arrested and taken to jail for 4th degree assault domestic violence.

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.

Meirhofer, Alan Lewis

Age: 66
Race: White
Sex: M
Height: 5' 5"
Weight: 135
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Blue
Address: 352xx Shangri La Dr., Se



Meirhofer was convicted of 1st degree rape with a deadly weapon in Whatcom County in 1999. He also was convicted of 2nd degree kidnapping. His victim was a 13-year-old male who was not known to him. Meirhofer broke into the victim's house and kidnapped and raped him. Meirhofer was committed as a sexually violent offender in May 2000. He was found to no longer meet the commitment criteria and therefore released in Feb. 2017. He never completed a sex offender treatment program.

Meirhofer 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

A female beagle with a flea collar and a "Pet Safe" collar was found in the 46000 block of Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove. The reporting party advised they would care for the dog and told the Sheriff's Office to give out her number if the owner called.

While patrolling the 46000 block of Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove, Deputy Wolfe located a vehicle parked in the middle of the road. He contacted the female occupant. She said that her friend had gone to find a spot to park the trailer. Deputy Wolfe recognized the female and ran a search for warrants. He discovered that she had three warrants for her arrest. He contacted the jail, which advised they did not have room. She was given a new court date and released.

Feb. 22

Deputy Clark responded to a residence in the 455000 block of Concrete Sauk Valley Rd. The caller advised a baby had been crying for the last hour in an apartment nearby. Deputy Clark contacted the apartment and checked the welfare of the occupants. There did not appear to be a problem. All the children were asleep.

Gunshots were reported somewhere near the 48000 of Yeager Rd. near Concrete. Deputy Esskew checked the area, but could not locate anyone shooting.

Feb. 23

A property owner in the 45700 block of Main St. in Concrete called to report that a possible transient had come onto his property and harassed his tenants. Deputy Esskew advised the property owner that he needed to have the tenants call when the issues are occurring.

Deputy Esskew stopped a vehicle in the 60000 block of SR 20 in Marblemount for a nonworking taillight. A driver's check showed that the driver didn't have a valid license and was required to have an interlock device on the car to keep him from driving intoxicated. The driver also had a warrant for his arrest for driving under the influence. Deputy Esskew arrested the subject on his warrant and driving with a suspended license and no interlock device.

Feb. 24

Residents in the 45700 block of [specific location not given] called to report that someone was parking on their property without permission. They believed that the person was waiting for the new shelter to open. Deputy Moore was responding, but got called away to handle a priority call. When a Deputy became available and responded, he found that the vehicle was no longer parked on the private property.

Feb. 25

As he was parked on SR 20 at the east end of Concrete town limits, Deputy Wiggins was contacted by a person who said that his ex-girlfriend had violated an order he had against her. As Deputy Wiggins was speaking to the victim, the suspect drove by traveling west. Deputy Wiggins attempted to catch up and locate the suspect. Two Washington State Patrol (WSP) troopers pulled the car over just west of Concrete. Deputy Wiggins contacted them and arrested the suspect for violation of the order. WSP cited the suspect for driving without a license. When Deputy Wiggins got to jail with the suspect, the Corrections Sgt. Dorcy advised him that as they were changing the suspect, a small baggy of white powder dropped out of the suspect's bra onto the floor, where the suspect attempted to cover it by stepping on it. The suspect was arrested and booked for the drug violation and the original violation of court order.

Feb. 26

The Mount Baker Hotel on Main St. in Concrete called and requested that a guest be removed from the hotel due to extreme intoxication and noise. They had refunded

the guest his money, but he still refused to leave. Deputy Wiggins arrived and gave the suspect a ride to another hotel. When he was unable to get a room, he went next door to Young's Market off of SR 20 in Grasmere and caused issues. Deputy Mullen provided the suspect a ride back to his residence in Marblemount.

Around 2:15 p.m., Deputy Wiggins received a call that a vehicle had nearly hit the Sheriff's Office in Concrete as it was pulling into the Town Hall parking lot. While headed to the call, Deputy Wiggins was advised that the suspect had left, traveling eastbound. A witness was able to identify the driver. Being familiar with the suspect, Deputy Wiggins went to the suspect's old residence off of South Dillard in Concrete. When Deputy Wiggins arrived, he observed the suspect's girlfriend, who has an order against the suspect, near the residence. After investigating further, Deputy Wiggins determined that the suspect had violated the order. Deputy Wiggins, assisted by Deputy Hill, located the suspect as he was attempting to crawl out a window. The suspect was arrested for violating the

See Sheriff's Blotter, p. 35

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

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Concrete Group Meeting
7879 S. Superior Ave., Concrete (Pilots Lounge at Mears Field), 360.853.5417
Meeting Every Sunday, 1:30–4 p.m.
Potluck after services

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.

The RIVER Gathering

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

Rockport Christ the King Comm. Church

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

Wildwood Chapel

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

Concrete Volunteer Fire Dept. needs firefighters!

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



Chief Darrel Reed

Interested?

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



Applicants may live inside or outside town limits.

CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

The Rockport Store

A bit of history

"Board!" bawled conductor Ted Kibble. The hiss and sigh of steam seemed alive as the train chugged into motion. Once the Great Northern's rails were laid to the new terminal on the Graves homestead in 1900, the riverside town of Rockport was born and named.

A shrewd Al von Pressentin, late of Sauk City to the west, arrived to build the two-story, 21-room Rockport Hotel, and the boom was on. Miners and prospectors following packtrains of mules into Ruby Creek and Cascade River claims found comfort and resupplies, as AV (as he was called) started a general store as well.

Goods were paddled upriver in four dugout canoes operated by local Skagit Indians.

