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Hawkings awarded for substance abuse prevention

Concrete School District Superintendent Barbara Hawkings was recognized in November at the 2015 Washington State Exemplary Substance Abuse Prevention Awards. *Page 12.*

Sedro-Woolley Boys & Girls Club names Youth of the Year

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Lyman and Hamilton incumbents retain seats

With the exception of two close races, the Nov. 3 general election found incumbents on top.

Lyman: *Page 18.*

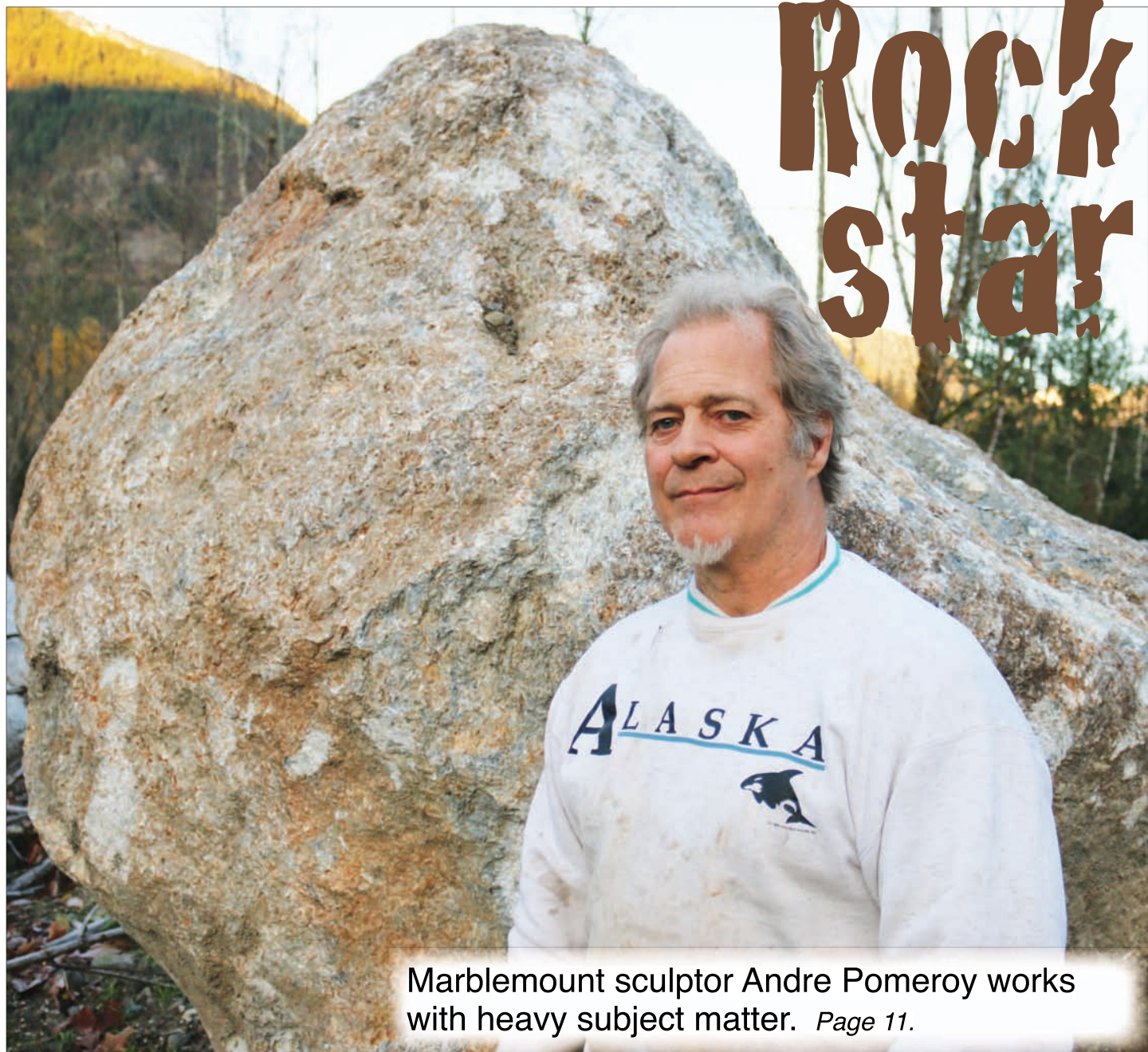
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Hall of Fame ceremony includes former Seahawk

A field of individuals and teams were honored at the 2015 Darrington High School Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on Nov. 21. *Page 24.*

A very Marblemount Christmas

The "umpteenth annual" Christmas Bazaar will include breakfast, artisans, an elf, and, of course, Santa. *Page 26.*



Marblemount sculptor Andre Pomeroy works with heavy subject matter. *Page 11.*

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Concrete Herald

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley



Jason K. Miller, publisher and editor 360.853.8213 / editor@concrete-herald.com

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From the editor

The season of giving

Kevik Rensink's Youth Dynamics update in this issue (p. 12) reminded me how important relationships are, and how they can influence the course of our lives. When I was in middle school, my parents cracked down on one of my friendships in particular, and even though at the time I bristled and bucked under their discipline, as an adult, I can look back and be grateful they did what they did.

