

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Concrete Herald

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August 2015

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50 cents

Clear Lake • Sedro-Woolley • Lyman • Day Creek • Punkin Center • Hamilton • Birdsvie • Grasmere • Concrete • Cape Horn • Sauk City • Sauk Valley • Rockport • Van Horn • Darrington • Corkindale • Marblemount • Bullerville • Newhalem • Diablo

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Concrete Herald

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley



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From the editor

Please return my keys

Sometime during the evening of July 28, an enterprising individual let himself (or herself) into the *Concrete Herald* vehicle parked in my driveway and stole three keychains.

Within 12 hours of the theft, I made sure those keys would be useless to anyone who might hope to use them to steal further. They are now of no value to anyone but me, and I want them back. I've already spent upwards of \$560 dealing with this completely unnecessary event, so if you're reading this and you know where those keys are, please save me additional time and money by returning them.

And friend, if you ever decide that you'd rather be part of the solution instead of the problem, please seek me out and I will put you in touch with several local organizations who do good work in Concrete and the Upper Valley, volunteering their time to help improve our quality of life. You can reach me at 360.630.4303.

—J. K. M.



VOTE YES!

Join The Library This November!

Make the Town of Concrete part of the Upper Skagit Library District.

Give Concrete residents equal access to full library services. • Make a wise investment in the future of your community.

Learn more at Town Hall or the library. www.UpperSkagit.Lib.wa.us



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Opinion

Letters to the editor

Full library access would benefit everyone

A frequent argument against Concrete citizens joining the Upper Skagit Library District is, "I don't use the library, so why should I pay taxes for it?" Here's my reply.

In civilized societies throughout recorded history, villages or communities pooled their resources for the good of all. In the past, that meant sharing food, clothing, or shelter in lean times to help those in need. In modern times, this takes the form of taxes for services from which all may benefit, even though some may never use one or more of the services.

A good library serves the full spectrum of citizenry: all ages, ethnicities, income levels, etc. Having access to a full-service library really is contributing to the good of all. The smaller the town, the more critical it is to have a library, which may be the only place where every citizen, regardless of their situation, can enjoy the latest in technology, information, entertainment, and self-improvement, along with all of their neighbors.

I believe it is a moral obligation for every person to do whatever they can to help others improve their lives and achieve happiness, and providing support to the library is a great way to do that.

Bill Pfeifer
Concrete

Yes to library

Shouldn't kids in the Town of Concrete have access to the same resources as their classmates living outside of town? Don't they deserve to do as well in school and have just as bright a future?

We strongly believe a public library is important to people of all ages—and to

the quality of life in our community.

Right now, the only way town residents can check out materials from the Upper Skagit Library in Concrete is to pay a fee for a short-term card. Even then, they don't receive the same benefits as their neighbors living just outside of town, such as reciprocal borrowing privileges at other public libraries in the area, like Burlington's and Darrington's.

And the truth is, many families can't afford to buy a card for each of their kids. One young boy we know saved his pennies for several months just to pay for a 3-month card. A few children receive card scholarships. Many kids go without.

You have the power to change this. You can vote to annex Concrete into the Upper Skagit Library District this November. Doing so will give everyone in Concrete the same library privileges enjoyed by

See Letters, p. 19

Corrections

In her July issue thank-you letter regarding Kurt's Cause, Kandy Hayes inadvertently omitted Kate Pickett with embellish, who donated two \$25 gift cards for the 1st Annual 5k Walk for Kurt's Cause, and wishes her to be recognized.

Letters policy

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

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Message from the mayor

By Jason Miller

First, a quick heads-up for those of you who have not cast your vote yet for the open Concrete Town Council seat, Position 1:

Bill Sullivan was compelled to withdraw his candidacy for health reasons, leaving Jason Driver, Rob Thomas, and Chris Thun in the race. Your ballot must be postmarked by Aug. 4 or placed in one of the drop boxes by 8 p.m. that same day.

Look for a crucial **infrastructure upgrade** to begin during the first full week in August. The South Dillard Ave. water line between Eriksen Place and SR 20 will be replaced, coupled with intersection improvements, a new sidewalk along the east side of Dillard, and a new location for an existing fire hydrant. This water line replacement will get rid of the last of the wooden water lines in town.

Speaking of water, **please conserve water** this summer by allowing your lawn to go dormant. Lawns are huge water guzzlers, and because we may not feel the effects of the drought on our water system for up to three years, judicious use of this resource is a good idea. Brown lawns might not look pretty, but since turf *wants* to go dormant during the summer months, allowing it to do so is a smart move. You wouldn't want someone to constantly poke you while you're trying to sleep, would you? That's exactly what you're doing to your lawn if you water it during the summer months!

We have the funding, now, for our planned **water spray park** and **Park and Ride** facilities at Silo Park!

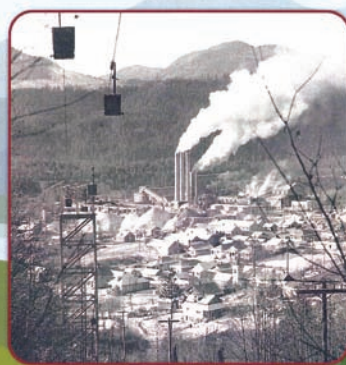
The **Concrete Town Council** meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall. I encourage you to visit a meeting whenever you can.

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



Cache in Concrete

Discover the history of Concrete on this family educational



FREE

New geocaching challenge in Concrete

A new community-oriented treasure hunt promises fun for locals and visitors. "Cache in Concrete" combines geocaching and letterboxing, creating a walkable adventure through Concrete.

The family-friendly activity is the brainchild of Upper Skagit Library Director Brooke Pederson and 5b's Bakery owner Em Beals, who broached the topic during a recent Economic Development Task Force meeting. Pederson and Beals are members of that task force.

Cache in Concrete is an opportunity for people to learn more about the history of Concrete and the surrounding recreational areas. An instruction booklet (pictured above) lays out locales in Concrete and then provides a clue to find the cache box. Booklets can be stamped at each location to create an image. Booklets are available at 5b's Bakery, Annie's Pizza Station, Albert's Red Apple Market, Birdview Brewery, Concrete Heritage Museum, Concrete Theatre, Columbia Bank, North Cascades Institute, Northwest Garden Bling, Perks Espresso & Deli, Upper Skagit Library, and Valley's West Realty. Follow Cache in Concrete on Facebook.

For more information contact the Upper Skagit Library at 360.853.7939.

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Council candidates voice their views

By Haley McNealey

Edited by Katy Tomasulo

Concrete Herald hosted a Candidates' Forum on July 22 at the Concrete Theatre for the three candidates running for Town Council position 1: Jason Driver, Rob Thomas, and Chris Thun. The event provided an opportunity for community members to ask questions of the candidates, voice their concerns, and listen to the responses in order to make an informed decision prior to casting their ballots Aug. 4. Germaine Kornegay, a councilmember for Sedro Woolley, moderated the event.

Below are highlights from the candidates' responses.

What do you think is Concrete's biggest challenge, and how would you suggest the town and its citizens address it?



Driver

Each of the candidates emphasized the importance of improving the town economically. Thomas discussed increasing business and declared that his initial action as councilmember would be to review minutes from previous council meetings in detail. Thun indicated two major problems for the town: financial limitations associated with lack of accessibility as a result of the distance from larger cities and seasonal highway closures, and providing incentive for young people to remain within the town following high school graduation by introducing industries and employment opportunities. Driver discussed introducing new businesses to create economic sustainability as well as providing more activities for residents,



Thomas

children, and tourists, citing the progress with the new library as a move in the right direction.

What is your personal agenda you will be bringing with you?

Driver described his accompanying agenda to include improving the community and establishing a stable economic platform and other incentives that will allow businesses and the town to prosper. Continuing to increase revenue for the town is at the center of Thun's agenda. Thomas stated, "To take what we have, to strengthen what we have, and hopefully to take the next step forward. It's not a personal agenda; it's a community agenda. The question is, can we maximize our people resources, and can we maximize our financial resources?"

Thomas went on to name improvements to Silo Park and infrastructure improvements within the community as examples of excellent uses of resources.

Do you support the annexation of Concrete into Upper Skagit Library District? If not, how do you propose to fill that void in services for the people you wish to represent?

Thun expressed that he did not know enough about the proposal to have a strong opinion. Driver stated his support for the annexation, describing the positive resources available to residents of all ages including reading contests and Internet access for research. Thomas, who is on the Board of Directors, expressed strong approval for annexation, stating that it is long overdue and because the resource is within town limits, it should be available to residents with no additional fee.

Have you attended at least two council meetings in the last six months to observe and judge whether you are suited to a position on the council?

Each of the candidates affirmed they have attended meetings recently. Driver stated he has attended four in the last six months, Thun stated he has attended three or four in the last nine months,



Thun

and Thomas stated the last meeting he attended was about a month ago.

What do you think you can accomplish better than the other candidates?

None of the candidates were forthcoming with statements that would be harmful to the opposing entrants; however, they were willing to share positive responses to the question. Thomas began by acknowledging the presence of negative campaigning and that mindset at the national and local level within office. He proclaimed each of his competitors and himself have skills to contribute, highlighting a couple of his own including his education and experiences, and ultimately placing the decision-making power in the hands of the voters, whose responsibility it is to select the candidate that will best serve the needs of the town. Thun described his qualifications as honesty and hard work, also recognizing the unique skills of the other candidates and the necessity of many people coming together. Driver, too, mentioned the unique abilities of each candidate, with the concluding message that if elected his presence will make the community and council better.

What does the concept of a unified town council mean to you?

Driver stated the importance of the process of discussing issues together and considering potential solutions. Thun described the foundation of the country and the importance of collaboration, stating, "One person can't do it. It has to be unified." Thomas distinguished between uniformity and unification, emphasizing the importance of frank and emotional discussion and the mindset of a democracy; even if a councilmember voted against the outcome, the entire panel and community must move forward as a team once a decision has been reached.

Follow-up questions addressed property ownership, water and sewer rates, plans for the airport, and enticing more people and businesses to Concrete.

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

Parents urged to make back-to-school shots a priority

While back-to-school clothing and supplies are high on the list of action items for our children, Skagit County health officials urge parents to make required vaccination shots a priority before school starts.

"When you ask yourself whether your children are ready for the new school year, don't forget required immunizations," urges Skagit County Epidemiologist Yeshimebet Tulu. "Although our department discontinued clinical services in June, we still remain a resource for any questions or concerns you might have regarding your children's vaccinations."

Tulu recommends that parents contact their primary care physician regarding vaccine options. Those who do not have

a primary care physician are urged to contact a Sea Mar medical clinic. The Mount Vernon clinic is located at 1400 LaVenture, Mount Vernon; (360) 428-4075. The Concrete clinic is located at 7438 South "D" Avenue, Concrete; (360) 853-8183.

"While we no longer provide vaccinations, we are eager to help with information and referrals," said Tulu. "We want to partner with parents to safeguard children against preventable diseases including whooping cough and influenza."

To contact the Skagit County Health and Community Services office, call (360) 336-9380.

—Submitted by
Skagit County Health Department



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Cascade Days returns with popular lineup and new enticements

Concrete's signature summer event will roar into town Aug. 15-16, bringing with it crowd favorites as well as fresh fun.

This year, attendees will recognize many of their favorite events, such as the log show and parade. But new twists and fresh ideas abound for visitors of every age.

In addition to cash prizes, the log show will add a chainsaw donated by Cascade Supply to the mix. The competitor over 18 who racks up the most points will win that chainsaw. This perk is a first; no other log show does it.

Kids will want to gravitate toward the tennis court in Veterans Memorial Park, where they'll find a hula hoop contest, craft activities, colored sand projects, a chalk art contest, and more. They can paint birdhouses, airplanes—you name it. Register for contests at the information booth on Saturday morning, before the parade.

Dump Run

Remember last year's "mud run"? This year it has a new name and it's crazier than ever.

Registration for the "Dump Run" begins at Veterans Memorial Park on Sun., Aug. 16, at 9 a.m. All participants must fill out a registration form. The first wave of runners leave the park at 10 a.m. The second wave leaves at noon.

Pre-register before Aug. 1 for \$30; otherwise the registration fee is \$35.

Dress in costume or whatever you want, but come prepared to get wet, muddy, and more. The run promises lots of fun for ages 10 and up. Participants must be accompanied by a parent if under the age of 18.

Paynes named Grand Marshals

Everyone loves the Cascade Days Parade, the largest parade Concrete



Cascade Days Parade Grand Marshals Don and Della Payne.

hosts all year. This year's Parade Grand Marshals are Don and Della Payne of Concrete.

The Paynes are Concrete fixtures, active and involved in the community. Deftly juggling four businesses by my count, they still find time to volunteer and attend important meetings, including the Chamber of Commerce and Town Council. Don is wrapping up work on a beautiful plaza he planned and built with other volunteers on the west side of his Town Center building, which houses the couple's laundromat and Della's baby, Back to Basics Sewing.

Lineup for the parade begins at 9 a.m. on Saturday, with the parade kicking off at 11 a.m.

At 12:30 p.m., a car show begins in Concrete Town Center. Also at 12:30 p.m., the Firemen's Muster splashes into Veterans Memorial Park.

Saturday also includes the Log Show at 2:30 p.m. (Veterans Memorial Park) and the Duck Race at 4:30 p.m., in front of the bank.

Highlights on Sunday include the Dump Run, Pet Show, pie- and watermelon-eating contests, and chainsaw carving.

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

—J. K. M.

THIS AND THAT

By J. K. M.

Concrete High School Class of 1960

will hold a class reunion on Aug. 15 at the Skagit Hotel adjacent to Skagit Casino. Socializing will begin at 5 p.m., followed by a buffet dinner at 6 p.m. Reservations may be made by calling 210.287.8617, 520.297.2144, or 360.708.2923.

Concrete High School Class of 1963

will hold its class reunion on Aug. 15. Classmates are invited to board the float in the parade (line up from 9:30 to 10 a.m. at the west end of Main St.). A picnic will be held at the high school at 2 p.m.

A dance for Concrete Alumni (1960-65 plus guest) will be held on Aug. 15 from 6:30 to 11 p.m. at Grasmere Fire Hall. Admission is a \$7 donation. For more information, call 425.238.0667 or 360.333.0838. Find the group on Facebook; search "Concrete Class Reunion Dance 1960-1965."

This year's **Back-to-School Blessing** will be held on Sun., Aug. 23, from noon to 3 p.m. at the Concrete Center.

Back-to-School Blessing is a collaborative project among several churches in Concrete and the East County Resource Center. The goal is to provide more than 120 free backpacks filled with school supplies to Concrete students.

Donations of school supplies are being sought to help fill the empty backpacks. Supplies needed include colored pencils, glue sticks, crayons, rulers, pencil pouches/boxes, erasers, pencils, and scissors. Cash donations also are appreciated.

Donations may be left at the East County Resource center between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Mon.-Fri. Deadline for all donations is Aug. 21. For more information, call 360.853.7009.

Whitehorse Farmers Market in Darrington is now open seven days a week. The market is located at 1080 Seeman St., and is open Mon. through Sat. from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m.

The market features fresh product all week, plus a vendors village every Saturday. For more information or vending registration, contact Pam Fritchman at whitehorsepam@gmail.com or 360.436.1945.

Council summary

Concrete Town Council met for regular meetings on July 13 and 27. The following is a summary of those two meetings. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are posted on the town's Web site at www.townofconcrete.com/cminutes.php.

July 13 regular council meeting

- Mayor Jason Miller was on vacation. Mayor Pro-tem Mike Bartel led the meeting in his absence.
- Public Safety:** Councilmember Marla Reed asked about a horse that was hit on the highway and what the Sheriff Department's position is on putting an animal down. Sergeant Chris Kading reported that it depends on which agency responds; there are different protocols for the Sheriff and the State Patrol. He reported that the SCSO position is if the animal is suffering

and obviously not going to make it, they will put the animal down.

Sgt. Kading also reported on a bear sighting at the school today. He stated that Fish and Wildlife had been called, but were unable to locate the bear. Reed and Councilmember Dave Pfeiffer stated they believe it has been around the airport for the last few days, because their dogs have been acting differently. Sgt. Kading reported that if Fish and Wildlife officials are able to locate the animal, they may trap it and move it away from town.

- Town engineer Cody Hart reported the town is still in the research and marketing phase of the zip line project.

Hart also gave an update on the South Dillard water line project. The plans have been finalized and the project has been put out for advertisement. He stated the base bid will cover the work on South Dillard

from State Route 20 to Eriksen Place. He stated the alternate bid will include going underneath State Route 20 to North Dillard and making this a looped line. He reported the engineer's estimate for the total project at this time is approximately \$215,000.

July 27 regular meeting

- Bruce Poulin, a representative with Ameresco, an energy service contractor, presented to council a proposal to do an energy audit for the wastewater treatment plant, then implement changes to save energy and money.

The process would begin with an initial audit, which is all but complete. The town would need to choose Ameresco as its ESCO (energy service company). Council voted to do so. Next, Ameresco will do a deep audit of the treatment plant's shortcomings and wasted

energy expenditures, then look for ways to fund its recommendations.

- Public Safety:** Mayor Miller explained that he had spoken with Deputy Marlow about many near misses at the new crosswalk at SR 20 and Superior Ave., including one that involved him. Mayor Miller explained that there is a potential for pedestrian injury because motorists can't see the lights on the south side of SR 20 because of other signs in the way until about 200 yards from the crosswalk. The brightness of the lights was also discussed, as was other anecdotal evidence.

Keep track of your council

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

Got Flying?...Visit the North Cascades Vintage Aircraft Museum this Summer



Explore the museum's unique collection of forgotten history with our expert staff! Book your tour today by visiting info@vintageaircraftmuseum.org

www.vintageaircraftmuseum.org



Thank you for your support in the primary. I look forward to serving you as your new port commissioner. Please vote for me Nov. 3.

—Pola Kelley

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Pola Kelley

Concrete Summer Learning Adventure gets great start

Concrete Summer Learning Adventure (CSLA) is a summer camp for Concrete elementary students ages 6 to 12. This year's camp began the week of July 6.

Each week revolves around a theme and includes a culinary corner where campers help cook their own meals, a field trip to familiarize the children with the community, a Wednesday visit from the Upper Skagit Library, and a Thursday trip to the North Cascades Wilderness Information Center in Marblemount.

The theme for the first week was Outdoor Ambassadors. Campers learned about soil and gardening throughout the week. The children learned how worms make food into compost and built worm bins for the school. During a visit to Cascadian Farm, they learned about native pollinators, what plants need to grow, and how to identify weeds. In Marblemount, the campers completed a scavenger hunt at the Wilderness Information Center to learn about the National Park Service.

The second week was themed Aquatic Explorers. The Washington State University Mt. Vernon Extension visited this week to teach about how plants use photosynthesis to make food out of sunlight and water. The campers also

walked to the community garden in Concrete to harvest vegetables that they planted during the school year. A highlight was harvesting and sampling fresh garlic. Finally, in Marblemount, the children learned the Water Cycle Boogie and solved water-themed riddles.

Campers arrived excited to learn about animals during the Call of the Wild-themed third week. This was also the week of the much anticipated field trip to EyeSpy Border Collies. Campers met Border Collie puppies and learned how the dogs are trained for work and competition.

At the National Park, children learned the fish life cycle and played an epic game of Capture the Fish. They also got to explore the new North Cascades National Park bear trailer.

