

The Voice of Eastern Skagit County Concrete Herald

Vol. 92, No. 4

August 2009

50 cents



Sedro-Woolley inside! See p. 6



Photo by Dan Royal

War in Afghanistan claims Concrete native

Concrete native Chief Warrant Officer 2 Douglas W. Vose III is coming home a hero.

A decorated and dedicated military man, Vose died from wounds received while conducting combat operations in the Kabul Province of Afghanistan July 29 while serving as the Special Forces Assistant Detachment Commander with Operational Detachment Alpha – 0114, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), in Stuttgart, Germany.

Vose, 38, was killed by intense direct small arms fire while deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as a member of the International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF) – Afghanistan.

“This quiet Concrete boy was a hero long before he died,” said Vicki Frank, whose son, Michael W. Frank, considered Vose his best friend. “He had a steely drive and ambition. He didn’t want platitudes or fanfare; all he wanted was to do his job.”

See Vose, p. 22

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Douglas W. Vose III, shown here during Christmas 1989, was “a hero long before he died,” according to Vicki Frank.



Hotel Tax scrutinized

By Ben Smith

A smoldering debate exists in eastern Skagit County with regard to the spending and disbursement priorities for the Hotel Tax (officially the Hotel-Motel Stadium Tax), money that Skagit County receives monthly from the state government and disburses through grant funding allocations.

See Hotel Tax, p. 23



It's time for Cascade Days!

By Jeanna Squires Smiley

Mark your calendars for Aug. 15-16. That's when Cascade Days returns to Concrete for the town's biggest annual celebration.

The family-oriented, two-day celebration falls on the third weekend of every August. This year, look for old favorites and new participants, said Judie Legg, who sits on the volunteer-driven Cascade Days Celebration Committee.

There will be vendors with crafts and concessions. We try to add something new to Cascade Days each year. We want to know from the community what they want.

See Cascade Days, p. 15



This year's Cascade Days logo was designed by Concrete Town Councilman and graphic designer Paul Wayne Rider.

Upper Skagit Women's Retreat Planned for Sept.

By Jason Miller

Celebrating its 10th anniversary, the Upper Skagit Women's Retreat is planned for Sept. 11-12, at Baker Lake Lodge, the same location where the event got its start in 1999.

We spoil them rotten,” says planning committee member Naomi Rumpf of plans for retreat attendees. The goal for the weekend is to provide a



nonthreatening, nondenominational environment where women can relax and enjoy everything the retreat has to offer.

See Retreat, p. 15

Hamilton food bank back online

After some bumps in the road that ended with its managers parting ways, the food bank in Hamilton is picking itself up, dusting itself off, and preparing to fulfill its mission once again.

Formerly overseen by Christian Ministry Network (CMN) and the Hamilton

See Food Bank, p. 10

Local band Ravages of Time wins Battle of the Bands

See story, p. 13, if you dare.

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Concrete Herald

The Voice of Eastern Skagit County

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Concrete Herald owes its success to volunteer contributors covering their individual communities. **Birdview:** Kris Voigt; **Cape Horn:** Launi Harrell; **Concrete:** Linnaea Groh, Lacy Lahr, Sara Pritchard, Dan Royal, Jeanna Smiley Squires, Bill Sullivan, Cora Thomas; **Diablo:** Wayne and Judy Knopf; **Hamilton:** Carol Bates, Aleaha Neimann; **Lyman:** Kristi Johnson; **Marblemount:** Patricia Blauvelt, Christie Fairchild, Laurie Thomas; **Newhalem:** Jim and Judy Hannigan; **Rockport:** Christie Fairchild, Elise Lewis; **Sedro-Woolley:** Bill Mueller, Benjamin Smith. More local contributors are welcome; call or e-mail Jason Miller at 360.853.8213 or editor@concrete-herald.com.

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Guest editorial

When it comes to some of the smaller issues a town has, like petty code violations or misdemeanors that are committed by a few of its younger residents, many citizens are willing to wilt to a popular sentiment that these small-time, juvenile issues are just kids being kids. That mentality is easy to spout, but I disagree with it. The issue is really about parents and poor parenting skills.

While juvenile delinquency isn't really a new topic, our culture has rapidly changed and how our children see the world is devolving. Things are fast and frenetic. Parents and their families are in constant upheaval, many moms and dads working more than one job just to keep up with the bills, if they are fortunate to have employment.

Many commutes take breadwinners away from their children an additional seven to ten hours a week or more; that time is replaced by television parents like Jon and Kate.

See Editorial, p. 9



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Opinion

Letters to the editor

Blame NOVA raid for jeopardizing recreation areas

I recently received an e-mail from Public Lands Commissioner Peter Goldmark entitled, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to reduce services at many recreation areas. The commissioner's note discussed budget impacts to 143 DNR-managed recreational facilities and more than 1,000 miles of Washington's trails.

As a result of budget cuts, including loss of NOVA funding, DNR's Recreation Program was reduced by nearly 50 percent. We have been forced to reduce services to many of our designated recreational facilities," he wrote.

A significant portion of trail maintenance funds came from NOVA -- the Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities account. NOVA was created by off-road vehicle (ORV) users to provide grants to develop, maintain and manage trails and nonhighway road systems. A fuel-use study estimated 4.6 percent of the state fuel tax was generated by ORV use. In lieu of receiving a fuel-tax refund, ORV users asked the Legislature in 1973 to put the money into this special account.

This year, for the first time since NOVA's inception, majority party leaders in the Legislature raided the account, using the entire \$9.56 million anticipated for the next two years, to help balance the state's operating budget.

Trail-user groups are steamed, and rightfully so, because they voluntarily waived their rights to a fuel-tax refund so they could benefit statewide from this dedicated funding program. They had even recently asked the Legislature to double ORV permit fees to supplement the fund. Now that account will remain empty until the next biennium.

Where did the money go?

The Democrat operating budget (House Bill 1244) re-appropriates the NOVA funds to the state Parks and Recreation Commission for maintenance and operation of parks and to improve accessibility for boaters and off-road vehicle users.

Keeping state parks open was a high priority for me during the legislative session. However, we had better options

than raiding NOVA. For example, the capital budget contained more than \$80 million to purchase land for new parks. I questioned why the state was buying land for new parks when it couldn't afford to maintain existing ones. I supported an amendment that would have transferred \$25 million from park acquisition into state parks maintenance and operations. This amendment could have prevented the NOVA raid. Unfortunately, it failed. This is one of the many reasons why I voted against the operating budget.

Now, we are seeing the consequences, as evidenced in Goldmark's e-mail. An Eastern Washington newspaper reported many of the state's trail systems may be lost to underbrush, overuse and, eventually, a chaos of downed trees. An Everett newspaper added, People can still use trails, park in parking lots and stay in campgrounds, but they should expect to find no toilets, picnic tables, signs or garbage service at many campgrounds.

The state Parks and Recreation Commission now has authority over these funds. If we are to prevent erosion and disrepair of trails and recreational facilities, the commission must be made aware and held accountable. If you have concerns, let the commissioners know. They are meeting Aug. 6 in Pasco, Oct. 1 in Spokane, and Dec. 3 in Centralia.

For more information, go to: www.parks.wa.gov/agency/commissionmeetings

See Letters, p. 3

Letters policy

Letters of 150 words or fewer may be sent to Concrete Herald, P.O. Box 682, Concrete, WA 98237 or e-mailed to letters@concrete-herald.com. Writers must include their name and town or community for publication, plus a daytime telephone number for confirmation purposes. Concrete Herald reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity, accuracy, spelling, grammar, and potentially libelous statements. So be nice.

Corrections

In our July issue, we misspelled the last name of the founder of Challenger Ridge Winery & Vineyards. The correct spelling is Louis Dailly.

In our July issue, Pat Buller's significant other, Sacha, was referred to as his wife. Sacha is Pat's girlfriend.

Letters, cont. from p. 2

or write them at:

Washington State Parks
and Recreation Commission
1111 Israel Road S.W.
Olympia, WA 98504-2650
*State Rep. Dan Kristiansen
R-Snohomish*

Thank you, Lions Club

Thanks so very much for clearing out my flooded basement!

I didn't realize that the Lions Club did jobs like this for members of the community, but when they heard of the flooded mess I had, here they came! And they even hauled it up to the dump! Concrete can be proud of this hard-working group.

Eleven men showed up at the work party. Thanks go to Jim Parker, Tom Jones, Bill Newby, Steve Stout, Conrad Claybo, Larry Mosby, Ed Rogge, and George Theodoratus. Thanks also to family members Lawrence Haight, Steve Nieshe, and Clinton Bryant.

*Pat Haight
Concrete*

Honoring the essence of a small-town newspaper

I have just finished reading the first two issues of *Concrete Herald* and want to congratulate you for bringing the paper back to life. I am sure my grandparents, Chuck and Helen Dwelley, would approve of your effort whole-heartedly!

It seems to me that you have captured the essence of what a small-town paper should be and what the *Concrete Herald* once was to its subscribers. I must admit when I saw the column titled

This & That (previously written by my Grandma Helen), it brought a tear to my eye. Because so many Dwelley events were memorialized over the years in that column, my sisters and I have always felt a strong connection to Concrete and our Skagit County roots.

On behalf of the Dwelley family, thank you for honoring our Papa Chuck. We wish you much success in your new venture and look forward to reading all of your future issues!

*Judy (Dwelley) Dawe
McCleary, Washington*

Got something to say?

Write a letter to the editor today. Letters of 150 words or fewer may be sent to Concrete Herald, P.O. Box 682, Concrete, WA 98237 or e-mailed to letters@concrete-herald.com.



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Steve Gates has been working at Puget Sound Energy for 30 years. As a customer care manager, he does everything he can to do right by customers. And he's done the same for his community, serving as president of his Rotary Club, and head of the Citizens' Advisory Board for the Burlington-Edison School District in Skagit County. He's also coached soccer and baseball, and helps put on the back-to-school fair every year. Like Steve, PSE gives back too, supporting

community programs through our Puget Sound Energy Foundation. We're also tapping renewable energy sources, like wind and solar power, to provide clean, affordable energy for generations to come. We've even been named one of the top 10 utilities in the nation by the Solar Electric Power Association. And we'll continue serving our community while protecting the environment. So from all of us, thanks for letting our family provide the energy for yours.

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Celebrations

Bradley-Rhyne

Sunny Rae Bradley and Vince Jermaine Rhyne announce their engagement.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Beverly and Terry Dellinger/Davis of Birdview and Doug and Michelle Bradley of Darrington. The prospective groom is the son of Vincent and Regina Rhyne of Anacortes.

Bradley graduated from Concrete High School in 2003 and is attending Skagit Valley College to become a dental hygienist. She is employed as a medical receptionist in Mt. Vernon. Rhyne graduated in 2002 from Anacortes High School. He is employed by General Chemical in Anacortes.

The couple plan an Aug. 22 wedding at Leifer Manor in Marysville.

Bainton to graduate

Mandi Lynn Bainton, daughter of Terry and Beverly Dellinger-Davis, will be graduating from the University of Washington School of Medicine in the Physician Assistant Program on Thurs., Aug. 27. Mandi was a student in the Concrete School District.



Concrete Saturday Market update

By Athena Hornsby

August puts the Saturday Market in full swing. With the hot summer days we now have several varieties of fresh berries. We also have **great local produce** for your selection with greens, carrots, cucumbers, summer squash, tomatoes, and much more.

The market has **live music** scheduled each Saturday at 11 a.m. These are local favorites including The Renegades, Brian Fannin, Zach Michaud, Fiddlin' Anne, Anarchist Union, and Leap of Faith. On Aug. 22, Sahabra and Assunta will grace the market with a performance in the ancient art of **belly dancing**.

The Finny Community School benefit **bake sale** is on the calendar for August 29. Members of the Finny Farm also are planning various **interactive children's activities** during August. The Concrete Senior Center will host a **benefit breakfast** on Aug. 15 at 7:30 a.m.

August promises to be a fun month at your market. Come down and enjoy the entertainment and **grab lunch** from 2-G Catering, on site each Saturday. We have more **new vendors and returning favorites** with an interesting array of handcrafted items.

Your community market is a great place to go! For more information or a market calendar, e-mail concretesaturdaymarket@gmail.com or call 360.853.8765. We are located just off scenic State Route 20 at Milepost 89. Open every Saturday in August, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

I magine Concrete Task Forces forming

The steering committee charged with organizing and facilitating Imagine Concrete, the visioning process with workshops held earlier in the year, has begun forming task forces to shepherd the five primary initiatives that grew out of the workshops:

1. Transform Concrete into a sustainable community/destination.
2. Clean up public and private areas within town limits and the urban growth area.
3. Preserve historic structures.

4. Adapt or adopt zoning and planning codes and strategies to create the kinds of places we want.
5. Promote and support local businesses, while encouraging those same businesses to meet local needs.

The task forces will be charged with delving further into the individual ideas within each initiative to determine which are feasible within short and long terms.

Each task force will meet separately, elect a chairperson, then begin to delve into the challenges of turning ideas into actions.

If you'd like to join one of the task forces, contact Jason Miller at 360.853.8213 or goodwords@verizon.net.



Old School nears demolition

After more than a year, the fire-damaged school building in Concrete is finally about to be demolished.

Troy Lautenbach, co-principal of Lautenbach Industries, the firm tapped by building owner Jack Clifton to do the work, says his company could begin demolition as early as Wed., Aug. 5, and estimates the work will take two weeks, perhaps longer.

Lautenbach says his company will use specialized excavators to dismantle the building, because of its height and material makeup (concrete).

Safety is a huge component for this project, Lautenbach said.

At deadline, Lautenbach was unable to offer more specifics, but he did add that his firm plans to recycle as much of the old concrete as possible.



Saukrates Cafe serves up conversations

Listen. Learn. Share. These are the guiding principles of the Saukrates Cafe, a venue for people who like to ponder questions and converse with others, whether like-minded or not.

