

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley Concrete Herald

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December 2014

concrete-herald.com

50 cents

Clear Lake • Sedro-Woolley • Lyman • Day Creek • Punkin Center • Hamilton • Birdview • 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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EST. 1907

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From the editor

A few words about Lou Hillman

I'm going to miss Lou Hillman. On Nov. 14, after seven years, she retired from her position of coordinator for the East County Resource Center. Community Action chose her successor wisely: Stephanie Morgareidge has the same combination of training and a heart for the community as Lou. But all Upper Valley residents should take a moment to consider Lou and her impact on our communities, and take the time to thank her. From time to time, I find items in my house that I'm not using, that I'm sure would be of use to someone. I loved seeing Lou's face light up as she thought of a person or family who would benefit from something I brought in. I loved her reaction when I delivered produce from the community garden. I respected her point of view. You see, with Lou, it was always about the people—it still is. She wears her heart on her sleeve, and her heart is huge. Everyone—including yours truly—can and should learn from her example. Thank you, Lou.

—J. K. M.

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Opinion

Letters to the editor

Locals taught me about life

I wanted to take a moment to say thank you for your efforts with the *Concrete Herald*. Why would I care since I have never really lived in the area? Because I worked for the USFS at Birdsvie Ranger Station/Komo Kulshan Guard Station (fire control) during the 1960s to help pay for

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 682w, Concrete, WA 98237. Writers must include their name and town or community for publication, plus a daytime telephone number for confirmation purposes. *Concrete Herald* reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity, accuracy, spelling, grammar, and potentially libelous statements. So be nice.

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Message from the mayor

By Jason Miller

I was disappointed by the lack of a Veterans Day parade in Concrete this year. It seems to me that if we can generate enthusiasm for a Mardi Gras parade, we should be able to muster enough interest to honor those who have served our country. I'd sure like to see our local Legion Post take on planning and coordination of a Veterans Day parade; that group seems like a natural fit. How about it, folks?



The **Fire and Life Safety Building** project is back on schedule. In December you'll see the walls go up, the trusses go on, and the roof installed. Outside, you'll see cement poured for the sidewalks, and the parking area to the south of the building should get paved.

I was very pleased to see the next-to-last wooden water line in Concrete get replaced last month. The **Cupples Alley line** needed attention badly; now it will function properly.

A big thank-you goes to our **Public Works team**—Alan Wilkins, Rich Phillips, and Jimmy Luttrell—for putting in night hours to help some of our residents dodge Lorenzen Creek, which jumped its banks in two locations and flooded during the heavy rains before Thanksgiving. Thanks to those citizens, too, for rolling up their sleeves to help us sandbag. I assure you we're working on a long-term solution to this problem.

Got a topic you'd like me to address in this column? Let me know.

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

Letters, cont. from p. 2

my college education. I worked with a tiny brass badge for four summers. I fell in love with the area. I fell in love with the "locals." I believe they reciprocated. And they taught me about people and life.

I am now an old man, but thank God for my experiences during this time. I have many stories.

My only reason for this message is truly to thank you and the upper river residents for their specialty: being Americans. Feel free to let these special people know they are special!

John Hager
Burlington

Thanks, Lou!

On the occasion of Lou Hillman's retirement from the East County Resource Center ...

Some people strive to be famous; a few exceptional people strive for greatness. Fortunately for the community, Lou Hillman chose the latter, and our community is better for it. We all appreciate your efforts and wish you an enjoyable retirement.

John Boggs
Concrete

Parent group is grateful

Lyman Elementary Parent Group wishes to thank the following for their support of our Craft Bazaar on Nov. 23.

Raffle donors Oliver-Hammer Clothes Shop, Rallye Auto Sales, Inc., North Cascades Harley-Davidson, E&E Lumber Sedro-Woolley, Skagit Farmers Supply Sedro-Woolley, 2Parks Home Decor, Rail Road Market, Allyson Neuendorf Lavish Salon, Barn Fine Classics, Les Schwab Tire Center Sedro-Woolley, Debra Estes Johnson, Superior Custom Upholstery, Hands of Steel Massage, and Little Caesars Pizza.

We also thank Cascade Fabrics,

See **Letters**, p. 38



Thank you Skagit County voters!

I am looking forward to serving you.

--Lisa Janicki

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Lisa Janicki, P.O. Box 883, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

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Official Skagit Eagle Festival Activity

Continue the cycle: Please recycle this newspaper!

2015 budget set

By Andrea Weiser
Edited by Katy Tomasulo

The Town of Concrete conducted budget workshops on Sept. 22, Oct. 13 and 27, and Nov. 10, as well as public hearings about the 2015 budget during council meetings Nov. 10 and 24.

In the resulting 2015 budget the majority of costs for public services will remain the same, with some minor increases deriving from utilities, sewer, and water fees. Among the measures approved were a new false alarm fine for fire protection, a 1 percent raise for city employees, and conversion of one part-time position to full time.

Fire protection

One issue of concern was that volunteer firefighters responded to multiple false alarms this year. This led to the decision to add fines for multiple false-alarm occurrences at the same address within a six-month period. The first occurrence of a false alarm carries no fee, but thereafter additional false alarms reported for the same address within a six-month period are as follows: second occurrence \$50, third occurrence \$100, additional occurrences \$150. These fines are meant to offset the cost of dispatching firefighters to the scene and to diminish the number of false-alarm incidents.

Utility rates

Water and sewer increases will likely need to continue over the coming years. Both metered and non-metered sewer rates will increase by \$2.50 every six months. This bi-annual increase will need to continue over the next few years to pay for loans and ongoing maintenance of the sewer treatment facility. Water services will increase by \$1 this year in preparation for state-mandated metering on all water connections by January of 2017. The purpose of the state mandate is to promote wise water use by reducing water waste. Residents and businesses may see an increase or decrease in cost from the flat rate to metered rates in the future, depending upon their individual water usage.

Development fees for sewer and water systems per ERU, or Equivalent Residential Unit, will also increase in 2015 to offset future impacts on community sewage and water systems.

	2014	2015
Sewer System Development Fee Per ERU	\$2,655.30	\$3,035.26
Water System Development Fee Per ERU	\$6,302.58	\$6,510.57

Developers raised concerns about these increases, but a cost comparison with other municipalities demonstrates that, even with the increases, rates in Concrete are actually lower than other incorporated cities because they do not include charges for future impacts to parks, fire protection, traffic, and schools.

Salary increases

City employees will receive a 1 percent raise in 2015 with the exception of Public Works Director Alan Wilkins, who declined his salary increase to facilitate converting the status of a part-time maintenance position to full-time. The Public Works Maintenance Worker

See Budget, p. 10

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Sunday, Dec. 7, 2014 • 2pm

In addition to honoring those individuals that we have been privileged to serve this past year, we will be remembering Pearl Harbor Day by giving special recognition to all WWII Vets in attendance.

Get to Know the Raptors



Photo by Concrete Herald

Saturday, Jan. 3
1:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.
Concrete Theatre
45920 Main Street, Concrete
FREE ADMISSION
Sponsored by PeaceHealth

Saturday, Jan. 17
11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.
Concrete High School Gymnasium
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FREE ADMISSION
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Saturday, Jan. 24
2:00 p.m.
Challenger Ridge Vineyard & Cellars
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Raptor Presentations by Sarvey Wildlife Care Center.
Join us for this unique opportunity to learn about birds of prey and local wildlife.



www.SkagitEagleFestival.com
www.Concrete-WA.com • chamber@concrete-wa.com

The Skagit Eagle Festival is funded in part by a grant from Skagit County Lodging Tax.

Christmas in Concrete

December brings one of Concrete’s favorite reasons for a parade: Christmas. This year’s Christmas in Concrete Parade will be held on Sat., Dec. 13, at 6 p.m., when the Christmas tree in our Town Center will light up. The lineup starts at the PSE Visitor Center; get there by 5:30 p.m. The parade route remains unchanged: across the Henry Thompson bridge, through Concrete Town Center, and down Main St.

Santa will peel off from the parade and make his way to Concrete Center, where he’ll begin welcoming kids and handing them free gifts at 6:30 p.m.

Santa asked me to mention that he wants everyone to enjoy the parade and not to simply rush to the center and wait for him. There are plenty of presents for each child, and besides, he’s watching you and he knows if you’ve been bad or good.

For more information on the evening’s festivities, call 360.826.4848.

—J. K. M.

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Kathy Howell honored

Cascades Job Corps Center Director Kathy Howell of Concrete is the recipient of the 2014 Linda R. Jackson Memorial Award of Excellence, a prestigious award in the Job Corps community.

Howell has served the Job Corps Center for 24 years, starting as a records technician in 1990 and working her way up, promotion after promotion, to her current position. She’s served as a program support manager, career development services manager, and programs director.

“Kathy is a wonderful leader and mentor who consistently demonstrates great compassion for the staff and students at Cascades,” said Cascades Programs Director Jennifer Hansen. “She is incredibly innovative and allows for students and staff to be creative as well. Kathy’s leadership style is one that motivates both students and staff to

Howell

reach their potential. Her gentle guidance creates a culture of caring that provides a great learning environment for students and a positive workplace for staff.”

New face at Columbia Bank

Yes, Philip Moran has left the Concrete branch of Columbia Bank, but we haven’t been left high and dry.

Columbia Bank has appointed Kari Kennedy as branch manager at the Burlington and Concrete locations. Kennedy will manage, train, and motivate teams in sales and customer service at the two branches. We’ll see Kennedy in the Concrete branch on Mondays and Thursdays.

Kari has more than 10 years of banking experience. Prior to joining Columbia Bank, Kari worked as a manager at KeyBank for three years and at Bank of America for nine years.

Kennedy

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THIS AND THAT

By J. K. M.

Electric violinist **Geoffrey Castle** will again bring his Celtic Christmas Celebration to the Concrete Theatre on Thur., Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 general, \$15 youth under 16, and are available online at www.concrete-theatre.com, or Brown Paper Tickets: www.brownpapertickets.com/event/933260. For more information, call 360.941.0403.

Upper Skagit Library and 5b’s Bakery will host a **Board Game Night** at 5b’s Bakery, which will stay open from 5–8 p.m. Friday evenings beginning Dec. 5 through winter. The last Friday of every month will be a Team Trivia Game, with hot food and drinks, Artesian sodas, ice cream sodas, sundaes, and baked goods available. Yummy.

Beginning Dec. 6, join 5b’s Bakery and Concrete Theatre for **Dinner and a Movie**. Enjoy dinner at 5b’s till 7 p.m., then head to Concrete Theatre for a movie at 7:30 p.m., all for the price of \$20 per person (not including beverages/tax/gratuity).

“**An Evening of Story and Song**” will spread holiday cheer at Concrete Theatre on Thur., Dec. 18, at 7 p.m. Local authors will share and discuss their latest work, and read passages from their favorite holiday stories. You’ll also be treated to original music by local songwriters, plus desserts from 5b’s Bakery. Writers and musicians include Nicola Pearson Murray, Robert Hodgson Van Wagoner, Peter Keim, Andrea Weiser, Linda Jordan, Corina Sahlin, and Jason Miller.

Admission is \$5 at the door. For more information, contact Valerie Stafford at 360.466.8754 or valerie@concrete-theatre.com.

Puget Sound Energy customers will notice a pleasant surprise on their winter power bills: a **one-time credit** applied to December and January bills that will save the average residential electric customer about \$40. You don’t need to request the credit; it will automatically appear on your billing statements. The credit will be based on the amount of electricity you used in December. The credit passes along the financial benefit of the sale of PSE’s assets in Jefferson County in 2010.

Finally, **SR 20 is closed** for the winter. But you knew that already, didn’t you?

www.concrete-herald.com

Retiring East County Resource Center Coordinator Lou Hillman, left, stands with new coordinator Stephanie Morgareidge during a party in Hillman’s honor on her last day in the position, Nov. 14.

Hillman served as coordinator for seven years, and told *Concrete Herald* there were a lot of reasons she loved the job. “The driving force was I wanted to work for Community Action because I wanted to give back, and the fact that it was in my community was frosting on the cake. The longer I worked for Community Action, the more I realized it was the right choice for me, because they do such good work. I got to do good things.”

Locals will continue to see Hillman and her husband, Jim, in the area, as she continues to serve on the Skagit County Alliance for Healthcare Access, and the couple have no plans to move anywhere soon.

Regarding her post-retirement plans, Hillman laughed. “That’s the big question! If Jim would hurry up and win the lottery, we’ll buy that \$300,000 motor home that I want. We’ll travel a bit, some nice road trips.”

Council summary

Concrete Town Council met for regular meetings Nov. 10 and 24. The Nov. 10 meeting was preceded by a 2015 budget workshop. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are posted on the town’s Web site at www.townofconcrete.com/cminutes.php.

Nov. 10 budget workshop

- This workshop’s materials reflected all of the suggested budget items that had been discussed at the preceding three budget workshops on Sept. 22, Oct. 13, and Oct. 27.
- Discussion included creation of the airport fund, the Fire and Life Safety Building, the Superior Ave./SR 20 project, the Skagit Domestic Violence

expenditure, and the Main St. project from N. Superior to N. Park.

Nov. 10 regular meeting

- Public Safety:** Sgt. Chris Kading reported that Deputy Harrison will leave the East Detachment for one year and will begin working in west Skagit County. He stated that

See **Council**, p. 39

Keep track of your council

To have Concrete Town Council agendas and meeting minutes e-mailed to you automatically, e-mail your request to andreadf@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.

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Sports



Fichter breaks rushing record

It was a dark and stormy night. Seriously. On Nov. 6 in Darrington, the Concrete Lions took to a field resembled a giant Slip-n-Slide, lashed with heavy rain. On that night, during the team’s last regular-season game, Gibson Fichter suited up with 74 yards to go to beat the Skagit County career rushing record held by former teammate Kyler Howell. Fichter started the game with a long touchdown run that blew out one of his shoes and bit off all but 16 yards, and ended the game with 3,565 yards to Howell’s 3,541. He broke the record having missed three earlier games because of a dislocated elbow. That night he logged 99 rushing yards and returned the kickoff that opened the second half 80 yards for a touchdown. Concrete handed

Darrington a crushing 50–8 defeat that night. The Lions next headed to Sedro-Woolley High School on Nov. 15, where they faced the Toledo Indians in their first state playoff game. Even though the game ended in a heart-breaking 65–40 loss, Fichter rushed for 84 yards and caught passes for 87 more. At seasons’ end, Fichter’s rushing record stands at 3,648 yards. Now, four of the five all-time county rushing leaders are from Concrete: Fichter, Howell, Eli Sanchez, and Cody Schmidt. Let’s pause for a moment and let that sink in. Fichter was named league offensive MVP and selected for the first team all Northwest. He also was named to the second team for his defensive efforts. “Gibson used his talent, determination, and extraordinary mental toughness to achieve his awards and the all-time county record,” said Head Coach Ron Rood. After the Darrington game, Fichter paused, soaking wet, for a photo. “How does it feel?” the photographer asked him. “It feels good. It feels pretty darn good,” Fichter said.

—J. K. M.





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Concrete Lions Awards Dessert

**Thur., Dec. 4
6:30 p.m.**

**Commons Room
Concrete High School**

Parents and fans welcome

Football season ends “early”

By Ron Rood, head coach

Concrete’s Lions finished their season earlier than they had hoped in November by defeating Darrington 50–8 before losing in the state playoffs to Toledo 65–40. The Lions clinched the NWB title by thrashing Darrington 50–8 in their regular season final. Running backs Clay Nelson and Gibson Fichter each had long touchdown runs on the Lions’ first two plays from scrimmage en route to a 37–0 halftime lead. Fichter had 99 yards rushing and returned the kickoff that opened the second half 80 yards for a touchdown. Nelson ran for 100 yards and Donnie Olmstead 73 on limited carries because of the lopsided score. The “Saws & Claws” trophy again remains in Concrete hands. On Nov. 15 the Lions used a strong offensive output to forge a 26–20 halftime lead in their state playoff game with Toledo. Toledo’s answer to stop the Lions was not to let them have the ball in the third quarter. The Indians kicked three short kickoffs to Concrete and recovered the ball each time to start the half. They used this excellent field position and a strong rushing attack to score three quick touchdowns to take control of the game. Dylan Clark fired a 66-yard scoring strike to Tyler Labrousse the only series the Lions had the ball in the third quarter. Toledo’s powerful rushing attack mauled the Lions in the second half and the

shootout ended with a 65–40 Lion defeat. Despite the disappointing end to the season Clark had his best passing output of the season by connecting on 10 of 18 passing attempts for 206 yards and four touchdowns. Labrousse caught four passes for 109 yards and three touchdowns. Fichter rushed for 84 yards and caught passes for 87 more. Toledo continued their success on to the Tacoma Dome. The Lions finished their season with a 9–2 record and at one point won nine games in a row on their way to the league championship and their third straight state berth. This was the team’s first nine-win season since 1997. Fichter eclipsed the all-time Skagit County rushing record with 3,648 yards for his career. He was named the league offensive MVP despite missing three games with a dislocated elbow. Running back Nelson and lineman Robert Nevin were first team all Northwest selections, and linemen Cameron Post and Trevor Lerma were named to the second team. Defensively, linebackers Clark, Donnie Olmstead, and lineman Nevin were first team selections. Fichter and lineman Mat Baird were named to the second team. The Lions will celebrate with their annual awards dessert and highlight DVD on Thur., Dec. 4, at 6:30 p.m., in the Commons room at Concrete High School. All parents and fans are welcome to attend.