By 1915 the little town's population had grown to more than 60 full-time residents, with many more passing through to the wilderness just beyond. In 1908 AV was bought out by Johnson and Jensen, "Old Man" Currie started another store by the GN train depot in 1916, and by 1917 there were three general stores in the little town. Ab Clark ran the Rockport General Mercantile Store (which included a post office by then) from 1914 to 1941, the longest surviving of the three, as fire had by then taken the other two. After Ab, Ed Pressentin (nephew of AV) ran it, retiring in 1959.

Then and now

By that time, rumors of the North Cross State Highway (later known as State Route 20) became a reality, and it was decided to build the current version of the Rockport General Store up on Goat Hill, where the road would soon be passing. Run then by Myra (Pressentin) Benton and son Tom, they brought the new Rockport Country Store into the 20th century with the addition of fueling tanks and other conveniences, as well as groceries and dry goods.

After Bentons retired, the store was bought by Sally and Don Moles in the late 1970s, and after their retirement, by Dave and Mary Hambright in the late 1980s.

Advantageously situated at the junctions of SR 20 and 530, today's store sits at a crossroads, but since late 2014 it has been shuttered and empty. When the Hambright's retired, there were no buyers—until now.

The loss of the local landmark and its service to the community has been a grave one for Rockport. With no grocery store for more than 10 miles away in east Concrete (and 18 to Darrington), the community of Rockport has officially been defined as a "food desert."

Hopefully that's about to change. The Rockport Store has been purchased by a local couple, who have been cleaning and repairing all year. Will this important service reopen and thrive once again?

—Christie Fairchild

At the Upper Skagit Library

As you probably already know, we have closed the library temporarily amidst the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak for the safety of our community, patrons, and staff. We anticipate being closed until at least April 24.

During this time we ask that you hold on to all materials—our dropboxes are unavailable at this time. There will be no late fees. Please disregard any e-mails sent to you with overdue notices; they are automated and do not reflect the current situation. We will let you know when we re-open the library and you can return your materials and exchange them for new ones.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please e-mail info@upperskagitlibrary.org. We will not be available by phone until the library reopens, and we are not checking our answering machine at this time.

We've been working hard to find new resources for our patrons during this time. As such, we're proud to announce that we have become part of the TumbleBooks family. Patrons

now have access (until August) to TumbleBookLibrary, TeenBookCloud, TumbleMath, AudioBookCloud, and RomanceBookCloud. Check out the blog on our Web site, upperskagitlibrary.org, where we talk about what TumbleBooks are, how to use them, and how to log into our library's account to gain access. This is in addition to our prior online resources such as Libby/Overdrive, Kanopy, Lynda, and more. If you encounter any problems with our online resources, please send us an e-mail at info@upperskagitlibrary.org.

For the most up-to-date information, visit our Web site, upperskagitlibrary.org, or follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. (We also have a Pinterest and YouTube channel, but these are not main information sources, just good fun.)

In addition, if you follow our social media, we'll keep you up to date on resources for learning, working, and playing at home for kids and kids-at-heart.

Stay home, stay safe, take care of each other from a distance. We'll see you soon.

—Chazlyn Lovely

Library Assistant - Marketing



Concrete Chamber of Commerce News

"Success is due to our stretching to the challenges of life. Failure comes when we shrink from them."

—John C. Maxwell

Our thoughts are with all those who are stretching to meet the challenges of COVID-19, particularly the local business owners who've been forced to close or drastically change their business model. Just when many of us were looking forward to a busy spring, with the North Cascades Highway open and tourists from all over the region visiting our area, we are instead faced with a much different reality.

Still, it's heartening to see people rise to the occasion: Local restaurants are offering take-out and/or delivery, other businesses are providing services and serving the public with a smile, and employers are doing the best they can to keep jobs intact.

Now is the time to buy your groceries locally, purchase your hardware items in town, or order lunch to go from the restaurant around the corner. See the list of

businesses and essential services that are open in the Concrete area on page 21. For current information on these businesses and their contact information, go to the Concrete Chamber Web site: www.concrete-wa.com.

We're sorry to say that the Concrete Chamber office, including our Vehicle Licensing Service, is closed for the time being. Tab renewals and reports of sale can be processed online at www.dol.wa.gov/; we continue to offer mailing service. Please select Concrete as your service office as this helps support the Chamber of Commerce and our community.

If you have questions, the Chamber is remotely staffed and can be reached by e-mail at concretechamber@gmail.com. Membership questions should be directed to concretechambermembers@gmail.com.

The Chamber's next event, the Mountain Film Festival set for the end of May, will likely be rescheduled. Please contact Valerie Stafford at 360.466.8754, or valerie@mountainsonfilm.com, for more

information.

The next meeting of the Concrete Chamber, originally scheduled for Thursday, April 9, has been canceled. Please watch our Web site, www.concrete-wa.com, or call 360.466.8754 for an update on meetings and events.

Remember how fortunate we are to live in this part of Skagit County, surrounded by fresh air and wide-open spaces, as well as some of the most resilient people you'll find anywhere. That may not make us immune to a virus, but it can certainly give us hope.

—Valerie Stafford

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Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley



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45597 Main Street
Concrete WA 98237

April at the Darrington Library

All 23 Sno-Isle libraries and the central service center are closed until further notice.

Darrington Library book drops are closed, too. If you have library materials checked out, please keep them until we reopen.

We are deep-cleaning and disinfecting all of facilities in anticipation of when we will be able to reopen.

We are currently not able to offer physical library materials. We are evaluating the situation daily and putting plans in place to reintroduce currently paused services. Please bear with us; we do not have a timeline for when this might happen.

Darrington Library has online resources that community members can access from home 24/7, via an Internet connection. The library also is leaving on its Wi-Fi on at all libraries to help customers connect to digital services. Library staff are

focusing on re-engineering and enhancing existing online services.

We realize that closing the libraries until further notice creates hardships. While these are difficult decisions, your health and that of our employees and communities must come first during this rapidly evolving and unprecedented public health crisis.