Saukrates Cafe meets at 6 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month, at Annie's Pizza Station in Concrete. Participants can stay as long as they like, with most gatherings running two to three hours.

What is there to talk about? Plenty! We as citizens of the human race are faced daily with many questions, some that are integral to our survival as a culture.

See Saukrates, p. 26

Concrete ponders youth diversion program

There's at least one option to the revolving door of the juvenile justice system, and Concrete is examining its feasibility.

The Town Council is considering instituting the Diversion Program offered by Skagit County Youth and Family Services. With accountability as its driving philosophy, the diversion program seeks to relieve the court system by dealing with minor juvenile offenses outside of court.

Youths are held accountable for their actions through community service, restitution, curfews, fines, and other deterrents administered by a Community Accountability Board (CAB). The CABs are composed of members of the local community in which a juvenile offender resides. The intent is to impress upon the youth the connection between their community and their offender activity.

Anyone interested in learning more or serving on a CAB should contact Kevin McCrea with Skagit County Dept. of Youth & Family Services, at 360.336.9360 or kevinm@co.skagit.wa.us. McCrea already is actively seeking a meeting place for a Concrete CAB.

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July in pictures



When life hands you 100-plus-degree heat, make waves. These Concrete kids did exactly that on July 31, splashing around in their pool and thumbing their noses at the scorching sun. From left to right: Tristtin Vandershule, 3; Alissa Mitchell, 5; Dylan Vandershule, 5; Daniel Mitchell, 7.



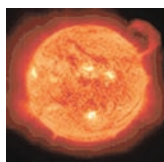
Above and right: Radio-controlled (RC) aircraft enthusiast Michael Lance, 57, of Seattle, takes his aircraft skyward and then gives it a rest during a windy and sunny Concrete RC Fly-In on July 18.



A quartet of Blackjacks, aerobatic pilots based out of Arlington, scream overhead during the Concrete Old-Fashioned Vintage Fly-In on July 25. Blackjack leaders are all ex-military fighter pilots, and require all prospective members to be trained to their satisfaction.



Concrete Herald publisher and editor Jason Miller gives last-minute instructions to runners before starting the first annual Cinder Shins Fun Run, a 5K event sponsored by *Concrete Herald*, during the Cement City Street Fair on July 25. Photo by Valerie Stafford.



Tragedy struck on July 20 when Concrete citizen Stefanie Heggie, 26, attempted to pass a vehicle on eastbound State Route 20 and collided with two large trucks traveling west. Neither truck driver was killed, but Heggie died in the crash. She had been rushing to Rockport, attempting to reach her mother, whom Heggie feared was suicidal. Photo by Amber Lee.



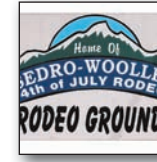
Jolie Johnson, 3, of Rockport, gets a trio of balloons painted on her arm by Child Evangelism Fellowship representative Christie Wolff during the Cement City Street Fair on July 25. Supervising the work is Jolie's sister, Frankie Johnson, 6.



Local poet Steve Grubb reads his work during the Poetry & Music festival held concurrently with the Cement City Street Fair on July 25.



Sedro-Woolley



On the road for a reason

Irma Coulter has walked for nine years simply because she enjoys it. It's a habit that might help save her life.

By Jason Miller

Every other morning, Sedro-Woolley citizen Irma Coulter puts on her uniform and hits the road. Her uniform is a yellow windbreaker, black tights, and running shoes. If it's cold, she'll add a stocking cap and maybe gloves. If it's raining, out comes the rain gear. She's been doing this for nine years. She knows the drill.

If you're up and on the road, headed in the right direction at the right time, you might see Irma walking on the proper side of State Route 20. As you near her, she will inevitably raise a hand in greeting. You might spot an orange ball in her palm as you whiz by. You should probably wave back; it's the neighborly thing to do.

A former Lyman resident, the 51-year-old pedestrian used to walk purely for

pleasure. Today, she has an additional reason.

About two months ago, I was diagnosed with breast cancer, so now I walk to be healthy for the chemotherapy treatments, too," said Irma.

Averse to secluded trails and their potential dangers, Irma names State Route 20 as her preferred track, one on which she logs 13 miles every time she sets out. "The road has a lot of traffic, so it's more safe that way," she said. "I wave at everyone to be sure they see me, plus, I don't want anyone to think I'm unfriendly!"

Born in Guadalajara, Mexico, Irma retains a lilting accent that, according to some of her friends, doesn't sound Mexican at all.

But when it's time to walk, there's no need to talk. Irma is all business on the road, carrying bright orange exercise balls with the consistency of stiff sponges, squeezing them at intervals to increase her hand and finger strength. "I used to carry 1.5-lb. balls, but I've switched to these spongy ones to exercise my fingers," she said.

Irma brings the same no-nonsense attitude along with hope to the reality of her cancer. A realist, she nevertheless sees every reason to stay optimistic. For Irma, there's no reason to go down without



Sedro-Woolley citizen Irma Coulter walks State Route 20 every other day to lift her spirits and prepare for breast cancer treatments.

a fight, no reason to stop pursuing her regular outings or waving at strangers.

"I want to be positive, not sad," she said.

"I could die quickly if I let that happen. I don't want that to happen."

Irma's husband, Ed, a Concrete native, points to Irma's love of life and their religious beliefs,

which have served her in good stead.

"We both look forward to a time when we will live without pains, without cancers," he said. "She's a wonderful person to be around."

I wave because I like human beings.

Irma Coulter

Volunteer correspondents are needed for Sedro-Woolley!

Want to write short updates, or simply provide news tips about Sedro-Woolley for *Concrete Herald*? Contact Jason Miller:

360.853.8213
editor@concrete-herald.com

Council summary

At its June 24 meeting, the City of Sedro-Woolley Council addressed the following major topics:

- Planner Moore addressed the Council regarding the passage of the Essential Public Facilities Ordinance on April 22, 2009. He noted after adoption, there were some formatting errors, which included duplicate paragraphs. He noted the Planning Department

recommends striking the sections shown in the staff memo. Discussion ensued regarding some of the changes and the use of a code advisor, who then reviews and brings to our attention formatting errors, as well as integration with other parts of the code. Councilmember Storrs moved to approve Ordinance No. 1645-09 to Revise Sedro-Woolley Municipal Code Chapter 17.88. Seconded by Councilmember Splane. Motion carried (5-0).

- 2009 Budget Amendment #3: Mayor Anderson reviewed the proposed budget amendment. Councilmember Storrs moved to approve Ordinance No. 1646-09 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 1624-08 titled An Ordinance Adopting the Annual Budget for the City of Sedro-Woolley for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2009. Councilmember London questioned the process at the time of repayment of funds in connection with the budget amendment. Motion carried (5-0).
- Fire Chief Klinger noted it is fireworks time. He stated there are two approved stands that will be opening, which are operated by a church group out of Mount Vernon.
- Planner Moore noted the Planning Commission has been working on the task items as outlined by the Council. He noted that they are 95 percent through the first three comp plan amendments for the year, and have started analyzing the City Wide rezoning effort. Moore also discussed plans to notify the public for upcoming work shops.
- Councilmember Meamber commented on the driveway at Riverfront Park and noted the need for a walking path to the Carnival area.
- Councilmember Splane questioned Loggerodeo's use of Riverfront Park.
- Councilmember Lemley noted a travel trailer on the east end of Ferry Street that has been parked for some time. Fire Chief Klinger stated he will pass word on to the Police Department for investigation.
- Councilmember London reported on representing the Mayor at the recent SCOG and the Solid Waste Governance Board.



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Concrete Heritage Museum News

The museum is now open Saturdays through Labor Day, from noon to 4 p.m. Volunteer hosts are needed; to volunteer, call Robin at 360.826.3075. The Sockeye Express runs during the same time, giving guided tours around the town and to the museum.

Our **monthly meeting** is the second Thursday of each month, at 7 p.m., at the museum. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Douglas Dunn is our British Columbia connection, and his interest in preserving small-town history spurred him to give a \$500 grant to the museum to help fund a photo scanning project. **Mike Criner** at the high school is our technical support person, and **Kathy Huntley** has been contacting people about scanning their old photos. Call Kathy at 853.8787 if you would like to contribute to this digital historic record. We know there are treasures out there in old albums or shoeboxes, waiting to be discovered.

Our annual **Bow Hill Rest Area** fundraiser June 26 to June 29 succeeded with the help of all who volunteered and gave baked goods, thank you all very much for your time. A total of \$615 was raised and 214 volunteer hours were logged! **Lyle and Verna McClure** bought the remaining cookies for the Foresters fundraiser. Many thanks go to **Robin and Gerry Wood**, who spent the entire weekend at the rest area so the booth

would always be staffed.

Saturday Market will hold a **bake sale** for the museum on Sat., Aug. 8. Baked goods will be needed.

Come join the growing attendance of our **Annual Potluck Picnic** at the Concrete Senior Center on Thurs., Aug. 13, at 6 p.m. Enjoy the good company and a terrific meal.

Another grant from Skagit County Lodging Tax was awarded to us this year to update the town's **historic signage**, and create a **Historic Byway Route brochure** that will guide visitors through our Main Street route. New signs will appear this summer at seven locations that describe historic (and former) structures. Many thanks to hours of work by the **Sign Committee**, whose excitement about the project may lead to a new, expanded walking tour brochure (or even a book!).

The Centennial reprint of *So They Called the Town Concrete* is still available. The new edition features enhanced photographs and a more readable type font. New cover graphics were created by **Philip Johnson**. Copies are available at Albert's Red Apple and the Museum; an order form can be printed at our Web site at www.stumpranchonline.com/concreteheritagemuseum.

D PR

Community fundraisers

Rummage Sale, Sat., Sept. 5, and Sun., Sept. 6, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Currier Hall, Main Street, Newhalem. All proceeds to nonprofit charity organizations in Skagit and Whatcom Counties. For details, contact Vonie Polomis at 206.386.4491.

Rick Lemley

Chuck Ruhl

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

AUGUST

- 6 105th Annual Skagit County Pioneer Association Picnic and Meeting, Pioneer Park, La Conner (see article, p. XX)
- 8 Lyman All-School Reunion Picnic Potluck, Lyman City Park (City Hall in inclement weather), noon to 4 p.m.; for details, call 360.826.3160
- 8 3rd Annual Skagit River Family Fest, presented by Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, Howard Miller Steelhead Park, Rockport, noon to 5 p.m.; details at www.skagitfisheries.org/famfest
- 12-15 Skagit County Fair, Mount Vernon
- 15-16 Cascade Days, Concrete; info at www.cascadedays.com or 360.853.7867
- 26 KSVU organizational meeting, Concrete Senior Center, 6 p.m.; more info at 360.416.7711

SEPTEMBER

- 5-6 Rummage sale for charity organizations in Skagit and Whatcom Counties, Currier Hall, Newhalem, more info at 206.386.4491 and notice, this page
- 11-12 Upper Skagit Valley Women's Retreat, Baker Lake Lodge; see article, p. 1; details at www.stumpranchonline.com/upperskagitwomen

OCTOBER

- 3, 10, 17, 24 Concrete Ghost Walk, 8 p.m.; register at: concreteghostwalk@mac.com

OUR HISTORY IS YOUR HISTORY

WHEN YOU LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE, it's easy to share values and memories with the people you serve. Since 1914, we've recognized the special place that is Skagit County. Through ups and downs, we've shared nearly 100 years of history with the people of this area. Thanks to all who have shared with us.



Main Street in Concrete, c. 1911

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Lyman



Car Show a success

On July 11, Lyman eclipsed its 2008 Car Show entry count of 125 by welcoming 169 cars to its streets.

A photographer's dream, the 2009 Lyman Car Show boasted automobiles of virtually every vintage, make, and model, every one gleaming so much, you needed shades just to walk past.

Event coordinator Nancy Trythall estimated the crowd at 600 to 1,000 people, saying she'd heard that some visitors had traveled from as far away as Port Angeles.

The show, a fundraiser for the town's park and cemetery, lived up to its calling, with approximately \$7,400 raised after expenses, according to Trythall. The jail attraction which incarcerated people until they made a donation to the cause did very well; I think they raised \$150 for the Historical Committee through the jail alone, said Trythall.

The Lyman Historical Committee sold several bricks, which eventually will line the path to Minkler Mansion, raising more than \$800 for preservation of the mansion. Mansion tours were led by Bud Meyers and Ron Hodgins.

Music spilled through the air, and vendors and food were plentiful, offering virtually every product and taste treat one could wish for on a hot summer day. But for Trythall, the high point of the day was

the flag-raising ceremony, which featured a very special guest with arguably the strongest ties to the town: Minkler descendant Eleanor Minkler Atkin.

It was a tearjerker for me, said Trythall.



Lyman shattered last year's tally of 125 cars, with 169 cars filling its streets and side lots for this year's Car Show.



Boy Scout Zachary Schmidt stands with one of 50 flags his troop erected for the Car Show.

Council summary

The Lyman Town Council held its most recent monthly meeting on July 14. Major topics covered include:

- Mayor Heinzman introduced Toni Nelson, small cities specialist from State Auditors Office. She addressed the Council with information concerning negative fund balances. She noticed a large improvement in the fund balances since she was here in January. She did, however, stress to the Council how important it is not to let the funds be negative again. She also stated a rate increase with today's economy is inevitable. There are many scenarios to consider. She also recommended that the interfund loan that Council approved from the general fund to water fund should be paid back in 5 years, not 20.
- The advisory committee sold six bricks and sold \$106 in raffle tickets and awarded a brick to the winner, for a total of 7 bricks. Ron H. asked Council to repeal the Ordinance establishing the committee. They would like to be a committee of citizens, not connected to the city.

Lyman All-School Reunion Picnic Potluck slated for August 8

Planning has begun for a picnic potluck to celebrate a Lyman All-School Reunion celebration on Sat., Aug. 8, from noon till 4 p.m.

The event will be held at Lyman City Park and will move to City Hall if the weather turns sour.

With Lyman celebrating its 100th birthday, why not come see who you can reconnect with? said Joan Parker, one of the reunion organizers.