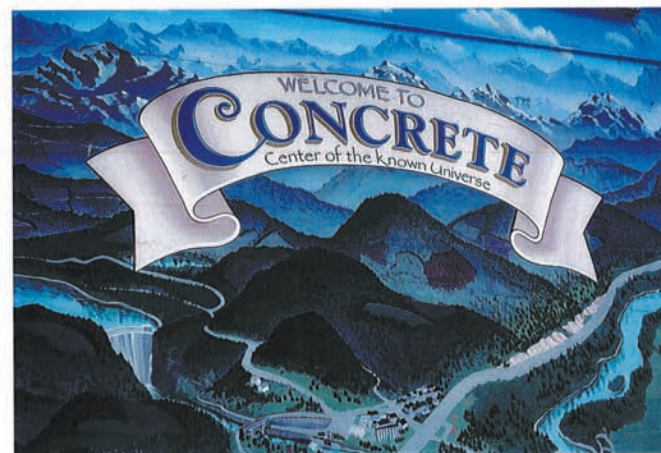
The adventures will continue into August. CSLA is a partnership between the Concrete School District, the National Park Service, Community Health Outreach Programs, and North Cascades Institute, and is made possible by funding from School's Out Washington, Concrete Resource Coalition, National Park Foundation, and the Skagit Community Foundation.

For more information about CSLA, contact camp coordinators Rachel Sacco or Rachel Gugich at rachel.sacco@unitedgeneral.org or rachel_gugich@ncascades.org, respectively.

—J. K. M.

CONCRETE FIREFIGHTERS 1ST ANNUAL COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE August 15-16, 2015 9AM-5PM

Call Corrina at 360.853.8401 to arrange donations.



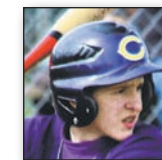
7337 North Dillard
(The Old Firehall)

Proceeds to Benefit the Concrete
Firefighters Scholarship Fund

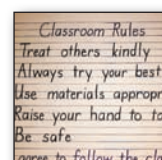




Sports



Academics



Athletes of the Year

Chloe Stidman

Sophomore powerhouse Chloe Stidman fills her opponents with dread when she steps on the soccer field, basketball court, and softball diamond. Powerful and competitive, she racked up impressive numbers during the 2014–15 school year.

On the soccer field, Stidman, a forward, was named Most Valuable Teammate and tapped for First Team All-League.

“She always arrives to practice early and strives for self-improvement. Chloe takes time to work with her teammates and takes pride in being an excellent representative of Concrete High School and the Concrete community,” said Head Coach Adam Woodworth.

Stidman continued her performance on the basketball court and was named “Miss Hustle” by Coach Kevik Rensink. She finished the season with 100 steals, ranking her 3rd all-time for most steals in a season. She also finished the season with an average of 5.26 steals per game, which ranks her 2nd all-time.

Next, Stidman assumed her familiar position as catcher for the Concrete Lady Lions fastpitch softball team. At the end of the season, she was named to the First



Team All-League. Her batting average led the team at .553. She had four doubles, nine home runs, 25 RBI, 27 runs, a 1.213 slugging average, and a .661 on-base average.

And we have her for two more years.



Gibson Fichter

Senior Gibson Fichter needs more than this small space to do justice to his exploits during his high school career.

Arguably his biggest achievement, however, was breaking the county rushing record on a dark and stormy November night in Darrington, then ending the football season with 3,648 yards. Oh, and he did that after missing three games because of a dislocated elbow.

Fichter wrapped the season with more accolades. He was named NWB League MVP and Second Team All League defensive back.

“Gibson used his talent, determination, and extraordinary mental toughness to achieve his awards and the all-time county record,” said Head Coach Ron Rood.

The three-sport senior continued with characteristic ferocity into wrestling season, where an injury forced him to the sidelines as he began his push for State. He still lettered.

Fichter healed fast, roaring onto the pitcher’s mound weeks later with a ferocity that set batters on their heels.

He ended the regular season with a storybook win, knocking in the deciding run against Orcas Island, and notching impressive numbers on the season. He was named Most Valuable Pitcher/Glove

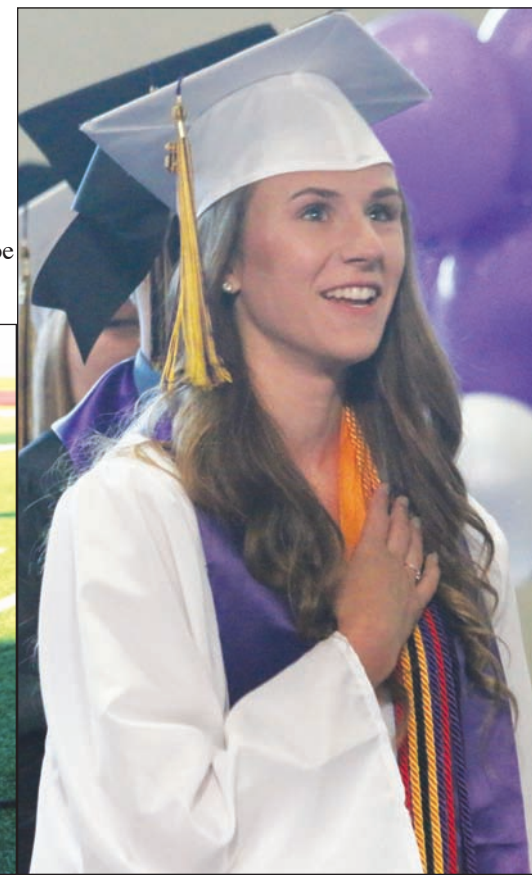


with 59 innings, 54 strikeouts, and a 1.78 ERA. He was team captain and got the nod as pitcher for the NW 1A/2B/1B League Baseball All-League First Team.

He was the only Concrete player to continue from there, traveling to Bellingham to play in the NW Regional High School All-Star Feeder Games at Joe Martin Field.



Scenes from a graduation: clockwise from top, the 2015 graduating class of Concrete High School; Valedictorian Haley McNealey; Jordan Kucera, Kalysta the Magnificent, a.k.a. Kalysta Becker, and Salutatorian Gibson Fichter; Valedictorian Madeline Corn.



YD update

My wife and I took on an amazing challenge 16 years ago by serving as Concrete Youth Dynamics directors. We invite high school students to join us every Monday night for food, relationship-building, and crazy (but safe) good times. We also take adventure trips throughout the year, including skiing, snowboarding, horseback riding, whitewater rafting, kayaking, mountain biking, hiking, rock climbing, and backpacking. Our desire is to form relationships through experiences. Your prayers, financial support, and encouragement help us accomplish this.

Even though enrollment in our school district has declined during the last several years, the attitudes of our staff and students remain high, and the need for our young people to experience life to the fullest remains our mission.

Almost every student at CHS attends our many Monday night meetings and retreats. Many of those students make decisions to live better lives and break the chain of drugs, alcohol, and abuse that has affected their lives. Youth Dynamics continues to offer a positive place for our young people and a hope for a solid future. Many lives have changed and continue to change as a result of our times together.

On Aug. 24 I will golf 100 holes at Avalon Golf Course in Burlington to help raise money for Concrete YD. I will tee off at sunrise and cramp up at sunset. These funds go directly into our Youth Dynamics account. This money helps pay for insurance, fuel for our passenger vans, food, and scholarships for the students who attend our retreats.

We operate on a very small budget. Our staff is volunteer, so every dollar goes toward the students. If you would like to help us get off to a solid financial start to the 2015–16 school year, please consider sponsoring me. This year my fundraising goal is \$8,000. You can either sponsor me per hole or give a flat donation.

Please go to <https://www.egsnetwork.com/gift2?giftid=D9F1AD50E82643A> to sponsor me. We thank you for your support because without it we would not be able to do this for the kids of Eastern Skagit County.

—Kevik and Marta Rensink, directors

EVERYDAY HEROES

Upper Valley volunteer firefighters sacrifice time, energy, their jobs, and sleep to be at the forefront of tragedy—without pay.

By Tahlia Honea

Sydney Sprouse, 15, was playing video games last summer when she heard her dad shout her name from the backyard. She knew something was wrong. Her father had been pruning a rose bush, but when she got to him, he was lying on the ground unconscious, slumped over a chunk of concrete.

The teen called 911 and the dispatcher talked her through CPR, counting to 100 over and over until help arrived.

"I thought he was going to die," Sydney said during a recent interview with her father, Michael Schafer, 62, at their home in Marblemount. "I didn't think he was going to be with me anymore."

When the Marblemount Fire Department arrived, one of the firefighters told Sydney they would take over and began CPR.

"I was bawling my eyes out when all this was happening," she said. "But they were really nice about it, and calm, and just trying to get him to survive."

The efforts of Sydney and the fire department last summer saved Schafer's life. After the heart attack, he remained in a coma for several weeks, but has mostly recovered during the past year.

CPR "saves," as firefighters call them, are extremely rare. "That never happens," said Corrina Hart, a volunteer firefighter and EMT for the town of Concrete. "So they had to be doing something right."

What makes the incident even more impressive is that the EMTs and firefighters involved were volunteers.

In fact, east of Sedro-Woolley, all of the fire departments are made up of volunteers. Most of them have full-time jobs and families. They all sacrifice time, energy, their jobs, and sleep to be at the forefront of tragedy, without pay.

When Schafer returned home from his heart attack, one of the first stops he made

was at the fire station.

"I went down there and thanked them," he said. "They told me I was the only person that ever thanked them ... it's like, what a nice group of people."

It's easy to assume that someone will come to the rescue with a call to 911, but the reality for rural fire departments is that there are fewer and fewer volunteers stepping up to serve.

"There are times no one responds," said Rosemary Seifried, the only EMT with the Marblemount Fire Department, which is part of Fire District 19. Seifried also is a ranger with the North Cascades National Park.

Changing times

All the volunteer fire departments say it is becoming increasingly harder to stay viable and ready for emergencies. They point to several challenges.

First and foremost, they have trouble getting and retaining volunteers. That is in part because people are traveling out of their communities for work and can't leave work to respond to calls. Back when there were more local jobs, like farming and small mills, they could drop what they were doing at the sound of the fire bell and go help.

Local firefighters also say that children's activities take up much more of parents' time than they used to, leaving little time to volunteer.

Jay Follman with the Clear Lake Fire Department said he's seen a shift in skills as well. In the past, people came from farming, logging, and other backgrounds that involve physical work.

"The kids now are great at technology, but a lot of them have never cut down a tree," Follman said.

Also, firefighting is often generational, with children following their parents' lead by joining their local fire department as well. While that still happens, it's less frequent.

But there also is a mentality shift.

"I don't think people like to volunteer their time," said Jimmy Luttrell, a firefighter with the Concrete Volunteer

Fire Department.

There is also limited funding. The departments stretch their meager budgets—which come mostly from county property taxes—by cobbling together personal gear and equipment. Much of their gear is outdated, and is heavy and difficult to maneuver. In Marblemount, one of the fire engines actually leaks.

"If it's a long enough time between fires, the truck is empty," said Bob Hopfield, a volunteer Marblemount firefighter.

In general, the farther east, the less the funding. The departments all have used equipment from other paid fire departments like Burlington and Sedro-Woolley. In Marblemount, they sometimes get hand-me-downs that have already been through several other fire departments.

"We're at the end of the line," Seifried said with a laugh.

Training also has become more intense to meet regulations. Simply responding to calls is only a small part of the commitment.

"It's being ready for it," said Hart.

Despite all this, there are a core group of about 100 loyal volunteers who, day in and day out, keep up with their training, attend regular fire meetings, and wake up to calls at all hours of the night—saving homes and lives—all while working regular jobs.

Who are they?

Though volunteer firefighters come from all walks of life, most of the long-time reliable volunteers seem to be go-getters who simply enjoy helping other people, giving back to their community, and the excitement of jumping in during a crisis.

"Type A volunteer personalities," said Chris Kading. Kading is the East Detachment Sergeant with the Skagit County Sheriff's Office and also a volunteer firefighter with the Lyman Volunteer Fire Department.

Most of them have full-time jobs. Denton Moore, Chief of Fire District 19, which covers Rockport and Marblemount, is an electrician. Marnie Fox, of Punkin Center, is a full-time paid firefighter with



Concrete Volunteer Fire Dept. firefighter Jaesen Meacham competes in the Firemen's Muster during Cascade Days in Concrete in 2013.

Boeing. Corrina Hart is the deputy clerk for the town of Concrete, and the list goes on.

A large pool of the volunteers come from the North Cascades National Park Service in Marblemount. Rockport Firefighter Cecily Moore pointed out the irony because many from the park service are temporary workers who aren't rooted in the community, yet still freely give their lives.

Kading said he wanted to get into fire response because he lives rurally. There are no fire hydrants, and the only help other than neighbors is too far away to make a difference. He wanted to be able to know how to put out a fire or help with medical emergencies, and not sit back helplessly.

That's the same reason Mike Brondi—co-owner of Blue Heron Farm—joined the Rockport Volunteer Fire Department after witnessing a friend seriously injured in a logging accident years ago.

"I never wanted to see someone I cared about injured again and not be able to do anything," Brondi said. "It's so uncomfortable to stand by and not know what to do."

Follman runs a large construction company, building multi-million dollar projects around the world. But he's been

Heroes, cont. from p. 10

a volunteer for decades at the Clear Lake Fire Department. Many of their calls are for serious or fatal accidents on Hwy. 9.

Follman always assumed he would serve in the military, but because that didn't happen, he feels like it is his duty to give back through firefighting and aid.

There are, of course, sacrifices that come with being on call 24 hours a day.

"I've put bids together while sitting in a fire truck, and made math errors," Follman said. "It's definitely cost me some money."

Kading said the morning after his own wedding, he was getting ready to go on his honeymoon when a call came in for a baby that needed CPR. He went. Holidays, dinners, sleep, recitals, and family time are all disrupted by calls for help.

It's not the large fires or incidents that require the most sacrifice. There are people who abuse the system, pulling fire department volunteers out of bed for a ride into town or to get pain medication. Others call 911 for minor injuries, stressing the system by using limited resources. There are frequent calls for drug overdoses and alcohol issues—or people otherwise making bad judgment calls.

There is only one paramedic in all of eastern Skagit County. If he is called to a minor injury, he's not available for heart attacks or other serious injuries. EMTs can't administer medicine like a paramedic, who is highly trained to save

Most calls the firefighters respond to aren't fires. They're motor vehicle accidents or medical emergencies.

"They are a huge help to us," said Skagit County Sheriff Will Reichardt. "Yeah, they go out and fight the fires, but they do so much more than just fires. They'll be out there at an accident scene at two in the morning in the freezing cold or pouring rain conducting traffic while we do our investigation. During flooding they knock on doors notifying people of evacuations. They're a tremendous resource for us."

Women pulling their weight

During the past several years, more and more women have jumped into firefighting. Some of the departments are now about 50 percent women. They drive the fire engines and haul heavy hoses.

Fox is a 50-year-old firefighter from Punkin Center in the Lyman area. Though she weighs only 130 pounds, she's training to be able to carry a 170-lb.

dummy 100 feet while also carrying her 55 pounds of gear. Fox has a petite frame, but an impressive set of biceps. She said she has to train extra hard to keep her muscle mass.

"We're girls. It just goes away," she laughed.

Fox is often the first one on scene driving the fire engine, radioing to her fellow firefighters, "851 responding with

1," hoping someone will join her. "You have to have in your mind, someone will show up."

She works 24-hour shifts at her full-time job as a career firefighter at Boeing. On her days off, the job gives her a lot of flexibility to be available for day calls.

Day calls are the most challenging for fire departments to fill, because so many people have jobs they can't leave or are

out of the area.

Corrina Hart, Town of Concrete's deputy clerk, said she's lucky to be able to leave for calls, although she said it's a little awkward to come back to her public desk job dirty and sweaty from fighting a fire.

Jessica Moore is another strong female

See Heroes, p. 12



On the front page: Upper Valley volunteer firefighters gathered for a group photo at the new Fire and Life Safety Facility in Concrete on July 30. Top row, from left: District 8 firefighters Kyle Peninger, Larry Henderson, (Skagit County Fire Marshal) Kelly Blaine, Dusty Smiley, Chief Rusty Feay, Chris Wood.

Next row down, from left: District 10 firefighters and firefighters-in-training Tyler Coffell, Helen Ovenell, Josh Guffie, Maddy Pritchard, Becky Luttrell, Tessa Coffell.

Next row down, from left: District 10 firefighters and firefighters-in-training Shayne Luttrell, Grayson Luttrell, Anthony McDonnell, Chief Rod Coffell, Tyrel Pritchard, Chris Turner, Mike Williams.

Next row down, from left: Concrete Volunteer Fire Dept. firefighters Corrina Hart, Paul Rider, Blaine Burghdoff, Jason Kleinhuizen, Dilyn Stidman. Front row, from left: Concrete Volunteer Fire Dept. firefighters Jimmy Luttrell, Asst. Chief Tim Bridge, Tony Zachman, Chief Rich Philips, Asst. Chief Darrel Reed, Dylan Abendroth.

Heroes, cont. from p. 11

firefighter who has earned the respect of her fellow firefighters. Most recently Moore was at the center of the largest natural disaster this region has seen in recent history, along with several other local firefighters.

The slide

On Sat., March 22, 2014, the Rockport and Marblemount Fire Departments heard a request for aid in what they initially thought was a minor incident in the neighboring Darrington fire district. Some heard that there was a medical call in Lyman, which didn't make sense coming from Darrington. Others heard there was a mudslide.

Of course when they got there, they realized the scale of the SR 530 slide between Darrington and Oso.

It was chaos.

While there was a steady supply of aid from the west side of the slide, from the east side aid was mostly cut off, leaving only Darrington-area first responders to help.

Jessica and Denton Moore, who are married, were both at the forefront, along with Denton's sister Cecily, Mike Brondi,

and several other local firefighters.

None of them had ever seen that scale of a disaster. An entire square mile was covered in mud. There was a roof in the middle of the road. Debris, cars, logs, and people were everywhere.

The Skagit firefighters were split up right away.

"No one really knew what was happening," Brondi said.

He started triaging: categorizing people by how badly they were injured. Some were struggling for life, some were going to die, and one was already dead.

Denton Moore waded in muddy water to rescue a trapped man with life-threatening arm injuries.

A Navy helicopter landed, asking for firefighters. Jessica Moore hopped into the helicopter with two other people. The helicopter flew to the center of the slide and hovered as the three firefighters jumped into the disaster zone, then took off again.

Jessica and the others got to work, using a chainsaw to cut through debris. People were yelling for help, but it felt like everything was going slowly as they tried to make progress freeing trapped people.

They freed one man from a pile of debris, using a door as a stretcher to carry him.

Another couple was trapped under a huge pile of debris. Moore continued talking to them as piece by piece they dug through mud, logs, and pieces of house. The couple told her they felt touching feet, and communicated with each other that they were still alive by playing footsies.

Eventually, Jessica was sent down to crawl into the debris pile. She crawled through a window hole, which was almost unrecognizable, and saw a woman's hand come out from underneath a mattress. She grabbed the hand and waited for firefighters above to remove debris to get them both out.

She was in the center of the slide for six hours and helped rescue four people. Shortly after, everyone was evacuated because of the rising water.

Jessica said at the time she wasn't scared, but looking back she realizes how dangerous the situation was.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime disaster," said Anne Schwartz, Brondi's wife and a 34-year veteran of the Rockport Fire Department.

"I hope so," her husband added.

See Heroes, p. 13



Active and previous Clear Lake Fire Dept. firefighters gathered at the Clear Lake Fire Hall in February 2011 for a social. Standing, from left: Jeff Jansma, Larry Nelson, James Lanning, Dale Lovett. The late Jamie Lanning is seated in front. *Photo by Barb Rumsey.*



Above: Day Creek firefighters pause for a photo during a practice burn in June 2012, using a retired, donated dwelling. *Submitted photo.*

Right: District 19 (Rockport) firefighters prepare to enter an abandoned house during a training exercise hosted by the Concrete Fire Dept. in July 2011.