We are following the mandates and recommendations of county, state and federal officials. The uncertainty of what may lie ahead means that we likely will need to adjust our responses to the changing situations across our communities.

For more information, go to www.sno-isle.org?ID=1194 and click on "Ask Us, Tell Us."

Please do what it takes to stay informed and healthy.

—Asheley Bryson, branch manager

Bookkeeping

UpRiver Bookkeeping Services

360.853.7667 or 360.708.9761
upriver21@hotmail.com
Reasonable rates
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Brew pubs

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38302 SR 20, Birdsview // 360.826.3406
www.birdsviewbrewingcompany.com

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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

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
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

Towing services

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Professional flatbed towing. Winch outs,
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Mon. - Sat.: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. • Sun. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

360.436.0141
d.iga@frontier.com

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



Out & About



State

WSP trooper killed in the line of duty

Washington State Patrol confirmed the loss of Trooper Justin R. Schaffer, Badge #646, on March 24, after serving seven years with the State Patrol.

Schaffer, 28, was placing spike strips on Interstate 5 in Chehalis when he was fatally struck by a vehicle.

He is survived by his wife, Sandra; his mother and father, Sheila and Glenn; his brother, Brandon; and his K9 partner, Frankie.

Justin's father, Glenn is currently the Chief of Police in the City of Chehalis.

Schaffer was born on Jan. 30, 1992, in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. He graduated from Adna High School in Adna, Wash. Schaffer received a degree in Criminal Justice from Centralia College.

He began working for the Washington State Patrol on Nov. 12, 2013, as a Trooper Cadet assigned to the Property Management Division.

On Nov. 10, 2018, he completed K9 training and was a certified K9 handler to his partner "Frankie." On Dec. 13, 2018, Schaffer transferred to Chehalis.

Schaffer is the 30th member of the Washington State Patrol family to die in the line of duty in the agency's 99 years of service to this state.

"In his last moments on the earth, he was wearing the uniform of the



Schaffer

Washington State Patrol," said WSP Chief John R. Batiste. "We must pause and reflect on the character of each of the men and women we have lost over the years. Like Justin, they each served as one of the state's guardians and each day of their work, they walked into unknown dangers with well-known courage. We will never forget him. Never."

A memorial service is pending. Because of the COVID-19 restrictions on public gatherings, Washington State Patrol will work with the family and consider how to best move forward in honoring Schaffer. That information will be made public.

Burlington

Hayes among top 1 percent of mortgage originators nationwide

Skagit Valley mortgage professional Dean Hayes of Bay Equity has been recognized among America's Top 1 percent of Loan Originators for 2019, as compiled by Mortgage Executive magazine. Hayes, a veteran of nearly 20 years of home lending, credits his success to long-term relationships with his business partners and the families they serve. Hayes attended Western Washington University in Bellingham, earning degrees in business administration and computer science. For more information about Bay Equity, go to www.bayequityhomeloans.com.



Hayes arrested on warrants and taken to jail.

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 31

order and taken to jail.

Feb. 27

A resident near the 45700 block of Main St. in Concrete called to report that another vehicle was parked on their property without their permission. Deputy Brannon checked the area and located several vehicles matching the description of the reported vehicle, but no one was around. He attempted to call the reporting party back, but did not get an answer.

Deputy Esskew responded to a domestic in the 46000 block of Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove. The victim said that her boyfriend had thrown a piece of wood at her and hit her foot. She advised that she didn't think it was intentional, but wanted him arrested anyway for his warrants. Deputies checked the area, but could not locate the suspect.

Feb. 28

While Deputy Clark was working at the Concrete office, a person stopped by and said that a suspect in several complaints in the Town of Concrete was at Silo Park. Deputy Clark went to the park, but did not find the suspect. Deputy Clark went back through town and located the suspect near the Upper Skagit Library. The suspect was

arrested on warrants and taken to jail.

Feb. 29

The Upper Skagit Library called to report a noise problem near the library on Main St. in Concrete. They said that a dark-colored Toyota 4Runner was parked in front of the building playing music very loudly. Deputy Clark located the vehicle and as he pulled up behind it, the male who was in the vehicle exited and began to walk away. Deputy Clark ordered the person to stop. He identified the person and told him why he was there. The male said that he knew why Deputy Clark was there and agreed to turn the music down.

March 1

Concrete Self Storage called, requesting a person be trespassed from their property. Apparently a tenant had tried to access his storage unit after hours to sleep. The business was in the process of evicting him, but wanted him trespassed until they could finish the eviction. Deputy Passovoy checked the area for the suspect, but could not locate him.

March 2

Skagit PUD called to advise that while at the PSE site on Concrete Sauk Valley Rd. near Cedar Grove, they had discovered a car parked on the property. The caller was suspicious because he had seen it parked at a different location earlier and believed that someone was

illegally camping in the area. Shortly afterward the vehicle drove off. Deputy Clark passed the vehicle as he was going to check the area. He stopped the vehicle and contacted the driver. The driver said that he had been at a friend's house in Cedar Grove and became very intoxicated, so he parked nearby and slept. Deputy Clark made sure that the driver was no longer intoxicated, then allowed him to leave.

At approximately 3:30 p.m., SaviBank on Main St. in Concrete called to report a suspicious person at the bank. They advised that a male who was in a dark colored Toyota 4 Runner was parked across the street and kept coming in to get the free coffee and candy meant for customers. They asked that he be contacted and trespassed. Deputy Esskew contacted the subject, who also had been contacted on Feb. 29 by the library for noise issues, and advised him that he could no longer go into the bank for free coffee and candy. He was given a trespass admonishment form and released.

Later that night, Deputy Esskew again contacted the same suspect in reference to an issue at The Hub tavern on Main St. in Concrete. At the time, the employees at The Hub said that the suspect was parked next to the tavern with his music on really loud, and was causing problems. Deputy Esskew contacted the suspect and told him he was being trespassed from the tavern. He told Deputy Esskew that he understood and would not return.