This Christmas season, I plan to take stock of my relationships and determine whether they're helping or hindering the efforts I'm making to improve the quality of life in Concrete. I hope you'll do the same. If the majority of us are pulling in one direction, that's the direction the ship will sail.

—J. K. M.

Opinion

Letters to the editor

100 years of greed and ignorance

My sympathies are with all the fishermen (including my own family members) whose preferred avocation has been so adversely impacted by more than 100 years of selfish greed and ignorance. We are finally having to pay the piper in order to allow the fish to survive at all for future generations.

History will stand behind science and the brave scientists at Wild

Fish Conservancy. The science is incontrovertible. A sampling is available at <http://wildfishconservancy.org/resources/science-library/wild-vs.-hatchery>.

Skagit River steelhead harvests in 1951–60 averaged 15,000, nearly all wild. The 2001–10 combined harvests of wild and hatchery steelhead averaged 1,500. This loss coincides with a 1994–2007 average of 450,000 hatchery steelhead smolts planted annually in the Skagit—6,235,000

See Letters, p. 35

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Message from the mayor

By Jason Miller

At the end of this month, Concrete Town Council will say goodbye to one of its longest-serving members: Jack Mears.

Jack has sat on the council for more than a decade, making some very tough decisions along the way. He saw the wastewater treatment plant get built, then pushed through the fallout after the project engineer treated the town, as my dad would say, "pretty shabby."

Have I always agreed with Jack's opinions and decisions? Lordy, no. But among Jack's character traits that I admire and respect is his forthright communication. Jack doesn't play games; you always know exactly what he's thinking because he tells you exactly what he's thinking. That's a rare thing in politics, and I welcome it at the council table.

When his term expires at the end of



this year, Jack "isn't going anywhere," as he put it. You'll see him around town frequently and when you do, I hope you'll shake his hand and thank him for his service. I know I will.

We're doing a bit of "hurrying up and waiting" with regard to some funding applications at the moment, but I am very pleased to announce that the final piece of funding has come through that will allow us to finish resurfacing Main St. from Superior Ave. N. to Grasmere Rd. We're talking sidewalks, curb and gutter, and roadway. Very exciting!

Skagit County will fund the restrooms at the planned water spray park—the final piece of the funding puzzle there, other than some politics playing out over the funding for the spray park itself. We're working on that.

We've entered the design phase for the Park and Ride facility that will be built at the west end of Silo Park in 2016.

And yes, we're still aiming to get some new playground equipment installed at Silo Park! Bear with us, and thank you for your patience.

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

You are invited to join us for our annual Candle Lighting and Ceremony of Remembrance.

Sunday,
December 6, 2015
2:00 p.m.



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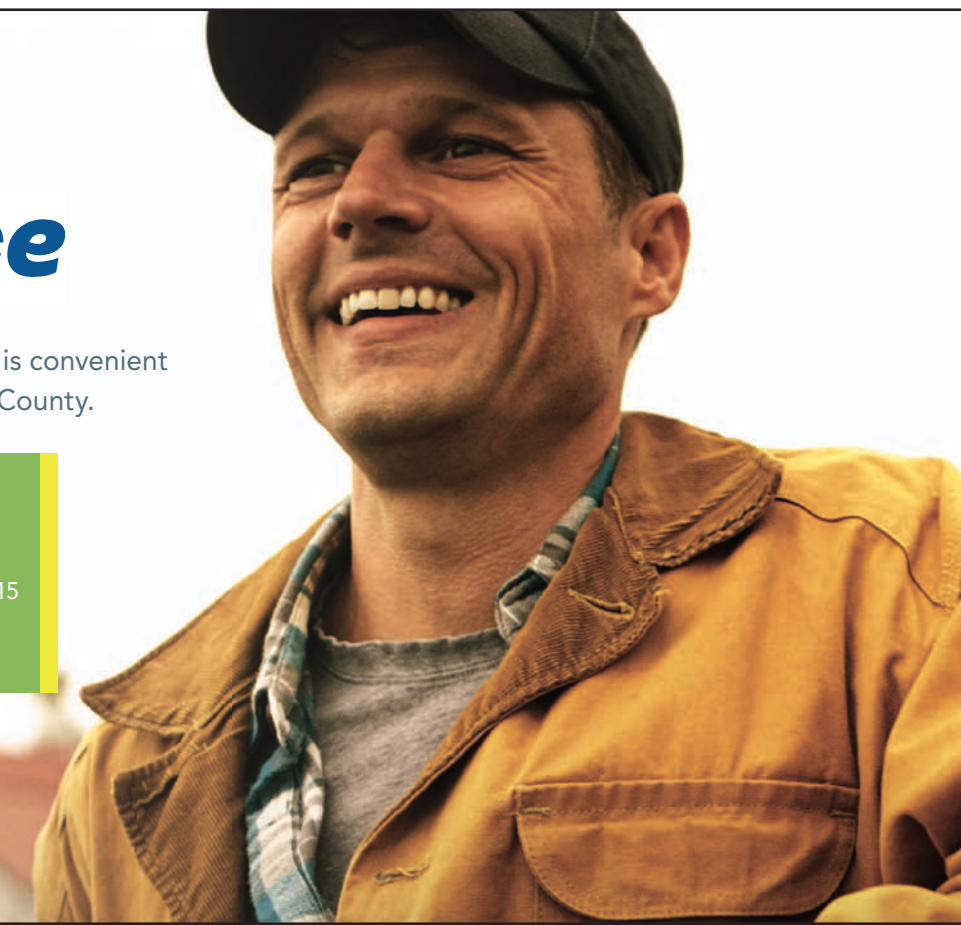
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Thomas, Holbrook win Town Council seats

Council Position 2 remains in question as councilmember-elect Holbrook weighs her options.