Parker and two other organizers Bobbi Bryant and Jean DeWitte encourage prospective attendees to bring lawn chairs, blankets, and games, as well as picnic-style food, table service, soft drinks, and a cooler. They also suggest that people bring their favorite stories and pictures, especially military pictures for a special display (organizers will take a photocopy and return attendees' photos).

Hamilton neighbors are welcome, said

the event flyer.

Organizers ask everyone to spread the word to former classmates. Questions may be directed to the event organizers:

Joan Parker 360.826.3160
Bobbi Bryant 360.659.9848
Joanne Brawley 360.707.0391

Jakes Day for kids

The North Sound Gobblers Chapter of The National Wild Turkey Federation will hold a free Jakes Day for all kids under 17 on Sun., Aug. 9, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Lyman Park.

Plenty of outdoor activities for kids are planned. A hot dog lunch also is available for \$2.

Contact Amanda Lee at 360.333.0341 or northsoundgobblers@live.com for details.

Food bank reopens in Lyman

On Aug. 6, Christian Ministry Network, which operated the Hamilton Food Bank and Shepherd's Heart Care Center, reopened its doors in its new location in the Town of Lyman.

During the past year and half, the Town of Lyman has been in the process of expanding its municipal facilities to provide space for a care center and a food bank. With grant money from the state, support from Skagit County Commissioner Dillon and the promise of a federal earmark from Representative Larsen, that dream is becoming a reality.

The food bank organization, which vacated its Hamilton location at the request of the First Baptist Church of Hamilton, was pleased to find a location from which it could continue its service to Upper Skagit communities.

The food bank will focus on providing food and assistance to working families by offering extended evening hours. The bank will open every Thursday from 11 a.m. till 3 p.m., with extended hours until 6 p.m. on every first and third Thursday.

We are excited to reopen at this new location and thank the town of Lyman for its warm welcome, said Sheila White, director of the new food bank. We look forward to being here and to welcoming new volunteers and new families to the food bank.

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Reality TV is more interesting for some people than reality itself. For some parents, Dancing With the Stars has replaced playing with the kids. American Idol has certainly become that idolone that millions of Americans, and thousands of Skagitonians, bow down to, fervently gossiping about it in the blogosphere or planning their schedules around it. Meanwhile the Wii and similar games have lured their kids away from the studies that should be preparing them for adulthood and competition with other players around the Internet neighborhood.

After work, that long commute, and keeping up with the CSI detectives in Miami, Homer Simpson in Springfield, and the Friends gang down at Central Perk coffee shop, where's the time for family? Oh, maybe there's a moment or two in there before surfing the Net late into the night, maybe tracking down an old flame on MySpace or Facebook, a lost buddy on Classmates.com or, dare we say, a new playmate on Adult Friend Finder.

All the while, the children watch with eyes of wonderment, learning from every move, every word, and after losing faith in their family, they learn on the fly from everybody else who may not necessarily have the child's welfare in mind. You know, that gaggle of kids that have formed their own collective? Comrades with the same sad stories and similar fates? In other places, they are armed and are called gangs. Just this past Sunday in Ballard, a 17-year-old allegedly shot to death a popular convenience store clerk for a few bucks. Seventeen years old.

Here's another ridiculous, age-old axiom: Kids are resilient. The logic here is that kids will bounce back quickly if something happens to them; they'll get over it. That may be true for bumps and bruises on a toddler. But for your teenage son or daughter who desperately need as much guidance and instruction as you can give, it's not. They don't just get over that lack of attention and much-needed direction. They get it someplace else. Just ask the pregnancy centers.

Kids are sponges. Whether two, ten, or twenty years old, they are learning their values from those of us who supposedly



Concrete grounds maintenance worker Dale Angell repairs a sign at State Route 20 and Fir Street on July 21. "Dealing with this kind of thing pulls me away from the things I need to be doing," he said. "It pulls all of us away."

have this adult thing down to a science. Here are three universal tools to aid in your success:

We teach, they'll learn. We lead, they'll follow. And the greatest one: When we love, they'll love back, and with a

seemingly exponential ability, too. You just can't out-love a kid. With that fact in mind, you can see why, when a child's love continually is unnoticed or unreturned, a community feels the repercussions through juvenile crime.

There are kids who need the people in this town and other communities to stick their necks out and get involved with them.

They thirst to achieve and want to believe, but as they lose hope, they pay with their innocence. How unfortunate, because they are our future leaders.

There are opportunities in every neighborhood in every town to make a difference in the lives of one or more of these kids. The town of Concrete has eagerly begun the process of developing a Community Accountability Board through Skagit County Youth and Family Services (see article, p. 4), a diversion program to keep first-time, petty offenders from entering the juvenile courts system, with a

better than 75 percent success rate over a 30-year period. These kids get counseling, pay restitution, and are required to perform supervised community service in the towns where their offense took place. We are looking for people in the area to step up and become a part of this healing process for these kids and their affected communities. If you'd like more information on volunteering, Dave Yount or Kevin McCrea can be contacted with the Diversion Unit at 360.336.9360.

At the July 27 Town Council meeting, excited by the success the town experienced with the Youth Day and the movie night that followed at Silo Park, Mayor Wilson asked the Council if having more movie nights made sense. A resounding yes was the reply. Expect to see it happening every other Saturday night, beginning Aug. 8, for the remainder of the summer at Silo Park. Turn off the TV, the Wii, and the computer, round up your kids, call the neighbors, and make the short trek to the movie.

I've toyed with the idea of an Upriver Olympics, a three-on-three basketball tournament on Main Street, volleyball at Town Park, an old-fashioned soap box derby, a half-marathon to bring in the tourists, bicycling, X Games-style skateboarding, a street luge or outdoor

August 2009 • Concrete Herald • 9 inline speed skating. It's an idea that I think would allow some of our finer athletes—some of those ignored, lonely faces—to really shine for a change and bond with the rest of the community. It's a preliminary thought but one that could go places.

And remember, there are other great groups in the community that could use your time and your talent to make a difference as well. Youth Dynamics usually meets on Mondays at Concrete High, AWANA programs can be found at various churches, the Pregnancy Resource Center in Concrete and the Concrete Food Bank to name a few.

It's on all of our shoulders to carry this load. To keep our communities alive and bring back the vitality they once had, everyone, from youngest to oldest, has to step out of their comfort zone, and be willing to get involved. We are not truly a community if we'd rather zone out to the blue tones of the computer monitor or big screen. Choosing old Seinfeld reruns instead of offering encouraging words to a young man or woman is a tragedy.

So, tell me your ideas. Let me know how you want to make a difference. E-mail me at riderp@rocketmail.com.

Paul Wayne Rider



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Hamilton



Food Bank, cont. from p. 1

First Baptist Church, the food bank was controlled by an operating board whose members didn't always see eye to eye.

Composed of First Baptist members, CMN representatives, and others, the operating board found itself on shaky ground after some members noticed violations of federal law and CMN internal policies, with respect to how food can be delivered to people in need without subjecting them to "coercive proselytization," according to Sedro-Woolley attorney Markéta Vorel, who represents CMN.

The struggle continued for years, with the food bank board eventually dismissing First Baptist Church pastor Ron Edwards, then dissolving and handing over the operation of the food bank to CMN.

Earlier this year, Edwards approached the Town of Hamilton and obtained a lease for the property on which the food bank is located. That lease was written

between the Town and First Baptist Church, and Vorel questions its validity. But CMN did not challenge the validity of the lease, and after it was obtained, the church gave notice to CMN to vacate the premises.

CMN was always the tax-exempt umbrella of the food bank; it was the entity that owned it, said Vorel. So after CMN received the notice to vacate, representatives on June 26 visited the food bank and took the food, the shelving, the freezers, and refrigerators—all viewed as CMN property.

The move startled some Hamilton residents and put Edwards in damage-control mode. He recently e-mailed the following statement to *Concrete Herald*:

The Hamilton First Baptist Church re-opened the food bank that has been located and still is on Pettit St. in Hamilton on July 8 and will be handing out what God provides us to give. We are in need of freezers, refrigerators, perishable and nonperishable items, and financial donations. All donations are tax deductible. We are also hoping to collect school supplies for children of Hamilton and the surrounding communities.

We are thankful to the many, many volunteers who have donated time and money to make sure that this important program continues for the people of the Upper Skagit. If there is anyone who is in immediate need or that desires to donate, please call the Hamilton First Baptist Church at 826.3307. We want to say thanks to the Hamilton community for its positive support and we look forward to continuing the food bank at its present location. May God bless each of you.

Council summary

The Hamilton Town Council held a monthly meeting on June 9. Major topics included:

- Water rates were revisited. Council members had information on amounts used, amounts billed and amounts collected. Mayor Bates pointed out that the Town is selling a large amount of water for just a few pennies. It was discussed that the amount we should collect would be adequate; however, there was approximately \$8,000.00 in past due payments. The Town would now implement collection procedures, including liens on property to collect these past due amounts.
- Mayor Bates signed CTED Voucher Distribution for \$43,750.00 which is the last CTED payment. The overpayment to the Town made in 2007 was explained by Lauren Tracy. There is now a \$0 grant balance on #C20050414. Invoices for Lauren Tracy and ATSI were approved for payment by Hamilton PDA under the Interlocal Agreement.
- Lauren Tracy encouraged everyone to go to the SCOG Meeting on Wednesday, June 17th at 2:00 pm.

frozen filleted catfish. The weather was a little hot along the way, but they had a good time.

Some of you probably know Willie Young, whose parents own a dairy farm on Burmaster Road. Willie was baling hay and stopped to work on the baler and reached up to turn it on and some of his clothes got caught in the PTO shaft. As a result, Willie has lots of stitches in his leg. Let this be a reminder to always shut off the tractor and baler and, when turning them back on, always get up on the tractor so your clothes can't get caught in the PTO shaft.

We regret the loss of another Hamilton Council member. Dennis Mani passed away in late July. He was only 53 years old and an elected Council member from the last election. He was the son of Nellie Moody Mani and the late Tip Mani. He is also a brother-in-law to our new Hamilton city clerk, Susan Mani.

We lost another local lady, too: Phyllis C. Queen of Punkin Center passed away July 29 at 77 years of age. She was the daughter of Robert and Veda Schryer.

Birdsview buzz

By Kris Voigt

Not much happening in Birdsview this last month. The 4th of July was rocking at the brewery with **Bad Chuck** and **Barefeet** performing, along with a great salmon barbecue put on by the **Hershey Brothers** from up north near Ferndale.

We wish **Anita Weidkamp** (Darrel's wife) a speedy recovery on her recent shoulder surgery. And a belated happy birthday to someone I missed last month: **Scott Hollenbeck**. And in August, we wish **Randy Bonaventura** (Challenger Ridge winemaker), **Aimee Adkinson**, and **Jesse Eldridge** a very happy birthday.

We're looking forward to **Nicki Voigt** coming home from Boston for Birdstock. It will be the first time she will be here for our annual event. And I, **Kris Voigt**, recently attended my 40th high school reunion. I graduated from Mountlake Terrace, but we held our reunion at the Edmonds Senior Center, which my kids thought was hilarious.

If anyone knows of something going on in Birdsview, please stop by the brewery and let me know so I can include it.

Hamilton Musings

By Carol Bates

This month started out pretty slow, with nothing to report, but then things started to pick up.

We are proud to announce the arrival of the 19th great grandchild for the Jim Bates family: Johana Jade Kua, whose parents are Joel and Mina Kay Allison Kua. The little miss arrived on June 17. Mina is the daughter of Dennis and Karen Kay Bates Allison, and Karen is the daughter of Jim and Carol Bates. Joel is head chef at the Casino on Bow Hill and one heck of a good cook. If you don't believe me, go there for an excellent meal.

Mayor Tim Bates and his folks, Jim and Carol, left in June for a three-week vacation to visit several of Jim's brothers and Carol's sisters. They also visited Craig Bates (now of Kansas) and a former Council member and assistant fire chief of Hamilton. Craig took them fishing and they brought home three-gallon bags of



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Business Spotlight: Marblemount Diner

By Cora Thomas

The last food stop you should make before taking the scenic drive over the North Cascades Pass is the Marblemount Diner, 30 minutes east of Concrete.

Don't let the whimsical name fool you. The Marblemount Diner is a contemporary restaurant, serving cuisines of the world, as well as traditional American fare.

The owners, Lori and Alan Goerdt bought the restaurant in 2004 from Gerald Howard. Before the Goerdt's bought the diner they were caretakers for a property on a totally sustainable private island in the San Juan Islands, so relocating to Marblemount felt like moving to civilization! The Goerdt's were ready for a change after living in an isolated area and wanted to join a small community.

The Goerdt's business philosophy is customer service at any cost, Lori said. Lori and Alan run the business all by themselves and hold high standards, from quality staff, to the best food and drink, cleanliness, to excellent customer service. Lori also is innovative; her menu changes constantly from year to year and even week to week.

Every week, the Diner has a new dinner menu. Through her dinner specials, Lori explores cuisines from all over the world including Asian, Spanish, Italian, and Cajun. Fresh seafood is a big hit with customers, Lori said. The menu ranges from Asian-style crab cakes, to halibut, cod, or salmon fish and chips, and from all-natural Angus beef, to lobster and prime rib. You also will find standard fare on a Diner menu. The breakfast buffet on Saturday and Sunday is very popular as

See Spotlight, p. 26

AT A GLANCE: Marblemount Diner

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Coming in September: watercolors by Skagit Valley artist Esther McLatchy
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Pat Buller Photography

North Cascades 2009 season began with lowland snow-free lakes—find some at www.pdbphotos.net
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Rockport



North Cascades National Park launches Junior Ranger program

North Cascades National Park Complex has launched a new Junior Ranger program. The program, which is free to the public, includes four new age-appropriate activity booklets.

The Junior Ranger program goals are for children to have fun in the park and to foster a lasting relationship with the North Cascades.