Deputies Struikisma and Eichman investigated a silent alarm at Mondo's Restaurant in Marblemount. They discovered that someone had broken a window of the business. As they were searching the business, they found a male hiding behind a door, wearing rubber gloves and a hooded sweatshirt. The suspect had broken into the business, but was unable to leave when an employee showed up, so he hid. The suspect was taken into custody for burglary and taken to jail.

March 3

Deputy Esskew investigated an assault at the Concrete High School. A father called to advise that his daughter had been assaulted earlier in the day by a boy at school. His daughter had asked the boy why he had missed the first half of the school day and the boy responded by kicking her injured knee several times. Deputy Esskew contacted the victim and interviewed her. He was able to get the name of another witness and requested

video from the school. The investigation will continue.

March 4

A resident near the 46000 block of Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove called to request that a subject be removed from his property. The subject has been contacted by deputies numerous times in the past involving problems around the community. Deputy Clark was unable to contact the subject at the time.

The victim in a domestic assault called in and reported that his son had thrown jars at him after becoming angry at him for not being able to fix a car. Deputy Esskew interviewed the victim. The victim told him that his son's car had recently quit working, so he was trying to get another car running for him, but had been unable to get it working. His son became angry at him for not being able to fix the car and began throwing jars at him from across the room. Deputy Esskew observed several broken jars on the floor of the room. He asked the victim where the suspect was and was told that the suspect's mother had taken him somewhere because she was afraid he would be arrested. Deputy Esskew referred the suspect for 4th degree assault 4th domestic violence.

A few hours later, Deputy Esskew responded to a theft complaint in the 46000 block of Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove. The victim said that he had purchased some track lighting for his house and believed that a person he had hired to do some work had stolen it. The victim called the suspect's girlfriend, who was able to locate the lighting in the shop at her house. At the time, the suspect could not be located. On March 18, Deputy Clark stopped the suspect on an unrelated issue. Deputy Esskew responded and contacted the suspect, who admitted that the track lighting was stolen, but refused to tell Deputy Esskew who stole the item. Deputy Esskew arrested the suspect for theft.

Deputy Passovoy investigated a weapons offense in the 46000 block of Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove. The victim said he was a caretaker for a person who lives at that residence. While he was there, a neighbor came over and threatened to shoot him and the property owner for evicting a person from the property. The suspect had made the threats while holding a pistol. The victim was concerned that the neighbor would go through with the threat. Deputy Passovoy arrested the suspect for felony harassment and threats to kill.

March 6

An employee at the Concrete Community Center called and requested that a client be removed but not trespassed from the Center. Sgt. Dills responded and contacted the suspect, who has been causing numerous problems in the Upper Valley. He was transported to a location in Burlington at his request.

March 7

The next day the suspect who was causing problems at Concrete Community Center and given a ride into Burlington by Sgt. Dills returned to Concrete. He walked into the liquor store on Main St., stood for a few moments, then walked out. A short time later he picked up a porcelain plate sitting on a table outside and busted it against a vehicle that was parked out front. Deputies Ayala, Slack and Wiggins helped to investigate the incident. The next day, Deputy Wiggins found the suspect walking on the Baker River Rd. near Lake Shannon. He was taken into custody on warrants and also arrested for the damage to the vehicle the previous day.

A concerned citizen had been on the Upper Finney Rd. earlier and had seen a female sitting alone in a truck. She said a tree had fallen on the truck and her boyfriend had gone into town to get help. Deputy Wiggins checked on the female. He found the truck with the female and a male sitting in it about 1.5 mile up the Upper Finney Rd. The truck was registered to the female, who had several warrants for her arrest. The male, whom Deputy Wiggins recognized, also had warrants. It appeared that the suspects were stealing wood. Both were arrested on their warrants and take to jail.

March 8

The suspect who had damaged the vehicle parked on Main St. in Concrete the previous day went to Cascade Burgers, opened the front door, and threw a bag of dog feces into the restaurant. He was contacted by Deputy Moses and trespassed from the business.

While on routine patrol on Cedar Grove Ave. in Cedar Grove, Deputy Walker observed a vehicle drive by with no license plate. He stopped the vehicle and contacted the driver. The driver told him he did not have a driver's license and thought he had warrants for his arrest. Deputy Walker was able to confirm the information. The suspect was arrested and taken to jail for the warrants and driving without a valid license.

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Sign in a Sedro-Woolley restaurant: "If the steak is too tough for you, get out! This is no place for weaklings."
— § —
She: "Did you hear that the local marshals are going to try to stop necking?"
He: "I think they should—men of their age!"
— § —
A flat nose indicates curiosity; a flattened nose indicates too much curiosity.

Dwelleysms:

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

"The satisfaction of a big garden usually lies in the way it looks when it first sprouts its promise. From then on, it deteriorates in proportion to the weeding and winds up in deep doubt when you can't give away the surplus."

—May 20, 1970

"To those who feel time breathing heavily on the back of their neck, remember that you can't outrun it. The only way to a long life is not to be pushed beyond your pace—and don't keep looking over your shoulder."

"Leadership is all a matter of direction. It doesn't really make any difference whether you push or pull."

"Our capitalistic economy has made ambition a way of life, taking us through the various stages to one-upmanship, which is having a few more points of anything than the other guy. Now we have reached a plateau where all there is left is fed-upmanship with the whole idea."

—May 27, 1970

"The Memorial Day weekend proves the theory that if too many people try to get into one camping spot, they will."

"... Sometimes it would be nice for the studies to reveal that things are pretty good the way they are."