Athletes of the Month



Athletes of the Month are Kelse Cargile and Clay Nelson Senior volleyballer Kelse Cargile is a converted soccer player in her second year of volleyball. “The sport is still new to her, and then we asked her to play a new position called ‘libero,’” said Head Coach Kevik Rensink. “I had never coached this position and she had never played it, so it was a challenge for both of us. She not only accepted the challenge, but she exceeded everyone’s expectations, including her own. She went on to receive 411 serves and was second on the team in pass percentage. Kelse was rewarded for her hard work and willingness to do what was best for the team when she was voted to the Northwest 2B/1B All-League Team for having a tremendous attitude and playing her new position so well.” Senior running back Clay Nelson stepped into the gap left when teammate Gibson Fichter suffered a dislocated elbow, and used his speed to teach opposing teams a lesson. Nelson ended the season as a first team all Northwest selection. “Clay grew to become a team leader and all league back with determination and hard work,” said Head Coach Ron Rood. Cargile and Nelson were selected by Concrete Lions Booster Club members based on their leadership, being team players, and demonstrating sportsmanship and character.



Above: Senior Clay Nelson scoops in a touchdown pass during the Lions’ first playoff game against the Toledo Indians on Nov. 15.

Left: Senior Gibson Fichter and teammate Randall Beacham attempt to intercept a Toledo pass during the Nov. 15 game. *Photo by Hannah Kononen.*

Men’s basketball ramps up

By Paul Bianchini, head coach

The 2014–15 men’s basketball team kicked off its season on Nov. 17. Fifteen boys showed up for the first practice. This year’s team is led by juniors Dylan Clark, Josh Gentry, Sam Holbrook, and the lone senior on the team, Cameron Post. Sophomore Tyler Labrousse, who started several games last season, also figures to see playing time this season. As a player, you want to be good at the things that happen a lot. Thus, the first week’s practices involved fundamentals, such as shooting, ball handling, offensive and defensive footwork, and conditioning. The Lions’ first game this season is Dec. 5 at Highland Christian. The season also includes a tournament at Darrington from Jan. 2–3. This year’s squad will be coached by Paul Bianchini and Kevin McAdam.

Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley



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Women’s hoops ready to roll

By Kevik Rensink, head coach

Basketball season is here! The Concrete High School women’s basketball program is rounding into shape and ready to take on a new season. We return all of our players from last season with the exception of our one senior, Xyomara Ramos (who is now on the women’s row team at Western Washington University). Muriel Troka and Rebecca Torheim (both seniors) have been named this year’s captains, and they are already doing a remarkable job of leading this team. Kelse Cargile, also a senior, is back after missing a major portion of the season last year. She is very focused and is looking for her success from volleyball to continue through basketball season. Our fourth senior is Lydia Schoolland, who last played in the program as a freshman and is welcomed back with open arms. She has stepped in and made a difference from day one, and her confidence within herself and her familiarity with her teammates continues to grow.

Other returners are juniors Cassidy Cargile and Katelin Pritchard, and sophomores Chloe Stidman and Tate Mathis. Cargile and Stidman are returning starters and are a great one-two punch on both offense and defense. They work really well together and they do a good job of letting their defense lead to offense. Pritchard and Mathis came off the bench for us last year to fill vital roles on our team. They have also improved, making them more of an offensive threat this year while defense remains their best attribute. Our top newcomers, besides Schoolland, are Jaycelyne Kuipers and Emily Bridge. Kuipers will give us a lot of speed, length, and the ability to stretch the defense. At 5’11” she can play both inside and outside. Bridge improved a ton over the summer and comes in as a legit scoring threat, gives us tremendous hustle, and is a good free-throw shooter. Although we didn’t get a lot of marks in the win column last year, I saw great effort and attitude every day. That attitude and effort have carried over into this

year. The players are working extremely hard, they have great energy, and they are getting better every day. They are showing the characteristics of what it takes to be a great player and, more importantly, a great team. If we continue to learn and apply these concepts, the wins will take care of themselves. Our first game is Fri., Dec. 5 at Granite Falls, and our first home game is Fri., Dec. 12 versus Friday Harbor.

Sports schedules:
nw1a2bathletics.com

Continue the cycle
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Glass Act

Grasmere glass artist Athena Hornsby creates objects of beauty in her storefront studio.

When Concrete glass artist Athena Hornsby was a little girl, she crafted mosaic pieces from macaroni. Upon completion of each masterpiece, her mom would dump the macaroni in a pot of boiling water and make dinner. Hornsby, 56, has come a long way since those fledgling efforts. These days you’ll find her hard at work in her storefront studio in Grasmere Village, creating mosaic and stained glass works of art that are by turns whimsical, eccentric, and drop-dead gorgeous. Her glass journey began in 2004, when her cousin invited her to a class in Bellingham. “I took mosaic. The following year I went back and took stained glass,” said Hornsby. “And I just fell in love with it. I got better and better, and realized I could make a living at it. I started doing classes and selling my work.”

Hornsby started her studio, Northwest Garden Bling, seven years ago. The shop has matured to become the Upper Valley’s destination for glass classes, artwork, glass-making supplies, and other small gifts, including some consignment items. Hornsby runs the store as a retail outlet and education resource, and even teaches community education courses through Concrete School District. “I’m happy that I can make a living doing something I love. You can see that love in the work,” she said.

On display Mosaic work—glass pieces glued to wood or cement and the spaces between filled with grout—is Hornsby’s favorite; examples of it are found throughout the shop. “That’s my passion,” she said. “But then I discovered I wanted to do 3-D pieces. So I did a lamp.” Lately, Hornsby has been “fusing”; that is, melting glass in a kiln and making plates and jewelry—even adding some to mosaic pieces. She also works with stained glass, lining pieces with lead or copper foil, then soldering them together.

But it’s her Tiffany reproduction lamps that draw visitors’ attention and have earned her kudos. She won second place (out of 58 entries) in the Tiffany Lamp Exhibit and Juried Show in Everett, missing first place by only one point. Her work has appeared in the Jansen Art Center in Lynden. A photo of one of her lamp shades has graced the Association of Stained Glass Lamp Artists calendar for two years. And she helped keep Concrete on the map by earning a place in the Skagit Artists Together countywide tour in 2013 and 2014. Hornsby created one original lampshade design—a peacock feather—but it’s usually easier to buy a mold from Odyssey Lamp Systems, which purchased all the molds for the bases and shades from Tiffany years ago. Look around the shop and you’ll see plenty of examples of Hornsby’s work: two dragonfly-pattern shades, a black-eyed Susan, a daffodil. The photo on page 1 is her Magnolia lamp. “I plan to do a tulip one next, for the 2015 Tulip Festival,” she said.

Thirst for knowledge Hornsby travels the world in search of new glass materials, products, and techniques. Earlier this year she went to New Orleans, but she’s been across the pond to Turkey, Italy, and Greece, and south to Mexico. Vegas has a glass exhibition every year—“I try to go there and learn new things, so I can better help my students”—and recently traveled to Victoria, B.C., for a class by renowned glass artist Martin Cheek. Most outings find her returning home with something she can share with her students, whether it’s millefiori glass rods from Italy, a uniquely colored glass from Turkey, or a new technique for stained glass. “I like to collect different things for my students, new products,” she said. Fiercely loyal to the Upper Valley, Hornsby is an outspoken proponent of local commerce and the beauty of her

surroundings. “I think the local economy stimulates the Upper Valley. If we can keep as much money here, it benefits everyone. There are a lot of things available to us here that people don’t have to travel to Mt. Vernon for, and I would rather be here in town than spend the drive time anyway. “I love to come home. I love to live here, hike, go to the river and throw rocks. It’s the perfect place to live.” Hornsby has lived in Concrete since 1986. She’s worked for the U.S. Forest Service and Laborers Union Local 901 in Mount Vernon. She’s been on the payroll for refineries and a natural gas pipeline. “But I’d had enough,” she said. “I was done.” “And then I found glass.”

—J. K. M.

Visit Athena Hornsby at
Northwest Garden Bling
44574 SR 20 (Grasmere Village)
360.708.3279
nwgardenbling@frontier.com



Concrete glass artist Athena Hornsby lays a piece of green glass into position on a stained glass Christmas tree. Each piece is framed with copper tape that she’ll solder into place, creating a single piece of artwork.

Budget, cont. from p. 4

position, currently held by Jimmy Luttrell, will convert to full time effective in January. The 1 percent raise will help other city employees offset increased cost of living and has a minimal effect on overall budget. Medical and dental premiums and benefits will remain the same for city employees.

Job title	2015 annual salary
Mayor	\$7,200.00
Council Members (5)	\$4,800.00
Clerk-Treasurer	\$40,113.13
Deputy Clerk	\$28,556.14
Volunteer Coordinator/ Office Asst.	\$2,908.80
Public Works Director	\$49,625.86
Public Works Assistant	\$43,772.39
PW Maintenance Worker	\$24,960.00
Groundskeeper	\$16,020.48
Fire Chief	\$3,708.72

Airport The Concrete airport may see a small increase in revenues in 2015 due to increased rent payments for lessees who have not constructed hangars within the five-year time limit. Modifications to lease agreements have enabled these users to gain a year to complete hangar construction while paying an increased

rental fee. Airport lease rates in 2015 will be calculated using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) developed by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. This change will improve efficiency and provide better guidance over the cost comparison method of calculation used in the past. Individuals or businesses leasing airport space or hangars will have a consistent way to project their own costs by using the CPI inflation calculator (www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm). A new Airport Reserve Fund has been established. Similar to reserve funds already in place for water and sewer projects, this fund is essentially a savings account to set money aside for future airport projects. Future improvements may include projects such as repairing potholes and paving the driveway area by the airport lounge. Questions regarding the 2015 budget can be directed to Town Hall at 360.853.8401.

Writer Andrea Weiser lives in Marblemount. Editor Katy Tomasulo lives in Seattle.



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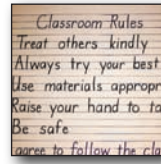
Santa Breakfast
Dec. 13 - 8:30-11:00am
SEDRO-WOOLLEY COMMUNITY CENTER
KIDS ARE FREE, ADULTS BY DONATION

Holiday Home Tour - Dec. 13
4:30PM REFRESHMENTS AT THE SEDRO-WOOLLEY MUSEUM
5:00 - 9:00PM HOME OPEN FOR WALKING TOUR
TICKETS \$5.00 EACH





Academics



Concrete Elementary students were honored Nov. 21 at a "Citizenship Assembly," during which children from each grade level were recognized for their interpretations of what the concept of citizenship means to them. Front row, from left: Jackob Allard, Olivia Coke, Willa Whitford, Logan Alberts, Ashlyn Morgareidge, Josie Sherman, Trevor Howard, Payton Hooper. Back row, from left: Hannah Hook, Jake Bronoske, Briar Cain, Cohen Poolos, Kassidy Smith, Andrea Rogers.



November Academic Achievers were honored on Nov. 25. Front row, from left: Kale Bluhm, Anna Kiele, Vanessa Aiken, Audrey Ottow, Michael Bartel, Ashton Martin, Anja Roozen. Back row from left: Tiffanie Hendry-Conrad, Leona Martinez, Echo Cyr, Tasha Brink, Sadie Peif, Christian Joens.

YD update

Concrete Youth Dynamics continues to grow in every sense of the word. New students are showing up every week, kids are inviting their friends, and young people are experiencing YD for the first time. Other students are there every week, and their passion for life is reflected in how they treat others, interact with staff, and live their own lives away from the craziness of Youth Dynamics. All together, 68 high school students have attended YD this school year, and we are just getting started!

This past month we played Capture the Flag in the pouring down rain (cold, but fun), kickball, dodgeball (really, really sweaty, but fun), and then brought the students to the Bellis Fair Mall in Bellingham for a human scavenger hunt.

The youth love this, as they have to search the mall for staff and students who are dressed in disguise, blending into their surroundings the best they can. With five minutes remaining on the clock, our winning team of River Lee and Austin Wencker got the last required signature to win. Way to go fellas!

We have a few other events coming up in December that you will want to be aware of. "Minute to Win It Night" is Tue., Dec. 2, and is much like the game show on TV. This is a very fun and challenging night, to say the least.

Our annual YD Christmas Party is Mon., Dec. 8, where we have a gift exchange and lots of junk food.

And it just wouldn't be a year if we didn't finish it off with Christmas caroling around town on Mon., Dec. 15.

We also have our first major retreat of the school year coming up in January over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend: "Hotdoggin' 2015" is a four-day, three-night snow retreat in Leavenworth, and we are taking deposits and sign-ups at this time.

If you have any questions on any of our weekly events or retreats, please feel free to call us at 360.630.6063.

—Kevik and Marta Rensink, directors
Concrete Youth Dynamics

Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley



Above: Members of Renata Mapes' 5th grade class at Concrete Elementary School show off their full garbage bags after spending time Nov. 14 picking up trash in Silo Park in Concrete. The school focused on citizenship in November, and the students came up with the idea of collecting litter as a reflection of good citizenship. "It's been great," said Mapes.



Right: Fifth-grader D. J. Young shows off a rusty bucket he found along the walk from the school to Silo Park. Other students combed the gravel of Silo Park playground for the smallest litter items.



Mat Baird, Clay Nelson, and Sean Geary present the colors with Sgt. Riffenberry during a Veterans Day assembly at Concrete High School on Nov. 10. All three young men are pursuing careers in the armed forces.