Heroes, cont. from p. 12

Small community challenges

There are up sides and down sides to firefighting in your own community.

"You're more motivated because they're your neighbor, but it's painful because you know them," Brondi said.

Fox said she likes making the connection with people with whom she might not otherwise come into contact, or being a comforting familiar face when her neighbors are in trauma.

There is a slight panic every time a call comes in among the firefighters: What's the address? Do I know them? Fox said it's especially hard when there are fatal accidents. She recognized one man who passed away from the shirt he was wearing with his name and place of work.

It is in part the shared trauma that binds the firefighting community so tightly. While post-incident counseling is readily accessible, it seems like the most comforting thing to do is talk about it with the people who were there.

There are a lot of husband-and-wife couples that give their time together. That allows them not to feel like they're missing out on their family life, and it's also a reflection of shared values, said Brondi.

Brondi's wife Schwartz said joining the fire department 34 years ago was a great way for them to meet people in a new community.

"It was a wonderful way as newcomers to find our place and make our place," Schwartz said. "People who work for their community turn out to be awesome people."

They can't imagine what the last three decades would be like without it.

"It makes living in a small town have a better quality of life that you don't get in an urban environment where you don't count on your neighbors," said Brondi.

The future

There is a sense of uncertainty as the departments struggle to find enough volunteers.

Chief Moore has been successful in recruiting his neighbors and friends, a group of younger, high-energy firefighters, but says they still need more people. Rod Coffell, Chief of the Grasmere and Birdview stations (District 10), is leading a training for teenagers, with the hopes that they will eventually become volunteers.

"I just wish more people would step up," Fox said.

Schwartz, who is 61 and says she's



Top: Dist. 10 firefighters gathered in June for hands-on training near the Grasmere station. *Photo by Chris Archuleta.* **Above middle:** A July 23 wildfire next to SR 20 in Birdview drew volunteer firefighters from several Upper Valley stations to aid DNR firefighters. *Photo by Dick Warner.* **Above:** District 10 firefighters wave motorists into their pancake breakfast fundraiser.

probably gone into her last burning structure, said there is plenty of work to do for any type of person without so much physical strain.

In the meantime, Michael Schafer says his near-death experience and being saved by the volunteer fire department deeply changed him.

"It's made me appreciate people and be less judgmental," he said. "I help more people in the community now—small things, like I grow tomatoes and give them all away."

He said eventually, when he regains his strength, he's hoping to put his nursing skills back to work for his community and join the fire department.

Tahlia Honea can be reached at tahlia.ann@gmail.com or 360.333.5815.



Above: Fire District 10 (Grasmere) firefighters pose proudly with The Boot after winning the Firemen's Muster at Cascade Days last year. Kneeling, from left, Becky Luttrell, Don Olmstead. Standing, from left, Zach Allard, Rick Reigal, Chris Archuleta.

Below: District 19 (Marblemount station) firefighter Bob Hopfield collects a donation from a passing motorist during the 2013 Boot Drive fundraiser.



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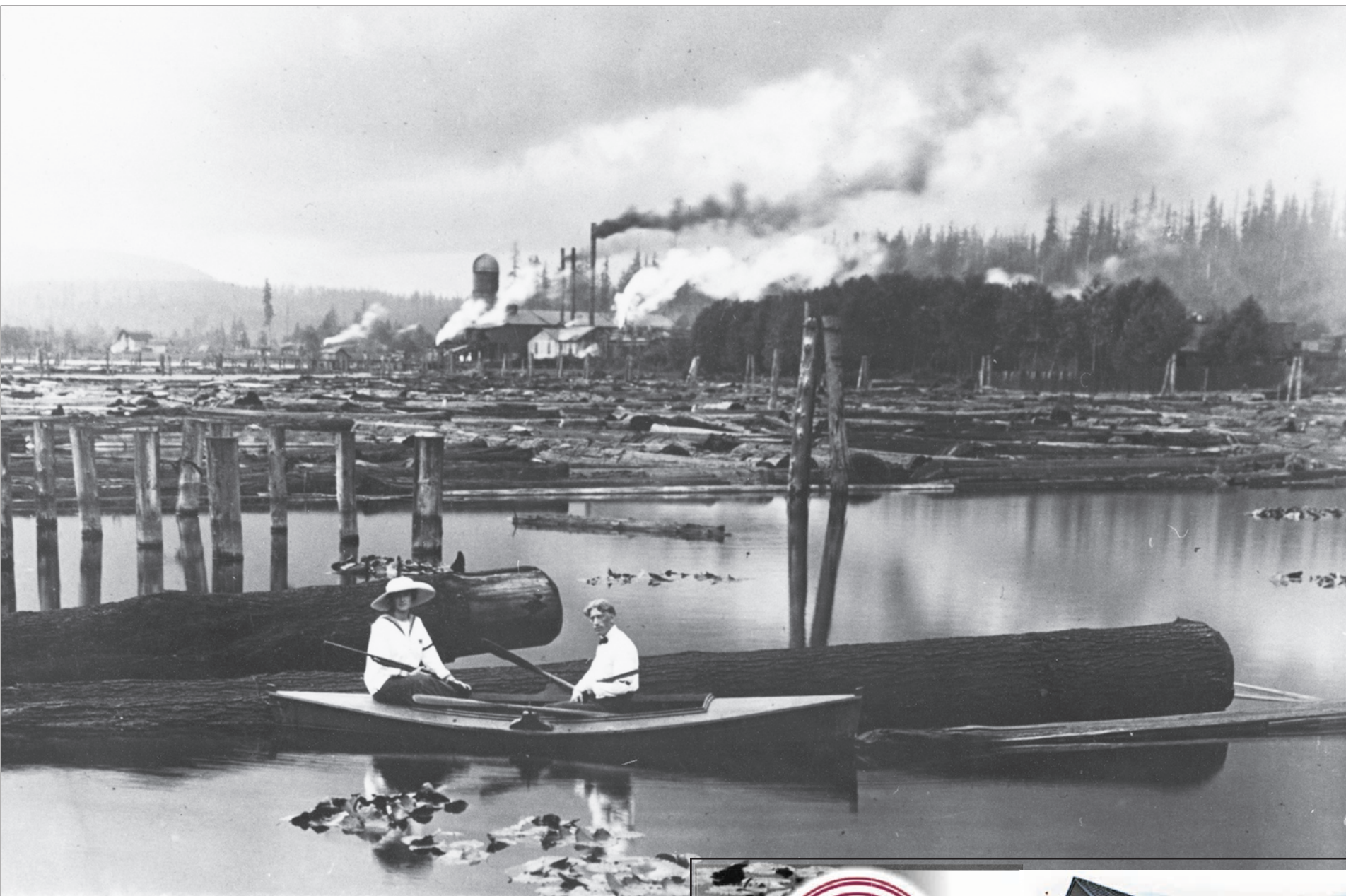
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Clear Lake



HISTORY CORNER

An unidentified couple row a boat on Clear Lake in front of Clear Lake Lumber Company Mill circa 1910. Both individuals are holding guns. This photo was probably taken near the present-day boat launch on the north end of the lake. Note the large quantity of logs floating on the lake awaiting processing at the mill. A large burner and three small smokestacks can be seen in the background,

and in the far background a barn can be seen. *Photo courtesy of Clear Lake Historical Association.*

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

—Deanna Ammons, historian
Clear Lake and Day Creek



Rick Lemley
Doug Hutter
Tobi Stidman

360-855-1288
1008 Third St. • Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284
www.lemleychapel.com info@lemleychapel.com



Community Calendar



AUGUST

- 4 Primary Election, ballots must be postmarked by today or left in a drop-box by 8 p.m. tonight
- 6 Pioneer Association Picnic, Pioneer Park, La Conner, 11:15 a.m.; see article, p. 34
- 6 Congresswoman Suzan DelBene at Birdview Brewing Co. for Illabot Creek celebration, 5:30 to 7 p.m.; rafting prior; see article, p. 22
- 6–9 15th Annual Summer Meltdown Festival, Whitehorse Mountain Amphitheater, 42501 SR 530 NE; see notice, p. 25; info at www.summermeltdownfest.com
- 8 Vic's 66 Open House and Car Show, 221 Woodworth St., Sedro-Woolley, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; see notice, p. 17; info at 206.381.3500 or oldgaspump@comcast.net
- 9 Community Farmers' Market, Marblemount Community Hall; see article, p. 26; info at 360.873.2323 or www.marblemountcommunityhall.org/events
- 10 Dig Into Fall Series, Part 1: Plant Your Fall/Winter Garden Now, Mount Vernon City Library, 6:30 p.m.; free admission; info at 360.336.6209
- 12–15 Skagit County Fair, Mount Vernon
- 14–16 Skagit Farmers' Supply Country Days; see ad, p. 2
- 15 Upper Skagit Library Foundation Used Book Sale, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., library parking lot
- 15 Concrete High School Class of 1963 Class Reunion: Cascade Days Parade at 9:30 a.m.; picnic at CHS at 2 p.m.; dance that evening; see notice, p. 6; info at 425.238.0667 or 360.333.0838
- 15 Soroptimist International of Sedro-Woolley Walnut Tree Thrift Shop 40th Anniversary Parking Lot Sale, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; see notice, p. 17
- 15 Big August Hoobajoob art show, Mansford Grange Hall, 1265 Railroad Ave., Darrington; see notice, p. 25; info at 360.436.0711
- 15 Lyman and Hamilton School Reunion Potluck Picnic, Lyman City Park, noon; info at 360.856.3160 or 425.577.4724
- 15 Concrete High School Class of 1960 Class Reunion, Skagit Hotel, 5 p.m.; reservations required; see notice, p. 6
- 15–16 Cascade Days, Concrete; see ad, p. 3; info at www.cascadedays.com
- 17 Dig Into Fall Series, Part 1: How Low Can You Go (low-maintenance gardening), Mount Vernon City Library, 6:30 p.m.; free admission; info at 360.336.6209
- 18 WSU Know & Grow Workshop: Tomato Diseases, WSU Mount Vernon NWREC Sakuma Auditorium, 16650 SR 536 (Memorial Hwy), Mount Vernon; 1 to 2:30 p.m.; free admission
- 20 Darius and Tabitha May Kinsey: A Photographic Legacy, Concrete Theatre, Concrete, 7 p.m.; \$5 minimum donation per person admission; see notice, p. 32; info at www.concreteheritagemuseum.org
- 23 North Cascades Institute anniversary picnic, North Cascades Environmental Learning Center, Diablo Lake; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; free admission; see article, p. 27; info at www.ncascades.org/picnic
- 23 Back-to-School Blessing, Concrete Center, noon to 3 p.m.; see notice, p. 6; info at 360.853.7009
- 25 Free Day at Rasar and Rockport State Parks (no Discover Pass needed)

SEPTEMBER

- 12–13 Whatcom County Dahlia Society Annual Flower Show, Bloedel-Donovan Park, 2214 Electric Ave., Bellingham, noon to 5 p.m. (Sat.) and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Sun.); free admission; info at 360.354.4346
- 19 Join the Library Committee Bake Sale, Red Apple, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

Community meetings

Coffee Talk with Concrete Mayor Jason Miller usually meets the third Fri. of each month at 8 a.m., at 5b's Bakery in Concrete. **AUGUST TALK WILL BE AUG. 14.** 360.853.8213.

Community Chat, an informal conversation about projects in Darrington, meets the second Fri. of each month at 8 a.m., at Mountain Loop Books and Coffee, 1085 Darrington St., Darrington. 360.436.2167

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

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

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

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

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

Concrete School Board will hold a work session on Aug. 24, at 6 p.m. in the high school Commons. The board will hold its regular monthly meeting on Aug. 27, at 6 p.m., in the Commons. 360.853.8141.

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

Darrington Area Business Assn (DABA) meets the third Wed. of each month, 7 p.m., at Cascade Senior Center, 1115 Darrington St., Darrington. 360.436.2167.

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

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

Hamilton Town Council meets the second

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

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

KSVU station info and host training, second Wed. of each month at Portable B behind Concrete K-8 School, 4 p.m., open to public. Call 360.416.7001 to confirm appointment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sedro-Woolley School District Board will meet for a regular meeting on Aug. 10 at 5 p.m. at the Support Services Bldg. for a special session with a budget presentation and a public hearing. It will meet again for a special session/work session on Aug. 24 at 5 p.m., at the Support Services Bldg. A third meeting will be held at 7 p.m. that same day. 360.855.3500 or kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us.

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

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

County merges commercial timber tax programs

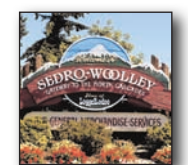
SKAGIT COUNTY — Skagit County commissioners recently merged two tax programs designed to encourage the growing and harvesting of timber.

Skagit County Assessor Dave Thomas said the merger, approved on July 7, will save taxpayer money by way of reduced administrative costs. The application process and fee schedule will be

streamlined. In most cases it will reduce costs associated with removal from the tax classification.

Thomas noted that the merged programs shared the same minimum acreage requirement and "value in use" taxable value. Both required a timber management plan and both were intended for properties used to produce a commercial timber harvest.

For more information, call the Assessor's Office at 360.336.9370.



Sedro-Woolley



Port seeks local control for Northern State campus

The Port of Skagit has submitted a proposal to the state Department of Enterprise Services to begin a phased transition of the former Northern State Hospital campus near Sedro-Woolley to local control.

If the state accepts the proposal, the port will begin leasing sections of the property from the state in planned phases to honor the current leases and provide for a smooth transition over time for the entities on site. Beginning in the southern area, the Port's control will expand to include the center core, northern area, and finally the peripheral open space until the entire property is under local control.

It is anticipated the state will need approximately three months to review the proposal.

"Realizing the transformation of

this significant property through the collaborative planning process between the state and local agencies represents the very best in 'good government'," said Port of Skagit Executive Director Patsy Martin.

Submission of the proposal completes a significant step in an ongoing effort to turn the historic Northern State campus into a local and regional economic engine. The proposal was approved during a special meeting of the port commission on July 21.

The Port of Skagit, City of Sedro-Woolley, and Skagit County are partnering in the effort to evaluate options for redevelopment of the campus and seek its eventual transfer from the State of Washington to local governments.

Northern State Hospital opened in 1909 to provide high-quality patient care for the mentally ill. The hospital closed in 1973, and the agricultural land associated with it was subsequently turned over to Skagit County for recreational use. The facility was reopened on a small scale in 1978 as a Multi-Service Center for the U.S. Forest Service and Department of Social and Health Services. The State of Washington currently owns the 225-acre hospital campus, which is managed by the state Department of Enterprise Services and is now known as North Cascades Gateway Center.

When the hospital was in operation, the site was open to the public and fully integrated into the economy and the social fiber of greater Sedro-Woolley. The proposal includes an opportunity to re-open the campus to the public.

The proposal also anticipates stewardship of the overall property will be enhanced as the transition occurs, and the Port will utilize federal standards for treatment of historic properties to prioritize the revitalization of selected structures on the property. The difference in cost between revitalization and new construction, as outlined in the proposal, is referred to as the "preservation margin." The cost to rehabilitate the structures is far too great for any one entity. Thus, the redevelopment of the site is dependent on the willingness of a public-private



partnership.

A memorandum of understanding has been established between the Port and Janicki Bioenergy regarding future revitalization of the property and structures.

If the port acquires a lease agreement for the Northern State property from DES, it anticipates to sublease sections of the property to Janicki to begin development of fabrication facilities for its OmniProcessor, a machine that can convert human waste into water and electricity.

Janicki has proposed to subsequently refurbish historically significant buildings and develop the site into a technology research development campus for the OmniProcessor and other innovative

sanitation technologies. Gradual expansion into the historic parts of the property will be dependent on business needs.

"The Janicki proposal has the potential to give an economic lift to the region and state through an increased tax base, and the phased approach spreads and balances the risk to the Port, other local governments, the private sector, and the state," said Port Commission President Bill Shuler. "Harnessing the power of the local community and private sector will ensure appropriate revitalization of the property, thus generating good jobs, commerce, and economic activity."

—Submitted by Port of Skagit

Janicki opens new engineering design office in Everett

Janicki Industries has opened a new engineering office in Everett. The primary mission of the new office is to support the aerospace industry, with special emphasis on turnkey solutions for carbon fiber parts and production tooling.

The new office is located in the heart of the aerospace community where Boeing builds its widebody airplanes, along with many aerospace tier I suppliers. The convenient location will support and foster collaboration and communication

between Janicki and its customers. The office space houses multiple conference rooms and customer office space, and is equipped for eight design engineers.

The new Janicki office is in the City University building at 1000 SE Everett Mall Way in Everett, suites 206 and 207.

"We need to make it easy for our customers to coordinate with us on the advanced designs being conducted in the aerospace field," said Vice President of Janicki Industries Aerospace Markets Brian Holmes. "Being adjacent to Boeing and other aerospace companies will hasten coordination and provide faster iterations on concepts, high quality of final design, and safer and more reliable products for flying customers to enjoy."



Soroptimist International of Sedro-Woolley recently installed new officers for 2015–16. Pictured above, they are, from left, Hank Schmidt, outgoing president; Suzanne Henggeler, president; Dawna Bennett, vice president; Judy Olsen, recording secretary; Lisa Janicki, assistant treasurer; Dona Cowan, treasurer; and Kacy Johnson, board member. Not pictured: Beryl Law, Modine Committee; Mickie Lozier, corresponding secretary. *Submitted photo.*



The **Sedro-Woolley Lions Club** partnered with Fred Meyer to purchase two bicycles to be given away at the end of the Summer Reading Program at the Central Skagit Library. Each child in the District Library who participates in the Summer Reading program will have a chance to win a bicycle when they reach 800 minutes of reading time. The theme this summer is "Every Hero has a Story." In July the Lions helped to make each child a hero in their reading ability. The bicycles were presented to Librarian Jeanne Williams, Library Trustee Chris Silves, and Summer Reading Program advisor Linda Allen. From left, Lions Lynn Torset, Frank Marzec, Carol Torset, President Debbie McNeal, Sundarah Hammontree, Trustee Chris Silves, Librarian Jeanne Williams, Program Advisor Linda Allen. *Submitted photo.*

Briefly ...

Vic's 66 has moved to its new location at 221 Woodworth St. in Sedro-Woolley, and will host an open house and car show on Sat., Aug. 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A barbecue and door prizes are on the agenda. Bring your family, hot rods, and motorcycles. For more information, contact Don at 206.381.3500 or

oldgaspump@comcast.net.

Soroptimist International of Sedro-Woolley will celebrate the 40th Anniversary of its Walnut Tree Thrift Shop with a Parking Lot Sale on Sat., Aug. 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free hot dogs, soda, and cake will be provided. Find back-to-school items, including coats, shoes/boots, pants, tops, and more. Household items have also been "reserved" for the event.