—June 3, 1970

Funny as Facebook

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

- "Personally, I don't believe college should be free. But after all of the dumb stuff I've seen posted this week ... I could be persuaded."
- "Man, my kids can be hilarious. One kid made another sign a contract on the rules of the room (shared room). Sorry kid, you don't actually have that authority. But if that's how you want to play things, I'll draw up a contract on rules of the house: iPad, TV, chores, etc."
- "Is it wrong to self-quarantine just to get a break from some obligations? Asking for a friend."
- "I just felt a little rebellious when I briefly touched my sandwich with my hands without using hand sanitizer first."
- "Sharing food and leaving food out is dangerous, so you better eat that entire box of Girl Scout cookies yourself in one sitting, just to be safe."
- "I've decided to buy stock in septic and sewer pumping. I'm going to make a killing off of all y'all toilet paper hoarders."
- "Today I learned a crucial difference between Italy and the United States. We went to the supermarket in our neighborhood here in Rome. There was plenty of toilet paper on the shelves, but there was a marked shortage of bottles of wine. When Italians raid the grocery store, they leave with what is most important."
- "Who would have thought the world could end by being told you had to have cereal for breakfast? By the size of the fit being thrown, you'd think I'd strung Joe up by his toes and let rats eat his eyeballs out."
- "Wow, those slow aisle-blockers really pick up the pace if you cough behind them."
- "I know the coronavirus is scary, but try working with a 4-year-old dressed like Spiderman perched on the kitchen table behind you whispering, 'Can you hear me breathe?' This is Day 6."
- "A modest proposal: Any Facebook post giving medical advice, explanations, etc., that is not being posted by a trained medical professional (i.e., someone with MD or RN after their name) must be prefixed with 'I AM NOT A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL' at the top. Make it happen, Zuck."
- "Once this virus has passed and the economy has rebounded, there could very likely be a baby boom among millennials. So, in an ironic twist of fate, they could find themselves saying 'OK, boomer' to their own children."

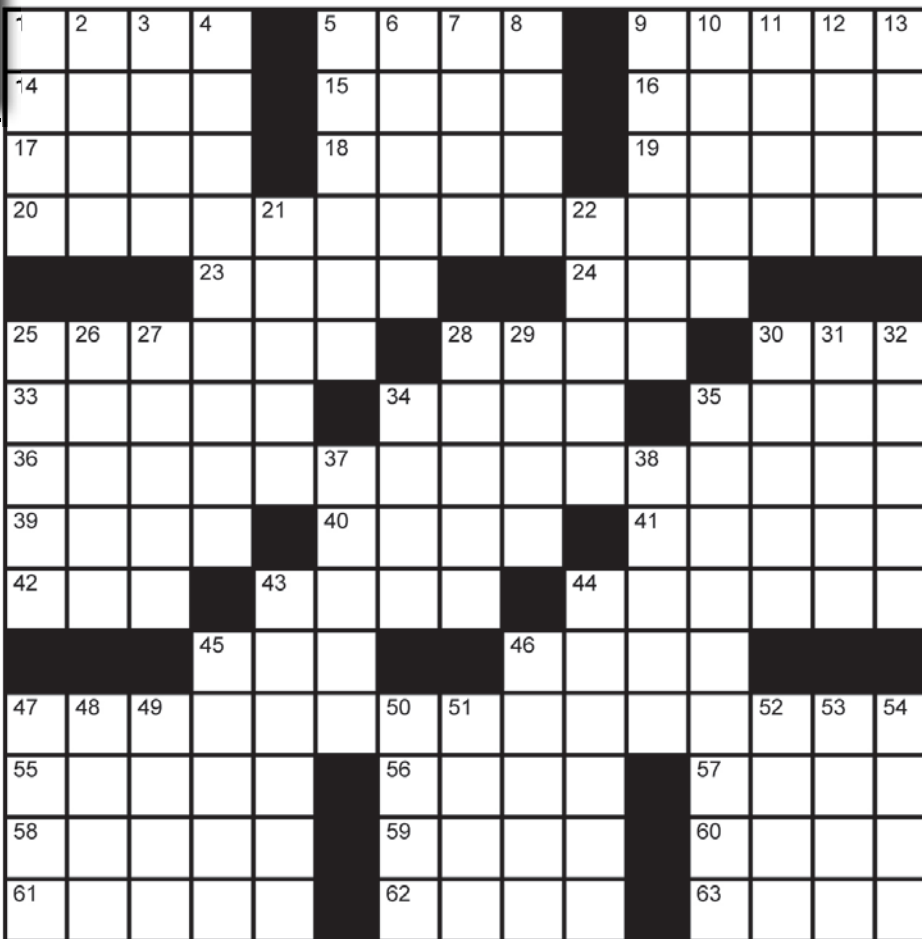
Public Service Announcement

By Stig Kristensen



JACOB ALWAYS FORGOT TO PUT HIS MOBILE ON SILENT MODE

Crossword: "Hollywood Heavyweights"



Across

1. Deli side
5. Express a preference
9. Start a hole
14. "Pipe down!"
15. Arab ruler
16. Habituate
17. Bras ending
18. Drops off
19. Water wheel
20. "Rear Window" director
23. Annoying insect
24. Bowl cheer
25. Pretense
28. Harsh sound
30. Backrub response
33. Public persona
34. Crack
35. Shot, e.g.
36. "La Dolce Vita" director
39. Means justifiers
40. Garage job
41. Patronage
42. Farm structure
43. Boosts
44. Implant deeply
45. Diamond stat