The free Junior Ranger program is a great way for families to explore the park together, said National Park Service Superintendent Chip Jenkins. My family enjoyed doing the Junior Ranger program. My kids think it's great.

The Junior Ranger booklets introduce the unique natural and cultural history of the North Cascades through a series of fun activities organized around a specific theme to build connections and knowledge of this national park.

Each booklet also has a totem animal that helps guide kids and families through the activities, and offers instruction, hints, and ways they can explore the North Cascades. Activities are grouped into ages 3-5 (Pacific Tree Frog), 5-8 (Black Bear), 8-11 (Raven), and 12+ (Mountain Goat).

Future Junior Rangers can earn badges, patches and certificates by completing at least six activities in the Junior Ranger booklet. Free booklets are available at any of the six visitor information centers in North Cascades National Park Complex. For Complex hours, go to www.nps.gov/noca/planyourvisit/hours.htm.



Become an NPS WebRanger!

Visit www.nps.gov/webrangers/ to become an NPS WebRanger. Kids of all ages can explore and learn about all of the National Park sites through out the U.S. Earn virtual badges by completing activities, solving puzzles, reading stories, and sharing your National Park experiences with other WebRangers.

Skagit County Fire Protection Dist. #19 Board meeting moved

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners has been rescheduled to Thur., Aug. 13, at 7:30 p.m. at the Rockport Fire Hall.

This is a change from the normal monthly regular meeting date of the second Tuesday of each month.

Skagit County Pioneer Association Picnic and Meeting scheduled

LA CONNER – The 105th Annual Skagit County Pioneer Association Picnic and Meeting is scheduled for Thur., Aug. 6, at Pioneer Park, near the Rainbow Bridge in La Conner, according to President Roger Dalan of Mount Vernon.

There will be live music on the grounds, plenty of old-timers, historic pictures, an old car show, and information on display.

The event is open to all interested people at no charge, but those who wish may register and pay \$2 for their annual membership fee in the Skagit County Pioneer Association, receiving in return a colorful badge, ribbon, and information. Also, for a cost of \$10 per plate, those who wish may buy tickets for the complete barbecue salmon dinner, served by members of the La Conner Civic Garden Club, beginning promptly at 11:15 a.m. Coffee, tea, and other beverages will be available through the efforts of the 4-H Craft and Critter Club of Anacortes, working to raise funds for special projects.

The Business Meeting of the Association will be called to order by President Dalan at 12:45 p.m. and will include an invocation, flag salute, and group singing. Brief reports will be made by officers of the Association, and a memorial tribute offered for departed Pioneers. Honored guests will be recognized for their contributions to the Skagit Community, including the Gates family of Mount Vernon as the 2009 Pioneer Family of the Year, and the Rivas Family of Mexico Cañame as the 2009 Family Contributing to Pioneer Spirit. Elections for the coming year's officers also will be held.

Skagit River Family Fest

Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group presents the 3rd Annual Skagit River Family Fest.

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More info at www.skagitfisheries.org/famfest

For details, contact Lucy DeGrace at 360.336.0172 or ldegrace@skagitfisheries.org

Volunteer correspondents are needed for Rockport!

Want to write short updates, or simply provide news tips about Rockport for *Concrete Herald*? Contact Jason Miller:

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Concrete Herald

Ravages of Time: Concrete band gains momentum and fans

By Lacy Lahr

A local group of musicians is becoming more popular as they branch out to play new venues in the area. The five-member group, which includes a father/son combination, began as Something to Die 4, and, after changing its format and name, began making a name for itself in the area.

Though they have been playing together as Ravages of Time for less than a year, they seem to be gaining their own following. For now, they describe themselves as starving artists, but seem determined to carve out their own niche. With a distinctive sound and willingness to take chances, they describe their style as a blend of rebelliousness and darkness.

They describe their stage presence as somewhat theatrical and they enjoy being a different style of musicians, influenced by the black metal genre, Motley Crew, and Avenged Sevenfold, among others. The resulting sound is edgy and raw.

Ravages of Time won the Battle of the

Bands competition at Common Ground in Burlington on June 27, which gave them bragging rights, a plaque, and \$250. A change in the contest schedule had them playing first, which meant that most of their fans didn't show up until later on in the competition, after they'd finished playing. Yet, they were still able to pull off a win based on crowd response.

As musicians, they say that they are trying to put Concrete on the map and that they tend to make new friends and pick up new fans at each new venue they play. They were recently featured on 99.9 KISW's Metal Shop, where their music was heard by a larger audience. Ravages of Time describe how important their fans are and that they have the most dedicated fans.

Three months ago, Ravages of Time recorded their music in an Issaquah recording studio, Puget Sound Studios, and their music is now being used as advertising for the studio. CDs of their music can be purchased at their shows. If



We've got your energy *right here*. From left to right, Ravages of Time is Mick Sins (Mick Cochran, 40), drums; Ticker Twisted (Josh Hamilton, 20), lead vocals; C. C. Sins (Cody Cochran, 19), guitar and vocals; Jesse Plagues (Alex Shadwick, 19), guitar; and Tripple Syxx/Vamp (Mike Dees, 16), bass.

you want to listen in on Ravages of time, check out their myspace page at www.myspace.com/ravagesoftimerot.

THIS AND THAT

By J.K.M.

Concrete Food Bank coordinator Marty Smith tells *Concrete Herald* that someone may be posing as a Food Bank representative and calling people, asking them for a donation.

The Food Bank does not phone people for donations, says Smith. He advises you to hang up if you receive a phone call from any solicitor who claims to represent the Concrete Food Bank; it's likely a hoax.

If you want to make a donation, call me and send your donation directly to the Concrete branch of Summit Bank, says Smith, who can be reached at 360.853.8505.

The Concrete Food Bank is open the second and last Thursday of each month, from noon till 3 p.m. During winter, the third Thursday of each month is added to the schedule.

Have you noticed the **Town Center sign** lately? Parks Committee members have been working diligently to complete the landscaping and fence around and behind the sign, while our Public Works Dept.

is keeping things watered and oiling the sign's massive logs to weatherproof them.

If you own a business along Main Street, there are still spaces on the sign for your name. For a one-time fee of \$150, plus \$10 per year for maintenance, you can get a spot on the sign. Just drop off your first check for \$160 at Town Hall, and let Andrea Fichter know the precise wording you prefer. For ideas and consistency, look at what existing businesses are doing with their spaces.

Future plans for the sign include adding a weatherproof box containing laminated maps to area businesses.

Movie nights are coming to Concrete! Beginning Aug. 8 and every other Saturday thereafter, grab the kids and head to Silo Park around 9:30 p.m. Movies are FREE and will be projected onto a screen against the north side of the silos. All area businesses are encouraged to contribute to funding this event in any amount; contact Andrea Fichter at Town Hall for details.

Our former town planner, **Lacy Lahr**, is making good on her promise to pursue a new career. In June, Lahr graduated from City University of Seattle with a Master in Teaching and a K-12 Special Education endorsement. Fortunately for us, Lacy plans to seek employment in Skagit County. Congratulations, Lacy!

The *Concrete Herald* continues to prove you can't smother a good story no

matter how hard you try. After stories of its comeback ran in the Seattle Times and on KING and KOMO, the *Herald* now is going to be discussed in a new book by University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication journalism professor Judy Muller.

Slated for publication by University of Nebraska in spring or summer 2010, Muller's book has a working title of *Emus loose in Egnar: Big stories from small town newspapers*. Journalism is alive and well in small town newspapers across the country; they're thriving while their big cousins are struggling, says Judy. So guess which Skagit County newspaper she wants to include in her book?

Muller will be in Concrete Aug. 15 to

Catch Ravages of Time in concert

Aug. 6

The Mirkwood, Arlington

Aug. 7

Just Fun & Games, Mt. Vernon

Aug. 8

The Mirkwood, Arlington

Aug. 10

Central Saloon, Seattle

celebrate Cascade Days with us, hitch a ride on the *Concrete Herald* parade float, and research the story of our hometown newspaper's remarkable comeback in a challenging economy.

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Presbyterian good samaritans visit from Everett

From June 28 through July 4, several Concrete citizens got a little help from outsiders.

A group of modern-day samaritans from Cascade View Presbyterian Church in Everett came to town to help where they could. And help they did.

Working with representatives from Mount Baker Presbyterian, the church's members fanned out across Concrete, working to restore, build, and rebuild wherever their skills were needed most.

Some focused their energy on Mount Baker Presbyterian Church, working to fence in the back of the church so that a local daycare could continue to use the church's basement on weekdays.

Others went to Concrete residents' homes and painted what needed painted, or pulled weeds in the garden.

Still others worked to help citizens still trying to recover from the mudslides that ravaged parts of Concrete last winter.

Ron Curtis, a member of the Everett church, said that the trip was fulfilling for all involved. It's been quite rewarding, he said, guiding a young worker as he leveled a fence post.



Above: Sean Robinson (right) supervises Dara Voddler as she uses a circular saw for the first time. The two were part of a crew building a fenced enclosure at the back of Mount Baker Presbyterian Church in Concrete, which allows Just As I Am Early Learning Center to use its facilities during the week.

Above, right: Sean Jankovic (left) and Marilyn Simmons (on ladder) carefully repaint the fascia boards on the covered breezeway in "Grammy Sue's" backyard.

Right: Weed-pulling in unseasonably warm weather was on the agenda for Molly Higgins (left) and Morgan Williams (right). Fortunately for these two, they had help.



Birdstock festival raises funds for Birdsvew Fire Dept.

Nearly 1,000 people descended on Birdsvew Brewing Co. in Birdsvew on Aug. 1, drawn by cold beer, great bands, and a stellar cause.

The event, Birdstock, is a fundraiser for the Birdsvew Fire Department. Now in its fourth year, Birdstock began as the Fermentation Celebration in 2006, then changed its name the following year.

A fundraiser by any other name would still be as successful, said Kris Voigt of Birdsvew Brewing. It really went well this year. The weather was great, and I think everybody who came had a great time. Plus, it was the first time our daughter, Nicki, was home at the right time and could be a part of it.

The Birdsvew Fire Dept. grilled up tasty lunches and held "50/50" raffles throughout the day. The raffles were designed as fundraisers with a twist: Winners split the cash prizes with the fire department. Firemen's boots were placed strategically for donations. Posters and

T-shirts were sold, too, with half of those proceeds going to the fire department.

The major draw for the event was the five bands and two single acts that donated their time to the cause. Green Hornet, Barefeet, Bad Chuck, Fortune 500, and Fanny Alger played, and single acts Jesse Eldridge and Zac Machaud added more variety to the line-up.

We try to make sure that it's a family event, with a family area out front. All ages are welcome, said Voigt. It takes a lot of preparation during the months and weeks leading up to the event, but we had great veteran volunteers this year to help us ID people coming into the beer garden and serve as beer police, to prevent people from bringing their own beer or leaving the beer garden with a beer. Every year we're a little better prepared.

As the music played, some audience members got into the mood, dancing with their children in front of the stage. It was a carefree scene that recalled another music festival with stock in its name. This one had less mud, however.

Birdstock lands on the first Saturday of every August. Better mark your 2010 calendar now.

Sunny skies and great music drew almost 1,000 revelers to the Birdsvew Brewing Co. in Birdsvew Aug. 1, where cold beer and five bands waited.



Fortune 500 (right) joined bands Green Hornet, Barefeet, Bad Chuck, and Fanny Alger, and single acts Jesse Eldridge and Zac Machaud at the fourth annual Birdstock music festival in Birdsvew, Aug. 1.



Cascade Days, cont. from p. 1

Cascade Days began with its current moniker; however, after a few years, the event got a little too rowdy and organizers chose to cancel it. When it was revived, its name was changed to Good Ole Days and a ban on motorized vehicles was included. Four years ago, the committee decided to change it back to its original name.

Much is in store for attendees this year (see schedule, this page). The parade will run on Saturday, beginning at 11 a.m., with participants lining up at the post office on Main Street. A classic car show, firemen's competition, and log show will take place in the afternoon. Kids' activities are free and will run from 14 p.m. at the Town Park (behind the Town Center sign). The duck race is at 5 p.m. Anyone can purchase a duck for \$5; prizes will be awarded and all proceeds of this event help support Cascade Days. The bed race is from 6 to 6:30 p.m. and will start on Main Street. Birdview Brewing Co. will provide a beer garden and the Cascade Ramblers will provide local entertainment for the evening.

Sunday's events include more local musicians, a pet pride talent show for children and their pets, and pie- and watermelon-eating contests. A new event is the homemade jam and jelly contest. The winning raffle names will be drawn, with 40 to 50 prizes from a variety of Skagit Valley merchants up for grabs. Look for the Lions Club food booth, too.

A tradition of community

Cascade Days is very important, it

brings people together from up and down the river, said Bonnie Clark, Cascade Days Committee member.

And so it has been from the beginning. Cascade Days was started by Richard Buller and a few businessmen who promoted a highway to go across the mountain pass to the east, and worked long hours trying to transform the dream into reality. They used governmental Mine to Market funds to get the highway started, but when World War I began, they couldn't get any more money from that source. The highway project stalled, but, when the war ended, the state highway department and Seattle City Light helped to complete the highway to Winthrop.

Buller's influence in the Upper Valley is legendary, leading Cascade Days officials to tap his daughter, Tootsie Clark, as this year's Grand Marshal for the parade (see article, p. 18).

Tootsie Clark is an awesome person who is doing things for our community, said Judie Legg.

I am very proud they would want me, Clark said. She saw how hard her Father worked, and added, I am so proud of the work he did, and what the highway is today. She wants everyone to have lots of fun during the Cascade Days celebration.

Cascade Days Committee President John Legg sees the annual event as yet another way to demonstrate that Concrete is a supportive community in which to live and raise a family. It's a family event, and with more people involved, hopefully it will get bigger and bigger every year, he said.