1st Annual

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At Concrete Elementary
School gym

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Clear Lake



HISTORY CORNER

The service station pictured above was built in 1928 by Mrs. Emily Hyatt. It was located on the northeast corner of Highway 9 and Old Day Creek Rd. The *Courier-Times* covered the new

business, saying, "After the signs have been placed, motorists will be advised that this is the Hy-Line service station. Gas, oils, and accessories are being handled. Restrooms have been installed for the accommodations

of both men and women. Hyatt opened for business last week. Besides the gas and oil, there is free air and water." *Photo courtesy of Clear Lake Historical Association.*

—Deanna Ammons, historian
Clear Lake and Day Creek

Continue the cycle

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this newspaper



Community Calendar



DECEMBER

- 2 Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center hosts nature author/photographer Kevin Ebi, Howard Miller Steelhead Park Clubhouse, Rockport, 1 p.m.
- 4 Geoffrey Castles plays Concrete Theatre, 7 p.m.; see notice, p. 6
- 5 Deep Forest Tours begin on Fridays through Sundays at Rockport State Park; see article, p. 23
- 5 Board Game Nights kick off at 5b's Bakery, Concrete, 5 to 8 p.m.; see notice, p. 6
- 6 The Magic of Christmas, downtown Sedro-Woolley; pony, trolley, and train rides at 3 p.m.; parade at 5 p.m.; see article, p. 16
- 6 Dinner and a Movie, 5b's Bakery and Concrete Theatre, Concrete; dinner till 7 p.m., movie at 7:30 p.m.; \$20; see notice, p. 6
- 6 Darrington Community Dance, 6:30 p.m.; see notice, p. 24; info at 206.402.8646
- 6 Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center opens for weekends in December and January, Rockport; see ad, p. 4
- 6–7 Concrete Lions Club Christmas tree sales; see ad, p. 33
- 7 Marblemount Christmas Bazaar, Marblemount Community Hall, Marblemount, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; free admission; see article, p. 26; info at www.marblemountcommunityhall.org/events
- 7 Lemley Chapel's Annual Candle Lighting Ceremony of Remembrance, 1008 Third St., Sedro-Woolley, 2 p.m.; see ad, p. 4; info at 360.855.1288
- 10 "Shadows of Liberty" documentary screens at Concrete Center, 45821 Railroad Ave., Concrete; 7 p.m.; free admission; donations accepted to support KSVU 90.1 FM and the Shadows of Liberty Coast to Coast Screening & Media Reform Action Tour
- 13 The Magic of Christmas: Santa Breakfast, Sedro-Woolley Community Center, 8:30 to 11 a.m.; kids are free, adults by donation; see article, p. 16
- 13 Community Bazaar and Children's Craft Fair, sponsored by Imagine Concrete Foundation, Concrete Elementary School gym, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; vendors welcome; see ad, p. 13; info and vendor inquiries to morgareidge@frontier.com or 360.770.2836
- 13 The Magic of Christmas: Holiday Home Tour, Sedro-Woolley; refreshments at Sedro-Woolley Museum at 4:30 p.m.; homes open for walking tour from 5 to 9 p.m.; tickets \$5; see ad, p. 3, and article, p. 39
- 13 Christmas in Concrete: Parade at 6 p.m., Santa at Concrete Center at 6:30 p.m.; see notice, p. 6
- 13–14 Concrete Lions Club Christmas tree sales; see ad, p. 33
- 18 "An Evening of Story and Song," Concrete Theatre, 45920 Main St., Concrete, 7 to 8:30 p.m.; \$5 admission; see notice, p. 16; info at www.concrete-theatre.com
- 19 Concrete Lions Club Christmas tree sales; see ad, p. 33
- 26 Skagit County offices and departments closed, including Sauk Transfer Station and Clear Lake Compactor site

JANUARY

- 3 Skagit Eagle Festival begins, every weekend in January; see ad, p. 40; info at www.concrete-wa.com and chamber@concrete-wa.com
- 3 Raptor Presentations by Sarvey Wildlife Care Center, Concrete Theatre, 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. shows; free admission; see ad, p. 5
- 10 Upper Skagit Library 10th Anniversary Celebration; see article, p. 32
- 10–11 Skagit Eagle Festival in Marblemount, featuring Native American presentations, hot food, and arts/crafts vendors, Marblemount Community Hall, all day

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

Community meetings

- 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 workshop on Dec. 15, at 6 p.m. in the high school Commons. The board will hold its regular monthly meeting on Dec. 18, 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@glacierview.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, 1 to 4 p.m. 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.
- Marblemount Community Hall board and staff** meet the second Tue. of each month at the hall, at 6:30 p.m. 360.873.2048 or 360.853.8388.
- Saukrates Cafe** meets the last Wed. of each month at Annie's Pizza Station in Concrete, at 5 p.m. Conversation topics are posted at Upper Skagit Library and <http://saukratescafe.wordpress.com>.
- Sedro-Woolley High School Alumni Association** meets the third Wed. of each month, at 1 p.m., at the Sedro-Woolley Senior Center. 360.424.7243
- 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 regular meetings on Dec. 8 at 7 p.m. in the Support Services Building. 360.855.3500 or kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us.
- Upper Skagit Library District (USLD) Board** meets the third Thurs. of each month at 5 p.m., at the library in Concrete. Public is welcome. 360.853.7939 or info@upperskagit.lib.wa.us.

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Sedro-Woolley



Christmas magic returns to S-W

Christmas is on its way back to “Sedro-Whoolleyville,” complete with a Dr. Seuss theme.

The Magic of Christmas begins Dec. 6, with free pony, train, and trolley rides, free crafts, and more at 3 p.m., followed by the tree-lighting and parade at 5 p.m. Dr. Seuss-inspired costumes are encouraged.

The Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce has selected Carolyn Freeman as the 2014 Magic of Christmas Parade Grand Marshal. Freeman is the long-time executive director of the Sedro-Woolley Museum and is recognized for her commitment to preserving local history and artifacts.

“I’m honored to be selected as Grand Marshal,” said Freeman. “Sedro-Woolley is a great town and it means so much to me and my family.”

With her late husband, Kerry, Freeman was instrumental in starting Sedro-

Woolley’s museum, securing a partnership with the city, obtaining funding, and overseeing operations, maintenance, and acquisitions in 1988, when the first holiday home tour was born to raise money for the venture.

The annual Founders’ Day celebration is a product of Freeman’s imagination and research. Freeman also guided the creation of a satellite branch of the museum at Country Meadow Village in Sedro-Woolley in 2011. As executive director, she continues to welcome visitors from all over the globe who are interested in learning about Sedro-Woolley’s history.

“I love to tell people about our city,”



Freeman

See **Whoolleyville**, p. 39



Sedro-Woolley Boys & Girls Club Director John Garman (left) mugs for the camera with a Grinchy character who bears passing resemblance to EDASC Director Don Wick during last year’s Christmas festivities in downtown Sedro-Woolley. This year’s lineup of events includes a parade on Dec. 6, and the Santa Breakfast and Holiday Home Tour on Dec. 13.

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Sedro-Woolley favorite son Vern Sims—shown above, left, with fellow car dealer Dwayne Lane in 2013—passed away Oct. 23. Sims, 89, a lifelong Skagit County resident, passed away at his home after a lifetime spent improving Sedro-Woolley and Skagit County. Rising from a humble beginning, Sims was named *Time* magazine’s Auto Dealer of the Year in 1987, and featured on its cover. He was a hunter, a boxer, a farmer, a U.S. Army Air Corps colonel, a Rotary Club member. His life grew ever more storied, but he never lost touch with his roots. He will be missed.

A heavily attended Celebration of Life service was held Nov. 15. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Lemley Chapel, Sedro-Woolley.

Bringing back the bowtie

Sedro-Woolley craftsman creates clothes for discerning dressers.

By Tahlia Honea

In a town full of Carhartts, jeans, and hoodies, a bowtie is a bold statement.

But for one dapper Sedro-Woolley resident, the bowtie has become a regular fashion statement and a budding business.

Scott Holmstrom, 32, may be downtown Sedro-Woolley’s most stylish fixture during his workdays at Oliver-Hammer, a store that has been “clothing the working man since 1921,” according to its Web site. Holmstrom’s impeccably curated getups typically include a fitted button-up shirt, wool vest, and a handmade bowtie—designed and sewed by Holmstrom himself.

He’s always been interested in the craftsmanship of fine clothing, frequently wearing a three-piece suit during his teen years at Sedro-Woolley High School. Noticing Holmstrom’s stylish haberdashery, about a year ago locals started asking him to custom sew one of

his hats, vests, or bowties. Since then, he has sewed nearly 200 bowties, through his side business “Butcher and Tweed.”

“I never considered a business. I never considered selling anything I made,” he said during an interview at his home and hobby farm just north of Sedro-Woolley. (The “Butcher” part of his business’ name comes from the hogs he raises and helps process on his family farm.)

“It’s been inspired by other people. I’m happy being a little craftsman in a small room cranking out a project here and there.”

It all started when he was working at the Filson outlet in Burlington. One day, a well-dressed older couple came in. The man was wearing a bowtie, but took it off to try on something else. While the man checked out, he nonchalantly tied it neatly back around his neck in a perfect bow, without a mirror, let alone breaking up the

conversation.

“I looked at this guy and thought, ‘I have a lot to learn,’” Holmstrom recalled.

No question about it: Holmstrom needed a bowtie. None of the cheap polyester bowties available at chain stores would do, so he set out to make one for himself.

The first few didn’t work: blown-out seams, too short, or the wrong shape. Then he got it.

Soon, people saw him wearing them and asked if he could make them one.

“We wore ours to a wedding in downtown Seattle, at a fancy private club in a hotel, and people were commenting about them all night, saying ‘we love your bowties’,” said David Bricka, a longtime Sedro-Woolley fixture. “He is providing a really cool service for Sedro-Woolley.”

Bricka believes bowties are making

See **Holmstrom**, p. 33



Entrepreneur Scott Holmstrom sews custom hats, vests, and bowties for discerning lovers of fine clothing through his startup business “Butcher and Tweed.” You can find him most workdays at Oliver-Hammer in downtown Sedro-Woolley.

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Lyman



Council summary

The Lyman Town Council held regular monthly meetings on Oct. 14 and Nov. 18, with the latter meeting preceded by a property tax levy public hearing. Following is a summary of those meetings. Complete minutes for every council meeting are posted in the hall by the front door of Lyman Town Hall.

Oct. 14 regular meeting

- *Mayor's Report:* Mayor Debra Heinzman reported that the bench in memory of Louie Parker was installed at the park.
- Kelly and Ryan Winn from Water & Wastewater Services were present to meet citizens and answer questions. They discussed daily chlorine residual tests, pH, and chlorine. The Winns stated they were going to meet with Fire District 8 about water usage and the fire hydrants.
- A letter from the Liquor Control Board was read, which stated that Cannastar was planning to use a closed loop CO2 system for its extraction method.
- *Citizen Comments:* Bud Meyer lodged a complaint about hunters ignoring posted No Trespassing signs. A letter from the council and mayor will be drafted for the SCSO and WDFW, explaining the problem.

Nov. 18 property tax levy public hearing

- The purpose of this meeting was to allow for public comment regarding the property tax levy increase of 1 percent, which is allowed by law. Lyman's current tax rate is 1.3247 percent.
- It was suggested that the town should look into B&O taxes on manufacturing and possibly a cemetery district to fund the cemetery.

Nov. 18 regular meeting

- Representatives from the Lyman Car Show presented the town with a donation of \$5,750 for the cook shack and \$1,000 as a regular cemetery donation.
- Mayor Heinzman reported that the French drain installed at the NBMB was completed. That should keep the water from seeping or running into the building under the door.
- Council voted to approve Ordinance No. 240 (property tax levy), with Councilmembers Mike Swanson and Gail Ganga opposed.
- Skagit County Fire Marshal Kelly Blaine is working with Clerk Debbie Boyd to get an Interlocal agreement with Lyman for its fire inspection services.

—Compiled from staff notes

Food Drive, Winter Program at Lyman Elementary

The Lyman Elementary ASB is again collecting food to donate to the Lyman and Hamilton Food Banks. Parents are asked to bring nonperishable items to their child's classroom by Dec.19. The school also will accept nonperishable food donations at the Winter Program.

Winter Program

This year's Winter Program is scheduled for Thur., Dec. 11, at 6:30 p.m. in the gym. The doors will open at 6 p.m. Students are to report to their classroom at 6:10 p.m.

In consideration for all performers, attendees are asked to stay for the entire performance. Teachers will send notes home with more specifics on what each child needs to wear. Nonperishable food items will be collected for the canned food drive.

—Kristi Johnson

Angel Tree seeks donations

The Heart to Heart Christmas Angel Tree is seeking donations for this year's children and their families on its program.

In addition to monetary donations, the charity also asks for blankets; mittens/ gloves; socks; personal hygiene items such as shampoo, body wash, soap, etc.; wrapping paper; and tape; as well as nonperishable food items or gift cards. There also is a need for bedding and bed pillows.

Contact organizer Tammie Werner at 360.826.3818 or hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com with questions.

Donations of cash/checks also are appreciated and will be used to help with additional needed items. Checks need to be made payable to Heart To Heart Charity and mailed to: P.O. Box 1372 Lyman, WA 98263

The charity also accepts credit/debit card donations. Donations of any size are greatly appreciated.

—Tammie Werner

The Lyman Elementary Parent Group Craft Bazaar was held Nov. 23 in the gym and hallway at Lyman Elementary. Don't let the placid scene below fool you; at the height of the event, the school hummed with eager visitors. With 31 vendors and 40 raffle items, organizers said the event was a success. Of the money raised, 100 percent goes back to the school, said coordinator Dornita Castilleja. "It was a great success for the school."



Day Creek



Don't be frightened by your electric bill

Electrical conservation ideas for winter

As fall turns to winter, every homeowner can benefit from these tips to conserve energy and reduce the electric bill.

Pay attention to the thermostat

The ideal temperature to set the thermostat at during the fall and winter is 65 degrees. For optimal savings, lower the temperature at night and when you're not home, and warm the home back up, keeping the thermostat at 65 degrees or below, when at home. One way to monitor the use of the thermostat is by installing a programmable thermostat with apps connected to a phone, tablet, or other mobile device.

Change the light bulbs

To save on energy consumption, consider switching from traditional incandescent lighting, or even compact fluorescent lighting, to LED lighting. LED lights use less energy and last longer than traditional bulbs or CFLs, saving money over time. Halogen lights should be used for outdoor lighting. They use significantly less energy than traditional

outdoor light bulbs.

Consider installing automated switches

Using automated switches allows for optimal lighting and adjustments to take place. By regulating the lighting in a home, the energy consumption will go down, reducing the electric bill. Installing automated switches that connect to mobile devices gives you more control over your lighting needs.

Be mindful of holiday lighting

Halloween starts the season of outdoor holiday lighting. The best thing to do to conserve energy and keep the electric bill low while still using holiday lighting is to put them on a timer. Avoid running the lights during the day and set the time for them to come on for well after dark. Set the lights to go off when, or slightly after, you go to bed.

Beware of vampire lighting

This refers to all of the electronics that consume energy but go unnoticed. Items like coffee makers, microwaves, and computers are constantly plugged in and consume energy even when they are not operating. To conserve energy, unplug items like toasters, coffee makers, and other home electronics that can go unused until needed.

Train to protect your community

By Krista Salinas

C.E.R.T., which stands for Community Emergency Response Team, is a program that educates people about disaster preparedness and trains them in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. There is even a section regarding terrorism.

The primary reason for C.E.R.T. training is to give people the decision-making, organizational, and practical skills to offer immediate assistance to family members, neighbors, and associates while waiting for help.

Graduates from the C.E.R.T. program

will have a better understanding of the potential threats to our community and can take the right steps to lessen the effects of these hazards.

There are many jobs within the C.E.R.T. program that can be filled regardless of age or physical ability. Some of the less physical jobs can include keeping databases, developing a Web site, writing a newsletter, planning activities, and helping with special events or exercises.

Skagit County currently has a C.E.R.T. program in the Anacortes and La Conner area, but the ultimate goal is to offer it throughout Skagit County.

For more information about the Skagit County C.E.R.T. program, go to www.skagitcounty.net and click Emergency Management for contact information and a schedule for the next C.E.R.T. training.

Community notes

Investigation on Lyman Ferry Rd.

There continues an ongoing investigation at a residence on Lyman Ferry Rd. The Skagit County Drug Task Force, the Washington State Patrol, Skagit County Sheriff, Snohomish County Sheriff, and federal agents are working together on the investigation.

In October, police removed 12 large garbage bags of marijuana plants from an illegal marijuana growing and manufacturing operation at the site, along with more than 50 questionable vehicles.

Christmas Party

Be there or be square! At the Christmas Party on Dec. 16, ham, potatoes, rolls, and a vegetable will be provided. Dinner guests are asked to bring their favorite Christmas goodies. The party begins at 6:30 p.m.

Davis Slough bridge project

The portable traffic light has been removed at mile marker 14. The road looks nice and traffic is back to normal.

Women HAND in Hand

The Women HAND in Hand conference with Jennifer O'Neill was a great success. We were excited to host more than 200 women from all over the county, plus guests from Oregon and Idaho. Plans are in full swing for our next event to be held in April with Ruth Graham, daughter of Dr. Billy Graham.

Kingdom Builders

Donna Pulver and Kathy Henderson, co-directors of **Kingdom Builders**, are reaching out to the Day Creek community by working with married couples who are seeking counseling help. Soon they'll be back on the road. Along with traveling the roads of Day Creek, meeting community

members, and gathering information, they will be available to the community for hospital visits and crisis calls. For more information, call 360.826.3003, 360.826.3581, or 360.826.3822.

Day Creek Chapel

Work has begun on the Christmas play. We would love to include your children. Rehearsals are held during Sunday School at 10 a.m. The performance is Dec. 21 at 10 a.m. with refreshments afterward.

The **Day Creek Walkie Talkies** are up and at 'em. Every day around 7 a.m., there is a group walking the streets of Day Creek. When you see them, wave or honk—or better yet, join them. For more information, call 360.826.4375.