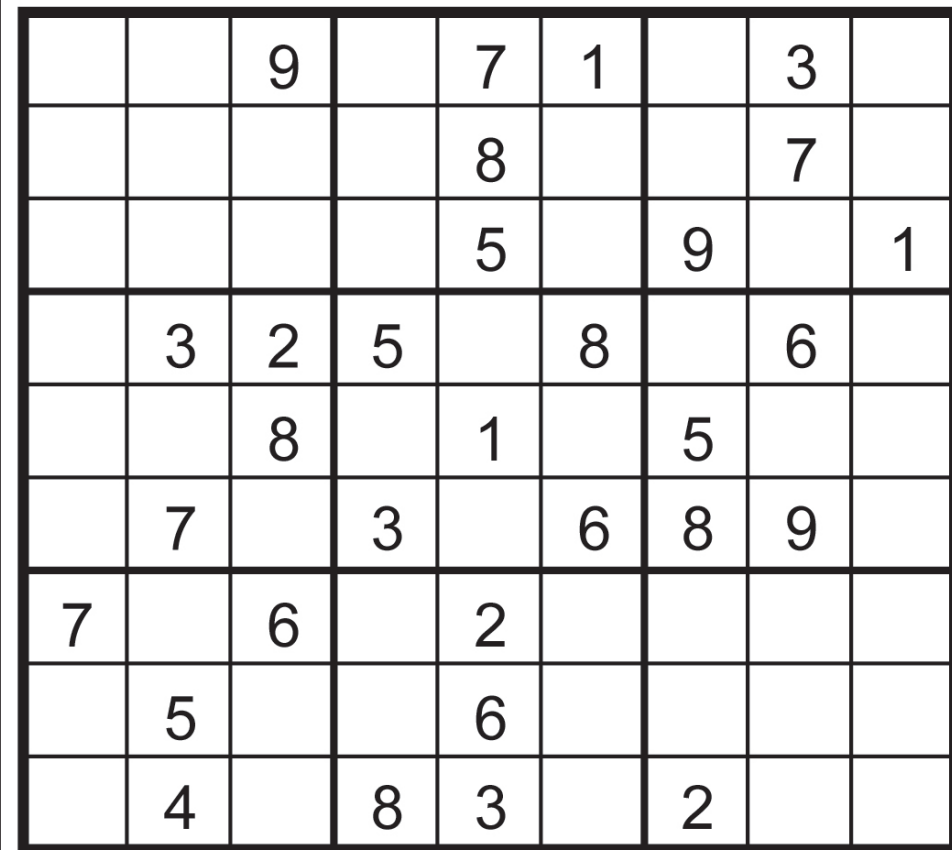
Down

1. Actor LaBeouf, son of Indy
2. Down time
3. "____ I care!"
4. Fees charged for using a quay
5. Buyer
6. City on the Missouri
7. Dwelling: var.
8. Previously
9. Soldier's helmet
10. Methuselah's father
11. Dollar rival
12. ____ acid
13. Reach a high
21. Graybeard

22. Jalopy
25. Marching band instruments
26. Drooping flower spike
27. Course fixture
28. Splotches
29. Biography
30. Bud
31. Prenatal test, for short
32. Raise
34. Soviet ballistic missile
35. Vigilance
37. Hipbone-related
38. Hawaiian veranda
43. Poisonous gas
44. Store, as corn
45. Type in
46. Arrive
47. Binges
48. Cut
49. Give birth to
50. Hoopla
51. "Laughable Lyrics" writer
52. Bearing
53. Son in Genesis
54. Rip apart

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.

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March 9

When she arrived to work, an employee at the Sea Mar clinic on D St. in Concrete discovered that someone had smeared human feces on the windows of the clinic and had also thrown a bag of it over the fence into the entry area. The employee had no suspects, but deputies believe it could be the same person who had caused problems at Cascade Burgers the day before. The investigation is ongoing.

Deputy Brannon and Sgt. Adams contacted the manager at the Eagles Nest Hotel in Concrete. She was inquiring about removing several people who were currently staying in the hotel, but not paying. She was advised that since they had been staying there as renters, she would need to evict them. The manager said she understood and would start the process.

A female came into the Sea Mar clinic and handed them a business card that said, "Someone is going to kill me and my boyfriend today." Deputy Esskew contacted the clinic and gathered enough information to determine the identity of the woman. He then attempted contact and was initially unsuccessful. Deputy Esskew was able to determine where the subject lived and tried to contact her there, but was again unsuccessful. Shortly after going to her house, the subject called and talked to Deputy Esskew. He determined that she was safe and it was unlikely anyone was going to harm her or her boyfriend.

March 10

A vehicle prowler was reported in the 45600 block of Main St. in Concrete. The reporting party said that someone had attempted to gain access to his vehicle overnight, but was unsuccessful. He discovered the lock on his tongue cover was broken, but it didn't appear anything was taken. He had no suspects.

March 11

Deputies were asked to check on a caller's friend who lives on White Alley in Concrete. The caller had talked to her friend and thought she sounded depressed. Deputies Brannon and Clark went to the residence and contacted the friend. She told them that she was OK, but was frustrated because she had received new batteries for her wheelchair, but didn't know how to put them in. Deputies Brannon and Clark installed the batteries for her.

A 13-year-old son called his mother to advise her that a male had parked in their driveway on South Superior St. in

Concrete, then walked to the front door and knocked. When no one answered his knock he went to the back porch and started moving things. Deputy Esskew drove to the residence and checked for the vehicle or person, but was unable to locate either.

March 12

In the afternoon, a person called to report that her brother had violated a court order by coming over to her house. Deputy Brannon investigated the call. The victim said that she had an order restricting her brother from coming within 500 feet of her residence. Earlier she and her husband had observed him about 75 feet away. The neighbors confirmed that the suspect had come over and talked with them prior to the suspect going over to the victim's residence. The victim said that her brother isn't violent, but does have mental issues. Deputy Brannon contacted the suspect, who was very polite and cooperative. After talking to him, Deputy Brannon confirmed that the suspect was having some mental issues in addition to violating the order. The suspect was arrested for violating the order. On the way to the jail, the suspect asked Deputy Brannon for some coffee. Deputy Brannon stopped at a local coffee stand and got him a cup to drink on his way to the jail.