Hawkman Williams shows off his stuff during the skateboard competition at the Concrete Youth Activity Day on July 23. Held at Silo Park and Town Park in Concrete, the event welcomed families and youth of all ages, and offered games, face painting, a movie, and more. *Photo by Mike Criner.*

Cascade Days schedule of events

Main events

Information Booth

Raffle tickets, buttons, duck sale

Quilt show

Food and craft vendors

Green on Green

Location

Town Park

Baker River Woodworks

Town Park

Town Park

Saturday, Aug. 15**Time****Event****Location**

9-11 a.m.

Parade line-up

Main St., west end

11 a.m.

Parade

Main St.

12 p.m.

Centennial dedication

Main St.

12:15 p.m.

American Legion service

Main St. and Baker

12:30 p.m.

Parade awards

Main St. and Baker

12:30-4 p.m.

Classic Car Show

Main St.

12-5 p.m.

Birdview Brewing Co. beer garden

Town Park

1-2:30 p.m.

Firemen's Muster

Town Park

1-4 p.m.

Kids' activities, games, cake walk

Town Park

1-4 p.m.

Fish Tank

Town Park

2:30-4:30 p.m.

Log Show

Town Park

5 p.m.

Duck Race

Main St.

5:30-6 p.m.

Soap Box Derby

Main St.

6-6:30 p.m.

Bed Race

Main St.

7-11 p.m.

Cascade Ramblers

American Legion

Sunday, Aug. 16 (all events in Town Park)**Time****Event**

9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Information Booth

10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Off Kilter

1-2 p.m.

Pet Pride & Talent Show

2-2:30 p.m.

Pie-eating Contest (all ages)

2:30-3 p.m.

Watermelon-eating Contest (all ages)

3-3:30 p.m.

Jams and jellies judging (send in your recipe)

3:30-4 p.m.

Raffle and button drawing

5 p.m.

Forgotten Time Capsule unveiling

Retreat, cont. from p. 1

It's a little bit crazy, said Rumpff of the goings-on, which may include comedy sketches, crafts, nature walks, health topics, scrapbooking, quilting or simple quiet times with a book.

This year's guest speaker, Gail Woodruff, will bring a message of hope and encouragement for all attendees, regardless of their religious background.

Interfaith Women's Outreach, which plans the retreat, says its mission is to spread the good news of the Lord to women in the Skagit Valley area by bringing them together to nurture their growth in Christ through worship, fellowship, and teaching in a nonthreatening environment.

For more information, e-mail upperskagitwomen@stumpranchonline.com, call 360.826.3849, or go to www.stumpranchonline.com/upperskagitwomen.

Sports

Sedro-Woolley softball team swings for the fence

This experience will help the team, says coach.
By Bill Mueller

Family, it seems, is the focus of our American culture. What's best for the family is best for the welfare of our country as the saying goes. Is there something that brings families together in this electronic age? In the good old days before iPods and iPhones, there was ice cream, made from scratch at family picnics where folks would gather for an afternoon of relaxation. Very often someone would break out a glove, a ball, and perhaps a bat. If there were enough people a game of baseball might begin, and everyone would get in the game.

Baseball is at it again, only this time it is girls' softball that is bringing families and towns together. And this time, it's a bit more organized than the pick-up game in the park. The 2009 Girls' 14A Fastpitch Western National Championships is a major event. This year it was hosted right here in the Skagit Valley. Eighty teams participated in this weeklong event. Teams came from California, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. The opening ceremonies were held at Burlington High School, where mayors from Sedro-Woolley, Mount Vernon, and Burlington spoke, along with others, to begin the week. This is the third time the Championships have been held here.

The Rising Stars is the Sedro-Woolley-based team, which included players from eastern Skagit County, including Krissy Mann from Concrete; and Courtney

Carroll, Pamela Weide, Larissa Saldivar, Mikahla Aschim, and Nicci Guadano, all from Sedro-Woolley. Other players came from farther away to fill out the team's roster; they are Elizabeth Easton, Jordanne Jager, and Madeline Welch, from Anacortes; Marissa Fakkema from Oak Harbor; and Natalee Sellers and Amanda Richards, from Blaine.

In Concretian Krissy Mann you will find a passion for softball. Her parents, Paula and Kris, give her all the encouragement parents can and Krissy takes off from there.

At 14, Krissy already has five years' experience under her belt. She has played co-ed Little League, where she was the only girl on the all-star team. She also has played four years of basketball and a year of midjet football.

After tasting the thrill of fastpitch baseball, she couldn't imagine playing slow pitch, so she tried out for the Rising Stars. She made the team, which meant that she would practice twice a week, every week, all year long. These practices focused on conditioning and the fundamentals of the game. There would be 1243 tournaments during the year, which required family trips on many a weekend.

As Krissy's mother Paula put it, "This becomes a way of life for the entire family. We are always heading off to a practice or a game as a family."

Younger brother and sister, Austin and



Back row, left to right: Coach Bob Hickman, Pamela Weide, Jordanne Jager, Madeline Welch, Coach Erin Hickman. **Middle row:** Natalee Sellers, Marissa Fakkema, Amanda Richards, Mikahla Aschim, Courtney Carroll, Nicci Guadano. **Front row:** Krissy Mann, Elizabeth Easton, Larissa Saldivar.

Photo by Paula Mann

Kiya, are caught up in the family travel time as well. It is fun as a family to go to these games, says Paula. We see other families doing the same thing; we are in this together.

For Krissy, participation in the tournament was all about the intensity of the game. I love to play. Her favorite part is, "making plays in the field." On the field she is an outfielder and she also spends a little time at second base. Since the coaches check the academic progress

of the girls on the team, Krissy is a happy honor role student. As she put it, "The team becomes like a family where we learn to get along and play as a team."

None of this is free. Kris and Paula invest time and money so Krissy and the family can share this experience. Krissy participates in fundraisers during the year and seeks sponsors to help cover the costs. It averages about \$1,000 a year per girl to be involved.

See Rising Stars, p. 26

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2009 Cinder Shins Fun Run top 5 finishers

The first annual Cinder Shins Fun Run on July 25 brought out about a dozen runners. *Concrete Herald* salutes the top 5 finishers:

- 1 - Josh Meldrum
- 2 - Andy Hendrickson
- 3 - Cody Holt
- 4 - Robert DiLeo
- 5 - Jenny Johnstone

Sports try-outs: Are you ready?

By Don Beazizo, athletic director, Concrete High School

Fall sports season is coming soon!

After researching several schools of similar size and with the current budget constraints on schools, we have decided that we need to charge an activity fee for all students participating in ASB-sponsored activities.

See Sports try-outs, p. 17

Academics

Sports try-outs, cont. from p. 16

Fall sports season is coming soon!

After researching several schools of similar size and with the current budget constraints on schools, we have decided that we need to charge an activity fee for all students participating in ASB-sponsored activities.

Most schools are charging around \$125 per sport. Concrete High School and Middle School will charge a one-time, per-year fee of \$30 per athlete. Families with more than 3 student athletes will be capped at \$90. This fee is in addition to the purchase of the current ASB card, and will be used to offset transportation costs of our buses since expenses have risen.

You will need to have the following taken care of before participating:

- **Completed physical** (must be signed and dated by physician)
- **Insurance waiver or school insurance**
- **Activities code** (must be signed by both parent and student)
- **Parent permission form**
- **Activity fee** (must be paid to start practice; \$30 activity fee for all ASB activities; one-time yearly fee)
- **ASB card** (costs for the 200940 school year are: High School: \$30; purchase at high school. Middle School: \$20; purchase at Concrete K-8 building)
- **Emergency Authorization Card** (on the front of the Permission to Participate card)
- **Signed Permission to Participate Card** (must be completed to turn out)

All paperwork can be picked up at the district office, high school office, and/or K-8 building. All paperwork needs to be completed and signed by both athlete and parent. Once completed, the paperwork needs to be turned in to the high school office.

There is one exception for middle school students needing to purchase ASB card and paying for their Activity fee: This needs to be taken care of at the K-8 building.

Sports start dates:

Aug. 19 High School Football

Aug. 24 High School Volleyball and Girls Soccer

Sept. 7 Middle School Volleyball

Middle School Football will not be

offered, as the league in which we are currently competing will not be offering the sport, because of budget constraints with all schools.

We encourage those who are interested to contact Chad Clark, Little League Football coordinator.

Concrete School Board announces next work session

The Concrete School Board will hold its next board work session on Monday, Aug. 24, at 6 p.m.

The regular board meeting will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 26, at 7 p.m.

Please note that the work sessions will now begin at 6 p.m., not 5 p.m.

Concrete High School class registration on Aug. 25

Ready to register for the 200940 school year at Concrete High School. Here's what you need to know.

Students will register on Tues., Aug. 25, 2009, in the high school commons. The following schedule will be used:

8-9 a.m. . Seniors only
9-10 a.m. . Juniors only
10-11 a.m. . Sophomores

Parents need to update addresses and phone numbers during these registration periods.

Do not try to register early; registration will occur in this order. All fines need to be paid; students will not be allowed to

register for classes unless all fees are paid. Students not paying fees will register last.

During the first part of August, expect a 200940 schedule, along with a graduation requirements handout and a copy of your transcripts. Please choose your classes before arriving to register. Counselors and administrators will be available at registration to answer questions. Incoming Freshmen will only get to substitute PE for band or choir; all other classes will be pre-selected as Freshman requirements. Band/Choir students will still be required to get 2 credits of PE in order to graduate.

If you have questions about the registration process, call 360.853.8143 or e-mail dbeazizo@concrete-k12.wa.us.

Want to write for Concrete Herald? Sports, academics, music, theater, you name it, we need you to write it!

Contact: Jason Miller, editor@concrete-herald.com or 360.853.8213

Summer food program for kids ages 1 through 18

The Concrete School District announces the sponsorship of the Simplified Summer Food Program for all children ages 1 through 18.

Monday through Thursday, July 6 through August 6, any child may come and eat meals at the following times:

- **Breakfast: 7:30 a.m. to 8 a.m.**
- **Lunch: 11:30 a.m. to 12 noon**

All meals will be served in the Concrete High School cafeteria, located at 7830 South Superior Ave., in Concrete.

Children do not need to be enrolled in the summer program in order to receive free meals.

Children must consume all food in the cafeteria.

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Marblemount



The grand dame of Bullerville

Rooted in the Marblemount area, ageless Ethel Madrene Tootsie Clark will serve as Grand Marshal for this year's Cascade Days in Concrete.

By Dan Royal

In 1998, when the Clark family was honored by the Skagit County Pioneer Association as a Pioneer Family of the Year, Tootsie Clark was listed at 87 years old, which would put her at 98 years old today. She is clearly not that old.

Tootsie and her son, Don Clark, had an answer for this discrepancy, one they provided amid chuckles.

There was a time I got to a certain age and I wasn't getting compliments anymore, so I found that if I said I was older, people would compliment me on how great I looked for my age, Tootsie said, giggling. It was all in fun and carried on a tradition by my father of inside jokeshe was a man of great girth and humor, she said.

Ethel Madrene Tootsie Buller's life began in 1922she is 87 this yearin an area once known as a dead end in the road: Marblemount. The town's name is credit to Tootsie's grandmother, Matilda Clark Buller, who ran a roadhouse hotel, taught white and Native American children alike, and was Marblemount's first postmistress. Matilda even caught Gold Fever in 1900 and, with two of her three sons, went to Nome to find gold for her family, returning two years later to start a new roadhouse.

Matilda's son, Richard Jr., and his wife, Ethel Buller, were industrious people and

became fairly prosperous with the Buller Brothers Lumber Company, a sawmill and lumber business started with Richard's brothers Carl and Wade. A large farm and timber holdings eventually turned into the area known as Glacier View Farm, a truck farm and cheese factory run by Ethel in the community known as Bullerville. Bullerville Dance Hall would soon follow.

Madrene, nicknamed Tootsie as a baby by a mill worker named Fred Tromleywho was, apparently, a fan of a comic strip named Toots and Casper found that even her family took to the nickname; she's been known as Tootsie ever since.

Humble, honest beginnings

The youngest of six children, including Karl (called Bud), Russell, Lee, Florence and half sister Phyllis, Tootsie's childhood days included the usual farm chores such as gathering eggs, hauling water, feeding livestock and milking cows. Her favorite chore was riding horseback while her brothers handled the plow to till the corn fields. Tootsie enjoyed meeting with her friends Saturday evenings to square dance at the Bullerville Dance Hall.

Attending the Corkindale school through the 6th, 7th and 8th grades, which she finished in two years, Tootsie went on to take the long school bus drives to



Tootsie Clark poses in front of the glass cabinets she calls her "family museum" within the dining area at Clark's Cabin Eatery in Marblemount. Photo by Dan Royal.

Concrete High School and graduated with the class of 1940. While in high school, her teacher, Miss Anne Borgeson, taught Tootsie typing and bookkeeping skills. According to her senior yearbook, her work with the office staff included business administration and office equipment operation. She also would have been assigned to a faculty member as a private secretary.

Following high school, Tootsie married her husband, Rudy Clark, in Nov. 1941, at the Presbyterian church in Concrete. They made their first home in Bullerville. Rudy,

a 1936 graduate of Concrete High School, had been a very persistent suitor during her years in high school: No other boys had a chance.

Richard Buller continued his businesses with his sons, who became the new generation that made up the Buller Brothers Lumber Company after Richard's brothers went their own way. Tootsie, while still in high school, became his permanent bookkeeper until he retired in 1953.

Rudy Clark owned a small logging outfit with his brothers Oliver and Andy called C & A Lumber. He logged in the summer and farmed in the winter, like other families did during this period. This continued until sometime in the 1960s, when the advent of bigger timber sales, bigger logging companies and less land to log forced smaller loggers out of business. He continued on in construction as a CAT operator and worked on the Cross State Highway, now known as the North Cascade Pass.