2015 Loggerodeo Grand Parade WINNERS

Log Trucks

1st: Sierra Pacific Industries
2nd: Deming Log Truck

Floats

1st: Marysville Strawberry Festival
2nd: Deming Log float
3rd: Queen of Skagit

Bands/Drill Team/Marching Units

1st: Nile Shriners
2nd: Skagit Valley High School Band
3rd: Immaculate Conception Regional School

Equestrian

Northwest Propane/Shagren's Belgians

Pooper Scooper

Skagit Rein Riders

Antique Truck/Car/Vehicle

1936 Dodge and 1931 Ford Cabriolet

Antique Tractor/Farm/Fire Equipment

Cascade two-cylinder

Youth Group

Cub Scout Pack 4067

Community/Church Group

Combat Vets International #6

Sedro-Woolley woman injured in car accident that took friend's life

Nichole DeBoer, 18, of Sedro-Woolley, was injured in a vehicle accident on July 30, along with two friends, Alexa Smiley, 18, of Lynden; and Katherine Webb, 18, of Blaine. The driver of the vehicle, Sofia Milstead, 18, of Ferndale, died in the accident.

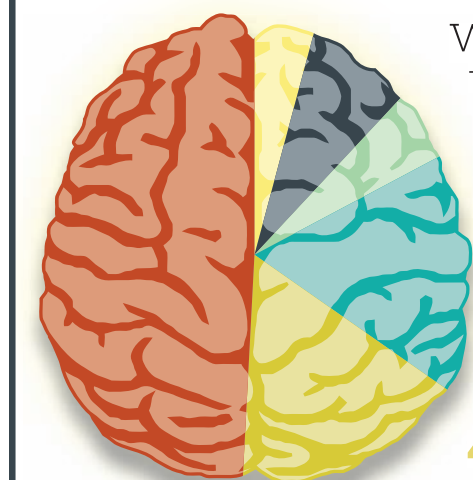
The four women were eastbound on I-90, en route to the Watershed Festival. According to a Washington State Patrol press memo, about six miles west of Ellensburg the vehicle veered to the right, left the roadway, and overcorrected, coming back onto the interstate perpendicular to the lane of travel. The vehicle rolled, then came to rest on its top.

The injured women were transported to Kittitas Valley Hospital. Milstead was pronounced dead at the scene. She was wearing her seatbelt.

—J. K. M.

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*Source: 2011 National Newspaper Association Survey

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Lyman



Day Creek



Briefly ...

The **Lyman Coop Preschool** is now accepting new registrations for fall. The preschool offers preschool and toddler classes.

For more information, contact Danielle at 360.630.7334.

This year's Lyman and Hamilton School Reunion potluck picnic will be held on Sat., Aug. 15, at noon, at Lyman City Park. For more information, call 360.856.3160 or 425.577.4724.

Continue the cycle

Please recycle
this newspaper



Kristiansen, Pearson applaud major Lyman investment in capital budget proposal

The state capital budget passed by the legislature at the end of June includes major investments in parks, trails, and various youth-centered projects supported by Rep. Dan Kristiansen, R-Snohomish, and Sen. Kirk Pearson, R-Monroe. The proposal includes statewide funding for 500 classrooms and \$1.1 billion in parks and natural resources, totaling \$3.9 billion in capital assets.

Included in the capital budget is

\$167,000 for renovation of Lyman City Park and \$199,000 for a water spray park in Concrete.

"Olympia collects a lot of money from our local citizens. This is an opportunity to bring our money back home to help fund projects in our communities such as parks, recreational infrastructure, and other improvements that can benefit everyone in the local area," said Kristiansen. "I'm very pleased to support this jobs-creating construction budget."

The state capital budget provides for the acquisition, construction, and maintenance of capital assets across Washington, such as schools and projects with recreational and economic-development value.

"These projects mean jobs and better recreational opportunities in our local communities. By directing state dollars to these projects, our youth and families will have expanded facilities for their enjoyment," said Pearson. "I hoped to see strong support for the quality of our parks,

as well as help for youth activities, and this plan delivered. This is a good deal for the Skagit Valley and I was proud to actively work to get these projects the funding they need."

"This money goes straight into our community, either in jobs or better service," added Pearson. "This project list reflects the needs of our local communities."

On the ballot

The following individuals have filed for public office in Town of Lyman and will be on the Nov. 3 ballot:

- Mayor: Edward Hills
- Council Position 3: Mike Swanson, Charles (Dick) Saunders
- Council Position 4: Ryein Kitchen, Mike Couch
- Council Position 5: Donald Frye, Gail Ganga

Letters, cont. from p. 2

everyone else in Eastern Skagit County.

We realize no one likes to pay additional property tax. But just like paying for fire protection, police, emergency medics, hospitals, and schools, supporting the library is an important investment in the future of our kids and community.

Change is long overdue. If you want more details on this issue, please talk to any of us or stop by the Upper Skagit Library for a fact sheet.

Vote yes in November. Let's make Concrete the best it can be.

*Valerie Stafford
Bill and Leatha Sullivan
Dave and Kathy Pfeiffer
Cheri Cook-Blodgett, Dalton Blodgett
Paul Rider, Gail Boggs, Barb Trask
Concrete*

Representative government requires votes

The Port of Skagit County, District 3 Port Commissioner Primary Election has three candidates vying for two spots on the November nonpartisan General Election; as do some Concrete, Hamilton, and Lyman Town Council positions.

As for the Port of Skagit County Port Commissioner Primary, some 16,600 ballots were mailed out, and only some 1,400 received by/on July 23—less than 1 percent returned.

That is not very representative!

If your readers haven't voted, it is hoped they will before the Aug. 4 deadline of 8 p.m. at Auditor Ballot drop boxes, or by U.S. mail that same day.

Representative government is not representative if the electorate does not vote, as the "special interests" always vote.

That said: Consider Port commissioner No. 3 candidate, Mahlon Hull, as he's a Boeing engineer, of "Generation X," an Air Force veteran, has a WSU Physics BA, and he seems to understand the role of a public port better than the others.

My reading of Skagit media indicates he filed for the right reason; i.e., to serve and "give back to the community."

FYI: The Port Commissioners meet once or twice a month to set policy and pay bills. The compensation is \$200 a month, plus \$114 per diem/mileage for

port meetings.

Vote, we need representative government.

*Roger E. Pederson
Mount Vernon*

Thank you, Skagit Community Foundation

Community Action would like to thank the Skagit Community Foundation for awarding \$20,000 to four of our programs that help stabilize lives and equip people to exit poverty. The Community Resource Center, Adult Education Program, Family Development Center, and the Skagit Volunteer Center were each awarded \$5,000.

Thank you for your support and your generosity as we help people help themselves and each other.

*Bill Henkel, executive dir.
Community Action of Skagit County
Mount Vernon*

The secret sauce of success

As I end my career at EDASC, I am overwhelmed in recalling the past 28 years. The number of conversations that turned to friendships. The incidental discussion that turned in to a company locating in Skagit County. The partnerships that created opportunities. Opportunities that created jobs, retained jobs. Jobs that supported families and the community we know and love. Each of us as individuals and neighbors are all connected to our community and it, in turn, is connected to our businesses. For nearly three decades I have enjoyed every moment of it with all of you.

I want to thank each of you for your contributions to our success. The time you volunteered, supported, stood in support of, or any of the hundreds of ways you were part of moving us all forward. A debt of gratitude is owed to all of our dedicated, committed, and unselfish partners. Skagit County, the Ports of Anacortes and Skagit, all the cities and towns of Skagit County, the PUD, Skagit Valley College, the Small Business Administration and the USDA, the Washington Small Business Development Center and Washington State University, Western Washington University, the Washington State Department of

Commerce, the EDASC board, members, and a totally committed, dedicated, and talented staff. The list goes on forever of all the people and organizations that have stood together and made great things happen and I thank all of them.

An author once wrote, "There is no limit to the good a person can do, if that person doesn't care who gets the credit." This has been the secret sauce of our success. So many have done so much without concern for the credit.

And this will continue. Our community has all the parts to build success. A highly skilled workforce, a first-rate community college, some of the richest farmland in the world, resourceful business owners, and communities that are able to rise up to meet any challenge.

Another writer, Ben Stein, offered this advice, "We are more than our investments. We are more than the year-to-year changes in our net worth. We are what we do for charity. We are how we treat our family and friends. We are how we treat our dogs and cats. We are what we do for our nation and our community." Economic Development is more than just the preservation and creation of jobs; it is also the preservation of our quality of life. How we manage growth in the coming years will speak volumes about who we are as a community.

I am proud to call Skagit County home. From some of the richest fields in the world to the smallest of small businesses that demonstrate a spirit of entrepreneurialism that is without parallel, through the largest of our manufacturers maintaining hundreds of good-paying jobs, what we have here is unique and I am blessed to call it home.

As I lock the door and turn off the lights, I will be thinking of all of you—your dreams, your passions. I hope to see you at the wide array of amazing events sprinkled throughout each of our communities.

The best to all of you always. "Thanks, thanks and ever thanks."

*Don Wick
Mount Vernon*

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The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

2015 Community Potluck dates

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September 15, 6:30 p.m.
October 20, 6:30 p.m.
November 17, 6:30 p.m.
December 15, 6:30 p.m.

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*Source: 2013 National Newspaper Association Survey

WDFW takes action to reduce conflicts with wolves

OLYMPIA — For the past year, wildlife biologists at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) have been preparing for the summer grazing season when wolves are most likely to encounter livestock in eastern Washington.

Stationed from Okanogan to the Blue Mountains, a team of "wildlife conflict" specialists has been working with ranchers to help them protect their livestock, while field biologists capture and fit wolves with radio collars to improve state monitoring efforts.

That work will continue even as ranchers move more cattle, sheep, and other livestock into summer grazing areas.

WDFW Director Jim Unsworth, hired to lead the department in January after 30 years as a wildlife manager in Idaho, believes these proactive measures will play an important role in reducing conflicts with wolves in the months ahead.

"Wolves can certainly pose a risk to livestock, and we're committed to

reducing those risks as much possible," Unsworth said. "Over the past year, we've helped dozens of ranchers take measures to protect their animals, and many more have done so on their own."

Since 2013, WDFW has offered cost-sharing arrangements to livestock producers who invest in nonlethal deterrents such as range riders, guard dogs, "fladry" (fencing), and carcass disposal. During the past year, WDFW signed 41 cooperative agreements with ranchers, committing more than \$300,000 in financial assistance to help them adopt measures to protect their livestock.

Other conflict-prevention strategies employed by WDFW in the past year include:

- Range riders
- Radio collars. There are now 14 active collars on wolves distributed among 10 of the state's 16 known wolf packs.
- Wildlife conflict staff. WDFW now employs 11 wildlife-conflict specialists.
- A Wolf Conflict-Deterrence Update, which describes how proactive strategies have been applied to specific areas occupied by wolf packs.

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Above: Max Preis channels his inner Picasso while painting a mural on the Farm to School portable near Concrete Elementary School, one of many activities enjoyed by participants of the Summer Learning Adventure. *Photo by Rachel Sacco.*



Above: A 1932 Fairchild 22 owned by North Cascades Vintage Aircraft Museum was one of about 79 planes on display during this year's North Cascades Vintage Fly-In at Mears Field in Concrete, July 24–26. Cloudy weather kept the crowd smaller this year, but no less enthusiastic. *Photo by Loren Brothers.*



Concrete celebrated July 4 with a parade and a picnic. **Above left:** Jarrod Lee hams it up while frying burgers and hot dogs for hungry parade-watchers. **Above right:** The parade packed plenty of pomp, led by members of American Legion Post 132. *Photo by Collin Stewart.* **Right:** Organized by local 4-H Club members, a petting zoo after the parade was a huge hit.



Above: The last wooden water line in Concrete sprang a leak in late July, sending three Public Works employees scurrying to South Dillard Ave. in the Mill Addition neighborhood in Concrete. **Left:** Jimmy Luttrell (left) and Rich Philips remove excess gravel around the leaking wooden pipe. **Right:** Alan Wilkins tightens a metal hose clamp around cedar stakes he had driven into the quarter-sized hole. The wooden line will be replaced from Eriksen Place to SR 20, beginning the week of Aug. 3.



Above: Goofy "Goatfrog" group students hike near Marblemount during a July outing for the Concrete Summer Learning Adventure program. Campers learned how to tell the difference between deciduous, evergreen, and coniferous trees, and how to use a dichotomous key to identify tree species. After that, they got their hands dirty helping the park staff plant local greenery in an empty plot. Finally, to help cool off during the hot day, campers cleaned the plant pots in what became known as the "mini-waterpark." *Photo by Rachel Sacco.*

Right: Coral Karns (left) and Deborah Myers work to chip away at a block of ice during a demonstration on July 24, the last day of Vacation Bible School at Community Bible Church in Concrete.



Below: Concrete Public Works employees Jimmy Luttrell, Alan Wilkins, and Rich Philips put the finishing touches on two new kennels near the wastewater treatment plant. The kennels will give the town somewhere to keep loose dogs whose owners do not heed the leash law within town limits. Dogs will then be transported to the Humane Society in Mount Vernon, and their owners will have to pay a fee to retrieve them.



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Left: Candidates for Concrete Town Council Position 1 participated in a Candidates' Forum hosted by *Concrete Herald* on July 23. Seated at the table during the Q&A session were moderator and Sedro-Woolley City Councilwoman Germaine Kornegay and candidates Rob Thomas, Chris Thun, and Jason Driver.



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Hamilton



Rockport



New ambulance for Town of Hamilton

A crucial piece of equipment should help Hamilton first responders better perform their tasks.

The town took delivery of a replacement ambulance on June 30. The “new” ambulance, a 2000 model that was pre-owned by the City of Auburn, has only 70,000 miles on it. Town of Hamilton paid \$32,000 for it with no outside funding. “We had an ambulance, but it’s a 1991 and it’s reaching the end of its useful life span for us,” said Assistant Fire Chief Scott Bates, who also sits on the Hamilton

Town Council. “This ambulance is perfect for us. We needed something newer, nicer, but to buy a brand-new one, you’re talking almost \$200,000. For us, that’s not feasible.”

The town’s old ambulance will be put up for sale around Aug. 4, said Bates.

The new ambulance includes a stretcher, which will help smooth transitions if an injured person needs to be transported to a hospital.

Bates is relieved and pleased with the purchase. “It’s been a long time coming,” he said. “We needed better equipment so we can serve the town better. The price was right, and this will last us a long time.”

—J. K. M.

DelBene at Birdsvie Brewing Co. to celebrate Illabot Creek Wild and Scenic River designation

Congresswoman Suzan DelBene will visit Birdsvie Brewing Co. in Birdsvie for a special event celebrating the designation of Illabot Creek as a Wild and Scenic River on Thur., Aug. 6, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. The brewery is located at 38302 SR 20 in Birdsvie, about eight miles west of Concrete.

In addition to the gathering at Birdsvie, DelBene and others will raft the Skagit River and float past the mouth

of Illabot Creek. Rafting costs \$49 per person. Meeting time is 2 p.m. on Aug. 6. Space is limited for rafting.

Illabot Creek was added to the Skagit River Wild and Scenic River System in December 2014. The bill to protect this important tributary stream was introduced to Congress by Representatives Suzan DelBene and Rick Larsen, and Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell. The Wild and Scenic designation for Illabot Creek will protect crucial spawning habitat for salmon, steelhead, and bulltrout for generations.

RSVP for both rafting and the gathering at Birdsvie by Aug. 4 to wmcdermott@americanrivers.org. The Illabot Creek Wild and Scenic celebration is hosted by American Rivers, American Whitewater, and The Nature Conservancy.

From the Mayor

No one I know wants to spend more time in meetings than they have to. Meetings can seem to drag on forever, especially if the same subject gets talked about repeatedly with no results. However, meetings are an important part of being a mayor.

In each town or city in Skagit County, there is a council that meets once or twice a month. The council has to approve any checks, such as payroll. If fewer than half of the council members come to the meeting, they don’t have a quorum and can’t take action to approve the checks. In the smaller communities that only meet once a month, this could cause a huge problem!

That is just one part of what they do, but it’s a good example of why it’s important to show up. I appreciate that Hamilton’s council members routinely show up for the council meeting, for more than just paying the bills. The role of mayor during those meetings is to run the meeting, while the council makes the decisions. There are other meetings where mayors represent their communities and are the ones responsible for making sure the bills get paid. It’s important that we show up for those meetings.

The mayors and commissioners are board members of the Emergency Management Council, which oversees the Skagit 911 Call Center and to some degree the Department of Emergency Management. They are usually the appointed representatives to the Skagit Council of Governments and the Skagit Regional Transportation Planning Organization, and other boards on which mayors sit.

It sounds confusing, but the main point of these groups is to make sure that your money (either dues paid by the municipality or county, taxes, grants, federal or state allocations) is used in ways that make our county and communities better, and that your viewpoint is heard. Skagit 911 needs to be there to answer the phone when anyone needs help, and to be able to reach our law enforcement, medical, and fire personnel. Their checks get approved by the Emergency Management Council, which has 11 members (eight mayors, three commissioners). If only five members show up (less than 50 percent), there aren’t enough members present to approve paying the bills. It might give a new, horrific meaning to “government shut down.” Personally, I want to make sure 911 is there when we need it. It’s important to show up and be part of the conversation. Yes, usually all three commissioners and the four city mayors are there. Usually, but not always. Their viewpoints are not the same as the small communities. Sometimes, but not always. It’s important that we show up for those meetings.

So far, I give myself an overall A- for attendance. I’ve missed a couple meetings in the last 2.5 years for illness or scheduling conflicts. An interesting effect has been that the more different meetings I go to, the more meetings I discover that I should have been going to but didn’t even know about! It has been encouraging to see the viewpoint that the small communities are not interested or engaged in county leadership or activities change to a viewpoint where we are regular contributors to the conversation. It’s important that we keep showing up for those meetings.

—Mayor Joan Cromley



On the ballot

The following individuals have filed for public office and will be on the Aug. 4 and/or Nov. 3 ballots:

- Mayor: Renee Barley, Mathew Coker, Joan Cromley

- Council Position 1: Timothy Morrison
- Council Position 2: Brian Kirkpatrick
- Council Position 3: Bethany Betlem
- Council Position 4: James S. Bates
- Council Position 5: Mike Brockman, Lisa R. Johnson

PIONEERING TODAY

Raspberry goodness

By Melissa K. Norris

Raspberries are coming on strong. While I plan to freeze and can lots of raspberry jelly and syrup like a true pioneer, one should always have a good recipe on hand for enjoying the fresh fruits of the harvest (you can also use blueberries if you like):

Raspberry Lemon Cream Cheese Muffins

- 1 cup coconut oil (you can use butter or 1/2 butter and 1/2 coconut oil)
- ¾ to 1 cup sugar
- 4 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 2 teaspoons grated lemon zest
- 1-1/2 cups plain yogurt or sour cream
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2-1/2 cups flour (soft white wheat or all purpose)
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 cups fresh or frozen raspberries

Filling

- 4 tablespoons softened cream cheese
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1/2 squeezed lemon
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon zest

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Grease tins. Beat eggs, coconut oil, sugar, and vanilla together. Cream in lemon zest, yogurt, and milk. Mix dry ingredients together and blend with liquids. Add berries at the end.

Cream together cream cheese, lemon, and sugar. Fill greased muffins tins halfway with batter. Spoon a large teaspoon of filling into center of batter. Top with remaining batter, completely covering cream cheese. Sprinkle with raw sugar. Bake for 16 to 20 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean.

Melissa K. Norris is a Christian fiction novelist who lives in Rockport.

Concrete Herald

Camp Stillwater to host wounded warriors for black bear hunt

Wounded Warriors in Action Foundation (WWIA) along with John and Dawn Koenig of Rockport-based John’s Guide Service will host a week-long black bear hunt for wounded warriors at Camp Stillwater in Rockport.

Heroes Wyatt, John, Brandon, and Stephen, along with host John and guide Brian, will have the Purple Heart recipients on site for six days of bear hunting in the foothills of the North Cascade Mountains. The veterans will be prepared with binoculars, bug repellant, rain gear, and enthusiasm as they relax and reflect in the great outdoors while seeking the thrill of bagging a black bear.