Deputy Murdock contacted a person who was seen prowling around in the area of Fir St. in Concrete. The suspect was seen trying door handles on businesses in the area. When contacted, the suspect said he was only trying to find a store to get groceries. He told Deputy Murdock he was going to walk to a friend's house nearby.

Information regarding consuming marijuana in public was requested by a citizen at the Upper Skagit Library in Concrete. The citizen had observed people in front of the library smoking marijuana. Deputy Arndt called and advised the person that it is illegal to smoke or consume marijuana or marijuana products in public. In addition, he advised the caller that it is unlawful to open any package containing marijuana or marijuana products in public or a public place.

March 14

Citizens called to let the Sheriff's Office know that they were watching an assault occurring on Main St. near Town Hall in Concrete. The reporting parties said that a male had a female in a headlock, flinging her around while walking down the sidewalk. The two separated briefly and the male followed the female across

the street. They stood there arguing, and then the female kicked the male in the groin and proceeded to bear hug him. When deputies contacted the male and female, they both denied anything happened. Deputy Wiggins contacted the witnesses again, who told him the same story, adding that it looked like the female was being the more aggressive of the two. After consulting with Deputy Moore, it was decided that the female would be arrested for assaulting the male. She was transported to jail.

March 15

Deputies Wiggins and Kitchens investigated a report of drug activity in the 34000 block of Hamilton Cemetery Rd. near Hamilton. The reporting party said that there were multiple cars coming and going from the house next door. The caller said that they had witnessed what they believe are hand-to-hand drug deals. A suspect in the drug trafficking was reported to be staying at the Medford Rd. DNR gravel pit. Deputy Wiggins went to the pit and located two females who were in the pit after hours. They admitted that they knew the pit was closed, but claimed to be picking up brass from fired ammunition. Deputy Wiggins cited both for trespassing.

March 17

Logger's Landing in Concrete called to advise that the defendant in several other local crimes in the Concrete area had walked into the store and stolen some pastries while throwing items around the business. He had since left. Deputy Clark contacted the well-known suspect at the community center. Next to him were wrappers from the stolen pastries. He admitted to stealing the food because he said he was hungry. The suspect was arrested again and trespassed from Logger's Landing.

The Sheriff's Office received a report of a domestic on Maple St. in Hamilton. Deputies Wolfe and Esskew responded and contacted the victim, who said that her boyfriend had physically assaulted her and pointed a gun at her. Deputies determined that the victim was being truthful. The suspect was arrested for 2nd degree assault and felon in possession of a firearm.

March 18

While following up on another call in Concrete, Deputy Clark observed a male get into a vehicle with very loud exhaust and expired vehicle license, and drive away. Deputy Clark stopped the car and contacted the driver, who had a suspended license and several warrants. He was also a suspect in a previous theft. The driver

was arrested and taken to Skagit County Jail.

March 22

Deputy Hill and Deputy Wiggins made contact with a suspect at the Concrete Community Center in Concrete who had been trespassed from the center the previous day. The suspect was again told to leave. He became very agitated, but left. About two hours later, the Sheriff's Office received a complaint of the suspect kicking the same Jeep vehicle on Main St. that he did on March 7. The owner of the Jeep was following the suspect west on SR 20. Deputy Wiggins found the suspect behind Perk's Espresso. He told Deputy Wiggins he knew he shouldn't have kicked the Jeep, but did so because he was angry. At this time, due to booking restrictions because of the coronavirus, he was not booked into jail. The next day, Deputies Moore and Wiggins found numerous other damaged vehicles and a building with a broken window, which the suspect had damaged. Deputies were able to locate the suspect and took him to jail, where he was booked on multiple charges of malicious mischief.

Around 1:30 a.m., Deputies Wiggins and Hill were patrolling the Finney Cumberland Rd., looking for possible timber theft. They observed a truck blocking the road. A female and a male were with the truck; directly behind the truck and in the truck bed were multiple rounds of wood, along with a chainsaw and wood-cutting tools. Around the vehicle was fresh sawdust. Deputy Wiggins was able to gather enough information to refer both suspects for 3rd degree theft and illegal harvesting of timber products.

March 23

Aid units and deputies were dispatched to a call at Logger's Landing in Concrete for an unconscious female who'd had a seizure. Deputies Passovoy and Wolfe responded. When Deputy Wolfe arrived, Deputy Passovoy and the aid units were giving CPR to the victim. Deputy Wolfe interviewed the witness who was with the victim when she had her seizure. The victim was transported to Skagit Valley Hospital, where she was declared deceased.

Snohomish County called and requested that deputies check a residence on Shular Rd. in Rockport for a stolen backhoe and a trailer. Deputies Brannon and Koback checked the residence and found the stolen equipment, which had been stolen out of Oregon. Also located next door

Sunday School, cont. from p. 30

our community and country, Jeremiah's message is far too important for us to skip over. Specifically, four verses found in the middle of the book.

Lamentations 3:21-24 says, "This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in Him." (The hymn, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," is based upon this passage.)

The limited space of this article does not allow me to conduct a thorough examination of this passage. Let me preface what follows by saying it is absolutely critical what we fill our minds with (Romans 12:2). It is absolutely critical what we think about (Philippians 4:8). As such, may I simply suggest the following twofold response?

First, fix your attention (Lam. 3:21) on the *person* of God as revealed in His Word (the Bible). Lamentations 3:22-23 reveals that God is a God of mercy, of compassion, and of faithfulness. Second, fix your attention (Lam. 3:21) on the *promises* of God as revealed in His Word. Lamentations 3:24 reminds us that hope is found in God (and therefore in His Word). The Apostle Paul writes in Romans 15:4, "For whatsoever things were written beforehand were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." (Read Habakkuk 3:17-19.)

Let us never forget that faith and hope (along with love) are forever intertwined with one another (1 Corinthians 13:13). It's been said that "A person's true character is often revealed in times of crisis." I believe that a person's true faith is often revealed in times of crisis. To paraphrase Joshua 24:15, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve ... As for me and my house, we will choose faith, not fear."