By Haley McNealey

Edited by Katy Tomasulo

Ballots from the Nov. 3 general election, which included several Concrete Town Council positions, have been counted, and results were confirmed on Nov. 24. For Council Position 1, Rob Thomas was elected with 87 votes (75 percent); Bill Sullivan, who had announced his withdrawal from the election earlier this year for health reasons, received 29 votes (25 percent). Maryann Holbrook was elected for Council Position 2 with 73 votes (63.5 percent); incumbent councilman Dave Pfeiffer received 42

votes (36.5 percent). Marla Reed, who ran unopposed for Council Position 4, received 96 votes. Ginger Kyritsis, also running unopposed, received 93 votes for Council Position 5.

Like Sullivan, Holbrook also had announced withdrawal from the election, after deciding to take a job in Brewster, Wash.; her name still appeared on the ballot because she did not make the decision until after the final date for withdrawal had passed. Mayor Jason Miller said he spoke with Holbrook and

at that time she expressed uncertainty about her plans. She is currently exploring options for securing employment locally, which would enable her to take office. Holbrook has two options: She can take the oath and immediately resign at the Jan. 11 regular meeting of the Town Council, or she can remain in office. If she chooses to resign, the council will begin the process of appointing another person to the position; councilmembers would make the official decision at their Jan. 25 meeting. Holbrook did not respond to a request for comment.

Pfeiffer has announced that if Holbrook chooses to resign, he will apply for appointment back into his current seat on the council. "I believe there is more I can contribute to the town," he told

Concrete Herald. He emphasized fiscal responsibility if he is appointed to continue representing the town in Council Position 2. When asked his opinion on the state of affairs, Mayor Miller stated, "If I were in Pfeiffer's position, I would think long and hard before I attempted to regain a seat from which the Concrete voters had removed me."

In other election news, Proposition 1, Annexation into Upper Skagit Partial-County Rural Library District, passed with 89 votes (68.46 percent), with 41 votes (31.54 percent) cast against the proposition.

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

2016 budget amendments finalized

By Haley McNealey

Edited by Katy Tomasulo

The Concrete Town Council finalized the 2016 budget during its Nov. 23 regular council meeting. The process has been ongoing following recent budget workshops, the last of which occurred on Nov. 9. The few changes made included adjustments to the water and sewer utility charges for Concrete residents and pay raises for town staff.

The town is implementing a 3 percent pay raise for all staff, with the exception of the Public Works maintenance worker, who will receive a 25 percent raise of nearly \$2 to \$15 per hour. Town Clerk Andrea Fichter stated the more substantial pay increase for this position is because of the employee currently receiving the starting pay for the role and to compensate for the fact that the town does not offer medical or dental benefits for that position.

In addition, the council determined revisions to the mayor's salary: Beginning January 2016, the mayor position will receive \$12,000 annually. The increase, from \$7,200, was proposed by and approved by Town Council when it was determined the current mayor has been able to attend more town-related meetings than predecessors because of the flexible

nature of his self-employment status, and that calculations by Fichter indicated the mayor was making less than minimum wage for his time. The mayor will now be required to report mileage when traveling for work-related purposes and will be eligible to apply for reimbursement for any trip a minimum 100 miles one way.

As outlined in the November issue of Concrete Herald, Concrete residents can expect a semiannual utility rate increase. Every six months, the rate for both the water and sewer utilities will increase in \$2.50 increments. There is currently no timeline for when residents can expect rates to freeze. The utility rate increases are in place to compensate for several hurdles: Urgent updates are required for the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the town is attempting to eliminate debt from substantial outstanding loans made to fund construction of the plant. The town also is experiencing a sudden decrease in revenues from the bottling company to which the town sells water.

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

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- **Geoffrey Castle Celtic Christmas Celebration**
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- **"It's a Wonderful Life"**
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Christmas in Concrete

A full calendar of events are on tap for the December holiday season in Concrete, with many activities being held at the Concrete Theatre.

Catch a screening of **"The Polar Express"** at Concrete Theatre on Sat., Dec. 5, at 5 p.m. Admission is free.

Another free event, **Cookies with Mrs. Claus**, will be hosted by Concrete Theatre on Sun., Dec. 6, at 1:30 p.m.

The **Christmas Parade** will be held on Sat., Dec. 12. The tree-lighting will kick things off at 6 p.m., with the parade route beginning at the post office and traveling east into Concrete Town Center. This year, Santa will hand out gifts inside the Concrete American Legion building after the parade.

Geoffrey Castle Celtic Christmas Celebration returns to Concrete Theatre

on Thur., Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. Castle has delivered his high-energy performance at the theater in the past, and nobody goes away disappointed. For ticket information, go to www.concrete-theatre.com.