Local taxidermist Fidalgo Taxidermy has donated a shoulder mount for one hero. If multiple heroes take a bear, they will draw straws to choose who gets the mount. Fidalgo Taxidermy also offered to give 20 percent off to any hero who takes a bear on this hunt and chooses to have it mounted if they don’t win.

The veterans will be housed in the Camp Stillwater bunkhouse, a four-person structure that allows for communal living with the WWIA campfire circle outside. The complex is located near Rockport on property owned by John’s Guide Service.

This will be the fourth year WWIA has teamed up with the Koenigs. “The healing and bonding that takes place within these heroes in just a short weekend of fishing or week-long hunting trip is nothing short of miraculous,” said John Koenig. “This healing is something that has to be witnessed to be believed. It truly brings to light the old Navajo saying, “The best way inside is outside.”

Spending time experiencing the soothing qualities of nature, hanging out with other veterans, and sharing similar experiences can help calm the veterans’ spirits. WWIA also works to connect the heroes with each other by hosting small groups, giving them the opportunity to recreate that camaraderie they previously shared with others in deployed situations.

For more information, go to www.wwiaf.org or e-mail info@wwiaf.org.



Prudence, Matilda, and Vija read on the way to Rockport State Park during a July outing for Concrete Summer Learning Adventure. The young campers and their fellow students hiked around Rockport State Park for a field trip. The campers were split into groups based on how difficult of a hike they wanted to take. The groups talked about trail etiquette and local plants, and got in some great physical activity. After lunch, the campers rested after their long hike by reading to each other and writing in their camp journals. *Photo by Rachel Sacco.*

Cyclists roll through Rockport to assist with affordable housing efforts

Thirty young adults with Bike & Build Inc., a national nonprofit committed to affordable housing, will bicycle into

Rockport on August 23 on their journey across the United States. The cyclists are traveling from Portsmouth, N.H., to Vancouver, B.C., to raise money and awareness for affordable housing causes.

The group will travel for more than 10 weeks and will help to build affordable housing in 11 locations.

Nick VanJaarsveld Financial Advisor

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Darrington



Darrington Collaborative forms

Partnership aims to improve forest habitat and strengthen Darrington's economic future.

By Marla Skaglund

Senator Patty Murray, local community members, timber industry representatives, conservation groups, Forest Service representatives, and representatives from Congresswoman Suzan DelBene and Governor Jay Inslee's offices gathered in Darrington July 10 to announce the formation of Darrington Collaborative (DC), a partnership of numerous entities that will join forces to increase logging and improve forest management in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest (MBS) in the Darrington area.

The DC seeks to grow economic vitality and work together with the U.S Forest Services' Darrington Ranger District to develop sustainable thinning and logging projects, which will also improve salmon habitat and water quality.

Leaders say the effort grew out of working with conservation groups and the local community after last years' Hazel Hill slide that killed 43 residents of the Steelhead Haven community, destroyed homes, damaged public infrastructure including SR 530, and blocked the Stillaguamish River, causing significant environmental and economic damage. Senator Murray initiated a meeting between the local community and conservation organizations, with the support and encouragement of Gov. Inslee

and Congresswoman DelBene.

The conservation organizations worked with Darrington leadership to model the DC after similar partnerships elsewhere in Washington and across the country.

What will it do?

The DC will bring together stakeholders from the Darrington community, the environmental community, members of the local Darrington timber industry, Darrington STEM youth education programs, and representatives from federal, state, and local government. It will focus on shared goals of increasing ecologically sustainable timber harvest under the Northwest Forest Plan on the MBS (in the Darrington vicinity), while improving the ecological functioning of the area's forests and watersheds.

The DC will work together with federal officials to address issues that stand in the way of achieving the stated goals. Ultimately, the purpose is to show how to simultaneously create a more ecologically resilient forest, provide for increased, sustainable timber harvests in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest near Darrington, and provide economic benefits to Darrington and educational opportunities for Darrington youth through the STEM program.

Stewardship sales allow all the receipts from a timber sale to stay in the MBS, instead of sent to the Treasury as it otherwise would be. Any sales the collaborative puts forward must still go through the normal USFS NEPA bidding process; the USFS offers each sale under the regular bidding process.

The DC will be made up of voting (Board of Directors) and nonvoting members. Members from diverse backgrounds and interests are welcome, but all members must abide by the stated Purpose and Goals of the Darrington Collaborative.

Contractor Derek Churchill of Stewardship Forestry has been hired by the Darrington Collaborative and will work with the USFS to identify and design pilot projects for this fiscal year.

The following individuals and organizations form the Darrington Collaborative steering committee:

- Darrington Mayor Dan Rankin
- Paul Wagner, Darrington Area Resources Association & Washington State Society of American Foresters
- Steve Skaglund, Three Rivers Contract Logging
- Bob Boyd, member, Darrington Area Resources Association
- Washington Wild
- The Wilderness Society
- Thomas O'Keefe, Ph.D., American Whitewater
- The Pew Charitable Trusts
- Oak Rankin, Director, Glacier Peak Institute -WSU STEM coordinator
- Mike Town, Tesla STEM High School Environmental Sciences Educator

"We have brought together a partnership of folks from diverse backgrounds to assist the USFS Darrington Ranger District with forestry and restoration projects," said Darrington Mayor Dan Rankin. "Through the expertise of these

individuals and community input, we hope to develop projects to improve ecological diversity and forest health, while creating sustainable jobs in the forest. We thank Governor Inslee, Senator Murray, and Congresswoman DelBene for recognizing the challenges the USFS and rural communities face today, and their commitment to the health and welfare of our natural environment and their support of this initiative."

"As we continue to bring diverse groups and stakeholders together to build on the resiliency of Darrington and Oso, I am proud to join Mayor Rankin, Congresswoman DelBene, and Governor Inslee in announcing the Darrington Collaborative," said Senator Patty Murray. "By engaging in ecologically sound timber harvest under the Northwest Forest Plan through the collaborative, we improve local watersheds and enhance clean water and habitat while supporting local jobs."

"This community and the people who live here will always have a special place in my heart after the kindness that was shown to their neighbors every day after the heartbreaking landslide in Oso last year," said Congresswoman DelBene. "But out of something so tragic came many different conversations with people from all walks of life, focused on what can be done to support this incredible community."

"It is no surprise to me that this community, recognized for its grit and uncommon optimism, has found a way to bring together groups with a common interest in finding a way forward," said Gov. Inslee. "We know that sound and sustainable practices can bring both ecological benefits to forests and much-needed economic activity to communities. This collaborative effort will ensure the needs and interests of loggers, community leaders, environmentalists, students, and others are incorporated into a meaningful and productive plan for years to come."

Snohomish County Sheriff's Report

July 15

The Snohomish County Sheriff's Office Dive Team recovered the body of a 21-year-old Granite Falls man from an island in the South Fork of the Stillaguamish River. A 911 caller reported the man was unresponsive and floating in a shallow part of the river around 6 p.m.

Aid arrived and began administering CPR. The dive team arrived a short time later and moved the man from the island to the banks of the river.

Drugs are believed to have been a contributing factor in the man's death, but cause and manner of death (as well as identification) were pending from the Snohomish County Medical Examiner's Office.

July 29

Snohomish County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue personnel recovered the body of a 27-year-old Lake Stevens man who drowned in the North Fork of the Skykomish River on July 19.

The victim's body was recovered the afternoon of July 29 from the area near Bear Creek Falls with assistance from the Sheriff's Office Dive Team and Helicopter Rescue Teams.

Snohomish County Search and Rescue teams responded to the initial call that came in to 911 on Sun., July 19. The area where it was believed the victim had drowned was beneath a waterfall running through a narrow ravine, where the water is turbulent and difficult to swim in. After several hours of an unsuccessful rescue mission, the SAR operation shifted to a recovery mission.

SAR personnel searched the area the following day, but were unable to recover the victim. Personnel continued to check the area every day after July 20, and the victim was found on July 29 by an SAR deputy.

Positive identification of the victim, as well as the cause and manner of death, will be confirmed by the Snohomish County Medical Examiner's Office.

July 19

Snohomish County Sheriff's deputies recovered a stolen ATM after it fell out of a van driven by the two men suspected of stealing it. Around 11 p.m., the two suspects backed up the white van to a business in the 2900 block of 164th St. SW in Lynnwood. They walked up to the ATM, cut the cables, and loaded the

machine into the van. As the suspects were driving out of the parking lot, it is believed that they drove too fast over a speed bump, causing the ATM to fall out. The suspects drove away.

At approximately 10:20 a.m. on July 20, patrol deputies received a call about an unoccupied white van that was left idling near the intersection of 164th St. SW and Maple Rd. in Lynnwood. It was believed to be the same vehicle used in the theft the previous night and was confirmed to have been reported stolen out of Kent. The van was impounded for evidence processing.

This incident remains under investigation. Anyone who believes they may have information is urged to call the Sheriff's Office Anonymous Tip Line at 425.388.3845.

July 27

Snohomish County reached a settlement agreement in the case of Michael Saffioti, who died while incarcerated in the Snohomish County Jail on July 3, 2012.

"The death of Mr. Saffioti was a tragedy," said Sheriff Trenary. "To own up for our mistakes and to cover litigation costs, the county has paid \$620,000 in this settlement."

A number of improvements to the jail's medical housing unit, as well as booking procedures, have been made since Sheriff Trenary was appointed in 2013, including:

- Restrictions that prevent inmates with serious health conditions from being booked for nonviolent misdemeanors.
- Reviewing and improving the jail's evidence-based health care policy.
- Screening all inmates at booking by a health care professional.
- Hiring a new Health Services director, five additional nurses, and one doctor.
- Implementing a mortality review process.
- Implementing an electronic medical record system.

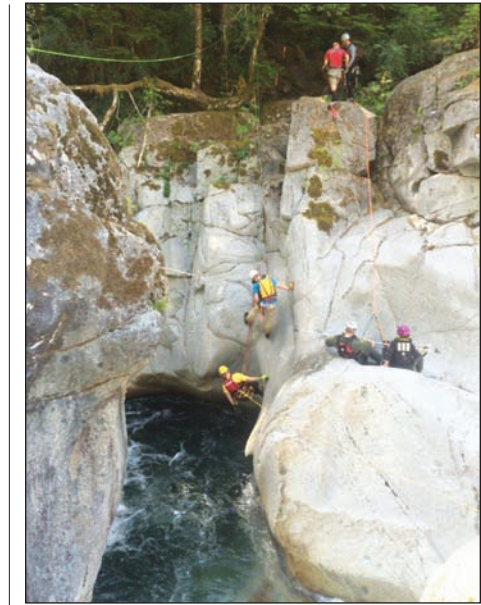
In addition, current jail medical staff and nurses are in the process of obtaining certification from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care.

The settlement agreement was presented to the Snohomish County Council today. Details of the settlement are contained in the Settlement Agreement which is available via public records request.

—Compiled from Snohomish County Sheriff's Office reports



The Fabulous Kingpins returned to Old School Park in Darrington to Rock the Park with a free, family-friendly, rockin' show on July 25. The popular band earned a second invitation from the Darrington Renewal Project after being well received in 2014. Photo by Rick Knight.



Search and Rescue personnel and volunteers search the area around Bear Creek Falls on Skykomish River in July. Crews were looking for the body of a 27-year-old Lake Stevens man who drowned in the North Fork of the river on July 19. The victim was recovered from the river on July 29. See report, this page, for more details. Photo courtesy of Snohomish County Sheriff's Office.

Concrete Herald

Briefly ...

The fifth annual **Big August Hoobajoob** will be held on Sat., Aug. 15, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Mansford Grange Hall, 1265 Railroad Ave., in Darrington. Many new works have been specially created for this show. For more information, call 360.436.0711.

The 15th annual **Summer Meltdown Festival** is slated for Aug. 6–9 at the Whitehorse Mountain Amphitheater, 42501 SR 530 NE.

This year's events include rafting trips with Adventure Cascades, rock climbing with Northwest Mountain School, and horseback riding with the Pack Station. In addition to the numerous kids' activities, the Little Seahorse Music Academy with professional music instructors has been added. Fan favorites Flowmotion, Acorn Project, and Polecat will perform, in addition to many other great acts.

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

—Marla Skaglund



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Concrete Herald



Marblemount



Newhalem



“Youth Day” planned for August Farmers’ Market

Sunday, Aug. 2, saw the Marblemount Community Hall hopping with folks enjoying the annual Salmon Barbecue Fundraiser.

On Sun., Aug. 9, the Community Farmers Market is on deck for the next big event. Traditionally hosting “Youth Day” at the August market, it is hoped that local young people will not only bring their wares to sell, but provide the musical entertainment as well.

For more information or for a vendor application, call 360.873.2323 or go to

Left: Anya Roozen paused for a photo at her “Save the Polar Bears” lemonade stand during the June Community Farmers’ Market at Marblemount Community Hall. Anya’s mom, Mia Roozen, is behind her. August 9 is “Youth Day” at the market; youth are encouraged to bring their wares to sell and provide musical entertainment. See article, above, for details. *Photo by Christie Fairchild.*

www.marblemountcommunityhall.org/ events to download an application. There are also paper applications in the mailbox by the front door of the hall. Youth under age 18 will not be charged a vendor fee, but still need to complete an application.

Market vendors this summer have included local organic produce and fruit; fresh sandwiches or wraps and cold beverages; original artwork in the form of watercolors, notecards, photography and jewelry; home-grown fruit preserves and jams; potted plants; herbal salves and rubs; local eggs; goatmilk soaps; canvas shopping bags; handspun fleece and wool items; and services by the Upper Skagit Library, including books to check out.

We hope to see you there.

—Christie Fairchild

The good news is ... Learning center to celebrate anniversaries with free picnic

By Sasa and Starwalker

“Never forget that you are one of a kind. Never forget that if there weren’t any need for you in all your uniqueness to be on this earth, you wouldn’t be here in the first place. And never forget, no matter how overwhelming life’s challenges and problems seem to be, that one person can make a difference in the world. In fact, it is always because of one person that all the changes that matter in the world come about. So be that one person.”

—R. Buckminster Fuller

What can I do to help the world become a better place? According to www.iheartintelligence.com, there are a few things that we can do each and every day. These include:

- Respond with kindness. Everyone is doing the best they can with the knowledge they have, including yourself.
- Go organic, local, and sustainable. Choose unpoisoned foods from local resources and grow your own food to ensure your health.
- Give and receive. Think of others each day, not just around holidays. Do a summer cleaning and donate all the stuff you don’t need anymore.
- Spend time in nature. Hike in our beautiful Cascade Mountains or a local park or the beach.
- Keep a positive attitude. “Smile and the whole world smiles back” sums it up well. Think action from our hearts instead of reaction from fear.
- Practice gratitude. Be thankful for all that you have instead of being angry or sad at what you don’t have. We cannot focus on two things at once, so spend time being grateful each day. We are starting a gratitude journal, writing seven things that we are grateful for each day.

Anyone who wants to contribute to Sasa and Starwalker’s efforts may contact them at cascadiaeffect@gmail.com. Experiences also may be shared at the accompanying blog at <http://cascadiaeffect.weebly.com> and on Facebook: Cascadia Effect

North Cascades Institute (NCI) will celebrate two important anniversaries this month with a free picnic at the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center on Diablo Lake, east of Newhalem. The event celebrates the 10th anniversary of the learning center and the 25th anniversary of NCI’s Mountain School program.

The picnic and an open house at the facility will be held on Sun., Aug. 23, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is hosted by NCI, Seattle City Light, and the National Park Service.

On tap for the day is a barbecue with local farms, Diablo Lake Boat Tours, campus sustainability tours, canoe voyages, naturalist hikes, family-friendly activities, and live music by Jumbled Pie and New Wilderness Project featuring Benjie Howard.

The North Cascades Environmental Learning Center, field campus of NCI, is a hub of discovery for all ages and is built around the idea that learning together in community inspires stewardship. The

green-built campus hugs the shore of Diablo Lake in North Cascades National Park.

NCI’s residential environmental education program, Mountain School, is operated in cooperation with North Cascades National Park. After 25 years, it has educated 26,000 students, guided by its core values: Get children out of the classroom to explore their wild backyard and connect with this part of the world.

No RSVP is required to attend the free event, but space is limited; organizers urge attendees to arrive early to sign up for activities.

A free shuttle to the event will be provided from Concrete and Newhalem. From Concrete, visitors should park at Silo Park for the 9 a.m. shuttle, which will return to that location around 4 p.m. From Newhalem, visitors should park across from Rockport Country Store for hourly shuttles running from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information, go to www.ncascades.org/picnic.

—J. K. M.

Campfires banned in all portions of NCNP, Ross Lake Rec Area

Effective July 10, campfires or the ignition of wood, briquettes, or any fuel in fire pits, fire pans, and barbecue grills were banned in all portions of the North Cascades National Park Service Complex, including North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, and Lake Chelan National Recreation Area.

This includes all National Park Service lands and campgrounds along State Route 20, as well as Hozomeen and the entire

Stehakin Valley. Stoves or grills that are solely fueled by liquid petroleum fuels are allowed in all locations.

The burn ban complements similar restrictions in the adjacent Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest and British Columbia, Canada.

August is predicted to be above normal for fire danger—as was July—because of high temperatures and extremely low rainfall. Use caution when smoking and do not discard cigarette butts. Discharging or using any kind of fireworks, tracer ammunition, or other incendiary devices in any location on federal lands is always prohibited.

If smoke or flames are visible, call 911 or report at any ranger station.

—National Park Service

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Cascade River Rd. work begins this month

Drivers may experience up to 20-minute delays from Aug. 23 to Sept. 7, as construction begins on the last three miles of Cascade River Rd. The road will be closed to all vehicle and foot traffic from Sept. 8 through late October.

The road closure will begin at the Eldorado parking area near milepost 20 and will affect hikers and climbers approaching the area from the east and west. Eldorado Peak and other peaks accessed via Eldorado Creek will not be affected.

The National Park Service and Federal Highway Administration project will use heavy equipment and large dump trucks to make the necessary repairs. A 60-foot-long concrete “box culvert” with a debris rack will be installed at the site of Boston Creek, a common wash-out area.

The road was significantly damaged at Boston Creek in 2009 and again in August 2013, when a washout left more than 70 visitors temporarily stranded.

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

For up-to-date information, go to the park’s Web site, Facebook, or Twitter pages. For assistance with trip planning, suggestions for alternative autumn hikes or climbs, or to learn about alternate hiking routes to Stehekin, contact the Wilderness Information Center at 360.854.7245, open daily through Oct. 11.

—J. K. M.

A 10-week series of classes will comprise a **Raising Livestock Workshop** this fall. The workshop is offered by the WSU Livestock Advisor program and runs Monday evenings

from 6 to 9 p.m., beginning Sept. 14. Registration is \$125. Go to <http://skagit.wsu.edu> to download an application or call Joan DeVries at 360.428.4270, ext. 240 for more information.

Trout size and daily limits change in Ross Lake

Effective July 18 until further notice, a change in size restrictions and daily bag limits on rainbow trout changed for Ross Lake. The brook trout limit was increased.

For rainbow trout, one fish may be kept per day, with a minimum length of 16 inches. For brook trout, five fish per day may be kept, with no minimum size.

WDFW stated in a press release the reasons for the new limits, saying recruitment of rainbow trout has been poor in recent years, and rainbows are

growing faster than in the past. As a result, the 13-inch minimum size restriction no longer protects first-time spawners, resulting in anglers harvesting fish that had not had an opportunity to reproduce, so the minimum size limit was adjusted accordingly.