Day Creek Book Club

The club meets at Cedar Springs Lodge on Barben Rd. on the third Monday of each month. New members are welcome. All members are welcome to host a club meeting at their favorite hangout spot.

This month's book is *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown. For more information, call 360.661.0247.

Garden dirt

Our resident gardener Donna Pulver offers these tips for December:

- Weather permitting, you will still be able to plant fruit trees, evergreens, shrubs, perennials, berries, deciduous trees, and ferns.
- Fall is the best time to spread compost. Winter rains and snowfall help carry it into the soil.
- Clean up the garden areas. Weed, trim (be sure to remove all the diseased items but don't put them into the compost bin), and mulch.
- The seed catalogs will start arriving soon. Enjoy them, read them, and make plans.

We are looking for ideas for the Day Creek community—fun events and fundraisers—to support the fire hall and get to know the neighbors. If you have an idea, call Donna Pulver 360.826.3003 or Kathy Henderson at 360.826.3581.

—Kathy Henderson

2014 Community Potluck dates

December 16, 6:30 p.m.

November in pictures



Above: Members of the Sedro-Woolley High School marching band make their way with much pomp through the streets of Sedro-Woolley during the Veterans Day Parade on Nov. 10. *Photo by Stacy Penno.*

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Left: Lucky guy Jim Earley shows off his October winnings from Cascade Supply in Concrete: A big teddy bear and a wagonload of goodies. *Photo by Carol Rohan.*



The Concrete Lions Club Halloween Party again drew dozens of kids in creative costumes to Concrete Elementary gym on Oct. 31. **Clockwise from top:** Rhiannon Lair, 6, fishes for candy; Spider-Man Brennan Alberts, 3, decorates a pumpkin; Laura Powell, 7, makes for a scary zombie; and Couper Sanchez, 5, becomes Optimus Prime for one night.



www.concrete-herald.com

www.concrete-herald.com



Above: Members of JJ's Cruisers car club visited the Helping Hands Food Bank in Sedro-Woolley Nov. 19 to drop off a \$2,000 donation as a show of their support for the food bank. Accepting the check is Helping Hands board President Rick Judd; representing JJ's Cruisers that day are, continuing left, Peggy Hatley, Rick Lemley, and Duane Gish. The large donation was possible because of above-average support at the car shows JJ's Cruisers hosted in 2014, especially the Founders' Day show. "Our food source charges three cents per pound, so you can see what \$2,000 turns into," said Judd, who said the donation does more than simply feed the hungry. "A lot of our volunteers are past customers. They come back to serve others." Last year, Helping Hands served 136,302 individuals, a 9 percent uptick from 2012. The facility distributed 1,120,453 pounds of food in 2013. Volunteers also installed an onsite community garden to supply organically grown produce.



Left: Work continued on the Fire and Life Safety Building in Concrete. The framed area in this photo will eventually become the facility's meeting room and kitchen. **Above:** Cupples Alley in Concrete got a new water line to replace the decades-old wooden one in late November.

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Hamilton



Veterans memorial dedicated at Hamilton Cemetery

This year’s Veterans Day held special meaning for attendees of a ceremony at Hamilton Cemetery.

Led by members of George Baldrige American Legion Post No. 43 from Sedro-Woolley, the group braved cold winds to see a new veterans memorial stone dedicated at its new home.

The memorial is an 18 x 24-inch slab of polished olivine, mounted on a pedestal. Six bronze medallions are cemented to

the slab; one is the U.S. seal, and the remaining five represent the country’s five armed service branches: Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Navy. The inscription on the stone reads, “This memorial is dedicated to the men and women of the armed forces of the United States of America.” Two benches complete the memorial site.

Hamilton Cemetery survives solely on gravesite sales and donations.



Hamilton Cemetery Association members joined members from George Baldrige American Legion Post No. 43 from Sedro-Woolley for a ceremony dedicating a new veterans memorial at Hamilton Cemetery on Nov. 11. Counter-clockwise from above: Legion Chaplain Jim Roe leads the ceremony, providing the memorial’s back story and thanking the many individuals and businesses that came together to make the memorial a reality. Former Hamilton Cemetery Association President Terry Russell shares his thoughts on the history of the cemetery and the events leading up to the ceremony. Legion members raise their rifles in salute prior to “Taps” being played.

Council summary

The Hamilton Town Council held a regular meeting Oct. 14. Following is a summary of that meeting.

- Water Dept.:** Cas Hancock stated that this month we are down to 3 percent water loss. Council discussed the water tanks and the possibility of having to order a sensor. Hancock spoke of Resolution 06–14, which concerns the approval by the Hamilton mayor and town council of the Water System Plan for 2012 through 2018. Council voted to accept Resolution 06–14.
- Skagit County Sheriff’s Deputy Mark Sonnabend listened to complaints about speeding and drug activity. He suggested getting as much information to the deputies as quickly as possible so they can follow up.
- Mayor Cromley announced the resignation of Councilmember

- McDermott, effective immediately.
- Fire Dept.:** Councilmember Bates stated that they have been busy and that he got to drive the new ambulance. He informed the council that the service appointment for the tank was cancelled because of the service department closing. It will be rescheduled with a different company.
- Public Comments:** Resident Tamara McGrady wanted to discuss the traffic that was coming and going on Division St. McGrady also was concerned that the ECO blocks were disappearing and she questioned the maintenance of Division St. Resident Mat Coker asked if there were any ideas regarding the lake issue at the end of South St.
- Street Dept.:** Dave Mitchell stated that the new lawnmower works great. Mayor Cromley announced an earthquake drill in two days at 10:16 a.m.



Rockport



PIONEERING TODAY

Orange Ginger cookies

By Melissa K. Norris

There’s nothing like a little bit of baking to make it feel like Christmas. When flour and sugar sprinkle the counter tops like dusts of snow ... or I just haven’t gotten to wiping them down yet—but the snow reference sounds much more fun and festive.

I adore old-fashioned recipes. Most cookie recipes in the pioneer days used molasses as part of the sweetener, since molasses was something most farmers could either produce themselves or get cheaper than sugar. Citrus and other fruits often were saved to use just for Christmas baking. Fruit cake anyone?

This is one of my favorite Christmas recipes. It has a hint of spice, ginger, and orange all rolled into a melt-in-your-mouth soft cookie. It’s so good it almost plays jingle bells on your tongue. Almost.

- Orange Ginger cookies**
- 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
 - 1/4 cup molasses
 - 1/2 cup melted butter (dairy-free option: 1/3 cup melted coconut oil)
 - 1 egg
 - 1 tablespoon freshly grated orange peel
 - 2 cups spelt flour (if using all-purpose flour, cut to 1-3/4 cups)
 - 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
 - 1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar
 - 1/4 teaspoon sea salt
 - 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
 - 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Cream together sugar, molasses, egg, butter, and grated orange peel. Stir in remaining ingredients until well combined. Roll into 1-inch balls; dip in succanat or evaporated cane juice and place sugar side up on an ungreased cookie sheet. Flatten slightly. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes or until lightly browned on the edges. Allow to cool for a couple of minutes on pan before transferring to cooling rack. Makes approximately two dozen cookies.

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

Go deep into Rockport State Park this winter

By Alysa Adams

The forest is waiting—are you ready? Locals, travelers, and nature enthusiasts of all ages are invited to join the interpretive staff and volunteers at Rockport State Park this winter as we walk among the giants.

Nestled within the Skagit Valley in the heart of bald eagle country, our majestic 670-acre old growth forest wonderland is teeming with lichen and moss-laden ancient cedar, fir, hemlock, and maple trees. Crane your neck upward for a peek at the spectacular canopies of our 300-plus-year-old matriarchs, some of which tower 250 feet tall. Watch your step below as we navigate the leaf-strewn paths, through the ever-changing forest thriving with life around every turn. Past enormous nurse logs, soaring snags, and the chattering squirrels above we’ll enjoy an afternoon of adventure and exploration. You may even catch a glimpse of a passing eagle along our lower trails overlooking the river.

After your guided hike, feel free to participate in a fun craft activity offered in our Discovery Center. You’ll also find a variety of interactive wildlife displays, books, and games. We’ll even provide warm refreshments and a crackling fire.

Guided hikes will take place Dec. 5 through Feb. 15 on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday as often as necessary between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Each session can be customized depending upon your interest. An ADA-accessible trail is available.

Remember to display your Discover Pass when parking. Passes also will be available to purchase upon arrival.

Rockport State Park is located off SR 20, about half a mile west of Rockport. For driving directions, go to www.parks.wa.gov/574/rockport.

For more information, contact Alysa Adams at Rockport State Park, at 360.854.8224 or rockport@parks.wa.gov.

Alysa Adams is an interpretive specialist for Rockport State Park.



More than eagle-watching

Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center a source of education, advocacy.

By Cora Thomas

I can still remember my parents teaching me how to spot a bald eagle: “Look for the white head and tail feathers, since their bodies are black and difficult to see.”

It’s January on the Skagit River near Rockport, and the bright white heads of bald eagles are prominent against the gray riverbanks and naked alders. Even though I’ve grown accustomed to seeing bald eagles since I grew up in the Upper Skagit Valley, I still take a moment to admire their strength and stoic demeanor when I catch one surfing the thermals or perched in an old growth tree.

I keep a lookout today as I drive the scenic State Route 20 up to Howard Miller Steelhead Park to volunteer at the Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center in Rockport.

As eagles begin to congregate, eagle watchers from across the region make their own trek to the Upper Skagit to catch a glimpse of these regal creatures. Many of these hopefuls visit the center. As I pull up to the center, volunteers are busy directing bundled-up eagle watchers to the best lookouts. Before a guided walk to the river, a visitor peers over the 6-foot-wide eagle’s nest next to the facility and gasps, “Is that real?” I smile.

I walk into the building just as a park

ranger begins a presentation for a group of wide-eyed elementary school kids.

About the time that bald eagles are migrating from Alaska toward the Skagit River, there is another group preparing for their arrival, the Skagit River Bald Eagle Awareness Team (SRBEAT), the nonprofit that operates the interpretive center. As a volunteer and former board member, I’ve seen their fervor and dedication play out. We work to advocate for the conservation of bald eagles and their habitat, which

See Interpretive Center, p. 38

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Darrington



Darrington IGA wins community service award

Story and photo by Jentry L. Wright

On Oct. 8, around 1 p.m., people began to enter the Darrington IGA with balloons and cakes. Owners Kevin and Sheila Ashe and Randy Ashe were expecting to have a meeting with Tyler Myers of the Washington Food Industry Association (WFIA) out of Olympia. They had no idea they were going to receive the first Washington Food Industry Association “2014 Community Service Award.”

Myers nominated the Ashe family to receive this award for, as the award states, their “outstanding community action that positively and notably affected individuals and the community.”

The Ashes and Darrington IGA staff showed generosity and willingness to help out and donate whatever they could to support the SR 530 landslide workers and community after the deadly slide on March 22.

The WFIA mission statement is “dedicated to promoting and protecting the independent, community-focused grocery industry.” The association offers a variety of services to independently owned grocery stores, from management support to activism to pricing aid. Darrington IGA is a member of the association, and Myers is their Colleague and Team Leader.

The Ashe family truly loves Darrington and the surrounding community. Sheila Ashe said that they “were completely surprised and do not feel that they did anything out of the ordinary” to receive this award. “If anyone called or came in and needed anything related to the slide, we just donated it,” she said.

Darrington IGA even made deliveries if needed and served free coffee and espressos to responders.

Ashe said that the whole Darrington community should have received the award. The Ashes are very proud of



Darrington IGA owners, employees, community members, and supporters gathered for a group photo on Oct. 8. The owners learned that day that they'd won the first annual 2014 Community Service Award from the Washington Food Industry Association, of which the store is a member.

their dedicated employees who called in on their days off after the slide and volunteered to work or help out in any way that they could.

Ashe said she was humbled by all of the support they received to provide assistance and the phone calls received after the slide. Darrington IGA received phone calls from around the country with people wanting to help out and donate money to support the effort. One caller and donor was a former Darrington High School graduate and community member who now lives four states away.

Darrington is lucky to have wonderful employees and business owners who are truly concerned citizens and want to serve the community to their best ability.

Darrington IGA has proven that they are definitely “Hometown Proud.”

December at the Darrington Library

Children

- Sharing Tales, Dec. 29, 11 a.m. (for families too).
- Fun Tangle for Kids, Dec. 30, 11 a.m., for kids age 9 and older.

School-age

- Physics FUNdamentals, Wednesdays, Dec. 9, 10, 17; 12:30 to 2 p.m.; for grades 4–8 (ages 9–13). Preregistration required.
- Lego Club, Thursdays, Dec. 4, 18; 3 to 4 p.m.

Teens

- Arduino (microcomputer) Drop-In, Thur., Dec. 11, 3 to 4 p.m.

Adults

- Bibliophiles (book lovers): *In Other Rooms, Other Wonders*, by Daniyal Mueenuddin, Wed., Dec. 3, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

For more information, go to www.sno-isle.org?ID=1194 or call 360.436.1600.

—Bryan Stratton, branch manager

**Darrington area merchants
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each month.
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Report: Sauk-Suiattle Reservation at risk from climate change

The Sauk-Suiattle Indian Reservation, including residential housing and tribal administrative offices, is at risk from flooding and erosion, according to an assessment performed by Seattle-based Natural Systems Design (NSD).

The assessment looked at the impacts of climate change to both tribal infrastructure and the Sauk River ecosystem that support fish and wildlife critical to the tribe. NSD studied the flows and flooding of rivers, glacial melting, and the impact of climate change in the valleys.

The study concluded that the natural environment is at grave risk because of increased erosion and flooding.

The Sauk-Suiattle Reservation lies within the channel migration zone of the Sauk River and eventually could suffer catastrophic losses if the river channel

moves into developed areas. Within the next 80 years, the magnitude of flooding is expected to increase 50 percent and the frequency more than double.

“The tribe currently has no defenses to stop the river from migrating into residential housing and tribal offices,” the assessment states. “Because of the warming climate this scenario is much more likely and poses an unacceptable level of risk to the Sauk-Suiattle Tribe over the next several decades. Severe and irretrievable damages, and possible loss of life, are an inevitable consequence of failing to move residents and facilities out of their current location.”

The Tribal Council has reached out to other governments for assistance obtaining additional lands and access to lands, and to put lands into trust status with the federal government.

“Ideally, we would move the entire reservation,” said Jason Joseph, Sauk-Suiattle natural resources director. “The results of this study will assist in that effort. However, we still have to maintain our tribal lands in the meantime.”

Read the report online at go.nwifc.org/saukclimate.



Southbound I-5 Stillaguamish River Bridge near Arlington reopened Nov. 8 after WSDOT crews completed new bridge deck work 18 days ahead of schedule. Both directions of I-5 have shared the northbound bridge since July 29, when crews closed the southbound bridge. During the closure, crews removed the 81-year-old concrete-and-steel-rebar deck, replaced pieces of the steel frame that supports the deck, poured a new 7½-inch-thick concrete deck reinforced with coated steel rebar, and repaved the bridge approaches. The southbound bridge was closed for 102 days. The last of the work finished the morning of Nov. 20, with the installation of loops in the pavement to track travel times and vehicle trips on that stretch of highway. *Photo courtesy of WSDOT.*

Oso and Darrington fire departments receive \$30,000 donation for rescue equipment

Fireman’s Fund awards grants to replace equipment damaged in slide.

Residents and firefighters of Oso and Darrington will be safer thanks to three grants totaling \$30,000 donated to Snohomish Fire Protection Districts 24 and 25. Awarded by Arthur J. Gallagher and Fireman’s Fund Insurance Company, the grants fund new rescue equipment and tools.

Firefighters of Snohomish Fire Protection Districts 24 and 25 were first responders to the tragic mudslide that occurred March 22 near Oso. Most of their search and rescue equipment and tools were destroyed or lost during rescue and recovery efforts. The grant funds will be used to replace much-needed firefighting and search and rescue equipment and tools.

“We are very thankful for the support from Arthur J. Gallagher and Fireman’s Fund,” said Fire Chief Willy Harper. “With our limited budget, it’s often difficult to go out and purchase all the

equipment we need. These grants fill a lot of voids and provide us with equipment and rescue gear to help in various emergency situations.”

Chief Harper, Health & Safety Officer Jeff McClelland, Snohomish Fire Protection Districts 24 and 25 officers, firefighters, and executives and employees from Arthur J. Gallagher and Fireman’s Fund gathered Nov. 4 for a special grant presentation at Whitehorse Community Center in Darrington.