While still a bookkeeper for her father's business, Tootsie was given, as an inheritance of sorts, the seven acres in Bullerville commonly known as

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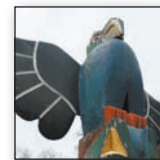
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Newhalem



Ladder Creek Falls a Newhalem staple

By Jeanna Smiley Squires

Nestled into high peaks 182 miles northeast of Seattle on State Route 20, the town of Newhalem is a small, friendly community. Its residents enjoy the quiet life, while encouraging visitors to pause and enjoy what the town has to offer.

One of the main attractions is the Seattle City Light Gorge, a hydroelectric powerhouse. Behind the powerhouse lies a scenic walk up to Ladder Creek Falls. Walk over the bridge to the cliff behind the powerhouse, and you'll find a trailhead that leads to the falls. The trail wanders up the hill to the falls, then comes back down to the other side of the Gorge and crosses the Skagit on a suspension bridge, a one-third-mile trek.

During the mid-1920s, electricity was an exciting and new discovery, one that Seattle City Light wanted to popularize. The Gorge was an important part of the surrounding communities, but Ladder Creek Falls made everything more scenic and more interesting for visitors who toured the Gorge.

Promoter J.D. Ross was in charge of selling hydro power to people. The Gorge was the first big project on the Skagit River. Two of the hydro machines went online in 1924 and 1929.

J. D. Ross wanted to make this a showplace for the people to enjoy. He created the rock gardens behind the Gorge, said Lane Dexter, Field Safety Coordinator for Seattle City Light. J.D. Ross introduced many exotic plants to the area, and added speakers that played music near the different attractions to create a sense of fantasy. Surrounding the many water gardens were trolls and troll houses. He distributed lights throughout the gardens, which cycled through a rainbow of colors at night. Bridges were built on the switchback-heavy path to cross the streams that lead up to the falls. He placed a dragon with glowing eyes, which loomed from the bank over the falls. Ladder Creek Falls was one of the most popular attractions on the Skagit.

Next came Operation Cascade, a plan to encourage people to move out of the town and live elsewhere. At the time, most of the employees lived in Newhalem, where they were provided with housing and utilities.

It seems Operation Cascade was successful, since today, most the employees of the plant live elsewhere and travel to Newhalem. Only a few people who live in Newhalem are employed by Seattle City Light, and are given housing and utilities, as they are on call if they are needed. Company towns, which Newhalem used to be, are very rare today.

Over the years, as financing became more of a challenge, Seattle City Light officials found it hard to keep Ladder Creek Falls going the way it was intended.

They are hoping to get a contract to improve the irrigation to Ladder Creek and bring the colored lights back into the scenery, said Dexter. Many tourists have come to the Gorge to see the lights at night, but were disappointed when the lights were no longer a part of the gardens. Ladder Creek Falls, however, is still a popular attraction for visitors and tour companies.

Newhalem is well manicured and fun to visit, with many friendly residents. The original structure of the gardens and lights may not be there; however, the Ladder Creek Falls garden tour is still a scenic, spectacular, well-maintained trail with boardwalks and bridges that cross the streams to the falls. This is one place that qualifies as a must-see.

Volunteer correspondents are needed for Newhalem and Diablo!

Want to write short updates, or simply provide news tips for *Concrete Herald*?

Contact Jason Miller:

360.853.8213

editor@concrete-herald.com

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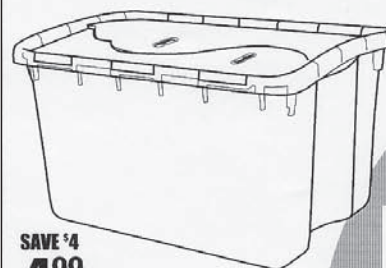


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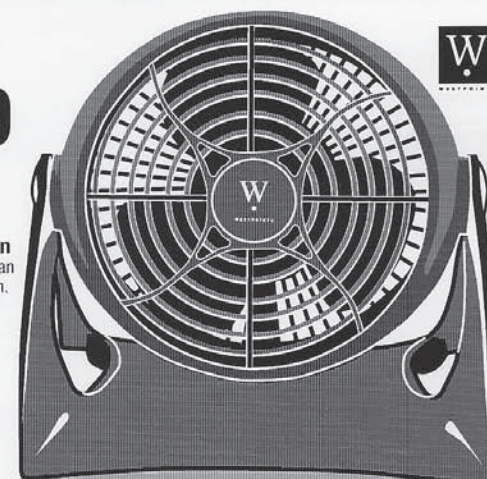
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Seniors

Coffee Break Step-by-step to health

By Patrick Kennedy

We all know what there is to know already. We discovered how to achieve it as a toddler and, for most of us, it has stuck in our memories and muscles. It is as easy as 1-2-1-2, except, of course, when it must be applied with a few aches and pains, maybe a bad knee or hip, or worse, one leg with a mind of its own. It's walking.

What is the big deal about it? Put one foot in front of the other. This is not really a miracle of divine proportions. It is really a down-to-earth activity anyone can do, and should do more often.

There are a variety of styles of this cure-all, such as ambling, strolling, shuffling, speeding, marching, hiking, and more. So put on a pair of shoes, leave the car keys behind, and start walking step-by-step to health.

Do not be one of those suckers who spend \$4.9 billion on exercise equipment. Be one of those 17 percent who are actually exercising today. Go as far and as fast as you want, around the block once or twice, around the neighborhood, down a walking trail, or downtown for some speed-walk window shopping. Some people, on rainy days, speed walk around the mall before the stores open.

So how does this cure-all help us? Read any magazine in the doctor's office while waiting to have your weight checked. Most of them will describe and analyze

the benefits of walking. It controls weight; lowers blood pressure; prevents heart problems; increases muscle tone, lung capacity, and metabolism; and wards off diabetes, breast cancer, and colon cancer.

How to start walking? Confucius said, A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. That might be a bit too far at first. So try instead a reason to walk: a goal, a justification, or a driving inner force, such as a walk to the nearest espresso shop. Or, find a walking partner. Even a dog will do, but not the cat, because soon walking will become chasing.

When you walk is easy: It can be at a time when it is convenient. Do it instead of lunch, before breakfast, after dinner, during Oprah, or just after an argument for therapy, as well as exercise.

Walking at a moderate pace for 30 to 60 minutes burns stored fat and can build muscle to speed up metabolism. Walking an hour a day also is associated with cutting your risk of the multitude of health-threatening conditions listed above. Is it now time to work one-hour walks into a busy lifestyle?

There it is. The most advanced animal on the planet must go back thousands of years and restore the forgotten, but the easiest, cure-all miracle: walking.

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

Way Back When

70 years ago

Aug. 3, 1939: Alfred Polson, driver of the up-river mail truck, received a severe cut on the head last Friday noon, when the truck left the road near the Grasmere School and piled up against a stump. Polson apparently went to sleep while driving, as the car was driven straight off the road at the curve in front of the schoolhouse.

60 years ago

Aug. 25, 1949: After a 12-year construction period, Seattle City Light's Ross Dam was completed last week and celebrated in an impressive ceremony on top of the dam itself. The Cascade Mountains provided a background for the dam, which is the fourth tallest in the world. It stands 540 feet high, just 10 feet less than Grand Coulee. Construction of the dam began in Sept. 1937 and was completed March 11, 1940. Work was resumed in Feb. 1943 and carried through until completion on Aug. 18, 1949. Cost of building the dam was approximately \$28 million.

50 years ago

Aug. 6, 1959: The first body to turn up in Lake Shannon of the two men who fell to their deaths from the new Baker Dam was that of Ryan C. Gienger of Everson. His body was found last Thursday by Phil Ryan of this city, resident engineer who has been making almost daily patrols of the area

below the dam. The body was lodged against the log jam about a mile downstream. Gienger and Albert Drake fell from the dam on June 26 when a scaffolding gave way, dropping them about 200 feet to the rocks on the upper side of the structure. Both bodies bounced into the river and went into the lake below the dam.

40 years ago

Aug. 27, 1969: One of the cabins in the Cascade River Park development above Marblemount was destroyed by fire Sunday morning. The fire apparently was started from splattering grease on the stove. By the time the Marblemount Fire Department had been summoned, the building was beyond saving. Two trucks responded to the call and kept the fire from spreading to the surrounding woods.

30 years ago

Aug. 9, 1979: Lenora Wilson, a 60-year-old teacher in the Upper Valley, returned last weekend with her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Wilson, to renew acquaintances and revisit familiar scenes.

Mrs. Wilson wrote Marblemount news and later, South Fork, Cascade, columns for the *Concrete Herald* from the early 1930s until 1972, when she moved to Naches.

She first taught on the Cascade from 1917-48. The young teacher stayed in Marblemount and hollered for the ferry each day

See Way back, p. 21

Way back, cont. from p. 20

to cross the Skagit en route to her schoolhouse a mile and a half away.

20 years ago

Aug. 3, 1989: The restaurant, general store, and cabins at Diablo

Lake Resort are now open under new ownership and management. David Gunderson and Milt Halvorsen took over ownership of the resort in the last part of June and recently reopened all of the resort s facilities. The restaurant has been renamed Prospector s

Concrete Senior Center August 2009 Activities

Lunch is served Monday through Thursday, 12:30 p.m.

Mondays

9 a.m. Gray Ladies Hoop Quilting
1 p.m. Skip Bo
1 p.m. Mexican Train Dominos

Tuesdays

11:30 a.m. Jigsaw Puzzle
1 p.m. Skip Bo

Wednesdays

8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Quilting
11:30 a.m. Jigsaw puzzle
1:00 p.m. Skip Bo

Thursdays

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Wii Sports play
11:30 a.m. Jigsaw puzzle

Fridays

8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Quilting
11:30 a.m. Jigsaw puzzle
Noon Mexican Train Dominos

Special Events

8/12 11 a.m. Advisory Board Meeting
8/12 1 p.m. Bingo
8/15 7:30 - 10:30 Senior Center Fundraiser Breakfast
8/20 102 Senior Day in the Park:
Maiben Park, Burlington
8/21 12 noon Annual Salmon BBQ and Quilt Drawing
(reservations required)
8/26 12:30 p.m. Birthday Lunch
8/26 1 p.m. Birthday Bingo

Inn. The resort boasts 18 cabins, all of which contain housekeeping units with refrigerator, stove and utensils. Most of the cabins have three bedrooms, but some one-bedroom cabins are available.

Concrete Herald

The Voice of Eastern Skagit County



More kids birdhouses are needed for Town Center sign fence

Kids! The Concrete Parks Committee still needs birdhouses to top the fence posts behind the Town Center sign, and they want *you* to build them.

There are 13 posts, so 13 birdhouses are needed. This offer is open to any Concrete kid up to and including age 15, and posts will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. To get your name on the list, contact Jason Miller at 360.853.8213 or editor@concrete-herald.com.

You can build your birdhouse from a kit or from scratch, paint it or stain it or leave it alone, just make sure its floor is at least an inch thick. Your birdhouse will perch atop a 4x4 post, so don't make it too big!

The *Concrete Herald* will have a small (1 inch x 2 inch) brass plate made for the front of your birdhouse, engraved with your name and the date on which the birdhouse is mounted on its post.

We have five birdhouses so far, so there s plenty of room for you to get involved! The Town Center sign project won t be complete until *you* add your personal touch, so join the fun today!

EAST COUNTY RESOURCE CENTER

Hours: Mon. through Fri., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
45770 Main Street, Concrete, WA 98237
phone 360.853.7009 // fax 360.853.7555

Scheduled programs and events:

Adult Literacy	Mon. & Fri., 9 to noon	Drop in
Commissioner Dillon	Fri., 9 to noon	Call for appt.
GED testing & classes	Weekly	Call for appt.
DC probation	1st Fri.	spring, summer
DSHS Representative	1st & 3rd Tues.	Call for appt.
Legal Clinic	2nd & 4th Fri.	Call for appt.
NAMI Adult Craft Classes	Every other Thurs.	1:30-3:30 drop in
Needle Exchange Program	1st Wed.	2-4:30
Teen Clinic (no appt. required)	1st Wed. & 4th Tues.	2-4:30
Veterans Representative	2nd & 4th Mon.	Call for appt.
WIC (call 336.9392 for appt.)	2nd & 3rd Tues.	9:30-3
Women s AA	Wed. nights	6 p.m.

Services and referrals:

SCCAA & Skagit County Satellite office	Energy Assistance program info
Salvation Army Service Extension Partner	Weekly courier service to County
Copy, FAX and Notary services	Voter & Election information
Tax Payments & property record search	Food Handler permits
Water Sample testing	Community Voice Mail
East County event publicity/community info	Meeting space available

Sunday School lesson

By Dan Johnson

What is the power of one person's life? What is the power of your life? Jesus asked in Luke 13:18-19:

What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air perched in its branches.

One thing that concerns me about Christians in general, and this generation in particular, is the inability (or indifference or even sometimes laziness) in "daring to dream" what could become of their lives! We live in the most technology-savvy age ever, but the overdose of information often has the counter-productive effect of extinguishing our ability to dream.

There is much to resist the audacity to think that one's simple, ordinary life could mean something important—especially when you are bound to the routine of everyday life, bills, family, stretching the income to the end of the month, studying, etc. If depression, family dysfunction, or other intense factors are added to that, it becomes even harder to believe that one's life could have any real eternal repercussions.

However, when we realize that the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, the smallest of seeds, we begin to understand that "greatness" or "relevance" or "fulfillment" all have tiny beginnings. Jesus compared His own kingdom, the one that He came to establish for all of eternity, to a mustard seed.

See Sunday School, p. 23

Worship directory

Assembly of God

Concrete Assembly of God
45734 Main St., Concrete; 360.853.8042
Sunday worship, 10 a.m.
Tuesday: Men's meeting, 8:30 a.m.
Wednesday: Adult Bible Study, 6 p.m.
Thursday: Women's Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.

Nondenominational

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

Presbyterian

Mount Baker Presbyterian Church
45705 Main Street, Concrete
Sunday worship: 8:45 a.m.
Church 360.853.8585 office 360.595.0446
Tom Ross, pastor

Lutheran

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
46372 Main St., Concrete
360.853.8814
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
Marcus Stroud, pastor

To add your place of worship to these listings, call or e-mail
360.853.8213 or editor@concrete-herald.com.