Perennial favorite Christmas movie **"It's a Wonderful Life"** will screen at Concrete Theatre on Tue., Dec. 22, at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

For more information about Concrete Theatre events, go to www.concrete-theatre.com or call 360.941.0403.

For more information about the Christmas Parade or Santa's Dec. 12 visit to Concrete, call 360.826.4848 or 360.853.8505.

—J. K. M.

Two physicians join PeaceHealth United General

Two physician specialists joined the medical staff at PeaceHealth United General Medical Center in Sedro-Woolley in November.

John Pettit, MD, is a urologist with more than 20 years' experience. He treats male, female, and child urologic health issues, including vasectomy and vasectomy reversal, benign prostate enlargement, incontinence, hernia, kidney stones, and urinary problems associated with multiple sclerosis.

To schedule an appointment, call 360.714.3400.

Timothy Whitney, MD, is a plastic and hand surgeon who specializes in breast reconstructive surgery for post-mastectomy patients and hand reconstructive surgery to correct congenital defects, such as webbed fingers, and acquired defects, such as carpal tunnel syndrome and trigger finger.

To schedule an appointment, call 360.856.7115.

THIS AND THAT

By J. K. M.

Grasmere photographer **Loren Brothers** is in the spotlight this month after winning a ridiculous amount of cash and prizes in the RJ Reynolds Co. "Shoot Like a Pro" photography contest.

His photo of Cascade River Rd. grabbed the top honors with its ethereal view of shafts of morning sunlight slicing through fog.

Brothers, 58, won \$18,000 in cash, plus \$10,000 worth of camera accessories, including a Nikon camera.

"I'm jazzed," said Brothers of the experience, and said he'll first "render unto Caesar what is Caesar's. Then I'm going to get a used 4x4 pickup truck so I can go up in the mountains and take pictures. Then I'll go somewhere warm for a week."

A former Forest Service employee, Brothers describes himself as "semi-retired, independently unwealthy."

Well, maybe a little less unwealthy now.

Council summary

Concrete Town Council met for regular meetings on Nov. 9 and 23. The Nov. 9 meeting was preceded by a 2016 budget workshop. The following is a summary of those two meetings and the 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. 9 budget workshop

Council discussed the mayor's salary and decided the mayor position should receive \$12,000 annually with reimbursement for mileage for meetings that occur more than 100 miles away, one-way.

Council reviewed the 2016 budget proposals in their entirety, discussing property tax revenues and the practice of budgeting to zero.

Nov. 9 regular meeting

Public Safety: Sgt. Chris Kading reported there was a good turnout at the school on Halloween and the evening had been without any incidents.

He also reported on another fight that occurred at The Hub last night.

He stated there was a dispute between two 12- to 13-year-old boys, as well as another fight between two high school girls, which involved some Facebook posts.

He also reported the deputies will be doing patrols of the public restrooms in the evenings. He stated there have been reports of people sleeping in the bathrooms, but so far the deputies have not witnessed anyone sleeping in there at night.

Mayor Miller reported on a phone call he received from a woman who would like to see a homeless shelter created in Concrete. He reported that she stated that she had seen signs of numerous people sleeping along the Cascade Trail between Superior Avenue and Douglas Vose III Way.

Superior Bldg.: Council is moving ahead with plans to demolish the Superior Bldg. and build a new multi-use facility at that site.

Airport: Councilmember Jack Mears reported there is power being installed and conduit being run for electrical at a few different hangars.

Community garden: Councilmember Marla Reed reported they advertised at the school and had seven high-

schoolers and three adults attend a work party and got a lot of work done in three hours. She stated there are still a lot of high school seniors who need to get their volunteer hours.

Nov. 23 regular meeting

Bill Reinard and Corey Ruiz expressed their opposition to the designation status of the Skagit River to a Wild Steelhead Gene Bank. Council agreed with their viewpoint. A resolution in support of the opposition will be brought to the Dec. 14 council meeting.

Public Safety: Deputy Dills reported they were asked to walk the Cascade Trail in the evenings to look for sleeping transients. He stated he has done this a few times now and has not seen transients or evidence of transients sleeping the area.

Deputy Dills also reported on the incidents that have occurred at The Hub recently and that the same patron was the cause of those incidents, and has now been "86'ed" from the establishment.

Mayor Miller asked about the shed at the Community Garden and the damage that was done to the outside of the building and windows. Mayor Miller stated he received a report from a citizen who had witnessed two juveniles shooting toward the shed with what he believed to be either a pellet gun or a .22 rifle. Deputy Dills stated that Deputy Backstrom has made contact with the parents of the juveniles and is working on this case. Deputy Dills requested cost estimates for the repairs.

Mayor Miller reported there were some flooding issues with Lorenzen Creek again during the heavy rain event last week. He stated it is still the same problem that has existed and although it wasn't as bad as the last event, they did have to do a lot of sandbagging. He stated that he has spoken with Congresswoman DelBene regarding some possible FEMA funding that might assist the town with re-routing this creek.