Brook trout are a non-native species and harvest is encouraged.

The action will align Washington State fishing regulations on Ross Lake with those in effect in British Columbia on the trans-boundary reservoir. Selective gear rules are in effect.

Fishers must have a current Washington fishing license appropriate to the fishery. Check the WDFW “Fishing in Washington” rules pamphlet for details on fishing seasons and regulations. Fishing rules are subject to change. Check the WDFW Fishing hotline for the latest rule information at 360.902.2500; press 2 for recreational rules.

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Seniors



Coffee Break

The misery of it all

By Patrick M. Kennedy

Misery—severe despondency and dejection typically accompanied by feelings of hopelessness and inadequacy, or a depressed mood and/or loss of interest or pleasure in life activities. Wow, many seniors are saying now, that sounds like my life in retirement. But that is the definition of more than the blues. This sadness or unhappiness can be the budding symptoms of hopelessness, something all seniors must avoid.

Some of the things that signal this mood are sometimes thought of as normal senior maladies: irritability or frustration, loss of interest in normal activities, reduced sex drive, insomnia or excessive sleeping, changes in appetite, feelings of worthlessness, and more. Many seniors feel these things and figure they are normal for their age, not relating them to outright misery.

What to do? Don't panic. Remember what Ernest

Hemingway said, "Retirement is the ugliest word in the language." But then again, Ernest was only 61 when he ended his life. So replace the bad stuff with good stuff. "Half our life is spent trying to find something to do with the time we have rushed through life trying to save," said Will Rogers. We paid a lot of time on the job just working up to this gift of freedom and there is no use wasting it. Do not live in the past; do not dream of the future. Concentrate on the present moment. There has been a lot said by a lot of brainy people about your situation, but it all comes down to your decision. What do you have to say about it? What questions do you have to answer?

"How are my finances at this time in my life?" Money cannot buy peace of mind. It cannot heal ruptured relationships or build meaning into a life that has none. You hope you have enough or were meticulous enough to count the pennies to ensure you don't run out during retirement. Dozens of financial plans are made for your situation. It's never too late to buff your budget so you don't run out and life can still be comfortable.

Simplify your life. Cut back, write your thoughts in a journal, join a group or at least be with friends and don't become isolated. Eat well and take care of yourself. Exercise. Try yoga, meditation, or a massage once in a while.

The key is to not worry and change for the better. Misery is miserable. The answer is to quit it and cheer up.

Patrick M. Kennedy is the author of Lotsa Fun with Retirement. Find it at Amazon.com.

Way Back When

80 years ago

Aug. 8, 1935: Living on a diet of berries and carrying his only possessions, a gunny sack full of old clothes and a gallon can of water, a man about 60 years old was found roaming the district around Diablo this week. His strange behavior was noticed by Forest Ranger Tommy Thompson of Marblemount, who reported the case to the Sheriff's Office in Mount Vernon.

Officers took the man into custody and are now harboring him in the county jail. All efforts to find out his identity have failed as the man speaks an incoherent jabber that cannot be distinguished as English or any other known language.

Where he came from and where he was going is a mystery to all concerned.

70 years ago

Aug. 2, 1945: The main topic of discussion at the Lions Club meeting on Wednesday evening was the project of building a swimming pool for the children of this community. The club has been working on this project for several meetings and now has work ready to start.

The chosen location was the old mill pond near the railroad bridge. The site was donated for this purpose by Dan Dillard of Oak Harbor. Warren Simmons furnished an engineer to look over the possibilities of this site, and it

was found to be practical for the purpose. Simmons also is donating a bulldozer to dig it out and get it ready.

The water will be kept fresh by piping water from the river and with a drain into the river from the other end if necessary. Lions Club members already have started clearing the land around the pond. It will be finished as soon as possible.

60 years ago

Aug. 4 8, 1955: The State Highway Patrol truck-weighing station near Sedro-Woolley, which was to have opened for business Monday of this week, will delay its official opening somewhat. The station was partially destroyed by a dynamite blast around 1 a.m. last Saturday.

The destruction was so effective that only the roof of the scale house and the platform of the scales themselves could be found in recognizable form. The blast blew the remainder of the building into splinters that were thrown for 300 feet in all directions. The mechanism of the scales was smashed flat and damaged beyond repair.

The dynamiting was believed to be the work of some misguided individual who thought that the vandalism would discourage use of a check station in the Upper Valley. Luckily no cars were passing at the time or someone might have been killed.

Since the blast, the state has been stopping and holding all trucks at the site for weighing and inspection with a portable scales. Arrests are being made.

—Compiled from archives

Concrete Center

August 2015 Activities

Mon. - Fri., 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Lunch served Tue. - Fri., noon

Mondays

10 a.m.
12:30 p.m.
2 - 4 p.m.

Jigsaw puzzles
Skip Bo
Needle exchange bus
on site, 8/17

Tuesdays

10 a.m.
Noon
12:30 p.m.
12:30 p.m.

Jigsaw puzzles
Lunch
Skip Bo
SHIBA Medicare
assistance by appt.
only, 8/18

Wednesdays

10 a.m.
10:30 a.m.

Jigsaw puzzles
Advisory Board mtg.,
8/12

Noon
12:30 p.m.
12:30 p.m.

Lunch
Skip Bo
Bingo, 8/12, 8/26

Thursdays

10 a.m.
10:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Jigsaw puzzles
Skagit Senior Day at
Maiben Park,
Burlington, 8/20

Noon
12:30 p.m.
12:30 p.m.

Lunch
Skip Bo
Pinochle, 8/6, 8/20

Fridays

10 a.m.
Noon
Noon

Jigsaw puzzles
Lunch
Birthday Celebration,
8/28

12:30 p.m.
1 p.m.

Dominoes, Skip Bo
Coffee with Commis-
sioner Janicki, 8/14

1 p.m.

Watercolor painting

Special events

8/15 Bake Sale at Saturday Market
8/15 Chef salad, \$6, ready to go, every-
thing included

More seniors, disabled homeowners to qualify for tax relief

Property tax relief will be available to a greater number of seniors and permanently disabled citizens as a result of legislation passed recently in Olympia.

In the most recent session, legislators raised the annual income threshold for seniors (61+) and disabled people to be eligible for exemption from excess levies and bonds, such as those supporting public hospitals or school districts.

The previous combined disposable income level of \$35,000 was raised to \$40,000. In short, more homeowners will qualify for tax relief.

Those who qualify must be homeowners who are, on Dec. 31 of the year before the taxes are due, at least 61 years of age or older, or retired from regular gainful employment by reason of disability, or a veteran of the U.S. armed forces receiving compensation from the U.S. Department

of Veteran Affairs at a total disability rating for a service-connected disability. The exemption can only apply to your primary residence.

The qualifying applicant receives a reduction in the amount of property taxes due. The amount of the reduction is based on the applicant's income, the value of his or her residence, and local levy/bond rates.

If you think you may qualify with the new income threshold, or have questions about this program, call the Skagit County Assessor's Office at 360.336.9370. To enroll for the program you will need to bring income verification to the Assessor's Office.

The change is not retroactive, but will apply to exemption reductions for 2016 property taxes and forward. If you are already enrolled in this program, there is nothing you need to do unless your income has changed. Otherwise the Assessor's Office will adjust your exemption for 2016 based on the new income levels.

—Submitted by Skagit County

Verna's Kitchen

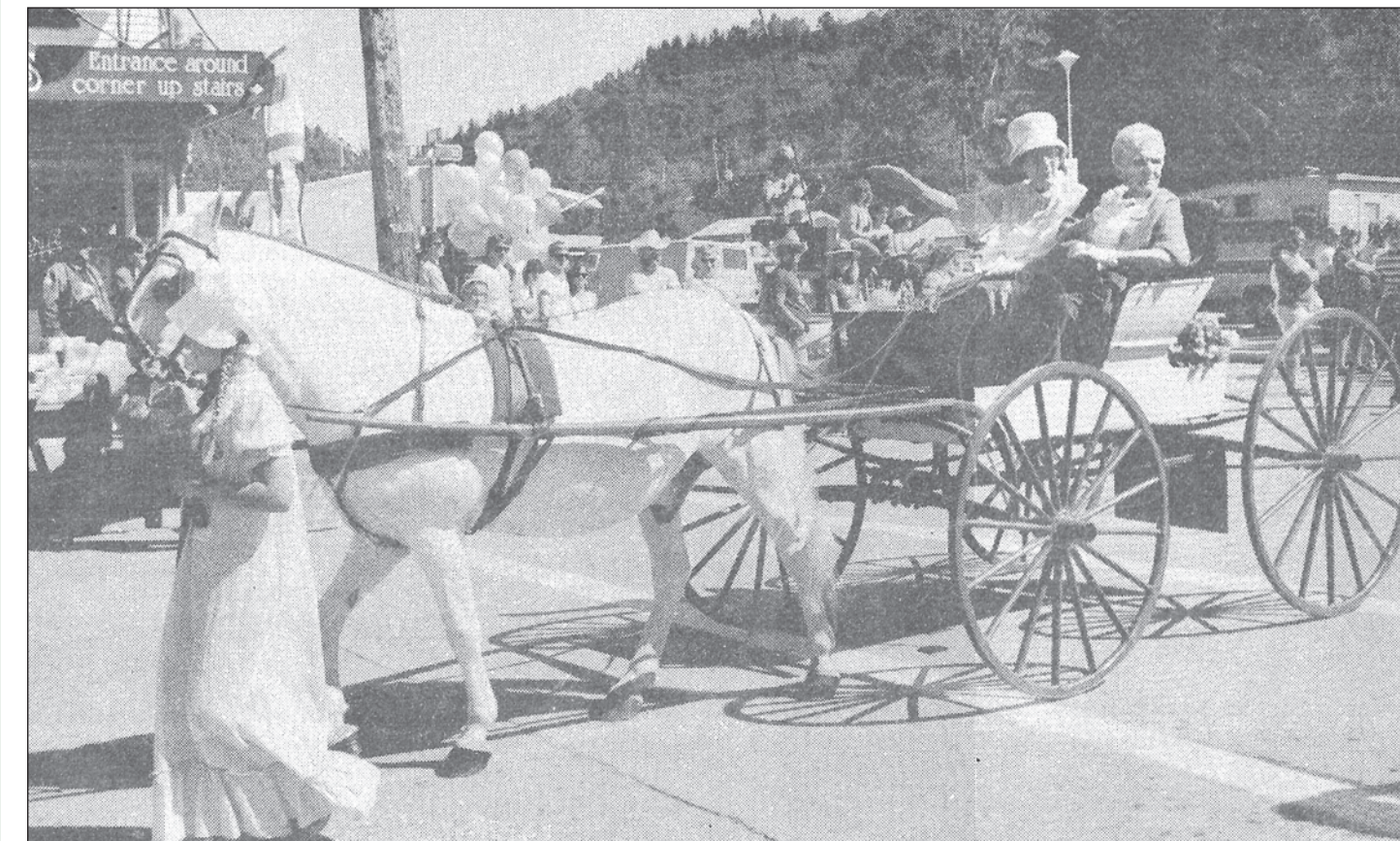
By Verna McClure



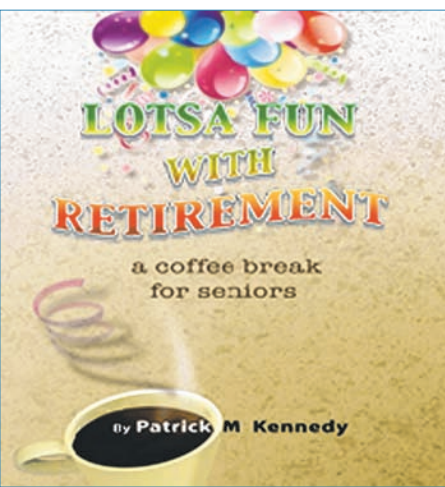
I found this month's recipe in an old church cookbook. It's quick and easy, and good!

1 - 2 - 3 Chocolate Candy

1. Melt 1 cup of SMOOTH peanut butter in a double boiler and stir until smooth. Add 2 cups of chocolate chips and stir until melted. Remove from double boiler.
2. Stir in 3 cups of miniature marshmallows and pour into a buttered 9 x 13-inch pan. Spread over the bottom. Put in the refrigerator to cool. Cut and enjoy.



30 years ago: The winner of the 1985 Good Olde Days (now Cascade Days) Parade Sweepstakes Trophy was an antique buggy owned by Merv Peterson and pulled by a horse owned by Kathy Lester, both of Marblemount, shown in this photo from the Aug. 22, 1985, issue of *Concrete Herald*. Lester leads the horse; passengers are Hazel Tracy, a longtime Marblemount resident, and Good Olde Days Queen Laura Johnson of Rockport. *Archive photo by Anne Bussiére.*



Obituaries

Dorris Lucille Claybo, 72, of Birdsvie, passed away on Sun., July 12, 2015, after a complication from heart surgery.



Lucy was born on Oct. 8, 1942, to Walter and Thelma Wilkins in Corpus Christi, Texas. She was married to Conrad Claybo on Dec. 4, 1960.

Lucy was our "Yellow Rose of Texas." Although born and raised in Corpus Christi, her home was Birdsvie for 54 years. She loved her family and friends. She was an angel to many on Earth and now she is our angel in Heaven. Lucy worked for 31 years at The State Bank of Concrete. And through the years she was active in many groups that help children: She was a Camp Fire Leader, an active member of the Concrete Lions Booster Club, and served on the Concrete School Board as a school board member and as its chairperson.

Lucy is survived by her husband, Conrad Claybo of Birdsvie; daughter Connie Fisher (Pete) of Raymond, Wash.; son Tom Claybo (Robin) of Birdsvie; daughter Terri Handrich (Kent) of Little Chute, Wis.; daughter of the heart Tina Lloyd (Richard) of Sedro-Woolley; daughter of the heart Suzi Rohweder (Roger) of Concrete. She also is survived by grandchildren Jeffrey and Kevin Claybo; Adalynne Lucille Handrich; Nichole, Kenny, Frankie, and Jonnie Rohweder; Shelby, Lonna, and Jasmine Lucille Lloyd; and great grandchildren Cail and Luca Wilson; brother Walter Eroy Wilkins of Humble, Texas; mother-in-law Maud Claybo of Birdsvie; and numerous nieces, nephews,

and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents Walter and Thelma Wilkins, father-in-law Grady Claybo Sr., brothers-in-law Grady Jr. and Kenneth Claybo and Eugene Mathis, sister-in-law Cathy Wilkins, nephew Daryl Mathis, and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Graveside services were held at 10 a.m. on July 18, 2015, at the Hamilton Cemetery. A Celebration of Life potluck followed at the Birdsvie Fire Hall.

Arrangements were under the care of Lemley Chapel, Sedro-Woolley. Share your memories of Lucy and sign the online guest register at www.lemleychapel.com.

Obituaries published in Concrete Herald

from May 2009 to present are posted online at:

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

Sunday School lesson

Change: Growth or grief?

By Rob Thomas

This past June, Concrete High School seniors walked across a stage, smiled for pictures, and received that which they have spent 13 years working for: their high school diploma. As a parent of three CHS graduates, I remember breathing a

huge sigh of relief that the long-awaited milestone had been reached.

What we who have been there know is that not only is this a time for celebration, it is a time for change. And one of life's lessons is the realization that change brings either growth or grief. Maybe that's why the late Senator Robert Kennedy once said, "20 percent of the people are against everything 100 percent of the time."

I sometimes wonder if the senator was being too kind in his estimate. Many people simply do not like change. They even go so far as to resist change. But we live in a world of constant change and the choice between growth and grief for our recent graduates, as well as for us, is based upon our attitude and actions.

Winston Churchill, the prime minister for Great Britain during the dark days of WW II, declared, "To improve is to change. To be perfect is to have changed often." While I may take issue with the possibility of perfection, I certainly agree that if we are to improve physically, mentally, emotionally, and, most importantly, spiritually, we must be a people who embrace change and who are unwilling to accept the status quo.

In the Old Testament, the book of Nehemiah (Neh. 9:38–10:39) gives us an example of a group of people who wanted to change. Their example provides a wonderful place for us to start. First, they decided what change was going to take place (9:38–10:27). Second, they decided when change was going to take place (10:28–29). Third, they decided where change was going to take place

(10:30–39). In their case, it was going to take place in their homes (30), their society (31), and in their places of worship (32–39).

What about you? Are you content with your physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual condition? Are you satisfied with your community and country? For our graduated seniors, change is being forced upon them. But you and I can take charge and initiate change in our lives and in our community and country that brings great growth through our attitude and actions. In doing so, you and I have the opportunity to make a difference for eternity.

Rob Thomas is pastor of Community Bible Church in Concrete.

Worth repeating

"You cannot slander human nature; it is worse than words can paint it."
"It is not how much we have, but how much we enjoy, that makes happiness."
"Beware of no man more than of yourself; we carry our worst enemies within us."
"Friendship is one of the sweetest joys of life. Many might have failed beneath the bitterness of their trial had they not found a friend."
"A vigorous temper is not altogether an evil. Men who are easy as an old shoe are generally of little worth."
"We are all at times unconscious prophets."
"Free will carried many a soul to hell, but never a soul to heaven."

—Charles Spurgeon

Skagit County Sheriff's Office Blotter

July 11

A caller from Hamilton Cemetery Rd. reported a large explosion. It appears someone set off a homemade explosive device, similar to the one detonated near Lyman Elementary School. No one was injured, and several pieces of evidence were obtained. A person of interest has been identified, and deputies are following up on leads.

A deputy checked Mears Field (Concrete airport) for a missing airplane. Authorities from Seattle were looking for any possible places the aircraft may have landed. Unfortunately it was later discovered that this aircraft had crashed on Mt. Baker in Whatcom County.

July 14

A Rockport man and his part-time

Level 3 Sex Offender NOTIFICATION

The Skagit County Sheriff has released the following information pursuant to RCW 4.24.550 and the Washington State Supreme Court decision in State v. Ward, which authorizes law enforcement agencies to inform the public of a sex or kidnap offender's presence.

Parker, Brennen Lee

Age: 33
Race: W Sex: M
Height: 6' 2"
Weight: 320
Hair: Blonde
Eyes: Blue
Address: 89xx Oak Lane, Concrete



A Level III sex offender, Parker was convicted of first-degree child molestation in Clallam County. His victim was a 7-year-old male who was known to him. Threats/intimidation were used.

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

Source: Skagit County Sheriff

girlfriend got into an argument over cigarettes. She accused him of stealing her smokes. The man denied the accusation and, as any rational person would do, she threw a carburetor at him, injuring him. She was located and booked into jail for the gasoline-fueled domestic assault. We'll be back there again.

July 15

A deputy contacted several persons having a party on the beach at the end of Robinson Rd. near Lyman. The big issue was that it was 3:30 a.m. and they'd made a horrible mess. Several folks were escorted off the park property and some sober ones remained to pick up the mess. Remember, Skagit County park hours are posted on site, and please, if you pack it in, pack it out.

A deputy received a found backpack from a local merchant. While looking for identification, the deputy located several items consistent with illicit drug possession. The backpack had a wallet and ID, and it's funny how the person doesn't

Level 2 Sex Offender NOTIFICATION

The Skagit County Sheriff has released the following information pursuant to RCW 4.24.550 and the Washington State Supreme Court decision in State v. Ward, which authorizes law enforcement agencies to inform the public of a sex or kidnap offender's presence.