Worth repeating...

I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronising nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.

—C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, pp. 5556

Obituaries

Robert R. Eisenheim, age 81, a longtime resident of Concrete, passed away on Thurs., July 2, 2009, at the Life Care Center of Skagit Valley in Sedro-Woolley, Washington.

He was born and raised on a dairy farm in Brazeau, Wis., on Feb. 22, 1928, to Albert and Pauline (Steier) Eisenheim.

Robert grew up in Wisconsin and enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1950, serving in Korea until his discharge in 1956.

He worked as a marine engineer in the maritime industry, working for the Army Transportation Corps, working on tug boats in Alaska and with Blue Water Marine, a seismographic firm.

Robert has been a resident of Concrete for the past 37 years and formerly resided in Kirkland, Washington.

He loved to go camping and travel in his motor home.

Robert was a member of Heskett-Arnold Post #132, American Legion in Concrete.

He is survived by his three brothers: Alfred Eisenheim and his wife Marilyn of Colorado Springs, Colo., Harold Eisenheim of Seattle and Alvin Eisenheim of Pound, Wis.; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, James; a sister, Lillian; and his longtime companion, Margaret A. Johnson.

Graveside services were held Mon., July 6, 2009, at 2 p.m., at the Forest Park Cemetery in Concrete, with Pastor Rob Thomas of the Community Bible Church of Concrete officiating. Arrangements and services are under the care of Lemley Chapel, Sedro-Woolley. Share memories of Robert and sign the online guestbook at www.lemleychapel.com.

Marvin L. Jim Harris left this earth on June 21, 2009, to hike the hills of heaven. A lifelong Skagit Valley resident, Jim was born Oct. 2, 1937, in Sedro-Woolley, Washington. He was the third child born to Alvin B. Harris and Sarah M. (Eggleston) Harris.

Jim spent most of his youth across the Skagit River from Rockport. He attended the two-room Rockport School. When he was a teen, his family moved to "town" (Concrete), where he played football and basketball, and played trombone in the concert and festival bands at Concrete High School. He was Senior Class President of the Class of 1955.

After some time logging, Jim enrolled at Washington State University and participated in the ROTC. He then transferred to Western Washington College (University) and graduated with a BA in Industrial Arts and Biology. He returned for additional time to complete his teaching certificate. His first assignment was head teacher of a two-room school in Marblemount.

Jim moved to the Upper Skagit with his new wife, Joyce E. (Northup) Harris in 1961. The Harrises welcomed their daughter Valerie in 1962 and son Dan in 1963. In 1969, they adopted two-year-old daughter Regina. During this time, Jim also taught in Newhalem and Concrete, as well as working as a seasonal employee for the U.S. Forest Service. Jim left teaching and joined the U.S. National Park Service when they opened the North Cascades National Park. He returned to school and received an AA in Skagit Valley



College's Forest Ranger Program. This launched a career for which "Ranger Jim" was well known. While he served many roles within the North Cascades National Park, he was best known for his wonderful fireside programs and his extensive research and local knowledge of the peoples and history of the Upper Skagit. Although he retired in 1999, much evidence of his work as a naturalist and interpretive specialist throughout the park and Upper Skagit remains today.

Jim helped raise three stepchildren with his second wife, Ellen Hand. He became a grandfather in 1983. He enjoyed a total of eight grandchildren and one great-grandson, as well as the five grandchildren of his longtime life partner, Sally Grant of Bellingham.

Beside his children and grandchildren, his brother, Dick Harris, of Bellingham; and a cousin, Sally Anne, who was raised by their family; and numerous other relatives, survive Jim. His parents; his sister, Loretta; and two infant brothers preceded him in death.

Jim's love for the mountains and the valley were pervasive throughout his life and evident in everything he did. He was a hiker, published author, poet, storyteller, speaker, educator, "bear wrangler," logger, farmer, carpenter, and local school supporter. His retirement years were filled with doing what he loved: hiking, biking, and traveling with Sally, and even a few new skills like dancing!

Jim will be missed by so many, but his stories will live on, as will his infectious love of the Skagit Valley and the North Cascades. Friends and family are invited to gather to celebrate his life by the social hall and log cabin at Howard Miller Steelhead Park, Rockport, Washington, on Sunday, Aug. 16, at 2:00 p.m. Stories to share are welcome.

Vose, cont. from p. 1

Vose's awards and commendations were numerous. His awards include the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, and the Humanitarian Service Medal.

His decorations include the National Defense Service Medal, South West Asia Service Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Non-Commissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon, NATO Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia), and the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait).

Vose also earned the Airborne Badge, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Parachutist Badge, Military Free Fall Parachutist Badge, and the Special Forces Tab.

"He was the all-American boy," said Vicki Frank. "He was the best. He was perfect."

Funeral and memorial arrangements were pending at press time.

Sunday School, cont. from p. 22

When I was converted in the 1970s, these and other passages were preached and taught a lot, and I will be eternally thankful for my pastor and how he urged us to dream BIG! Along the way I have discovered that the time frame from mustard seed to tree is long, and often fraught with disappointments, setbacks, and downright demonic attacks.

But the nature of the mustard seed is to grow, to persevere. It is not our own effort, but rather the seed! Season after season, year after year, that precious seed that has been sown in us, and that we are careful to cultivate through seeking God, praying, studying His word, and deepening our relationships with the body of Christ, will grow into a wonderful, strong, deeply rooted tree, where the birds of the air can perch in its branches, and join with us in singing praises to our God!

Dan Johnson is part of a multinational church-planting team in Granada, Spain. He served as the first pastor of Concrete Assembly of God from 1985-86.

Tootsie, cont. from p. 18

Skagit River Resort and Clark's Cabins. Originally ten tarpaper shacks, the small cabins became a starting point for Tootsie to create a small business for herself. Early in the venture, she rented the cabins month to month to mill workers and, with continual upgrading through the years, they became the foundation on which everything else grew around her.

For entertainment, Tootsie's passion outside of the businesses was dancing, which she and Rudy enjoyed their whole married life. They danced at the two Bullerville Dance Halls and beyond. They took their children, Don and Judi, with them to Seven Cedars Dance Hall in Mount Vernon on Friday evenings, where they enjoyed the music of Harry Lindbeck's live orchestras until the hall burned down in 1963.

Rabbits, rabbits everywhere

Around 1961, Rudy went to Friday Harbor to bring home about half a dozen rabbits. The plan at first was to raise themselves in their own hutches, but eventually they were outproducing him and he set a great deal of them free, where they became wild rabbits on the property. Rabbits being rabbits, their population exploded to upwards of 175 through the years. This year the population is down to four rabbits, because of last winter's extreme cold and predators.

As her siblings left the area, Tootsie



Tootsie poses beneath a mural painted by local artist Don Smith of her father Richard Buller, and her brothers Russell, Lee, and Bud at the Buller Brothers Lumber Co.

Photo by Dan Royal.

and Rudy bought their inherited holdings, which now encompass the area around the Skagit River known as Bullerville, a total of 125 acres, which has since fallen off the county maps.

When the North Cascade Pass opened in 1972, Tootsie had to make the cabins more of a motel service. She has not stopped working full time since. To expand on Skagit River Resort, she had to add newer cabins, a laundry facility, and camping and RV parking to the older mill cabins. In the late 1970s, her sister, Florence, retired from northern California and moved back to her childhood home.

Feeding time

Florence and Tootsie felt it was time for an eating establishment to feed the tourists and folks renting the cabins, so by 1982 they bought an 11-ft. octagonal building, which had been part of Corky's in Marblemount, and created the Eatery Drive-In at Clark's Cabins. The generous menu has changed little through the years; they still serve breakfast, lunch and dinner. Don still makes homemade soup and Tootsie her famous cinnamon rolls. The place expanded through the years with inside dining and more storage. Tootsie added an indoor display area, a museum that houses the history of Bullerville and her family. The most impressive item is an American flag made by her grandmother Matilda Clark Buller in 1890 to commemorate the first year of Washington's birth.

With Skagit River Resort & the Eatery at Clark's Cabins an established tourist destination to the entrance of the North Cascade Pass, 1990 turned out to be a heart-breaking year with the back-to-back

deaths of her husband, Rudy; her sister, Florence; and her brother, Bud, in 1991. The second dance hall closed its doors at the same time. Almost immediately, Tootsie's son, Don Clark, and her daughter, Judi, with her husband, Bob Brooks, came back to Marblemount to help Tootsie run the family business. They have contributed to its growth ever since.

Creator of tradition

As in years past since the opening of the North Cascades Pass every late spring, Tootsie has been first to the opening of the gate at Rainy Pass. Opening this year at 8 p.m. instead of the usual morning hour, Tootsie still managed to be first in line to give out 48 cinnamon rolls with coffee on a first-come, first-serve basis. She even has found herself filmed by Northwest Backroads on KING 5 TV in recent years as she made her annual trip. On one occasion, the Ice Road Truckers television show was filming a stunt scene nearby that ended up failing.

Today, Tootsie's life still revolves around Bullerville and the family business, although, she says, "I don't really run the place, the place runs me."

Tootsie has no regrets, having spent her whole life here with family and friends. Everyone knows her; they all safeguard her well-being.

And yes, they all know her real age.

Hotel Tax, cont. from p. 1

The Hotel Tax money is levied at a 2 percent rate (the maximum allowed under state law) on all lodging-business income at hotels, motels, and similar businesses across each county by the state, and then returned to the municipalities and counties from which they were collected. The county commissioners are required to disburse the money collected in the unincorporated areas of the county via the Hotel Tax, on projects designed to draw visitors and tourism, and/or on stadium/convention/performing arts/visual arts center facilities. The Town of Concrete does not have a tax on lodging, so the county administers any Hotel Tax money collected in Concrete itself, along with the unincorporated areas of Skagit County.

The Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC), a five-member group of individuals from across the county, meets to decide which grant applications competing for money are the most deserving, based on their analysis of the applications from different community groups in the county. The committee then submits its recommendations to the county commissioners. The LTAC is, by state statute, composed of two

See Hotel Tax, p. 26

Hotel Taxes: Where did the money go?

According to the full list of 2009 Hotel Tax allocations (29 total), at least 10 activities that touch all or part of eastern Skagit County from Sedro-Woolley eastward received funding for this year:

- Cascade Days in Concrete: \$2,500
- Concrete Chamber of Commerce: \$7,500
- Concrete Heritage Museum Association: \$4,500
- Skagit Valley Farm Tour: \$20,000
- Sedro-Woolley Loggerodeo: \$3,000
- NW Ag Business Center 2009 Skagit Map & Guide: \$9,267
- Skagit County Chamber Executive Director's Association: \$30,000
- Sedro-Woolley Museum: \$1,000
- Upper Skagit Bald Eagle Festival: \$5,000
- Skagit County Parks & Recreation: \$29,500

A full listing of grant allocations, plus information about the Hotel Tax and the LTAC, is available from the Skagit County Budget and Finance Department:

Trisha Logue, dir., Budget and Finance
1800 Continental Place, Ste. 100
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
360.336.9300
Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Source: Skagit County Budget and Finance Department



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Sheriff's blotter

July 21

While on patrol in Concrete, a deputy noticed a stop sign down at Superior and Main. Deputy checked and it appeared a vehicle hit the post and then left the scene. Deputy advised Concrete Public Works that sign would need to be reposted.

July 20

A Sedro-Woolley caller said he was on vacation and had expected an iPod in the mail. He said he called the company from whom he purchased the iPod and was informed the product had been shipped. Caller suspects it has been stolen. No suspects.

July 18

From the Grasmere area came a report of a man in the Skagit River. Caller said the man was floating downstream and seemed to be in trouble. Deputy checked the area and learned the man was ashore at Rasar State Park. Deputy contacted the 25-year-old Fort Lewis man, who said he had been hiking and wanted to swim across the river. He said he made it halfway when he got tired from fighting the current, rolled onto his back and let the current take him downstream until he caught his breath. He then swam ashore.

July 16

A Rockport caller reported additional people had moved into a house he rents to an initial party. He thought this may violate his lease. Deputy advised he needs to deal with this on his own, as it appears to be a landlord/tenant civil issue.

July 15

A Concrete caller reported several men at her house at 3 a.m. They were acquaintances, but were refusing to leave. Deputy arrived; the men were gone.

July 14

Fourteen- and fifteen-year-old Hamilton callers said that two older boys around 18 years old were wanting to pick a fight with them. Callers said they received text messages asking them to meet in the park to fight. Deputy checked the area, but was unable to locate the older boys.

July 13

A caller from Cape Horn reported the neighbor's pitbull, Lovie charged at her with bared teeth, growling. Animal control officer investigated. Lovie is owned by the caller's brother and there are longstanding family disputes at play. Animal control

officer warned owner to keep animal controlled.

July 12

A Hamilton caller reported seeing a blonde woman with a small dog going into an abandoned house. Caller did not think anyone should be there. Woman was gone when deputy checked.

July 11

Sedro-Woolley caller says she had received three harassing phone calls during the night. A male voice advised her that he can see her through a window. No suspect information.

July 11

Marblemount area caller reports that shortly after midnight, caller heard someone prowling around outside residence. As deputy is responding, caller called back, saying that the prowler is a man who was evicted from the property earlier in the day. Alleged prowler stated that he was simply back to move more of his belongings, and left when he was told to do so.

July 10

A Concrete caller reported that local kids have been riding quads and motorcycles on his property at 2 a.m. for the past several months. He has tried to get them to stop without success, and would like a deputy to help. Deputy checked the area and found no one riding. Deputy advised the caller to advise if they returned.

July 8

A Cedar Grove caller reported a pitbull roaming the neighborhood. The dog took a doll that was in the caller's yard. Deputy could not locate the dog or the doll. Animal control officer advised the caller that a dog cannot commit a crime, so theft charges are not possible. However, the caller may be able to pursue the dog owner civilly for lost or damaged property.