—Compiled from staff notes

Keep track of your council

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

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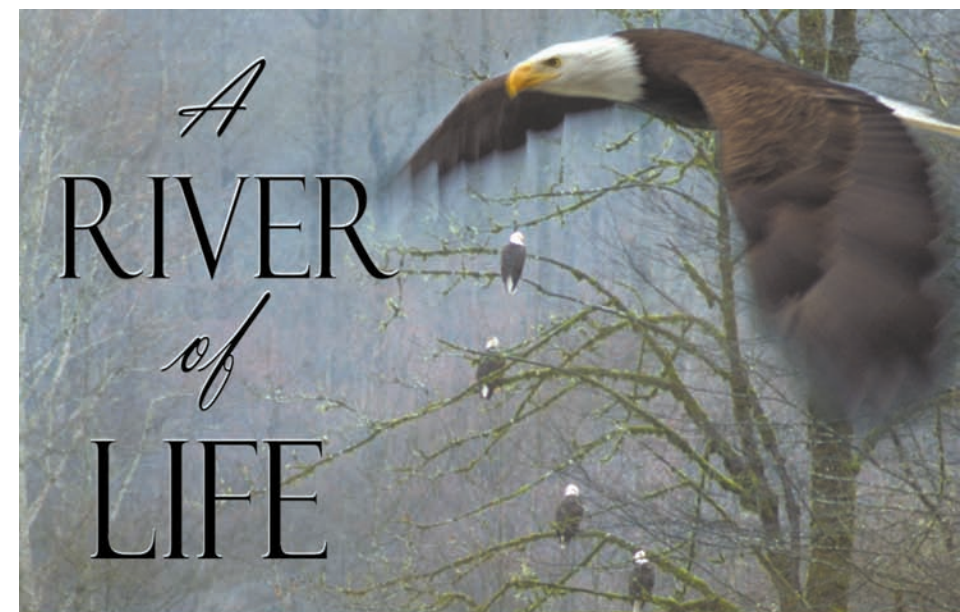
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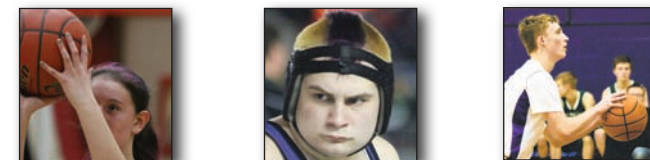
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Sports



Fall Athletes of the Month

Wrestling squad “senior loaded”

By Jason Miller

With a baker's dozen men and one lone woman, the Concrete High School wrestling team is locked and loaded for a successful season. Coaches David Dellinger and John Koenig will again take the lead, assisted this year by Don Olmstead.

Dellinger called this year's squad “senior loaded,” with seven returning seniors: Robert Nevin (heavyweight), Brayden Olmstead (220), Donnie Olmstead (195), Randall Beacham (182), newcomer Zach Carpenter (182), Donovan Dellinger (152), and Will May (132).

The team started with a full card in all weight classes, but lost five almost immediately, said Dellinger, adding that the coaches and team members are trying to recruit wrestlers to fill the gaps in the 120-, 160-, and 170-lb. classes.

Women's coach John Koenig said he looks forward to working with sophomore Becky Azure again this year. “She's got no fear this year,” he said. “Last year she worried about other wrestlers; this year she's taking on every guy in the room.”

The full team will travel to Stanwood for a season-opening dual-meet tournament on Dec. 5.

Women's basketball off to fast start

By Kevik Rensink, head coach

Basketball season is under way, and it is very encouraging to see the number of players turning out this year for the women's and men's teams.

There is a great group of young ladies representing our basketball program this season, and they are off to a fast start. Fast is what we are looking for because fast is what we will need to be this year. Four seniors were lost to graduation from last season, including some great leadership and most of our height.

A lot of our players have stepped into the missing leadership roles already, including our two senior captains Cassidy Cargile and Katelin Pritchard. However, nobody has grown any taller since last season, so we will play to our strengths: quickness, aggressiveness, and smarts.

The women love playing this “upbeat” style of basketball and are very anxious to see what it looks like against an opponent.

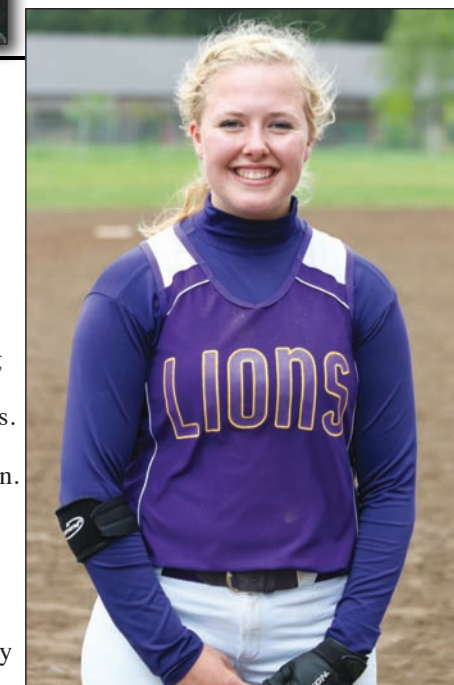
You will be able to get your first look at this year's basketball team during our home opener on Fri., Dec. 4, at 5:30 p.m. We start off the season with three home

games in a row, with the other two being Dec. 5 at 2:30 p.m., and Dec. 8 at 6 p.m.