Boyd, Jayson Lee

Age: 40
Race: W Sex: M
Height: 6' 0"
Weight: 160
Hair: Gray
Eyes: Blue
Address: 81xx Lyman Ave., Lyman



A Level II sex offender, Boyd was convicted of third-degree rape of a child in Skagit County. His victim was a 14-year-old female who was unknown to him. He was 23 at the time. Alcohol was a factor.

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

Source: Skagit County Sheriff

Sergeant's corner

Boating safety

By Chris Kading



The Skagit County Sheriff's Office in partnership with Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission reminds boaters to play it safe on the water this summer. Here are some safety tips to stay safe:

- Know your waterway. Get familiar with your surroundings when first starting out, and file a float plan or let someone know exactly where you're going and when you'll return. Stumps, deadheads, and sand and gravel bars can appear out of nowhere with water depth changes. This is especially important lately with our low water levels in the local rivers.
- Wear your life jacket. Each boat must have a properly fitting life jacket for each person on board. Life jackets need to be in good shape and readily accessible, not under a hatch or in its packaging. Youth 12 years and younger must wear a life jacket when in a boat shorter than 19 feet long. For nonmotorized watercraft, the same rules apply; however, it is recommended that those operators wear a life jacket at all times while operating nonmotorized vessels such as canoes, kayaks, sailboats,

stand up paddleboards (SUPs), and inflatable rafts. Operators of personal watercraft (PWC) such as Jet Skis must wear their life jackets at all times and follow PWC-specific requirements for operation of those vessels.

- Sit on the seat. It is illegal to ride on the bow, decks, gunwales, or transoms of a motorboat when the boat is under way. Having all passengers seated in the boat while under way will prevent falls overboard and injuries.
- Don't drink and boat. Deputies are looking for intoxicated boat operators on the water and at the boat ramps when leaving the water. If arrested for driving a boat under the influence of intoxicants (BUI), a violator could face a fine of up to \$5,000 and/or 364 days in jail. Remember that safety is a personal responsibility.
- Take a safety course and carry your boater education card. All boaters operating boats over 15 hp must have a boater education card. Effective as of 2012, all boaters under age 40 are required to carry a boater safety card if they operate a vessel of 15 horsepower or greater. If you haven't taken a boater safety course, consider doing so even if you aren't required to have the boater card. Go to www.boatered.org for more information.

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

seem to answer his door. This person is known to law enforcement, so we'll be chatting soon.

The SCSO received information that a 16-year-old female had walked out of the woods near Mazama. She was the lone survivor of a plane crash that killed her step-grandparents. The Snohomish County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue helicopter located the wreckage and determined it was located in the Rainy Pass area in Skagit County. Skagit County Search and Rescue (SAR) crews were assembled and walked into the area. They confirmed there were no survivors and were able to retrieve remains. They were also able to positively confirm this was the missing aircraft for which multiple agencies were searching. Two days later, searchers escorted the FAA and NTSB back into the area to assist

in the investigation and removal of the wreckage. A tragic event, survived by one amazing 16-year-old girl.

July 17

A Concrete man reported a possible prowler near his residence. It appeared that someone tried to enter his residence through an unlocked window. The homeowner was able to his see the person briefly, and described them as a male with dark hair, but no one was around as the deputy arrived. The SCSO K-9 was deployed to the area, where it picked up a good scent trail. The K9 tracked to several cars nearby. It appears the subject opened them up, but didn't take anything. The track eventually faded and no one was located. If anyone has any information please contact Sgt. Kading at the East

See Sheriff's Blotter, p. 33

Worship directory

Assembly of God Concrete Assembly of God

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

North Cascade Community Church

59850 SR 20, Marblemount
360.873.2504 // www.mmag.net
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Sun. worship: 10:30 a.m.
Thur.: Men's meeting, 8 a.m.
Thur.: Bible Study, 7 p.m.
Dave Nichols, pastor
E-mail: pastordave@fastmail.fm

First Baptist Church

12732 Hemlock St., Clear Lake
360.856.2767

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Sun. worship: 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Wed.: 7 p.m.

John Batts, pastor
E-mail: pastorjohn@firstbaptistclearlake.com
Hamilton First Baptist Church
797 Hamilton Cemetery Rd. at SR 20
Office: 360.826.3307
Sunday School: 9:40 a.m.
Sun. worship: 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Ron Edwards, pastor

Lyman Church

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

Catholic

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

Covenant Community Covenant Church

12605 Highway 9, Clear Lake
360.856.1023 // covenant@wavecable.com
www.clearlakecov.org
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Sun. worship: 11 a.m.
Call for weekly youth group/Bible studies
Tim Hedberg, pastor

Free Methodist

Day Creek Chapel

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

Methodist

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

Sun. worship: 11 a.m.
Marilyn Kallshian, pastor

Presbyterian

Mount Baker Presbyterian Church

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

Lutheran

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

Nondenominational

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

Community Bible Church

45672 Limestone, Concrete; 360.853.8511

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

The RIVER Gathering

720 Puget Ave., Sedro-Woolley
Sun. worship: 10:30 a.m.
Wed. potluck/study: 6 p.m.
Thur. ladies group: 6:30 p.m.
Last Fri./mo. potluck/games: 6 p.m.
www.facebook.com/thrivergathering
360.853.6676 // Pastor Larry Weston

Rockport Christ the King Comm. Church

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

Wildwood Chapel

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

CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

This month the museum will bring you Gary Meader's popular presentation on the famous Skagit Valley photographer, **Darius Kinsey**, who became famous through his photographs and documentation of the old-growth trees and the budding logging industry in the greater Northwest.

The Kinsey program will be held on Thur., Aug. 20, at the Concrete Theatre. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and there will be music at 7 p.m., followed by the presentation at 7:30 p.m. Be sure to mark the date on your calendar!

Speaking of famous photographers, local resident **James Thomas** 360.720.3753, grandson of Bert Kellogg, also a noted photographer in the Puget Sound area, has an extensive collection of old pictures and negatives, including some from Darius Kinsey as well. James is looking for help to sort, scan, and catalog the collection, hoping to ensure

his grandfather's collection is enjoyed by generations to come. However, he does not have a working computer. Anyone with a usable but not needed one please consider donating it to the project.

The museum's **annual potluck** is set for Aug. 19 at the Concrete Center. The doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and eating begins at 6 p.m.

For more information concerning any of the planned events listed here or information concerning the museum in general, contact museum President John Lloyd at 484.575.6374, or John Boggs at 360.853.8347. Our Web site is www.concreteheritagemuseum.org and has many *Concrete Herald* issues dating back before the 1920s.

Monthly meetings are held on the third Wednesday of every month, starting at 7 p.m. at the museum, always open to the public. We encourage everyone to join us.

—Bowen Beals

August at the Darrington Library

Children's programs

- Tween program: Snap Circuits, Aug. 24, 1 to 2 p.m. Explore and discover how electronic circuits work by building your very own. Learn the difference between parallel and series circuits. For children 8 and older.

William Dietrich discusses his book, *The North Cascades: Finding Beauty and Renewal in the Wild Nearby*. For adults.

- WorkSource Series: Resumes and Correspondence, Aug. 29, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- WorkSource Series: Interviewing Techniques, Aug. 31, 4 to 7 p.m.

Adult programs

- WorkSource Series: Job Search Strategies, Aug. 10, 7 p.m.
- WorkSource Series: Applications, Aug. 17, 4 to 7 p.m.
- Summer of Authors Series at Mountain Loop Books & Coffee, Aug. 26, 6 to 7 p.m. Featured author:

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

—Asheley Bryson, branch manager

Concrete Firefighters Community Garage Sale

Aug. 15–16 — 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

7337 N. Dillard (old fire hall)

At the Upper Skagit Library

Upper Skagit Library Foundation will hold its **Cascade Days Used Book Sale** on Sat., Aug. 15, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the library parking lot. Buy books and support your local library. If you would like to volunteer for the book sale, contact Nancy Johnson at nbj@ponderroses.com.

Did someone say treasure hunt? **"Cache in Concrete"** is a new geocaching adventure recently launched by the library and community collaborators. This walkable search is a family-friendly activity that provides an opportunity both tourists and residents to learn more about the history of Concrete. See the article on page 3 to learn more.

We would like to thank our Summer Reading Program sponsors for making this year's **"Every Hero Has a Story"** program fit for a superhero: The Friends of Skagit Libraries, Upper Skagit Library Foundation, Predators of the Heart, Knights of Veritas, Zambini Brother's

Puppets, Annie's Pizza, Albert's Red Apple, Perks Espresso and Deli, and 5b's Bakery.

Join us at the Marblemount Market at Marblemount Community Hall on Sundays, Aug. 9 and Sept. 13. Check out and buy books, get library information, sign up for a library card, and enjoy kids' activities, too.

New arrivals

In adult fiction, follow a laugh-out-loud tale in *My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry* by Fredrik Backman. In adult nonfiction, uncover the secrets *Of Orcas and Men: What Killer Whales Can Teach Us* by David Niewert. In children's, follow the feline mischiefs of classic *Garfield Fat Cat*.

The next Upper Skagit Library Board meeting will be Thur., Aug. 13, at 5 p.m.

—Cora Thomas, library associate

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 31

Detachment, 360.853.8583.

July 18

A man was camping at a site near Cascade River Rd. near Marblemount when an unknown crook stole his generator. A deputy checked several campsites in the area and local hangouts for the usual suspects, but the generator was not located.

July 20

Two individuals were involved in a fight at Loggers Landing in Concrete. The single punch by one man knocked the other unconscious. After the man came to, he was able to view the surveillance footage and determine what had actually occurred. The man was treated for nonlife-threatening injuries at a local hospital. The deputy was able to locate the man and book him into jail on felony assault charges. He was also wanted as a Fugitive from Justice, from a department on the East Coast. The victim is recovering at home.

July 21

A fight occurred at the bar in Hamilton.

Apparently a young lady saw an old acquaintance and gave him a hug, which didn't sit well with her current acquaintance. Insert several beers, a few insults, and someone got a black eye. Charges are pending against the young lady.

A man inadvertently left the tailgate down on his pickup truck as he headed east from Concrete. He fears two of his chainsaws jumped out as he drove. If you happen to locate the two chainsaws between Concrete and Rockport on SR 20, I know who they belong to.

July 22

A concerned caller from Healy Rd. near Hamilton reported a suspicious person in the neighborhood. It seems there was a man wandering in the area, apparently looking for an address. He mentioned a name, but the caller said they didn't recognize it. The deputy arrived and confirmed the man was merely lost. He escorted the man to the correct address, where the homeowner was waiting for him. One bit of advice, if you can keep an eye on the person, stay on the phone to 911 and do it from the safety of your

home without confronting them. Please continue to call us about suspicious folks.

July 24

A 44-year-old man was found stabbed and lying in the middle of Petit St. in Hamilton. He suffered life-threatening injuries and was transported to the hospital. His spouse was nearby and was questioned by deputies. She was booked into jail for Investigation of Second Degree Assault. Both parties are well known to deputies.

July 28

The SCSO is seeking the whereabouts of Registered Sex Offender Jayson Lee Boyd (see notification, p. 31) from Lyman. The man had previously used an address in town as his home, but has not been there for some time, which is against the law. He also now has a felony warrant from Department of Corrections. He has been seen recently lurking around Town Hall. His information is posted on the SCSO Web site. If you see him, please call 911 and report his whereabouts.

July 29

Several cabins were broken into on Illabot Creek Lane near Marblemount.

The suspect left several clues as to who he is. Deputies are looking into who may be harboring him in the area, as felony charges for burglary are pending.

—Compiled by Sgt. Chris Kading

Washington State Patrol

A motorcycle accident on SR 20 near Cape Horn Rd. sent two people to the hospital on July 6.

John Baker, 56, of Camano Island, was driving the Harley Davidson motorcycle with Cheryl Baker, 64, as his passenger. Baker was traveling eastbound on SR 20 near milepost 78 when he braked into a curve, causing the vehicle to flip over.

Both individuals were injured and transported first to Skagit Valley Hospital, then by flight to Harborview Medical Center. Both were wearing safety helmets.

The cause of the accident is still under investigation, as are any potential charges associated with the incident.

Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Lions ROAR



your local Lions Club members. Also a team will be working at the Lions Camp Horizon on Aug. 6.

The Lions Club has access to medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs, and commodes, that can be loaned out to help those in need. Please contact any Lions Club member and we will do our best to help you out.

As we are into summer, it is the time to think about our commitment to ourselves and others. I encourage members of our community to think about and join your local Lions Club. Our club is your club. We are a club to serve you and our community. Our hope for 2015 is to increase our membership numbers times two. We all have friends and family who have seen the outreach of your local Lions Club, so now is the time to give great thought about being a member!

Those interested in becoming a member, submitting a request, or just wanting to see what we are about are encouraged to stop in to one of our meetings.

—Connie Smithhart

Our **next meeting** will be held on Wed., Sept. 2, at Annie's Pizza Station in Grasmere Village. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.; however, there is always a group that gathers around 6 p.m. to eat and socialize before the meeting. All existing members mark your calendar. Those interested in becoming a member, submitting a request, or wanting to see what we are about, please feel free to stop in.

In July the Lions Club had a barbecue for Youth Activity Day and a salmon barbecue at Concrete Center. A team helped serve lunch at Lions Camp Horizon, a residential summer camp for campers with special needs.

In August the Lions Club will have its food booth at **Cascade Days**. The money will go to the Children's Fund. Please stop by and enjoy the food and visiting with

Bookkeeping

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

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

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Our prices can't be beat! Beanpod candles, home/garden items, decorating ideas, more!
360.826.6001 / allvalleystorageinc@live.com
Online: www.allvalleystorageinc.com

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The Rustic Rooster

31411 SR 20, Lyman, WA
Unique selection of handcrafted gift by local artists. Collectibles and antiques.
Sun. 11–4, Tue.–Fri. 11–5, Sat. 10–5
Facebook or rusticrooster20@gmail.com

Hair salons

Hair Fitness

Complete family hair care, specializing in:
PERMS / COLOR & CUTS / WAXING
More than 25 years' experience!
Call Kathy Monrad and Becki Hoover for appt
360.853.8684

Liquor stores

Concrete Liquor Store & Convenience Store

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

Pawn shops

Gold Nugget Jewelry & Loan

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

Ranches

Double O Ranch, LLC

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

Restaurants

Cascade Burgers

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

Perks Espresso & Deli

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

Self-storage

Concrete Self-storage

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

Septic services

Cinema Septic

Inspection, troubleshooting and pumping
Serving all of Skagit County
Fred West, owner. 360.466.8753
fred@cinemaseptic.com
www.cinemaseptic.com

Thrift stores

Second Floor Thrift Store

Antiques, Vintage, Collectibles, Thrift
Inside & upstairs at Gold Nugget Pawn Shop
Corner of Hwy 530 & Mt. Loop Hwy, Darrington
Wed.–Fri. 10–6, Sat.–Sun. 10–5
360.436.1029 www.goldnuggetpawnshop.com

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Out & About



The 111th Annual Skagit County Pioneer Association Picnic and Meeting will include honoring the Wylie Family of Fir Island and the late Mark Iverson of Mount Vernon. **Above:** The Wylie men at Faye's Café in Sterling, Wash. (now Sedro-Woolley), from left, Jim, Curt, Jack, and Dallas Wylie. **Above right:** Mark Iverson. Photos courtesy of Dan Royal.



La Conner

Pioneer Association Picnic planned for Aug. 6

The 111th Annual Skagit County Pioneer Association Picnic and Meeting is scheduled for Thur., Aug. 6, at Pioneer Park, near the Rainbow Bridge in La Conner.

There will be live music on the grounds, plenty of "old-timers," historic pictures displayed for the Honored Families, an old car show, and historic information available. The event is open to all people interested in Skagit County history and heritage. For a cost of \$12, registered "pioneers" will receive a colorful ribbon, program, historian's memorial pamphlet, and a ticket for the complete barbecue salmon dinner, and will be served by members of the La Conner Civic Garden Club.

Lunch begins 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, to raise funds for special projects.

The Skagit County Historical Society, always there in support of the annual picnic, will have tables under a tent with historical publications related to local Skagit County history. The staff can also field questions on county history. The

Skagit Valley Genealogical Society is sharing those tables with the museum staff to help answer any genealogical questions concerning your Skagit County ancestors.

This year's honorees

The Wylie Family of Fir Island is the 2015 "Pioneer Family of the Year."

Cousins Dallas and Curt Wylie will represent the multi-generational dairy farm family at the picnic.

Their mutual grandfather, John Wylie, a former director of Skagit County Dairyman's Association, bought the original 120 acres of farmland on the southwest delta of Fir Island circa 1913. The farm has been shipping to Darigold since the inception of the association.

John was born in Chippawa Lake, Mich., on May 14, 1872. He married Ellen Swanberg in 1912, and the couple raised their two sons on the farmland and created a legacy farm still in operation today, all the while volunteering with community services and county government, which their children and grandchildren have carried on as a tradition.

In early 1947 the sons of retiring John Wylie, Jack and Jim, took over operations and management of the farm. Additional acreage bought over the years added another 125 acres of cropland. John died in Mount Vernon in May 1957, followed by his wife Ellen in 1960.

By 1976, with Dallas and Curt involved in the operations of the farm alongside their fathers, the family incorporated and

the dairy has operated as Wylie, Inc. ever since. That same year the family was awarded the 1976 Farm Management Award in the statewide Dairy Family of the Year selection at a meeting of the Washington State Dairymen's Federation. The family was previously chosen as Skagit County "Dairy Family of the Year."

These days the family's history and photos are enthusiastically kept by Dallas Wylie, Curt Wylie, Kay Wylie Robertson, Marcie Wylie Labo, and Ruth Parker Wylie—Jack Wylie's widow—both of whom served as county commissioners.

Business meeting at the picnic

The Business Meeting of the Association will be held the same day as the picnic, and will be called to order by President Mike Elde at 12:45 p.m. 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 and history. In addition to the Wylie family, this year the late Mark Iverson of Mount Vernon will be honored as contributing to the pioneer spirit posthumously.

Pioneer Spirit recipient

Iverson, recipient of this year's Pioneer Spirit award, was a member of the Willard and Annette Iverson family of Mount Vernon. Iverson was a gifted businessman and artist, and set an extraordinarily high bar for level of service to his community.

After graduating from Mount Vernon High School in 1973, Iverson attended Skagit Valley College and received his Bachelor of Arts from Western Washington State College with a focus on Interior Design. In the mid-1980s he opened his floral shop in Mount Vernon called Mark's on Pine Square. He later opened the Courtyard Café and expanded his business to include special event catering.

In 2013 Mark became the Executive Director of the Skagit County Historical Museum. He helped develop the "Heritage Barns of Skagit County" brochure and was very proud of having the project awarded the "Outstanding Achievement in Preservation Media" award from the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

Mark had a strong love for home and a deep sense of community. He volunteered his time and creative expertise for many organizations in addition to running for mayor of Mount Vernon in 1991. His contributions of time and support included

the Skagit Valley Hospital Foundation, Western Washington University, Skagit Valley College Foundation, Festival of Trees, the Museum of Northwest Art, March of Dimes, American Cancer Society, the Lincoln Theatre Foundation, Mount Vernon Arts Commission, Celtic Arts Foundation, Salem Lutheran and Fir-Conway Lutheran churches, and private philanthropy for families in need.

One of Mark's favorite projects was the Gail Edward Iverson Circle of Friends that benefitted the Skagit Valley Hospital Wound Healing and Kidney Center. He also spent time as a soccer and T-ball coach.

Not many people have contributed this much, to so many, in such a short time. It has been said of Mark that "where most people live only a single lifetime, Mark managed to pack 10 lifetimes into one."