Since 2004, Fireman’s Fund has awarded grants to more than 2,100 different organizations totaling more than \$31 million, including \$877,000 in Washington.

To learn more about the grant program and other grants awarded in Washington, go to www.firemansfund.com/heritage. To learn more about the history of Fireman’s Fund, go to www.firemansfundtimeline.com.

Community dance lineup

This year’s Darrington Community Dance season continues in December. Evenings typically begin with dance instruction at 6:30 p.m., with the dance following at 7 p.m. The dances are held at Mansford Grange, 1265 Railroad Ave. in Darrington.

The dances are designed to appeal to all family members; dancing is optional.

The 2014–15 season is as follows:

- Sat., Dec. 6: Northern Contraband
- Sat., Jan. 10: Peckin’ Out Dough, with guest caller Joanna Stodden
- Sat., Feb. 7: Heliotrope
- Sat., March 7: Cobbler
- Sat., April 4: La Famille Leger

For more information, call 206.402.8646.

—Marla Skaglund



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Darrington IGA

Randy Ashe, Kevin and Sheila Ashe, owners.

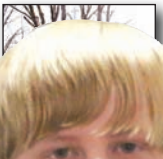


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Marblemount



Marblemount boy attains Eagle Scout rank

Boy Scout Brian Torheim completed a major milestone on Nov. 9, during a ceremony that conferred upon him the rank of Eagle Scout—the highest rank in the Scouting world.

Torheim, 15, earned the rank after years of hard work and completing a special project, during which he prepared Christmas gifts for children in need, working through the East County Resource Center in Concrete.

Torheim is the son of Art and Tonya Torheim of Marblemount. “He’s independent. He’s always been the voice of reason,” Art Torheim said during the ceremony.



Marblemount Boy Scout Brian Torheim responds to the Eagle Charge (above) and shares his thoughts with supporters (left) during his Eagle Court of Honor on Nov. 9 at Community Bible Church in Concrete. Only one in 100 Boy Scouts achieves the rank of Eagle Scout.



Pastor David Nichols preaches Nov. 2 at North Cascade Community Church. The sermon was Nichols’ last; he retired from regular service after more than 15 years with the church. Nichols and his wife, Faye, will move to Burlington for health reasons. The church’s new pastor is Matt Del Bosque. *Photo by Dan DuVarney.*

Santa Claus coming to Marblemount

’Tis the season for our umpteenth Christmas Bazaar and visit from the “right jolly old elf,” this year slated for Sun., Dec. 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Marblemount Community Hall.

Inviting the community and visitors to “shop local,” the hall will host a number of arts and crafts vendors where gifts can be found for almost everyone.

In addition, the traditional pancake breakfast, as well as biscuits and gravy, fruit cups, and hot beverages will be served all morning, with the much-anticipated arrival of Santa and his elf at noon.

For more information, go to www.marblemountcommunityhall.org/events.
—Christie Fairchild

Volunteer eagle watchers needed

Do you like spending time outdoors, meeting new people, and learning about bald eagles, salmon, the Skagit River, and



This group of volunteers is responsible for throwing yet another free Thanksgiving feast for members of the Marblemount community. This year’s dinner was held Nov. 23 and fed a total of 102 hungry diners. *Not pictured:* Sallie Larsen.

North Cascades? If you are an adult who enjoys winter birding and sharing your knowledge with others, then the Forest Service is looking for you to become an Eagle Watcher volunteer.

Volunteers staff information tents near eagle viewing areas along the Skagit River and look at eagles through spotting

scopes and educate viewers about bald eagles. Volunteers also give nature walks or even formal programs if they have the desire.

Volunteer solo or with friends or relatives. For more information, contact Tanya Kitterman after Dec. 10 at 360.854.2630.



Newhalem



Students learn, network, and collaborate in the North Cascades

By Katie Griffith

The sun was sparkling on Diablo Lake as a yellow school bus arrived at the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center to drop off students from all over the Pacific Northwest. Students traveled from as far as Astoria, Ore., and as close as Concrete to attend the fifth annual Youth Leadership Conference Nov. 7–9.

The Youth Leadership Conference is modeled after a professional conference and is made possible through a partnership between North Cascades Institute, North Cascades National Park, and U.S. Forest Service. The conference gives students a chance to reconnect with the North Cascades, build leadership skills, and network with industry professionals to find internship and job opportunities as they consider the skills they need to achieve their goals.

“The Youth Leadership Conference has been an effective way to connect students to next-step opportunities while providing mentorship and support so they can stay engaged in conservation and the outdoors,” said Program Manager Amy Brown. Organizations such as Washington Trails Association, Earthcorps, Skagit Valley College, National Outdoor Leadership School, and many others attended the conference to share opportunities with youth.

Though most of the students who attended this year’s conference have participated in the Institute’s Youth Leadership Adventures program, alumni from the Student Conservation Association, Seattle Parks and Recreation’s Outdoor Opportunities program, and Interim Wild of Seattle’s Community Development Association also were in attendance. After completing outdoor leadership programs during the summer, the students came prepared to communicate and collaborate with each other, jumping right into the experience with enthusiasm.

This year’s conference was especially student-driven, with more youth in leadership roles than ever before. Former program alumni acted as small group leaders for current students, and four students led skill-building workshops.

One highlight that showcased student leadership was an “Open Space” discussion on Sunday. For two hours, students participated in discussions on topics of their choice, with little adult interference. The topics ranged from “Inclusion in the Community” and “Improving the School System” to “Effects of Declining Biodiversity” and “Minimum Wage.” The topics were student-generated and student-led.

Students from Concrete High School were among those who shared their ideas during the Open Space discussion and learned new leadership skills throughout the weekend. Senior Muriel Troka and sophomore Brook Barnedt have participated in the Youth Leadership Adventures program with North Cascades Institute and returned to Diablo Lake to attend the conference.

“My experience at the YLC was super beneficial,” said Troka. “Not only did I get to pick up some important contacts and have fun with lots of like-minded people, but I left the Learning Center with a much clearer idea of what I would like to do after high school and how to get there.”

Concrete’s Twin Cedars Alternative High School director Mary Janda was also able to attend the conference and is excited to share the resources she gained with her alternative students. She was impressed with the keynote speaker, National Park Service Youth and Special Initiatives Coordinator Vanessa Torres, who traveled from Washington D.C., to speak at the conference. Torres spoke with passion about her path in the National Park Service and inspired the youth attendees to achieve their own dreams. “National Parks are a treasure that must be shared with new generations or will be lost to future students and families,” said Janda.

Any high school student between 14–18 can sign up for the institute’s summer program, Youth Leadership Adventures, and receive an invitation to attend next year’s Youth Leadership Conference in November 2015. During summer

courses, students spend eight or 16 days in the North Cascades. The trips include canoeing, backpacking, trail work, and scientific research.

“I encourage all Concrete students to look into applying for the Youth Leadership Adventures trips,” said Barnedt. “You get to go out hiking, camping, backpacking, and canoeing for eight days with people your age and explore essentially your backyard!”

North Cascades Institute works hard to make trips available for any

motivated student. In 2014, 90 percent of participants received financial assistance.

For more information about signing up for Youth Leadership Adventures, the Youth Leadership Conference, or the North Cascades Institute in general, go to www.ncascades.org or call 360.854.2599.

Katie Griffith is an Americorps VISTA Youth Programs Outreach Specialist working with North Cascades National Park/North Cascades Institute.



Submitted photos





Coffee Break

Today some day
By Patrick Kennedy

Not today we may often say
Future is a better time
Look across the table at us
We can do anything some day

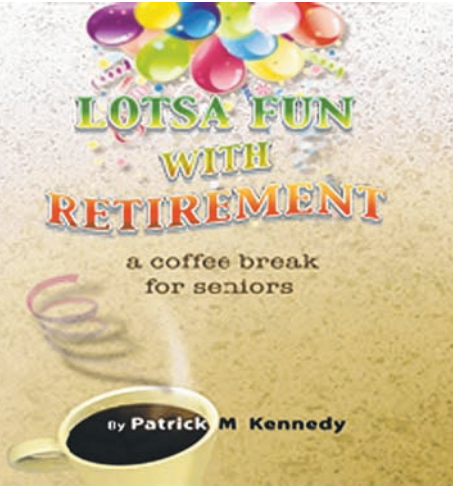
Nothing stirs but the clock
Pains are the same and face hangs out
old
As energy transforms and wanes
Till it's the grain of an old sock

Window go dark lights go bright
Ponder the problems of inaction
Fingers tappy-tap on the table top
Eyes go left as mind goes right

Indecision is a teeter-totter
Up and down here then now there
The brain soaks up pros and cons
Like fuzzy smudge splotches on an
ink blotter

Help is not an absolute solution
Alone flesh and bone and brain and
soul
No No you have to should do it
Make positive an everyday mission

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



Way Back When

80 years ago
Dec. 14, 1934: The Class of 1934 will long be remembered for their senior play, “The Patsy,” presented last Friday night in the school gym in Concrete. Not only was the play itself especially good, but it was presented in such a finished style that all who saw it voted it the best performance ever put on here by an amateur group. From the standpoint of attendance, it was also a record-breaker: more than 400, including children, saw the play.
Alice Coonc as Mrs. Harrington and Jimmy Brooks as Mr. Harrington added the domestic comedy to the play, while Adelle Roller acted the role of the patsy to perfection. Pauline Zongrone was excellent as the big sister, as were Bruce Miller and Dan Dillard as her boyfriends. Laura D’Amico as Sadie Buchanan, Lloyd Everett as O’Flaherty, and Winton Gates as a tough taxi driver finished out the cast.

60 years ago
Dec. 9, 1954: The Upper Valley was given a new mystery in the finding of a skull estimated at from two to seven years deceased. The skull, which was in perfect condition, was found on the south side of the Skagit River opposite Hooper’s crossing by Don and Melvin McLeod last week. The men took Deputy McGlenn to the site last Thursday to recover the skull. They had left it in place and intact, in hopes that the rest of the

skeleton could be found nearby.
A search of the area disclosed no other bones. The skull was lying on last year’s leaves, but was in a location where it could have been brought in by high water from the Skagit.
The skull was turned over to the county coroner, who in turn sent it to the University of Washington anthropology department for study. A dentist looked at the skull and from the fine condition of the teeth, which had a few small silver and gold fillings, he estimated the age of the dead person at between 25 and 35. The skull was small and could belong to a woman.
The only lead as to identity was that two workers on the Skagit project at Newhalem have been lost in the river to accidents; their bodies were never found. A check of these men will be made to see if the skull fits either description. If not, the mystery deepens.

50 years ago
Dec. 3, 1964: What started as a tongue-in-cheek protest against Snohomish County officials’ service levels has turned into a movement with considerable enthusiasm.
Some Darrington residents have suggested that perhaps they had better secede from Snohomish County and form a county of their own. Their main protest is lack of attention from the Sheriff’s Department.
When word got around, the community found others equally concerned about being given the silent treatment by their county while more populous areas reaped the benefits. Several other towns called Darrington men for meetings on the subject of a new county, and

so the idea became a considered possibility.
In yesterdays’ Seattle daily, the proposed map for a new “Cascade County” shows that the area would include the eastern half of Skagit County, Newhalem and Diablo, as well as extending south to take in Sultan and Skykomish. An extension west would circle in McMurray and then go farther east to take in the Stanwood and Camano Island communities that are interested.
As the idea mushroomed, Elmer Wood, Pat Pittson, W. Lemmon, and Elden Abbott of Darrington decided to explore the matter, up to and including a ruling from the Attorney General’s office on whether or not such a move is possible under state law.

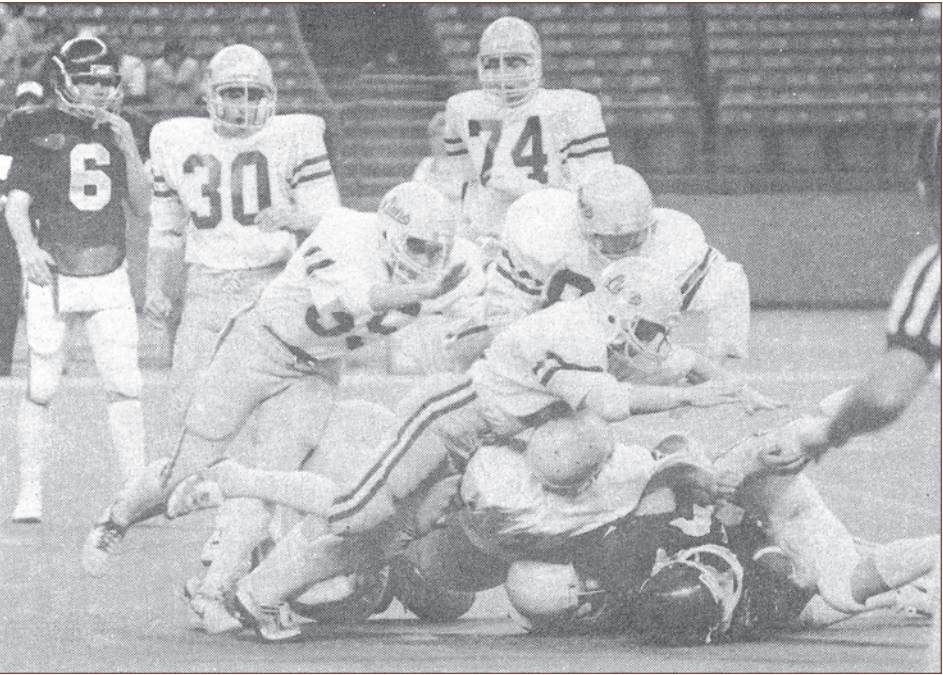
40 years ago
Dec. 19, 1974: A charge of stealing cedar from National Forest lands has been filed against a Sedro-Woolley man, a spokesman at the Baker River Ranger Station in Concrete reported this week.
According to the report, Everett Delano, 25, was apprehended last Saturday by FBI agents in Baker District. Cedar, a pickup truck, and a chainsaw were confiscated. The suspect is scheduled to appear before the U.S. magistrate in Seattle, with arraignment planned in January.
Dec. 19, 1974: The Concrete High School girls basketball team rebounded from last week’s loss to put on one of the Lions’ best basketball efforts, beating Sultan 60–47 Monday.
“All the girls really wanted to play basketball,” said Head Coach Betty Torgeson.
—Compiled from archives

Concrete Center December 2014

Activities

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

Mondays	
10 a.m.	Jigsaw puzzles
11 a.m.	Karaoke with Karen 12/8
Noon	Coffee Bar
Noon	Christmas Party and gift exchange, 12/22
Noon	Birhday party, 12/29
12:30 p.m.	Skip Bo, Cribbage, Yahtzee
Tuesdays	
10 a.m.	Jigsaw puzzles
10:30 a.m.	Tai Chi
Noon	Lunch
12:15 p.m.	Leap of Faith, 12/23
12:30 p.m.	Skip Bo, Cribbage
Wednesdays	
10 a.m.	Jigsaw puzzles
Noon	Lunch
12:30 p.m.	Skip Bo, Cribbage
12:30 p.m.	White Elephant Bingo, 12/10, 12/31
1 p.m.	Advisory Board mtg.: Yearly Planning mtg. 12/10
Thursdays	
10 a.m.	Jigsaw puzzles
Noon	Lunch
Noon	Christmas Lunch, 12/18
12:30 p.m.	Skip Bo, Cribbage
12:30 p.m.	Pinochle, 12/11
Fridays	
10 a.m.	Jigsaw puzzles, watercolor painting
Noon	Lunch
12:30 p.m.	Dominoes, Skip Bo, Cribbage
Holiday closures	
Dec. 25	



30 years ago. The Dec. 6, 1984, issue of *Concrete Herald* boasted a huge headline: “Lions are State Champs.” For the first time, the Concrete Lions football team captured the trophy with a 17–0 victory over the Kittitas Coyotes on Dec. 1, in the Kingdome.
Coach Bill Anderson, Assistant Coaches Jack Bradley and Dick Mariotto, and the 44 members of the team were Upper Skagit heroes after winning the state championship. The victory brought the team’s season record to 12 wins and only one loss.
As the game drew near its end, the coaches started sending in members of the second, third, and fourth squads, so that every player got to set foot on the Kingdome field. As the game ended, Coach Anderson shouted, “This is Christmas!”