Please come out and support these girls. They have been working extremely hard and are very optimistic about their season.

Besides our two returning seniors, this year's varsity team returns four other players from last year: juniors Emily Bridge, Jaycelyn Kuipers, Tate Mathis, and Chloe Stidman. Also joining the varsity ranks this season is junior Destiny Van Bibber and sophomore Madisyn Renzelman. The players have already affectionately named themselves the “Five-foot-threes and Jaycelyn.” This is a very accurate description of our team this year, and might be the shortest team I have ever coached here at Concrete High. Every player is between 5 foot 2 and 5 foot 4, with the lone exception of Jaycelyn, who stands at 5 foot 11.

I am looking forward to a great and memorable season. These young women are a lot of fun to coach, and their success this season will come in the form of family.



Fall Athletes of the Month: Iris Nevin and Randall Beacham

Junior Iris Nevin (shown in her softball gear), plays center midfield for the Concrete High School soccer team. She was named this year's team MVP and also snagged a First Team All League spot. “Iris is consistently the hardest-working member of the 2015 soccer team,” said Head Coach Adam Woodworth. “She was recognized by league and non-league coaches, as well as referees as a standout player with a ferocity for competition. She plays and practices through injury and pain, leads by example, and always strives for her best. She is incredibly coachable and respected for her efforts by her teammates. Her passion for the game is unequalled. She is a model athlete and a great representative of the competitive spirit that is Concrete soccer.”

Senior Randall Beacham was a second team selection as a linebacker. “He was one of our most versatile players,” said Head Coach Ron Rood. “He scored as a runner, receiver, kicker, and punter. He also played hurt much of the year, but still played in every game.”

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



Fall Athletes of the Month: Jasmine Hopfield and Dylan Clark

Jasmine Hopfield is a senior setter and a four-year letter earner for the Concrete High School volleyball team. She was named Athlete of the Month because of her many accomplishments this season and a stellar career. Hopfield was a team captain, was awarded best server the last three seasons, ranked first or second in every statistical category, and was awarded Second Team All-League honors. “She led with great athletic ability, a knowledge of the game, and competitor's heart,” said Head Coach Kevik Rensink. “Jasmine is very deserving of this award and will be greatly missed. Thank you, Jasmine, for pouring yourself into our volleyball program. We are better because of it.”

Senior Dylan Clark was selected as the league MVP on offense and a First Team selection on defense as a linebacker. He was team captain and team MVP. “He led the county in scoring and was second in rushing, even though he only got to play in eight games rather than 10,” said Head Coach Ron Rood.

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

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FOOTBALL AWARDS

League MVP, Offense: Dylan Clark. **First Team League, Defense:** Dylan Clark. **First Team League, Linebacker:** Donnie Olmstead. **First Team League, Offensive and Defensive Lineman:** Robert Nevin. **First Team League, Receiver:** Tyler Labrousse. **Team Captain:** Dylan Clark. **Team MVP:** Dylan Clark. **Second Team League, Linebacker:** Randall Beacham. **Second Team League, Running Back:** Donnie Olmstead. **Second Team League, Defensive Back:** Tyler Labrousse. **Second Team League, Offensive Lineman:** Brayden Olmstead. **Best Blocker:** Trevor Lerma. **Best Tackler:** Donnie Olmstead. **Coaches' Award:** Tucker Scollard. **Super Scout:** Joe Ramirez.

SOCCER AWARDS

Rookie of the Year: Khyla Phillips. **Most Inspirational:** Emily Schmidt. **Most Valuable Player:** Iris Nevin. **First Team All League:** Iris Nevin. **All League nomination:** Chloe Stidman.

VOLLEYBALL AWARDS

JV Most Improved Player: Jaidyn Swanson. **JV Most Valuable Player:** Diane Bergsma. **Varsity Best Server:** Jasmine Hopfield (96%). **Varsity Perfect Passer:** Cassidy Cargile (45%). **Varsity Most Improved Player:** Hannah Rensink. **Varsity Most Valuable Player:** Katelin Pritchard.

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Basketball men focus on playing hard and smart

By Paul Bianchini, head coach

The 2015-16 Concrete Lions Men's Basketball team started the season on a positive note as 24 student athletes took to the court on Nov. 16. What the team started in mid-November was the development of a focus on working hard, playing hard and smart, and communication with every member of the team.

This year's team of 24 includes three seniors: Dylan Clark, James Suit, and Tucker Scollard. These three players' attitudes have been vital to the total team development thus far.

The rest of the squad includes juniors Grayson Luttrell, Tyler Labrousse, Solomon Holman, and Brian Torheim; sophomores Joe Ramirez, James Schoolland, Michael Filtz, Rey Garibay,

Cole Meacham, David Swain, and Kaleb Engler; and freshmen Kaden Becker, Dalton Newby, Ryan Magee, Michael Booker, Jonas Rensink, Shayne Luttrell, Tyler Coffell, Tyler Nevin, and Charles Parent.

The Lions' first three games are all at home this season. Game one is Fri., Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. The team turns around the very next day with an afternoon game against Bush School, at 1 p.m. The Lions' first league game is Dec. 8 versus league rival Darrington Loggers. Tip-off is at 7:30 p.m.