After the picnic

Attendees are encouraged to visit the Skagit County Historical Museum in La Conner following the picnic. A Pioneer Picnic ribbon allows visitors free admission to the museum from Thur. through Sun., Aug. 6–9.

—Dan Royal

Mount Vernon

EDASC announces new executive director

After a nationwide recruitment, the Board of Directors of the Economic Development Association of Skagit County (EDASC) has selected John Sternlicht of Seattle as its new Executive Director.

Sternlicht's first day with EDASC was Aug. 1. Most recently, Sternlicht served as Economic Development Advisor to King County Executive Dow Constantine.

Sternlicht will build upon EDASC's previous successes and the many advantages of Skagit County, bringing innovative and proven approaches to local economic development, according to a press release from EDASC. He will work with the Board of Directors and staff to help create a more prosperous



Sternlicht

and economically diverse Skagit County by helping grow businesses locally and attracting new enterprises.

Sternlicht, who spent his childhood in Rhode Island and North Carolina, previously served as Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Trade for the Commonwealth of Virginia and as the first General Counsel and Policy and Legislative Director of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership. He negotiated several billion dollars in deals for Virginia during a period of 11 years, and developed and implemented various programs to attract businesses.

Before coming to Washington, he served as Senior Director for Strategic Projects at SRI International, a California-based nonprofit research institute, where he developed new sites for biosciences

in Virginia and Michigan. Sternlicht said he will seek to expand Skagit County's potential by promoting its natural attributes, strategic location, comparatively lower costs, talented workforce, and other favorable features across the U.S. and internationally.

"By increased collaboration around the county and with our neighbors in Western Washington, we can compete more effectively on a global basis. In addition, we also want to nurture our new and expanding local businesses that value our community and create opportunities for our residents," Sternlicht said.

Sternlicht succeeds Don Wick, who served as Executive Director of EDASC from 1987 through July 31.

—Submitted by EDASC

Question, Persuade, Refer Gatekeeper Training for Suicide Prevention

Location:

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Instructor:

Stephanie Morgareidge,
East County Resource Center Coordinator
Certified QPR Instructor

Dates Offered:

Monday June 29th — 4:30 to 6pm

Monday July 13th — 4:30 to 6pm

Thursday July 30th — 7pm to 8:30pm

Monday August 31st — 5pm-6:30pm

Question, Persuade, and Refer --
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- how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help
- how to offer hope
- how to get help and save a life

To register or get more information, please call the East Skagit County Resource Center at (360) 853-7009 or the Upper Skagit Library at (360) 853-7939.



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360.436.9603

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360.826.4090

Lyman

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Open every Wednesday
360.856.2211

*Changes? Call 360.853.8213.



Smile



Dwelleysms

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

"Some men are natural born pessimists. Others get married."

—Feb. 3, 1955

"If you are going to tell your troubles to someone, talk fast. Nine times out of 10, he can top you the moment you stop for breath."

—Feb. 10, 1955

"Hurricanes will continue to be named after girls, despite feminine protests. Still unpredictable."

—Feb. 17, 1955

"As we have often pointed out, elected representatives keep looking through the wrong end of the binoculars. A \$20-per-year 'raise' for income tax payers and a \$10,000 raise for themselves. And what makes it so maddening is that they actually believe that they deserve it!"

"It is amazing how one person can study for years until he knows all about a subject, then make a public exposition of the knowledge and have it criticized from one end of the country to the other by people who never studied the subject at all."

"If the best things in life are free, it seems we are running into an awful

shortage of them."

—Feb. 24, 1955

"A man who never seemed to get ahead used to be labeled with 'no gumption.' Since the new deal, he can now choose any number of dignified titles from 'underprivileged' to 'socially maladjusted,' and collect both cash and sympathy in the process."

"No better way has ever been found of raising a family than use of the original do-it-yourself kit: a keen interest, a lot of love, and a willow switch."

"We see no future at all for conversation. The TV commercials just aren't long enough to fully express yourself during pauses in the programs."

"Life is getting too complicated. It used to be that when you had nothing to do, you had time to do it."

—March 3, 1955

"Spring thoughts of the young folks are expected to run toward romance. Along this line it might be well to remind them that kisses aren't all bliss. Some start fights; more end them. The secret is applying them to the right person at the right time."

"All this talk about an annual guaranteed wage is dangerous. Think what will happen when Congress finds out and decides to use that as a yardstick as to how much they can tax in advance. What we really need is an annual guaranteed tax limit."

"Auto tires soon will be offered in colors to match your car. The next step will be false eyelashes and mascara for the wipers."

—March 17, 1955

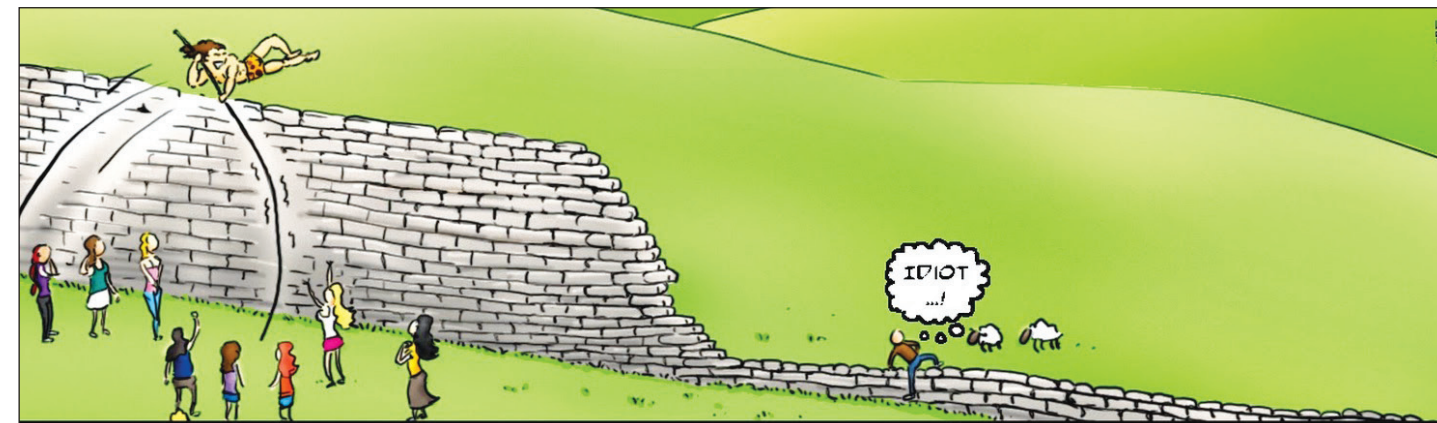
Concrete Harold

By Joyce Harris



Public Service Announcement

By Stig Kristensen



RATIONAL MEN OFTEN HAVE A HARD TIME IMPRESSING THE LADIES

Crossword: "Two-timers"

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20					21					22				
				23					24					
25	26	27	28					29				30	31	32
33					34	35	36			37	38			
39				40					41					
42						43					44			
45				46	47				48	49				
			50				51	52						
53	54	55				56					57	58	59	60
61						62				63				
64						65				66				
67						68				69				

Across

- Wet nurses, overseas
- Auction actions
- Agenda
- Japanese-American
- Brown family member
- Comme ci, comme ca
- _____ live one
- Knock for a loop
- Blood-related
- Have many secrets
- Arrives at
- Belief
- Whalebone
- "_____ show time!"
- Baby carrier?
- Favorite
- Spot remover?
- Colonel's insignia
- Ambiguous expressions
- Preserved, in a way
- Wheedle
- Chapter 11 issue
- "May I help you?"
- Symbol of strength
- Social strata
- Natl. Humor Month
- Look

Down

- Word with phase or retention
- Entangle
- Like some salts
- Principal
- Fodder
- Stupefy
- Sudden attack
- Cudgel
- Illuminated, in a way
- Hymn
- Trickster of myth
- "Yeah, right!"
- All alternative
- Packed
- City near Oberhausen
- Fussbudget
- Looks twice
- Fine things
- Taro variety
- Send on
- Authority
- Norse goddess of fate
- Quibbles
- Knock off
- Cheese _____
- Play too broadly
- Revere
- Vuitton
- Hamburg's river
- Itty bit
- Cousin of a bittern
- Church property
- Exploits
- "Darn it!"
- "Peace Piece" artist
- Contributes
- Antiparkinsonian agent
- Surpass
- Eager
- Punish with an arbitrary penalty
- Test, as ore
- Indian caste
- Key material
- Blocks
- Viva-voce
- Vulcan's Chimney
- Emanation
- Bulls or Bears
- Big top?
- Set aside
- Gael's tongue

Sudoku

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

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

*Solutions to both puzzles are on p. 39.

Funny as Facebook

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

- "Dear whoever it is who thinks cutting down trees and putting them in a wood chipper at 7 a.m. is a good idea ... I assure you, it isn't. Sincerely, the woman four blocks away who after an hour of this has given up, recognized she won't be sleeping in this morning, and will now get up and make bacon."
- "2 to 5 mph on interstate 495, all afternoon. Three days (back) in the USA, and I'm ready to kill myself."
- "The guy seated behind me reeks of weed. What is my responsibility here, as a bus rider, citizen, and semi-concerned smeller of smells?"
- "Conversation for the day:
Rowan: Daddy, if that was you knocking on the bathroom door, I'm done now.
Me: Wasn't me.
Rowan: Then who was it?
Me: Must've been a ghost.
Rowan: Why would it be a ghost? Ghosts don't poop.
Me: Sure they do. It's just invisible. You should be glad they do use the toilet; invisible poop still stinks and is terrible to step in.
Rowan: No, they don't. Besides, ghosts can move right through things and so can their poop. If they went on the toilet, it would fall right through anyway and be a waste of their time going in there."
- "Spent most of the day wandering around a variety of shrines and sanctuaries and didn't once get smitten by an angry deity. I must be slacking ..."
- "Creature just told Eric he should go ride a scooter again, so he can break the other arm and that way she can win at Minecraft."
- "I don't want to alarm anyone, but I've cleaned my room."

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The Man in the Mud Room

By Nicola Pearson

Editor's note: This is the eighth installment of a monthly serialized story by award-winning author and playwright Nicola Pearson of Sauk City. Future installments will appear on this page each month during 2015 until the story is complete. Previous installments are posted at www.concrete-herald.com.

"It doesn't mean anything," Lange reassured Suleka as he stood up, "other than Margi lost her earring on the ground here."

"But you're going to put it in an evidence bag," said Suleka.

"I am." Lange suddenly felt tired. Why did he always have to be the one to cause the hope to cloud in people's eyes? He offered Suleka a half smile and swiveled, expecting to see another evidence bag, but Detective Deller's attention was on the dog.

Callum followed her gaze and saw the little pup sniffing slowly, methodically, at the moss on one end of the branch, her right paw intermittently popping up to touch at it, as if to release more of the scents contained within it. "What are you thinking?" he asked.

"I'm thinking that's not a toy,"

Deller said and glanced at Lange for corroboration. He nodded.

"Nooooo!" Suleka shrieked as she realized what they were implying.

Deller said nothing. She pulled a latex glove out of the other pocket of her jacket, stretched it over the fingers of her right hand, and bent toward the vine maple. Coco bared her teeth and snapped, but Deller wasn't intimidated. She grabbed the stick in one swift move and marched it over to her car, the pup racing at her feet the whole way, yapping and jumping in frustration.

"We're detectives, Suleka," Lange said.

"We're trained to think the worst."

"Somebody could have peed on that stick and that dog would take an interest!"

"That could be. But we don't have much to go on here."

Deller marched back toward them, leaving Coco scrabbling at the passenger side door of the Crown Victoria, obviously wishing for the reappearance of the vine maple. The Sheriff's detective held out another bag and Suleka watched as Lange dropped the earring into it.

"What's next?" he asked.

"I want to take these items to the lab and see what, if anything, has been written up on this ... what did you call him?" she asked Suleka.

"The man in the mud room."

"Yeah. That guy. It could be nobody's filed a report because the thefts were so minor, but I'll check."

Lange opened his mouth to speak and then thought better of it. He turned his focus on Suleka. "D'you think you can find out who exactly has complained of things missing from their places around here?"

"I'm sure I could," Suleka replied slowly, thinking about it. Then she did a double take in his direction. "You mean tonight?"

Lange nodded. "I'd appreciate it. If we get it narrowed down to a certain area, we might be able to use the Search and Rescue dogs to try to track the thief."

Deller shook her head no. "I'll be using them to track Margi."

"That might amount to the same thing," said Lange.

There was a pause, while they all digested this thought. The coyote yipped again, the sound rounder, more resonant, closer than before, and Coco gave up on the vine maple and hurried back to the cabin.

"What are you going to do?" Deller asked Lange.

"I'm going to interview Mary Lynn McCracken."

"Again, tonight?!" Suleka repeated.

"There's plenty of time," countered Lange. "It's what, five o'clock?"

"Can't be." Suleka pulled from her jacket the pocket watch she'd inherited from her father. "I didn't pick you up until after five so it's got to be—" she glanced at the face "—well, it's almost 6:30."

"If Mary Lynn McCracken did come here on Saturday, she might tell us something, even something random, that could point us in Margi's direction," Lange reasoned. He watched Suleka stare at him from behind her glasses and he could tell from the faraway look in her brown eyes that she was vacillating. "Before it's too late," he added.

She relented, but not entirely. "Couldn't you at least call Collins first?" she asked. "Find out if he knows whether she was

here before we go trekking all the way up to Baker Lake?"

"No need," said Deller, looking over Lange's shoulder toward Rockport-Cascade Rd. "He's here."

They turned and squinted into a pair of headlights easing toward them down the narrow driveway. It was Collins in the Ford Expedition. He stopped the vehicle about 30 feet from them, killed the engine, and climbed down, carefully latching the door behind him. He stepped solidly toward them, his stocky frame bulked out in his dark green, winter uniform, the nasal whine in his breathing overriding the sound of his footsteps on the gravel.

"Did you bring dinner?" Deller asked.

Collins' heavy breathing stopped as he hesitated, mid-stride, with a deer-in-the-headlights kind of look at his boss. "Kidding," she said, without even a hint of a smile. "What did you find out?"

Collins continued forward until he reached their huddle. "Not much," he said, with a sideways glance in Lange's direction. He pulled a spiral notebook like Deller's out of his jacket pocket, flipped past the Miranda rights card he had clipped on the inside of the front cover, and continued through the pages till he found what he was looking for. His eyes settled on an entry and Lange couldn't tell if he was just trying to avoid further eye contact or if he was really reading what he'd written. "Breckenridge picked up his girlfriend, Shelby, at her house Thursday morning to go on this camping trip with him east of the mountains and dropped her off Sunday afternoon, just before he came back here. She didn't seem too concerned that Margi wasn't here. She said Sam told her Margi's been a bit out of it lately."

"Out of it how?" asked Lange.

"I asked the same thing," said Collins, still with his eyes on his notebook. "But she didn't give me much of an answer. She said things like moody, spacey, difficult, but she couldn't give me any examples. I got the impression she doesn't think much of Margi, but I'm pretty sure she doesn't think much of anybody." He flicked his blue eyes up at Deller. "Except herself."

"Did Breckenridge say anything to you about Margi being different recently?" Lange asked Deller. She shook her head no.

He turned the question, unspoken, on Suleka, who popped her nose and mouth out of her wool scarf to answer. "She has been a bit withdrawn but I thought it was because she was busy wildcrafting."

"Did Shelby give you any ideas as to where Margi might be?" Deller asked

Collins.

"Didn't know and didn't care," he stated.

"So you think she's not involved?"

"I wouldn't go that far," Collins said.

"Not yet anyway. She didn't seem to care if Margi was found, which made me wonder if she had a hand in her not being around. But if she is involved, it would have to be with the husband because they were together the whole weekend."

"Or so they say," Lange added.

"They camped with friends. I'm on my way to question the friends now."

Deller looked perplexed. "Why'd you come back here?"

"To get Margi's cell phone."

"It's in my car," Deller tipped her head toward the Crown Victoria. "I was going to have someone call the last numbers Margi called. See if she said anything that might lead us to her."

"Me too," said Collins.

"Go right ahead," Deller encouraged.

"It's in with the evidence bags."

"Does anyone know when Margi used her cell phone last?" Lange asked.

"Friday night. I checked the first time I came out here," Collins replied. He flipped through the pages of his notebook again and this time it was obvious he was reading his notes. "She called someone Friday, at 9:04 in the evening, and missed a call Saturday morning, at 8:11."

"That was probably this Mary Lynn McCracken," Deller said to Lange, "calling to see if Margi was going up to the retreat."

"Mmmm no," said Collins. "Her story was she told Margi to call her if she wanted to go and when she didn't get a call by 8 a.m. on Saturday, she took off without her."

"And without coming by here," Lange pondered aloud.

Collins looked up from his notes to make eye contact with Lange. "She got kind of weepy saying she hoped nothing bad had happened to Margi, because she'd feel terrible for not stopping by if that was the case."

There was another moment of quiet and then Suleka interrupted it by making a move. "I'm going home," she announced, trudging determinedly toward her pick-up. "I'll give you a ride if you want, Callum, but you'll have to come now. I don't want to call people too late to ask about the robberies around here and I want to have something to eat before I start."

"Go ahead," Frankie Deller said to Lange and followed Suleka's cue by

Mud Room, cont. from p. 38

walking toward her own vehicle. Collins got in step behind her and suddenly Lange was alone in the middle of the driveway. "There's nothing more we can do here tonight," he heard Frankie call out to him before opening a door on the Crown Victoria.

But there was one more thing Lange thought he could do; he could wait for the sound of Margi to come to him. He tipped his chin up and let his blue eyes circle the silence in the night sky, waiting for the noises he knew he should hear if he were to solve this case. When nothing came, he made himself focus on the diminutive, mousy-haired woman with the shy smile he'd seen in the photograph, the black bear that she'd painted, the sheen of the animal's thick coat captured in the light coming through the trees. Lange waited, expecting a noise in his aura to suggest that whatever had happened, it had been against Margi's will. But as much as he strained, all he could hear was Deller and Collins talking low a few feet away from him.

He sighed. Maybe Margi had just walked into the woods on one of her gathering missions and had fallen into an unexpected grave. He heard Suleka start the Nissan and hustled over to climb in. The last thing he wanted was to have to walk home tonight.

Continued next month ...

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Crazy Ladies Co-op will show their art in the Cabin

\$5 ADMISSION FUNDRAISER FOR KSVU

Sudoku solution, from p. 37

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

Crossword solution, from p. 37

1	A	M	A	H	S	6	B	I	D	S	10	P	L	A	N	13
14	N	I	S	E	I	15	E	C	R	U	16	S	O	S	O	
17	A	R	E	A	L	21	S	T	U	N	18	A	K	I	N	
20	L	E	A	D	A	23	G	E	T	S	24	I	S	M		
25	B	A	L	27	28	29	I	T	S	30	E	G				
33	I	D	O	L	34	S	H	O	O	37	E	A	G	L	E	
39	D	O	U	B	L	E	E	N	T	41	E	N	D	R	E	S
42	D	R	I	E	D	43	C	O	A	X	44	D	E	B	T	
45	Y	E	S	46	O	A	K	47	C	A	S	T	E	S		
50	A	P	R	51	S	E	E	M	52							
53	D	O	E	S	A	D	O	U	B	L	E	T	A	K	E	
57	A	R	T	S	60	E	D	D	O	63	R	E	F	E	R	
64	M	A	N	A	65	N	O	R	N	66	C	A	R	P	S	
67	S	L	A	Y	68	T	R	A	Y	69	E	M	O	T	E	

See Mud Room, p. 39

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