Archive photos by Anne Bussiere and Patty Moore.

Obituaries

Ronald J. Thompson

Born Aug. 27, 1948, and passed away Nov. 3, 2014, in Bellingham after a brief illness. He is survived by his loving wife of 45 years, Audrey; brothers Ernie (Terri), twin brother Bobby (Jill), and Stevie (Lynda); sisters Veronica and Marilyn; sisters-in-law Sherri and Darlene; and many nieces and nephews and great-nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life was held on Sat., Nov. 15, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Lake Tyee Club House.

Naomi Leota (Greenup) Berkley, 92, passed away peacefully in her sleep Nov. 11, 2014, at 9:48 p.m.

Naomi was a long-time resident of Skagit Valley for 49 years. She was born Oct. 9, 1922, in Eugene, Ore., the oldest of 12 children born to Sydney and Velma Greenup.

Naomi was a member of the Seventh Day Adventist church for 47 years. She loved the Lord. Gardening was a favored hobby; no matter what seed she put in the ground or stuffed in a pot it grew, from limes and lemons to avocados. She loved Sauk Mountain and from her home at its base she took pictures of it with her beloved Polaroid camera in every season and every time of day. Naomi was known for her kind heart, giving jigsaw puzzles to the propane man and cans of smoked salmon or home-grown vegetables to any neighbor who happened by. The small community on Sauk Store Rd. will miss her.

Naomi is survived by brothers Mervyn Greenup of



Sonora, Calif., Marshall Greenup of Meadow Valley, Calif., Melford Greenup of Wolf Creek, Ore., and Leland Greenup of Arrey, New Mexico; sisters Essie Lee of Pleasanton, Calif., Lorna Rasor of Sonora, Calif.; son Corby Haines (Arlene) of Ninelchik, Alaska; daughters Pauline (Jeff) Plissner of Colorado Springs, Colo., Mary Haines (Mark) of Anchorage, Alaska, and Arden (Robert) Landry of Custer, Wash.; 12 grandchildren; and 19 great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her son, Gunner Jim, and siblings Gordon, Walton, Lowell, Nelda, and Leah. In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations to your favorite charity in Naomi's name.

At her request, there will be no service. Cremation arrangements are under the direction of Lemley Chapel, Sedro-Woolley. Share memories of Naomi 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

What are we waiting for?

By Bill Mueller

Being an extrovert and an only child is a dangerous combination. It causes one to be a tad more outgoing than normal, once one is finally around people. Celebrating

Christmas was an especially rich time for me as a child, since it meant lots of relatives coming over to our house. One relative, in particular, was of special interest to me: my cousin Howie. He and I were roughly the same age, only 82 days apart. He was the older one. He was very much the brother I never had. When the day approached and I knew his family was on their way, I'd go outside and stand in the street waiting for their car to turn onto our street. Even though I knew they were coming, and that they would arrive at a certain time, I waited with an exuberant anticipation. When their car finally turned the corner about a half mile away, it was as if it was a huge surprise. Instant joy filled my soul. It's as if I knew that now Christmas would finally arrive.

That experience of mine seems to have been somewhat close to that of the man called Simeon. Luke describes him as a righteous and devout man. (Luke 2: 25–32). He was waiting for the consolation or comfort of Israel. Which means he was waiting for the Messiah to appear. God in His grace revealed to him that he would not die before he had seen the Anointed One, the Messiah. Can you imagine what was on his mind every morning when he woke up? How would he answer the question, “What gets you up and out of bed every morning”? Talk about exuberant anticipation; he would be overflowing with it!

Then the day arrives. Once again he is in the temple courts, moved by the Spirit to be there. Mary and Joseph enter with Jesus. Simeon is consumed with joy. This is the One. He will bring the consolation

that has been longed for by Simeon and his people. He approaches the parents and asks to hold the child. They willingly hand over their first born, as Simeon must have seemed trustworthy. While holding this child, he is overcome with joy to the point that he utters a significant praise to God, which in part reads: “For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” For Simeon, Christmas had arrived.

As we all look forward to Dec. 25, the day selected to remember Jesus’ birth, what are we waiting for? Is there something or someone whose arrival will get us out of bed or out of the house to wait in the street with exuberant expectation? To help with this question, I offer a word from a lesser-known prophet named Zephaniah. He sought to clarify God’s relationship with those who would come into a relationship with Him. Here is what he wrote: “The LORD our God is with you, He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing” (Zeph. 3:17). In our world where everyone hurts at some level, these are words we need to hear. Zephaniah helps us get a handle on what Simeon already knew. We are loved by God, which is why there is a Christmas. Joy to the world, the Lord has come.

Bill Mueller preaches at Martha Lake Covenant Church in Lynnwood.

Skagit County Sheriff’s Office Blotter

Nov. 5

A deputy responded to a noise complaint on Robinson Rd. near Lyman. Two renters who live above and below each other can’t agree on how loud the music should be. The deputy mediated the situation.

Nov. 7

A caller from Bacus Rd. near Lyman reported a missing dog. A small Yorkie-style dog has been gone for days now. If you happen to see one, please call the SCSSO and we’ll arrange a reunion.

Nov. 14

A resident on Bacus Rd. near Lyman reported a vehicle driving in his yard and tearing it up. The resident obtained a license plate of the suspect’s SUV and a deputy quickly spotted it, full of mud. The property owner wanted the driver warned about their driving. The deputy issued a ticket to the female driver because her license was suspended and she had no proof of insurance. I wonder why.

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.

Edwards, Douglas Michael
Age: 27
Race: I Sex: M
Height: 5’ 9”
Weight: 210
Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown
Address: 6xx John Liner Rd., Sedro-Woolley
A Level 2 sex offender, has one federal conviction for sexual abuse of a minor.



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

Source: Skagit County Sheriff

Sergeant’s corner

Holiday safety

By Chris Kading



The holiday season is a special time of year, but it also is a time when busy people become careless and vulnerable to theft and other crimes. We can never be too careful, too prepared, or too aware. Please share this information with family, friends, and neighbors.

Shopping

Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or a family member. Avoid wearing expensive jewelry. If possible, do not carry a purse or wallet. Always carry your Washington Driver License or Identification Card, along with the necessary cash, checks, and/or credit card you expect to use.

Stay alert to your surroundings. Keep cash and credit cards in your front pocket. Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen, or misused. Keep a record of all of your credit card numbers in a safe place at home. Be extra careful if you carry a wallet or purse; they are the prime targets of criminals in crowded shopping areas, transportation terminals, and bus stops, and on buses and other public transit. Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. At this time of year, “con artists” may try

various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.

Driving

Avoid driving alone or at night. Keep all car doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car. Set your alarm or use an anti-theft device. If you must shop at night, park in a well-lighted area. Avoid parking next to vans, trucks with camper shells, or cars with tinted windows. Park as close as you can to your destination and remember where you parked.

Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside. Do not leave packages or valuables on the seat of your car; this creates a temptation for thieves. If you must leave something in the car, lock it in the trunk or put it out of sight. Be sure to locate your keys prior to going to your car. Keep a secure hold on your purse, handbag, and parcels. Do not put them down or on top of the car in order to open the door.

When approaching or leaving your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings. Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area. Ask mall or store security for an escort before leaving your shopping location.

The Skagit County Sheriff’s Office East Detachment wishes you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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

areas, please contact Deputy Backstrom at 360.853.8583.

A caller from Emerald Lane near Marblemount reported finding several goat carcasses under the power line access road. It’s unknown why they were dumped there.

Nov. 23

A deputy made a routine traffic stop near Hamilton on a car with a headlight out. The driver was quite cooperative, but didn’t have a valid driver’s license. Her passenger did. She was issued a ticket for having a suspended license, and the passenger was allowed to drive them home. The moral to this story: Have a good friend or extra headlight riding with you.

A deputy stopped a car for speeding just outside of Concrete town limits. The driver said he didn’t have a valid driver’s license in Washington state or

in California. It seems his license was suspended in both states for—you guessed it—unpaid speeding tickets. He was issued another speeding ticket, provided a bus schedule, and allowed to walk home.

Deputies responded to a suspicious person parked on Martin Rd. near Rockport. It seems an intoxicated man had come to the caller’s door looking for someone who doesn’t live there. The person lingered by the caller’s car for a bit and came back near their house. The caller stayed online with 911 and armed themselves against this strange man. A few minutes later the car left and a deputy found it. The deputy observed the man was acting very intoxicated. He was investigated and arrested for DUI. He’s lucky he didn’t try to enter the residence.

—Compiled by Sgt. Chris Kading

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

Baptist
First Baptist Church
12732 Hemlock St., Clear Lake
360.856.2767

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 Kallishian, 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

CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

The museum is closed for the season, but you can **make an appointment** to visit the museum or do research in our library outside of normal times year-round; just call Robin at 360.826.3075.

Monthly meetings are held year-round on the third Wednesday of each month. Meetings are held at the museum at 7 p.m. and are open to the public.

Donations via Amazon: Now your Amazon.com purchases can benefit the museum. Start by using this Web address: www.smile.amazon.com.

Next, select Concrete Heritage Museum Association from the list of charitable organizations, and Amazon will make a donation to the museum from all your future purchases, until you change the nonprofit organization to which you want to contribute.

For every \$100 spent at Amazon, the museum will receive 50 cents. Over time and with enough supporters, this could add up to a significant amount. Please give it a try.

Museum Christmas Party & Potluck: Join us for our annual Christmas Party. The potluck will be held this year at

Upper Skagit Library District Celebrates 10 Years

CONCRETE — The Upper Skagit Library District (USLD) will host its 10th Anniversary Celebration on Sat., Jan. 10, from 1 to 3 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

During the open house, guests will have an opportunity to learn the history of the library and its exciting future.

The Upper Skagit Library District was formed in 2001 to serve the residents of the rural areas of the Concrete School District and officially opened its doors in 2005. Located in the Ted Anderson East Skagit County Resource Center, the space was always meant to be a temporary home while a new library building could be funded and built.

There has been notable change and growth since 2005, thanks to the hard work of library staff, board, and

Concrete Heritage Museum on Wed., Dec. 17 at 6 p.m. Bring your favorite dish. Enjoy good company and food and celebrate the holiday season and New Year with us. Cash, checks, and nonperishable food donations will be accepted for the Food Bank.

Dan Royal requests submission of names for his annual **Memorial List** in the upcoming January issue of *Concrete Herald*. These would be the passing of family, friends, and neighbors during the calendar year of 2014 for all east Skagit County residents covered by *Concrete Herald*. Deadline is the second week of December.

Our **new home on the Internet** can be found at www.concreteheritagemuseum.org/ and our new e-mail address is concreteheritagemuseum@gmail.com.

An **order form** for books published by the museum—Charles M. Dwelley’s *So They Called the Town “Concrete”* and *The Story of Kate*—can be printed at our Web site.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
—Dan Royal

volunteers. Margaret Studer served as Library Director from 2003 to 2007. Aimee Hirschel followed, serving from 2008 to 2013. Brooke Pederson took over the director post in January 2014. Nancy Sparkowich, Patron Services, has been with the District for 10 years. Over the years, the Friends of the Upper Skagit Library have played a key role in supporting the library with funds for special programming.

The Library Board recently took large steps in the direction of building a new library. On Nov. 5, USLD announced that CalPortland had donated a 1.9-acre site for the home of the new library building. This parcel is located near the intersection of SR 20 and Superior Ave. North in Concrete. The estimated project completion is two to five years. The new space will be twice the size of the library’s current 1,600-square-foot building and better equipped to meet the needs of the Upper Skagit community.

This celebration not only marks 10 years for the library, but also holds special meaning as USLD and supporters work toward a bright future.

For more information, call 360.853.7939 or go to www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us.

At the Upper Skagit Library

Join us as we sponsor a **Winter Food and Book Drive!** The library is collecting nonperishable food plus kids and teen books for the Concrete and Bread of Life (Marblemount) food banks. When folks pick up their food at the banks, they also can browse books for the youngsters this holiday season.

Gently used kids and teen books are appreciated. Please drop off nonperishable food and books during library open hours. Additional places to drop off items are Northwest Garden Bling, 44574 SR 20, Ste. D (next to Annie’s Pizza) and 5b’s Bakery on Main Street. The library will donate the collected items to the banks on Dec. 16, so please donate before then. The drive will continue through Dec. 31, so you have a second chance to give and spread the word. We appreciate your community support this holiday season.

We are launching a **One-on-One Tutoring Program** at the library on the first and third Fridays of each month, beginning Dec. 5. Tutoring will focus on basic computer skills, resumes, and cover letters, and if you need extra help with job applications, we can assist with that too. Call the library at 360.853.7939 or stop by to reserve a spot. Scheduled appointments take place from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Dec. 5 and 19, Jan. 2 and 16, Feb. 6 and 20, and March 6 and 20. You can reserve a 30- or 60-minute appointment. We’ve seen an influx of patrons asking for these services, and we are happy to be able to accommodate you.

Save the date: Jan. 10, 2015. The Upper Skagit Library District is turning 10 years old in January and you’re invited to our party! Our 10th Anniversary Celebration will be held Sat., Jan. 10 from 1 to 3 p.m. Our open house will include



Northwest Garden Bling

- Gift shop
- Stained glass & glass supplies
- Souvenirs

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

Alcohol or other drug use causing problems in your life?

Skagit Recovery Center Returns To Concrete, WA!



- Counseling, treatment, and Alcohol/Drug information School available for adults and adolescents
- DUI and Deferred Prosecution Treatment for court-referred clients
- Reasonable sliding fee scale; some FREE services available

For information and appointments, call 360.428.7835, ext. 227

a touch of nostalgia and a look into the future. Join us for a special presentation, Annie’s Pizza, and a cake baked especially for this occasion from 5b’s Bakery.

Storytime is the first Saturday of each month from October to June, from 11 to 11:45 a.m. Families with young children are invited to join us for themed stories, songs, and a simple craft. The next Storytime will be Sat., Dec. 6 at the library.

We are **changing our hours** in the New Year. Beginning Jan. 2, the new hours will be Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We’ll be closed Sundays, Mondays, and Thursdays.

What’s new at the library: This cold and clear winter weather is the perfect time to nestle in with a hot beverage and a good book. In adult fiction, check out the new Janet Evanovich thriller *The Job*, and *Somewhere Safe with Somebody Good* by Jan Karon. The newest Stephen King novel has arrived for our horror fans out there: *The Revival*.

In adult nonfiction, explore why you do what you do in *The Power of Habit* by Charles Duhigg, stay positive with *Abundance: The Future is Better Than You Think* by Peter H. Diamandis, and get an inside look of the McCandless family story in the anticipated, *The Wild Truth*, by Carine McCandless.

New children’s and junior books include *26th Story Treehouse*, *Percy Jackson’s Greek Gods*, and *Art Lesson*.

The next Upper Skagit Library Board meeting will be held Dec. 18, at 5 p.m. at the library. Thanks for supporting us. See you soon.

—Cora Thomas, library associate

www.concrete-herald.com Holmstrom, cont. from p. 17

a comeback, and Holmstrom is on the cutting edge of a major trend.

Another woman was drawn to Holmstrom when she spotted him while shopping at Cascade Fabrics last year. She fell in love with what he was creating with tweed and vintage fabric.

“I was just drawn to him,” said Linda Stearns, of Bayview. “He’s such an entrepreneur.”

Since then, Stearns, 65, has been collecting vintage wool to give Holmstrom for his projects. Stearns commissioned Holmstrom to make a newsboy hat out of a 1969 Pendleton shawl she had worn while pregnant with her son, decades ago.

“It’s just beautiful,” she said.

Holmstrom’s sense of style permeates

his lifestyle so deeply, he doesn’t go anywhere without a handmade accessory whatever the occasion. Even on his hunting trips, he wears a button-down, with a wool vest, a mid-length Filson wool coat with a sheep shawl, finished off with one of his own bowties.

“I’m a gentleman hunter,” he said. “I feel like it shows respect to the animal.”

There are some people who don’t appreciate Holmstroms’ attire, especially the bowtie.

“I get a lot of crap for it,” he said with a laugh, adding that he knows he sticks out in a town with a lot of loggers and refinery workers.

It doesn’t bother Holmstrom. For him, it’s not about fitting in. Quite to the contrary.