Plan to attend and support your Concrete Lions team this season. These student athletes represent our community very well.

DelBene, Darrington students watch eagles

Congresswoman Suzan DelBene (WA-01) joined 4th and 5th graders from Darrington Elementary on Nov. 24 to watch eagles along the Skagit River.

The field trip was part of the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) Every Kid in a Park initiative, where local students were given an annual parks pass to reduce barriers to accessing public lands and encourage relationships with the outdoors. During the Nov. 24 visit, students learned about winter ecology.

"I'm thankful that Washington's First District is home to some of our nation's most beautiful national forests, parks, mountains, waterways, and wildlife," DelBene said. "Taking care of our natural resources and protecting our environment is critical to preserving the quality of life we cherish for future generations. And that starts with ensuring our youth are learning about the importance of these ecosystems in areas like the Skagit River."

Last year, DelBene's Illabot Creek Wild and Scenic Act passed to designate more than 14 miles of Illabot Creek—which feeds into the Skagit River—as wild and scenic.

"The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest is home to glacier-covered peaks, spectacular mountain meadows, and old-growth forests, rich in history and outdoor opportunities," said Jamie Kingsbury, forest supervisor for Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. "We are proud to participate in the Every Kid in a Park initiative connecting children and their families to the wonders of this national treasure."

Read Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Rock star

Marblemount sculptor Andre Pomeroy works with heavy subject matter.

As you read this, Andre Pomeroy likely is bent over a 3-ton boulder of serpentine stone, methodically drawing from it the figures of four sea lions. The dark, roughly 4x4-foot boulder is shot through with pinks, oranges, browns, whites—crystalline splotches and swirls from

which will emerge the glistening bodies. It will take the Marblemount sculptor about three weeks to complete the task.

The sea lions represent the four members of the Stacy and Kelsey Marshall family of Bainbridge Island, who lost a son, Owen, at age 6 to complications from quadriplegia cerebral palsy. The sculpture will be installed in early 2016 at Owen's Playground, an outdoor, accessible play space at Rotary Park on Bainbridge Island.

A few days before he began work on the massive sculpture, Pomeroy sat down to talk about his work and art at his home on Londonderry Quarry, 80 acres of jumbled, tumbling land near Marblemount, where he lives with his wife and two daughters. It's an old talc quarry with tunnels punched into the slopes of Jordan Mountain. Pomeroy uses an excavator to unearth boulders and smaller chunks of black jade, granite, white and green serpentine, soapstone, garnet, peridot ... his quiet voice continues on as I lose track amid new, unknown words.

I hear him say, "I don't know the end of the list myself."

Pomeroy, 61, has owned Londonderry since 1989. A largely self-taught geologist, the stocky artist has been sculpting since he was 27. Early on he worked with walrus ivory, carving whales, jellyfish, and other marine life out of the translucent material. John Denver bought one of his pieces, a giant squid entangled in a sperm whale. Ivory on a soapstone base. White ivory whale. Mottled green ivory squid with orange ivory for its suckers. Abalone eyes. Denver later gifted the piece to the Cousteau family. Yes, *that* Cousteau family.

Earlier that day, Pomeroy posed for a photo beside a huge soapstone boulder

Samples of Andre Pomeroy's smaller works include, from top to bottom, a chlorite dolphin, a soapstone frog, a silver purse web spider, and a chlorite two-headed bear in progress.



laced with magnacite and talc, pointing out the locations where he'd like to carve out a fire pit and seats. At one point, he turned his head and looked along the face of it, smiling.

I mention Michelangelo and Pomeroy nods. It's basically true for him too, he says, the idea that a sculpture lies within an untouched stone, that the sculptor's task is to remove everything that doesn't belong, leaving the work of art. Pomeroy's method is similar.

When he chose the stone for the sea lion sculpture he "looked at the curve of a boulder and saw the backbone of the male sea lion, saw the twists and turns—there's the head, there's the female's tail, there's the children.

"Sometimes the patterns or colors will tell me what to do. I try to take stone that already has the general shape of what I want to create; I don't like to work with just a straight block of stone. Michelangelo worked with dimensional blocks; I think he probably envisioned his pieces right in the blocks. I can do that, but I do tend to try to let the shape speak to me. If I want to do something particular, then I look for that shape."

To draw out the forms, Pomeroy uses everything from hand tools to large equipment. He'll start with the excavator, then move to a diamond circular saw. You'll see him at the bench grinder and find files, rasps, knives, and sanders in his hands—all in the service of discovering the beauty within some very unforgiving material.

"Sometimes the ugliest, rustiest rock yields the most beautiful colors— oranges, greens, yellows—sometimes the prettiest are found only once you get in there. Other times you have a rock that looks pretty nice, and you cut into it and it doesn't change much. Some of the serpentines are like that, not as much zing."

It's getting dark, and since Pomeroy lives off the grid, he fires up a couple tea light LED lanterns and tells the story of a man who kept a chunk of nondescript rock as a doorstop, eventually selling it to another man for \$25. The second man knew what it was: the world's largest sapphire, worth thousands.

"It's always a surprise," he says in the dying daylight. "A treasure hunt."