July 7

A Rockport area caller reports that a piece of property adjacent to his was recently purchased. Caller said the new owner has cut off his water supply. He said that he had a written agreement with the previous owner for water rights. Deputy advised this is a civil issue that he needs to address privately or in the courts.

July 6

A Cedar Grove caller reports her ex-husband keeps calling her and complaining about child visitation. She

said he will use profanities. She wants to make a harassment complaint. Deputy took her information; an investigation is continuing.

July 6

A caller in the Sedro-Woolley area reported that shortly after midnight he was driving on Forest Service Grade Rd. and came upon a man lying face down in the middle of the road. The man was not responsive. Deputy arrived and determined the man was highly intoxicated and passed out. Aid is called. Man was uncooperative, but eventually told the deputy he was arguing with his girlfriend and she made him get out of the car. He was unsure how he ended up passed out in the road. Deputy drove the man home.

July 5

A Grasmere caller heard people outside his residence at 4 a.m. and thought they might be going into his vehicles. Caller armed himself with a baseball bat and checked outside. He did not see anyone, nor the responding deputy.

July 4

A Concrete resident reported loud aerial fireworks on S. Park Ave. at 1:17 a.m. This was one of numerous calls in the Concrete area reporting illegal fireworks being ignited.

July 3

A Cape Horn caller reported a loud argument in the neighborhood. Deputy arrived to find a man and woman arguing over who had cheated on who first.

July 1

Cedar Grove caller reports someone broke into her garden shed and greenhouse, and stole grow lights, fertilizer, and garden tools. No suspects.

June 28

A Concrete caller reported several men drinking and making noise in the street. Men also defecated in the street. Deputies arrived. A 19-year-old Concrete man resisted arrest and was forcibly handcuffed. The other men started to threaten officers. While officers were distracted, the handcuffed man was able to run away. Several hours later, the handcuffed man was located by a K-9 unit and booked into jail for felony assault of a deputy. No injuries were reported. The other men were cited for obstructing law enforcement.

Reach new customers in Skagit County

Advertise in Concrete Herald today! See ad, p. 26.

Smile

Dwelleysms Wit from the Herald's former editor

This week's vandalism of breaking light globes on the bridge is just what it takes to bring about strict enforcement of the curfew laws in Concrete. That, and having a few parents in court, is hardly worth the fun of breaking glass. Think it over, kids.

Add to the mystery of women: the overwhelming desire to own a pair of stockings that make her look like she isn't wearing any.

April 18, 1946

"Thirty-five Alaskan hunters go on a bear hunt to get Betty Grable a fur coat. All that fuss to obstruct a view.

Jan. 31, 1946

Our town used to be a place where a person could leave the key in his car, his house door unlocked for years on end if he was a mind to, and nothing would ever be touched. Guess we've got to trap a few pack rats, and soon.

Feb. 14, 1946

The man who keeps waiting around for a present is very likely to find himself with no future.

Feb. 28, 1946

Our hopes for a bright future depend on

whether or not we continue to put a shine on the seat of our pants.

June 13, 1946

This week's paper is a sample of what you can expect with cooperation of the community and the resulting respect given it by outside advertisers. Thank you all.

March 21, 1946

A fellow in Pennsylvania lived to be 100 years old and attributed it to the fact that he chopped wood every day. Goes to show you what a rut a man can get into if he doesn't watch himself.

Feb. 7, 1946

Research has developed a lot of garden

miracles, such as weed killer, etc. But not a thing has been discovered that will make grass stop growing at 2-inch length.

Feb. 21, 1946

"We hear one Grandy Lake fisherman gave up angling because people laughed at the way he swims.

April 11, 1946

Many rivers of enthusiasm are dammed by faint praise.

May 2, 1946

Straw hats are now in style, and just in time, too. If the wheat shortage continues, you can eat them with cream in place of breakfast food.

Now we have television complete with transmission of odors. What a spot for a cheese program.

May 16, 1946

Movie Review Transformers 2: Revenge of the Fallen

By April Gallegos

This movie makes the top of all action movies.

If I had to choose what movie to watch in the theaters, I would choose this one. Also, the cast (Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox, John Turturro, and Ramon Rodriguez) makes the movie even better.

The special effects look so realistic it's as if you are there at the scene. One awesome scene was when the ancient robot told the story about the Primes and the Decepticons.

In my opinion, I would watch this movie over and over again if I could. So I suggest that you get to the movie theaters and watch this movie.



Sam Witwicky (Shia LaBeouf) and Mikaela Banes (Megan Fox) flee from Decepticons in the special effects-laden action movie "Transformers 2: Revenge of the Fallen." Photo by Jaimie Trueblood.

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Spotlight, cont. from p. 11

well.

The Goerdt's like to keep the food and drink local. They're proud of hand-selecting their food from sustainable and organic outlets. Everything is homemade and their meat is all-natural, no additives or steroids. Lori believes presentation is essential: "People eat with their eyes first," she said, so she and Alan start with visual appeal, then go to extreme efforts to ensure that our customers are satisfied to the end of their stay with us," she said.

The Diner is green, too, taking steps behind the scenes to lessen its impact on the earth. Every week we recycle everything, Alan said. Glass bottles, cans, plastic wrappers, aluminum, all cardboard, used cooking oil, you name it. It's time-consuming, but extremely important to us. We use bio-friendly paper products and no Styrofoam or anything not environmentally friendly, he said.

We run a major operation for a 50-seat establishment with a limited staff, Lori said. During the busy summer season, the Diner will have five to six employees on the floor; the minimum is about three. Alan and Lori are the partners in life and business, cooking up a storm behind the scenes, with Lori performing the specialty

cooking. The owners and employees have become a big family; they work as a team. The most challenging aspect of the business Lori says is, "finding reliable and good staff. Still, Lori has been fortunate to find outstanding employees that return each season.

Local customers have told Lori they feel like part of the community when they visit the Diner. They have a great meal, interact with staff, and catch up with close friends.

Local support is so important, Lori says. The owners value community and are involved in many aspects of life in Marblemount. For example, Alan is active within the Marblemount Volunteer Fire Department.

Lori feels that feedback from customers is the most rewarding aspect of the business. The positive comments drive the owners and staff to consistently provide quality service. Each year many of the same people stop by on their annual trip over the North Cascades Pass. A customer's comment in their guestbook eloquently reflects sentiment and appreciation, "A Jewel in the Heart of Eagle Country."

The Diner's hours of operation are Monday, Thursday, and Friday from 11

a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. An all-you-can-eat Breakfast Buffet is available Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. The Diner is closed Tuesday and Wednesday. During the off-season, when the North Cascades Highway closes for the winter, the Diner is open Friday through Sunday.

The next time you visit the Upper Skagit, make sure to visit the Marblemount Diner, where you'll find an inviting setting, caring people, and outstanding food!



Marblemount Diner staff slow down just long enough for a photo. From left to right: Colleen Nushart, Shilyun Nushart, Mike Cuseo, Lori and Alan Goerdt. Not pictured: Erin Roberts.

Hotel Tax, cont. from p. 23

individuals representing the payers of the tax, and two individuals representing groups that are considered eligible to receive tax proceeds, as well as the sitting chair of the Skagit County Board of County Commissioners. The committee members are appointed by the County Commissioners.

In 2008, according to information provided by Tiffany Caulk of the Skagit County Budget/Finance Department, Commissioner Don Munks (now retired), was chair of the Board and on the LTAC, along with Cindy Verge of the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival. The remaining members were Valerie Stafford of the Concrete Chamber of Commerce, Linda Benson of Whispering Firs Bed & Breakfast in Mount Vernon, and Brooks McLain, the now ex-manager of the Fairfield Inn & Suites in Burlington. Commissioner Ken Dahlstedt will be on the LTAC as the chair of Board for 2009, and there is currently an opening for a representative from the county Hotel Tax payers for this year's funding allocations. Trisha Logue, head of the Budget and Finance Department, administers the Hotel Tax grant funding allocations.

See Hotel Tax, p. 27

Rising Stars, cont. from p. 16

Rising Stars Coach Erin Hickman and assistant coach, Bob, her father, love this team and the game itself. "I am competitive by nature and I love the intensity of the game," said Coach Erin.

This experience will only help this team as we prepare for next year. Her expectation going into this event was, for the girls to do their best, to do what was expected.

The end result was a learning experience for the entire team. Erin said, "They put out 100 percent in the last game, they left it all on the field. They learned what it took to play ball at this level and they are hungry to improve for next year."

Many years ago, a former Major League Baseball player wrote, "You spend a good piece of your life gripping a baseball, and in the end it turns out that it was the other way around all the time."

It sure seems like that is the case for Krissy, her family, and all those involved in this sport. Perhaps, in this overly individualistic electronic age, girls fastpitch softball is doing its part to bring families together, just like the good old days.

Saukrates, cont. from p. 4

Consider these questions, for starters:

- What is good government?
- When, what, and how much should one person sacrifice for another?
- How should people arrange themselves on the earth?
- What good is art?
- Is there value in religion?

Saukrates Cafe conversations are guided by a series of norms that are designed to keep things civil and productive, in part:

- Keep an open mind
- Listen thoughtfully
- Differ with dignity (no personal attacks)
- Do not interrupt
- Keep comments short
- Stay focused; limit digressions

During their June conversation, conversers did exactly that, pondering the topic of Art: What is it good for?

The conversation went around the table at Annie's Pizza, with each person weighing in briefly.

"I think perhaps only the artist feels emotion," said Aimee Hirschel.

"I disagree," said Grace Popoff. "I think emotion exists for more than the artist."

And that was only the beginning.

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Concrete Herald

Hotel Tax, cont. from p. 26

Near the end of each year, the LTAC meets to review grant applications for the Hotel Tax money from eligible groups who have submitted proposals for funding allocation for the next calendar year. On Nov. 7, 2008, the 2008 LTAC made 27 funding allocation recommendations for 2009, totaling \$244,267.

Two more recommendations totaling \$7,500 were made from later applications on May 11, 2009 for this year as well. This makes for a grand total of \$251,767 to be allocated to 29 tourism-promotion activities and tourism-related facilities

Concrete Herald

Concrete Herald is distributed via retailers and newspaper racks from Sedro-Woolley to Newhalem.

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Rockport Country Store (OTC)
Rockport Pub (OTC)

Sedro-Woolley:

Mailbox Depot/Speedee Tax (rack)
Quick Lube (OTC)
Walgreens (OTC)

*OTC = Sold over the counter

acquisition/operation.

According to Valerie Stafford, Concrete Chamber of Commerce president, Director of Communications at Sedro Woolley s United General Hospital, and first-time Lodging Tax Advisory Committee member in 2008, several things make a Hotel Tax grant application successful:

Activities eligible for lodging tax assistance include those that increase tourism by advertising, publicizing and distributing information for the purpose of attracting and welcoming tourists; develop strategies to expand tourism; operate tourism promotion agencies; and fund and market events and festivals designed to attract tourists.

I've done quite a bit of grant-writing in the past for various agencies. I think what makes an application successful is clarity and conciseness when describing the goals, objectives and activities you're proposing. The proposal has to very carefully address the objectives that the funding agency specifies, not a pet project of your own. And if your proposal is successful, you have to be prepared to do the work, as well as follow all the reporting requirements, etc. Grants aren't just free money, they're an obligation to perform and they usually mean a lot of additional work for a nonprofit organization," said Stafford.

Stafford declined to specify which 2008 grant applications were successful, and which were not.

I can't really speak to that except to say the Committee reviews all the applications and makes recommendations to the Board of Commissioners. When funding is so limited and requests are so numerous, it becomes a matter of which proposals provide the most bang for the buck, which activities promote tourism most effectively, which organizations appear to have done their homework and have the capacity to be successful in doing the work," said Stafford.

Regarding how the grant system for the Hotel Tax money works, Stafford added:

The LTAC was established by the Board of County Commissioners to advise and recommend to the Board how revenue received from the special excise taxes on lodging collected in the County should be allocated.

The Board authorizes the LTAC to make recommendations regarding the annual allocation of the funds available. The Board reserves the right to reduce or partially fund requests based on recommendations from the LTAC, review of applications, and funds available. The Board also reserves the right to fund

requests made outside of the timelines established.

The Concrete Chamber has been receiving grant allocations for the past four to five years, before Stafford became a LTAC member.

A flawed system?

Some individuals feel that the system for allocating Hotel Tax money is imperfect.

North Cascades Business Association (NCBA) Executive Director and owner of the Buffalo Run Inn & Restaurant) Marshall Cooper stated that his organization got "diddly" in grant money from the county, despite being completely oriented to the promotion of tourism and attraction of visitors to all of Skagit County, not simply its eastern half. The NCBA includes members from Marblemount, Rockport, and Concrete, and operates the North Cascade Visitor Information Center and Web site at www.marblemount.com.

Cooper is frustrated that the Business Association's grant application was turned down last year despite the lodging taxes that are paid in the communities east of Concrete along State Route 20, and he is upset that so little money from the tax reaches the eastern part of Skagit County, particularly east of Concrete, as he puts it.

He and the North Cascades Business Association have plans to apply again this year for a Hotel Tax funding allocation to attract visitors and encourage tourism, he said.

According to the full list of 29 allocations made for 2009 and provided by Tiffany Caulk, at least 10 activities which touch all or part of eastern Skagit County from Sedro-Woolley eastward received funding for this year (see sidebar, p. 23).

The county currently is waiting for the results of a study that will offer input on how its current efforts are faring with regard to reaching the full potential of tourism in Skagit County. For now,

Cooper and other interested parties will wait to see how the Hotel Tax funding allocations are decided in late 2009 for 2010, and how the money for this year ends up being spent.

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Contact *Concrete Herald* at 360.853.8213 or classifieds@concrete-herald.com. Monthly rate is \$5 for every 10 words, rounded up to nearest 10. Ads must be paid for at time of submission.

The fundraiser continues...

The *Concrete Herald* fundraising drive stands at \$9,219.75.

A big **THANK YOU** goes to the following contributors in July:

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