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Lions ROAR



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SWHS senior’s project honors mother’s memory

By Jason Miller

Amy Schols’ senior project is special. The Sedro-Woolley High School student and ASB president chose to work with the Skagit Valley Hospital Foundation’s Festival of Trees event, held Nov. 28–30. As she eyes a business degree in her future, Schols focused on the business aspect of the festival with her mentor, Virginia Learned, who sits on the foundation board and is the Tree Design chair. Schols began by helping with spreadsheets and tracking spending. “She pitched in to decorate trees, repairing snowmen, keeping areas kid-friendly—all kinds of little things. She helped me at every possible moment,” said Learned. But for Schols, the Festival of Trees carries a special layer of significance. The event is a fundraiser for the hospital’s Cardiac Rehabilitation Center, a 2,000-square-foot facility being built on the hospital’s Mount Vernon campus. If all goes to plan, the center eventually will be named for Schols’ mother, Heather, who passed away in September 2012 after a sudden heart attack. Learned was a high school classmate of Heather’s and thought Schols’ involvement in the festival would be a meaningful fit. She brought the idea to Nita Hodgins, Schols’ project advisor at SWHS, and the two of them approached Schols. “It didn’t take much convincing,” said Schols. Schols’ efforts dovetail with those of her father, Kelly. He has an agreement with the hospital to raise \$100,000 in five years, in exchange for the naming of the cardiac rehab center. So far he’s pulled in more than \$16,000, including a “Seven Lakes in Seven Hours” fundraising hike in the Chuckanut range last September. More events are planned for 2015. “Next year we’re inviting anybody in the community to do it with us,” he said. At the gala and tree auction event on Nov. 28, the tree on which Amy Schols worked was sold, along with 28 others. She and her father will now turn to their own fundraising efforts, to honor Heather’s memory.



Sedro-Woolley High School senior Amy Schols poses with one of the trees she helped decorate for this year’s Festival of Trees. Titled “Stranger in the Woods,” the tree is festooned with creatures from the children’s story of the same name.

Mount Vernon

Investigation reveals truck that struck Skagit River bridge was 2 inches over-height

Detectives from the Washington State Patrol (WSP) have determined that the truck that struck the I-5 Skagit River Bridge in May 2013, leading to its collapse, was 2 inches over-height. In a report released in November, detectives found the truck was permitted to carry a load of no higher than 15 feet 9 inches. After the collision, they noted the load measured 15 feet 11 inches. The over-height load struck 11 of the bridge’s sway braces as it crossed the structure. The collision happened on May 23, 2013, shortly after 7 p.m. After the collapse, two vehicles fell into the river and the occupants had to be rescued by a Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office marine patrol unit. They suffered nonlife-threatening injuries and have recovered. The only fatality related to the collapse came on May 31, 2013, when WSP Trooper Sean O’Connell was killed while directing traffic at a detour around the scene. Detectives also determined that the pole carried by a pilot car hit the bridge structure, which should have triggered a warning. However, the driver of an over-height load is the person legally responsible for safe transit, not the driver of any support vehicle or pilot car. Driver William D.W. Scott of Alberta, Canada, was cited by the State Patrol for Negligent Driving in the Second Degree, which is a traffic infraction carrying a fine of \$550. The report states Scott should have moved into the center lane of the bridge, which would have accommodated even the over-height load. Investigators determined only four seconds passed between the time the pilot car’s pole hit the bridge and the truck’s load hit the first sway brace. The truck was following approximately 350 feet behind the pilot car.

—Submitted by WSDOT

Garden Patch

By Gladys Silrus

Just because the temperature has dropped doesn’t mean you can’t grow some crops in the winter—if you have a greenhouse! Here are seven plants you can grow throughout the winter and to get ready for next spring.

- Cut and head lettuce.** Lettuce is a relatively hardy vegetable and a popular one no matter what time of year. Grow a few different varieties for mixes, as well as some colorful lettuce heads. To grow lettuce, sow seeds for leaf mixes thickly, in tight rows 2 to 3 inches apart in 4-inch-wide beds or flats. You can cut leaves off one plant up to four times before it turns bitter. For head lettuce, sow or transplant seeds 10 to 18 inches apart, depending on the variety. Succession-plant in early fall and late winter.
- Spinach.** Spinach is a classic greenhouse crop. For full leaf spinach, sow seeds 1 to 2 inches apart, in rows 10 to 18 inches apart. Spinach can be cut several times in a season.
- Other leafy greens.** Kale, collards, and Swiss chard are some other popular greens; kale even improves with a little cold. These crops are ideal because unlike broccoli or cabbage, which give you only one cutting, these greens can be picked off all winter. Whether you sow seeds or use transplants, leave at least 8 to 10 inches between plants and about 24 inches between rows. Plant in fertile soil in early fall and late winter, and water regularly for best leaf production.
- Microgreens.** These are tiny, tender vegetables like mustard, cress, radish, beet, basil, and kohlrabi that pack a huge nutritional punch. You can grow them from fall to spring. Fill small flats with soil; follow the germination requirement for your chosen microgreens. Sow seeds thickly, covered with a thin layer of soil mix, and keep moist, preferably from beneath the tray to avoid splashing dirt on greens. Plant from fall to spring.
- Carrots.** They aren’t always the best

use of greenhouse space because they grow so well in the open with a row cover. Most winters are wet and when the carrots are ready and the soil is muddy, it’s a lot easier to dig them out of a space where you control the moisture. Sow seeds thickly in rows 16 to 24 inches apart. As plants grow, thin to 1 inch apart; keep well-watered. Plant in late summer and late winter.

- Summer crops.** Tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, and cucumbers may not be the crops you think about growing in the winter, but you can extend their season by growing them in a greenhouse. Follow the growing guidelines for the summer crops you wish to grow. Start them in late winter, then plant in early spring, or start the crops in mid-summer and plant in the late summer. Understand these plants don’t typically tolerate temperatures below 35 degrees F and need lots of sunlight and heat. So you must tend to them and cover them when temperature drops.
- Herbs.** Whether it is basil, cilantro, tarragon, rosemary, or thyme, if you have control over the temperature of your greenhouse, these herbs can be produced. Keep in mind that germinating and raising herbs requires a little more attention, but can be profitable under the right conditions. Follow the growing guidelines for each herb you wish to grow. Pay strict attention to temperature and water requirements. If this sounds like too much work, if you don’t have a greenhouse, or if you are just sick of gardening, by all means get out those gardening books you kept all summer, kick back with a cup of hot cocoa, and dream of next spring! Hope everyone has a great holiday season. Happy gardening!

Send gardening questions to Gladys. Call her at 360.826.4848, or write to her at gsilrus@frontier.com or 42002 Pine St., Concrete, WA 98237.

Read Concrete Herald The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Hibernation or vacation?

By Christie L. Fairchild

What do bees, bats, and bears all have in common? Well, they don’t go on vacation, so it must be hibernation. These creatures, and many others, spend a significant amount of time each winter in a state of “torpor.” And no, that’s not a vacation destination. It’s actually a word meaning inactive or sluggish. Nature’s creatures have the amazing ability to survive by adapting to change. Some, like many birds, migrate thousands of miles to warmer climates where winter food may still be found. Others, like many mammals, grow thick coats of winter hair or fur, and still others go to sleep. But it’s not just any slumber. After stocking up body fat on summer and autumn’s high-calorie menu, animals such as bees, bats, and bears find a protective and insulated space or den and settle in for “a long

winter’s nap,” also known as torpor. This deep sleep also lowers body temperature and slows respiration rates, sometimes dramatically. For example, the marmot, a very large type of ground squirrel heard whistling in our mountain meadows during summer, will hibernate this winter in rocky caves or tunnels as much as 20 feet under the snow, with a body temperature of just above freezing, breathing only one or two times per minute. Hibernation for them takes up the majority of their lives, as their alpine habitat is only snow-free about three to four months each year. Frogs and many other amphibians hibernate as well, usually by burrowing down in the mud of sloughs until warmer weather and spring’s new food sources return. Even mice hibernate—that is, if they haven’t found their way into the warmth

See Hibernation, p. 38

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Smile

Dwelleyisms
Wit from former
Concrete Herald editor
Charles M. Dwelley

“There must be another approach to race riot control than tear gas and vicious dogs. Could substitute laughing gas and trick dog acts as an experiment.”

“General MacArthur lies near death, and true to his lifelong tradition, he is maintaining an invincibility and dignity that even the grim reaper finds hard to overcome.”

“Colonel Glenn has demonstrated the often-stated axiom that the airplane is safer than your home. Survivor of the most dangerous flight of all, he was laid low in his own bathroom.”

“Banks are now classifying their holdups as professional or amateur. We presume the division is made when the amateur first gets away safely with his loot. Still, the idea is upsetting because it gives an aura of legality to the whole criminal activity. May we soon brush off moral condemnation of amateur murderers, amateur rapists, amateur thieves, and amateur swindlers? The pros had better get organized.”

—April 2, 1964

“If the traffic accident rate continues to increase, it won’t be long before traffic fatalities will be listed as from natural causes.”

“The art of swearing is never fully developed until you only use it at times when society in general would consider it entirely appropriate.”

—April 9, 1964

“Ever notice how few people care how—only when?”

“It is now suggested that the U.S. make the biggest bomb in the world, strictly for propaganda purposes, of course. Wonder how much the cost of such a showpiece would do in the war against poverty?”

“Ideal living would be to have a teenager’s pep and energy, the outlook of the newly married, the reasoning of the established businessman, the leisure of the retired—and the money of the fellow who made his pile on sheer luck.”

“You only have to sell the average man

on buying his necessities. The luxuries sell themselves.”
—April 16, 1964

“It’s all right to fight poverty, but unless we have smart generalship, we might lose and join the enemy.”
“Two state teachers are under fire for having said ‘damn’ and ‘hell’ in the presence of students. It has always been commendable for teachers to quote famous presidents. Both words are favorites of Harry Truman in his TV news appearances.”

“By the time a person is old enough to know better, he gets the idea he is smart enough not to be discovered doing it.”

“If the rich really make the wars, we are getting in safer territory all the time. Who’s holding the mortgage on this perishable world?”

—April 30, 1964

“Efforts to control every emotion of freedom by law can lead only to rebellion of the individual—because that will be the only free choice left open.”

“So far the tax cuts aren’t making many jobs. Too much of the saving is needed to pay back what had to be borrowed to pay previous tax bites.”

—May 7, 1964

“Such is the trend that if unselfish effort was suitably rewarded, some guy would make a business of it.”

“A California woman paid her income tax by writing a check to her bank on a pair of panties. We thought the Dept. of Internal Revenue was a bit too stuffy for panty raids.”

“Confidence is pride with the motor going.”

—May 14, 1964

“Ever notice how all the world’s hopes hinge on an election? Not the last one—the one just ahead.”

—June 4, 1964

Concrete Harold

By Joyce Harris

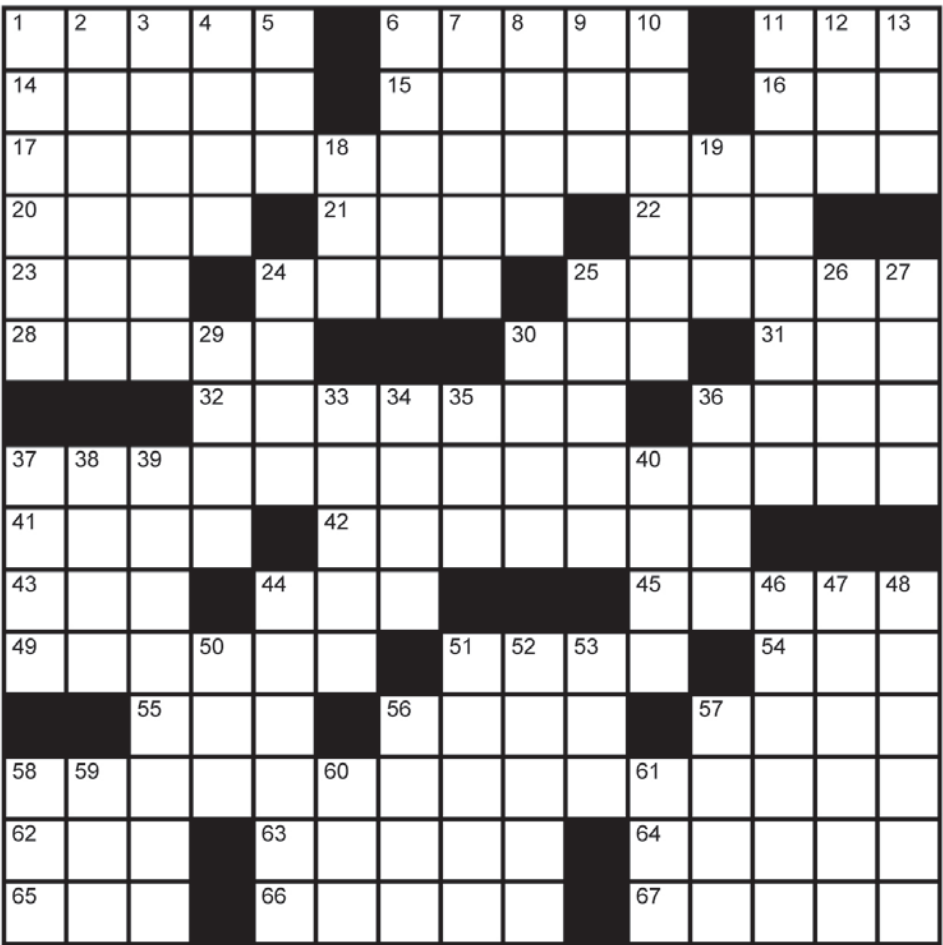


Public Service Announcement

By Stig Kristensen



Crossword: “Wardrobe basics”



Across

- 1. Italian beverage
- 6. Black
- 11. Calphalon product
- 14. They were created in 1912
- 15. Mountaineer’s tool
- 16. ____ Rancho (suburb of Albuquerque)
- 17. Be in charge
- 20. Go for
- 21. Egg
- 22. Faint
- 23. Boss, e.g.
- 24. Castle part
- 25. Diminutive
- 28. Turning chisel accompanier
- 30. N.B.A.’s Unseld
- 31. Be off base
- 32. ____ physics
- 36. Carbamide
- 37. Fancy frocks
- 41. Indian tourist site
- 42. Annoying
- 43. Debate position
- 44. Ribosomal ____
- 45. Dummkopf
- 49. Six-line poem
- 51. Achievement

- 54. ____ power
- 55. Cal. col.
- 56. Ostrichlike birds
- 57. Atlas section
- 58. “Calm down!”
- 62. Brown, for one
- 63. Adhesive
- 64. Bait
- 65. Pipe joint
- 66. Gas additive
- 67. Challenges

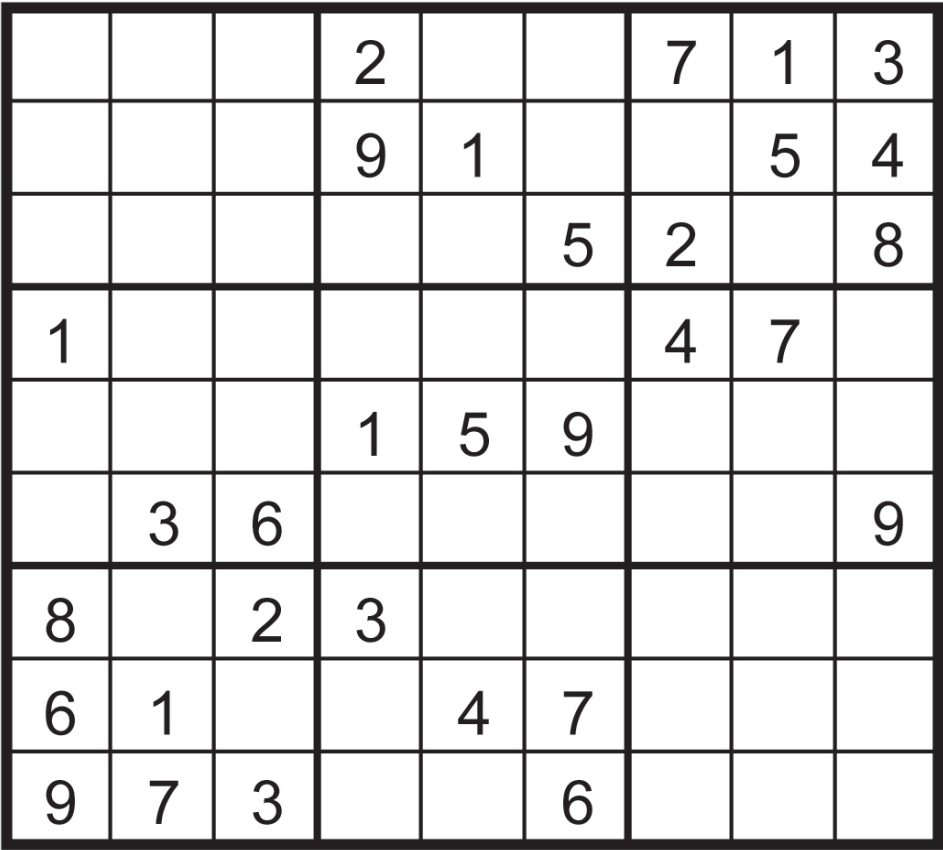
Down

- 1. Lite
- 2. Interstice
- 3. Afternoon service
- 4. Cause for a lawsuit
- 5. D.C. setting
- 6. It doesn’t hold water
- 7. Carry on
- 8. Road shoulder
- 9. ____-tzu
- 10. Oozes
- 11. Chief administrative officers
- 12. Cause of inflation?
- 13. Discouraging words
- 18. Furrow maker
- 19. Remain unused

- 24. Set aside
- 25. California’s San ____ Bay
- 26. Elder, e.g.
- 27. Pitching stats
- 29. Maori war dance
- 30. Rings up?
- 33. ____ the town
- 34. 100 kuras
- 35. Breed
- 36. Drew on
- 37. Beanies
- 38. Beast
- 39. Ocular problem
- 40. Discharge
- 44. Enter again
- 46. Insect stage
- 47. Idle
- 48. Hamlet et al.
- 51. ____ Thieves
- 52. Chart holder
- 53. Old English character
- 56. Corn dish
- 57. Atlas stat
- 58. Do-it-yourselfer’s purchase
- 59. Party time, maybe
- 60. Buttermilk morsel?
- 61. Common contraction

Sudoku

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



*Solutions to both puzzles are on p. 39.