During this season of uncertainty, choose faith, not fear.

Rob Thomas is pastor for Community Bible Church in Concrete.

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 38

was a stolen motorcycle. All the stolen vehicles were recovered. The investigation is still being conducted.

—Compiled by Sgt. Greg Adams

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Crossword solution

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|---|----|----|---|
| 1 | S | L | A | W | 5 | V | O | T | E | 9 | T | E | E | 12 | P |
| 13 | H | U | S | H | 15 | E | M | I | R | 16 | I | N | U | R | E |
| 17 | I | L | I | A | 18 | A | P | S | 19 | N | O | R | I | A | |
| 20 | A | L | F | R | E | D | H | I | T | 22 | C | H | C | O | C |
| 23 | F | L | E | A | 24 | R | A | H | | | | | | | |
| 25 | F | A | C | A | D | E | 28 | S | B | L | A | T | 30 | A | H |
| 33 | I | M | A | G | E | 34 | S | L | I | T | 35 | A | M | M | O |
| 36 | F | E | D | E | R | I | C | O | F | E | L | L | I | N | I |
| 38 | E | N | D | S | 40 | L | U | B | E | 41 | A | E | G | I | S |
| 42 | S | T | Y | 43 | A | I | D | S | 44 | E | N | R | O | O | T |
| 45 | E | R | A | 46 | G | N | A | T | | | | | | | |
| 47 | J | O | H | N | S | C | 50 | H | L | E | S | I | N | G | E |
| 56 | A | M | A | T | I | 58 | Y | E | T | I | 57 | E | A | S | E |
| 59 | G | I | V | E | N | 59 | P | A | I | L | 60 | S | I | A | N |
| 61 | S | T | E | R | E | 62 | E | R | N | E | 63 | S | T | U | D |

Sudoku solution

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

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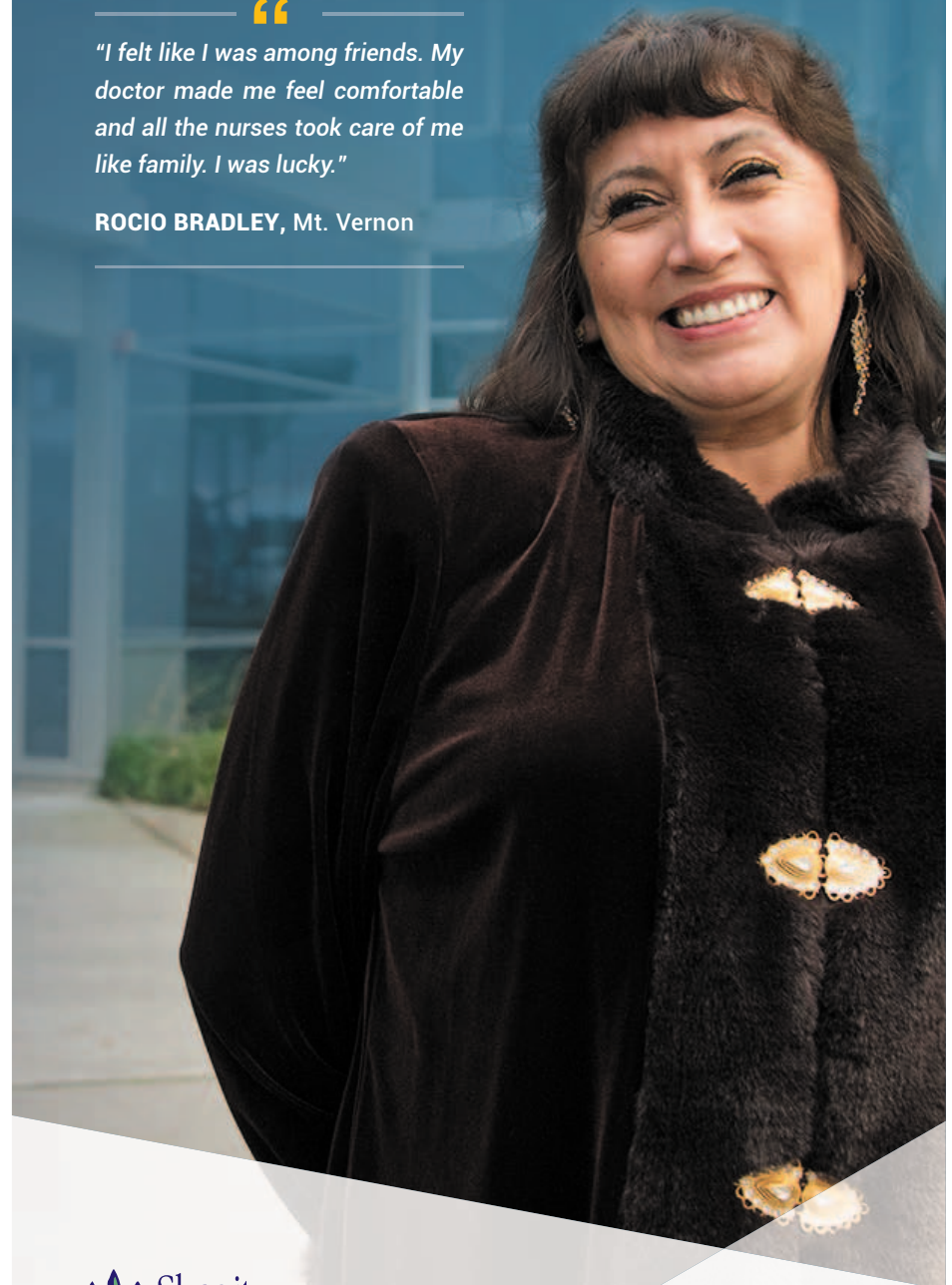


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