Funny as Facebook

- The following funnies were pulled verbatim from Facebook status updates in November.
- “Vashti’s been asking a lot about skeletons this week with questions like: ‘What would happen if my skeleton came out my mouth?’ ‘If Daddy cuts you up into little pieces, can we live in your bones?’ ‘When I swallow an apple, does my skeleton have a spoonful of peanut butter to eat with it?’ I think I need to do a better job of explaining skeletons. That or get an exorcist.”
 - “Rowan is the first of four kids who has had an imaginary friend. She actually has two of them. It has been equal parts terrifying and fascinating. When I was told ‘They get cold, Mom. That makes me sad to think of them that way,’ I bought some \$3 slippers, while silently being creeped out. She is now borrowing them from her friends until it gets cold enough for them to need to keep warm. Yesterday I came home and she gave me a picture of her friends: Dofai and Hipb. If her head starts spinning and she spews pea soup everywhere, I’ll be sure to get a video. For science.”
 - “Starting off the day wrong ... I went to pay for my taxi ride to the office and instead of giving the driver my credit card, I handed him my room key.”
 - “Conversation for the day: Site user: ‘Why shouldn’t I put hot rocks in my sleeping bag?’ Me: ‘Because they are hot and you’re surrounded by flammable, meltable things. Also, some rocks can explode when heated and jostled around.’ Site user: ‘That didn’t answer my question.’ Me: ‘Because you can die.’ Site user: ‘Oh, okay. Thanks!’”
 - “I calmly told the boys it was time to get dressed for school, to which Ogden screamed, ‘Get naked party!’ while dancing.”
 - “I need a new name for my blog. Anyone have a bacon font? That should get me a billion likes. Though it may not help with the creepers.”
 - “Husband is snoring
Write insomnia haiku
Cat sounds like burglar”

Letters, cont. from p. 3

Frank’s Custom Upholstery, Bresnan LLC, Cascade Physical Therapy, Janicki Logging, Stan and Missy Wing, and Dave and Roxie Griffith for allowing us to hang our large signs at your businesses and homes.

Thanks to Rashel O’Neil for designing our bazaar flier, and to Christina Jepperson, Roxie Griffith, and Frank Castilleja Jr., for making signs.
Thank you, Mark Nilson, Lyman Elementary principal, for all your assistance, all 31 vendors who made the bazaar a huge success, each and every parent who helped with the bazaar, and the community for attending the event.

We hope to see you all next year. Thank you.

*Dornita Castilleja
Lyman*

The most memorable donation

Amanda Martin thanks Food Pavilion in Sedro-Woolley and its manager, John, for their overwhelming generosity in allowing us to gather donations for the third annual Thanksgiving Dinner in Marblemount, held Nov. 23.

The atmosphere was electric, with 87 attendees and 102 total people served at this community-building event.

Thank you to Marblemount Community Hall, John and Mary Janda, Rusty, Sallie, Marie, American Alps Ranch, Marblemount Diner, Tania, Denise, Shana W., Paul Jelvick and the mysterious bass player, *Concrete Herald*, and those who donated I forgot to mention.

Thanks was overflowing, with the story of a SKAT rider, who, dealing with his wife’s death and the discovery of a deadly illness himself, wanted to contribute. On a limited income, he begged us to take a single apple. With that apple a legend was born, and a reminder that anything is possible. Glory to God. I am humbled.

*Jacen Martin
Marblemount*

Tree-planting volunteers thanked

On behalf of Skagit Land Trust and Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group, we thank everyone who volunteered to plant trees at Pressentin Conservation Area on Sat., Nov. 8.

Fifty hard-working volunteers planted more than 800 trees along the Skagit River to make the area a better home for wild salmon. Thank you, volunteers, for the energy you spent to make a lasting contribution to Skagit Valley. It was a

beautiful day!

*Kay Anagnostou, volunteer coordinator
Skagit Land Trust AmeriCorps
Lucy DeGrace, outreach coordinator
Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group
Mount Vernon*

New memorial at Hamilton Cemetery the result of many efforts

The Hamilton Cemetery Association thanks all those involved in making the Veterans Memorial at the Hamilton Cemetery possible.

We thank Rick Lemley, Doug Hutter, Tobi Stidman, Jennifer McGalvery, John Hetherington, and Chuck Ruhl of Lemley Chapel in Sedro-Woolley for the armed forces medallions; Randy Rockefeller of Fab Tech in Burlington for construction and donation of materials for the memorial pedestal; Bruce and Andy Blankenship of Skagit Powdercoating in Mount Vernon for powdercoating the pedestal; Rod Hall and the employees of Skagit Readymix of Burlington for their donation of concrete for the cement slab, with a special thank-you for their continued support. They have donated concrete and concrete blocks for other projects at the cemetery.

We also thank Dean Briskey of Emerald Jade in Deming for his very reasonable cost for the stone and complete construction of the memorial stone to include placement of the medallions on the memorial, as well as all association members involved in the project.
Thank you to Mack and Juanita Judd for their donation of the two benches to complete the project.

Thank you all.

*Juanita Judd, president
Hamilton Cemetery Association*

Hibernation, cont. from p. 35

of your house, barn, or car first. But bears are a bit different, in that their deep sleep isn’t so deep. They have the ability to wake up and move around some, especially if the winter weather warms up from time to time. In fact, adult female bears actually give birth while in hibernation, allowing their tiny cubs to nurse and grow inside mama’s den for a number of months before emerging with her in the spring.

So, is it hibernation or vacation for you? Sleeping in or traveling to warmer destinations?

We humans adapt too, but certainly not to the extent that nature’s creatures must. Please remember to respect, and not

disturb, any “sleeping” wild creature you find this winter. whether it be a bee, bat, or even a bear. Their survival depends on it.

Christie Fairchild is an appreciator of the natural world and has worked as an environmental educator and park ranger for most of her career. She recently retired, but still loves sharing her love of nature.

Interpretive Center, cont. from p. 23

includes the Skagit River watershed. We embark on a journey of environmental education each winter when the Skagit River writhes with spawning salmon and eagles crowd the riverbanks and treetops.

The center opened its doors in 2006 and operates during the peak of eagle migration, from December to the end of January. It provides a host of services, including eagle-watching site information, local information, environmental presentations, guided river walks, special programs for school groups, interpretative displays, live bird demonstrations, cultural presentations, and a gift shop.

“The Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center has provided the only continuous eagle watching and environmental learning opportunities in the area during each winter season for well over a decade,” said SRBEAT President Deanna Ensley. “We look forward to being able to offer these services well into the future.”

Migratory eagles begin to arrive in October from northern breeding territories in Alaska and Canada. The Skagit River supports all five salmon species and hosts the largest population of wintering bald eagles in the lower 48 states. Threats to bald eagles are degradation of natural habitat, reduction of salmon populations, and shrinking locations of prime nesting trees. The Skagit River watershed encompasses the river, its tributaries (Baker, Cascade, Sauk-Suiattle rivers), and all that depend on this central water source.

John Wesley Powell, a scientist geographer, described a watershed to be “that area of land, a bounded hydrologic system, within which all living things are inextricably linked by their common water course that they become part of a community.” Our “common water course” is the Skagit River and our natural community is what we set out to share with others.

Many people who visit the interpretive

center have never seen an eagle in the wild and are awed at what they find here. The center offers a platform for exploration and education, a perch to see a broader view of an ecosystem and its interconnected parts. Minds will soar with new ideas about environmental stewardship. The center’s staff hope that after being exposed to the wildness of the Upper Skagit Valley, a spark ignites in visitors’ minds and hearts about how we can preserve this ecosystem and fragile cycle of life.

It is essential that future generations grasp the importance of environmental conservation or I fear that my 9-year-old cousin and youngsters like her will no longer be able to enjoy eagles awaiting their next meal in the rushes of the Skagit. The Skagit River Bald Eagle Awareness Team and the interpretive center can be that launching pad to help you spread your wings and see more clearly the symbiotic relationship between humans and habitat.

You can support SRBEAT efforts in environmental education by visiting the interpretive center and learning more, donating funds so the team may continue its mission and expand its goals, or giving your time by volunteering your skills.

Building new partnerships is essential to the center’s success; anyone interested in its work is encouraged to contact a staff member.

The Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center opens on Sat., Dec. 6, and will be open Friday through Sunday until Jan. 31. The center is located at 52809 Rockport Park Rd. in Rockport. For more information, including a schedule of events, go to www.skagiteagle.org or call 360.853.7626.

Cora Thomas works for the Upper Skagit Library District. An extended version of this article appears in the Winter issue of Adventures NW.

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Sudoku solution, from p. 37

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

Whoolleyville, cont. from p. 16

said Freeman. “After all, it’s the only Sedro-Woolley in the world.”
After the parade, parents and kids can visit Santa at the Sedro-Woolley Eagles, located at 1000 Metcalf St.

Santa Breakfast

The second Saturday of December (Dec. 13) brings the Santa Breakfast at the S-W Community Center, 703 Pacific St., from 8:30 to 11 a.m.
Children can enjoy a breakfast of waffles, sausage links, and orange slices with their choice of milk or apple juice for free (parents by donation). After breakfast they can see Santa and get their picture with him (no charge for photos; pictures can be picked up at the Chamber office at a later time).

Holiday Home Tour

Also on Dec. 13, the Holiday Home Tour returns. Refreshments at the Sedro-Woolley Museum kick off the event at 4:30 p.m., with the nonguided walking tour from 5 to 9 p.m. The museum will be open till 8 p.m.
Stroll the streets, visit the historical homes, ride in a Victorian carriage, and see Santa at the museum—all for only \$5. Advance tickets may be purchased at the museum (725 Murdock) or at Oliver-Hammer. Tickets also may be purchased at the museum on the night of the event. All proceeds benefit the museum.

Participants are encouraged to bring a flashlight for the tour.
For more information, call 360.855.0203.

—J. K. M.

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

Crossword solution, from p. 37

1	L	A	T	T	5	6	S	A	B	9	10	11	P	A	13				
14	O	R	E	O	S	15	I	C	E	A	X	16	R	I	O				
17	W	E	A	R	T	18	H	E	T	R	O	19	S	E	R	S			
20	C	O	S	T	21	O	V	U	M	22	D	I	M						
23	A	L	E		24	K	E	E	P	25	P	E	T	I	26	T	E		
28	L	A	T	H	E				30	W	E	S	31	E	R	R			
						32	A	P	P	L	I	E	D	33	U	R	E	A	
37	C	O	C	K	T	38	A	I	L	D	R	E	S	39	S	E	S		
41	A	G	R	A		42	I	R	K	S	O	M	E						
43	P	R	O			44	R	N	A		45	I	D	46	I	47	O	48	T
49	S	E	S	T	E	T	51	F	E	A	T	53	54	N	T	H			
						55	S	A	T	56	M	O	A	S	57	A	S	I	A
58	K	E	E	P	Y	60	O	U	R	S	H	61	I	R	T	O	N		
62	I	V	Y			63	P	A	S	T	E	64	T	E	A	S	E		
65	T	E	E			66	E	T	H	Y	L	67	D	A	R	E	S		

Council, cont. from p. 7

Deputy Brian Morgan will fill Deputy Harrison’s spot.
Sgt. Kading reported they are working with Superintendent Barb Hawkings on the Concrete School District’s Rapid Response process. He stated this is because of the recent event that occurred in Marysville.
Councilmember Dave Pfeiffer asked about the dog ordinance enforcement and where that is at with the Sheriff’s office. Sgt. Kading stated correspondence has been sent between the town and the county’s attorney. He stated he will contact the attorney and work on getting this in place.
Town engineer Cody Hart reported that the Fire and Life Safety Building had been brought back into budget, with a cushion of just under \$600.

Nov. 24 regular meeting

• *Public Safety:* Topics discussed included a student disciplined for carrying a switchblade to school, a deceased man in town, and a plane that sputtered as it lifted off from Mears Field.
• Council approved an emergency

change order for the Cupples Alley water line project, necessitated by a cracked water pipe.
• A second public hearing was held for the 2015 budget. Two ordinances were passed: one for the 2015 budget and one for the 2015 salaries.
• Council considered a quote from ICI for Lorenzen Creek dredging and discussed ways to reduce the cost.
• Grant applications for sewer line repairs, lagoon decommissioning, and fire department equipment were discussed.

—Compiled by J. K. M.



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AREA FOOD BANKS

Clear Lake

Community Covenant Food Bank
Next to church at 12605 Hwy 9, Clear Lake
For a referral, call Love Inc. at 360.419.7061
between 9:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

360.826.4090

Concrete

Concrete Food Bank
112 E. Main St., Concrete
Second, third, and fourth Thur. each month,
Noon–3 p.m.
360.853.8505

Darrington

Darrington Food Bank
First Baptist Church
1205 Emmens St., Darrington
First and third week each month:
Wed. and Thur., 10–noon and 1–2 p.m.
360.436.9603

Hamilton

Hamilton Community Food Bank
951 Petit St., Hamilton
Every Tue., 11–noon and 1–3 p.m.

Lyman

Shepherd’s Heart Food Bank
8334 S. Main St., Lyman
Every Thur. 10:30 a.m.– 1 p.m.
Self-help classes after food bank closes; call
for subjects: 360.853.3765

Marblemount

Bread of Life Food Bank
59850 State Route 20, Marblemount
First and third Wed. each month
11 a.m.–5 p.m.
360.873.2504

Sedro-Woolley

Helping Hands Food Bank
601 Cook Rd., Sedro-Woolley
Wed., 10–11:45 a.m. and 12:30–4 p.m.
Commodities distributed every Wednesday
360.856.2211

*Changes? Call 360.853.8213.



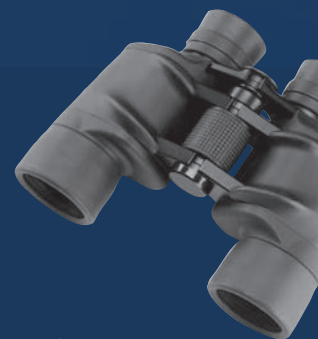
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Saturdays and Sundays in January

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Join us as we celebrate the annual return of the majestic eagles to the Skagit Valley. Whether you live in the area or are planning to visit from far away, you'll enjoy the wide variety of indoor and outdoor activities.

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- Special Tours & Presentations
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- Raptor Presentations
- Wine Tasting & Music
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The Skagit Eagle Festival is funded in part by a grant from the Skagit County Lodging Tax Fund.