—J. K. M.

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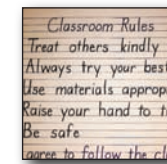
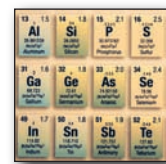
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Academics



Concrete Elementary School students gathered for a Nov. 24 Recognition Breakfast in honor of their special academic efforts. Front row, from left, Aleise Rensink always produces her best work; Loretta Selin is able to count to 100 by ones; Michael Casey challenges himself and sets goals; David Sherman displays strong PAX leadership; Cail Wilson works hard to do well; Zoe Potter, for achievement in the classroom. Back row, from left, Vincent Preis, for good effort and being responsible; Joshua Brocius, for excellent study habits; Isabella Martinez, for academic excellence; Ethan Norgord reliably completes work, has a positive attitude, and contributes toward a product; Carlen Herz is always willing to help others and finishes her work; Courtney Hastings, for her good efforts and quality work.

Concrete Herald congratulates the academic and character achievers for November!



Concrete Elementary students were honored Nov. 20 at a "Character Assembly" that celebrated the ways they demonstrated responsibility. Front row, from left, Kaylee Nieshe, Amelia Culver, Samantha Mitchell, Isabella Middlemist, Kayleann Kohnke, Gianna Aamot. Back row, from left, Hayley Daniels, Orion Edge, Devon Howard, Hope Danner, Jasmine Lofton, Harley Herz. Photo by Jaci Gallagher.

Hawkings receives substance abuse prevention award

Concrete School District Superintendent Barbara Hawkings was recognized at the 2015 Washington State Exemplary Substance Abuse Prevention Awards ceremony, held Nov. 16 in Seattle.



Hawkings

Hawkings was awarded as an Exemplary School Professional by Washington State Lt. Governor Brad Owen. She received the award for her dedication and commitment to supporting partnerships to reach local youth and families with substance abuse and mental health prevention programs and strategies, making her a leader among Washington State school professionals.

Under Hawkings' leadership, the school district has progressed from having minimal prevention programs to striving to reach every student in grades K through 10 with evidence-based programming. Hawkings was recognized for allocating staff time and school resources to support quality implementation of programs that focus on developing social and emotional skills among all students (PAX Good Behavior Game, Second Step, Life Skills), training all staff in Youth Mental Health First Aid, as well as her partnerships in family and community programs.

Hawkings also was recognized for her role as a dedicated board member of the Concrete Resource Coalition, a lead partner in the planning and implementation of community and school prevention efforts. As a coalition board member, Hawkings has supported its mission of developing and implementing ways to respectfully meet the needs of youth, families, and individuals through collaboration, networking, and building community relationships.

—Alyssa Pavitt

YD update

Some people think of Concrete YD as a "kids thing." Others view it as a "church thing." I view it as a "we thing." I know it sounds cliché, but we are all in this together. I believe that as a community we are all affected by the decisions of our youth and what they choose to do with their time. We believe that reaching young people is strategic to impacting the world.

I am very proud of our students at Concrete High School. Almost 80 students have attended one of our weekly Monday night meetings this school year; already we are seeing the positive impact these young people's lives are having on each other, our school, their families, and our community.

We want to invite and challenge our youth to make a positive difference in their lives and in the lives around them. We have been discussing friendships and the importance of relationships this year. What do those relationships consist of? How are we being affected by other people's decisions? How are we affecting others by our own decisions? Do we need to make a change?

These are some of the questions the students are challenged with, followed by a thought process that maybe wasn't there before. I have already seen huge changes in some of our students' lives this year.

Monday, Nov. 30 was movie night, followed by our annual Christmas Party on Dec. 7 and Christmas caroling around town on Dec. 14.

We are accepting deposits for our first adventure trip of the school year, "Hotdoggin' 2016," which is held during the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend in Leavenworth. This is our annual four-day snow retreat, and every year our students and staff have a blast, forming lifelong memories and relationships. There are only 10 spots available, so it fills up fast. If you are interested in having your son or daughter attend, please call me at 360.630.6063 for more information.

Thank you for supporting our mission in this community. We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and wish you all a very merry Christmas.

—Kevik and Marta Rensink



Concrete High School students Keighley Mitchell, Samantha Mitchell, Makayla Callas, and advisor Chris Kennedy paused for a photo at a familiar Seattle landmark while attending the National Prevention Network Conference at the Seattle Sheraton Nov. 17–19. The trio are leaders of the Concrete Prevention Posse Youth Group and received training at the conference, learning about youth leadership in design, implementation, and evaluation of strategies to bring about school- and community-level change. The students said conference highlights included learning how to structure activities, meeting new people, and learning about the substance abuse challenges faced in other communities. The students also appreciated how interactive and hands-on the training was so they could feel comfortable using what they learned to come back and bring about local change. Submitted photo.



Concrete students Kendra Knuth (left) and Chloe Malloy share their personal thoughts on Veterans Day during a Veterans Day event at Veterans Memorial Park in Concrete on Nov. 11.

2nd Annual

Community Bazaar and Children's Craft Fair

Brought to you by
Imagine Concrete Foundation

Saturday December 12

11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
At Concrete Elementary
School gym

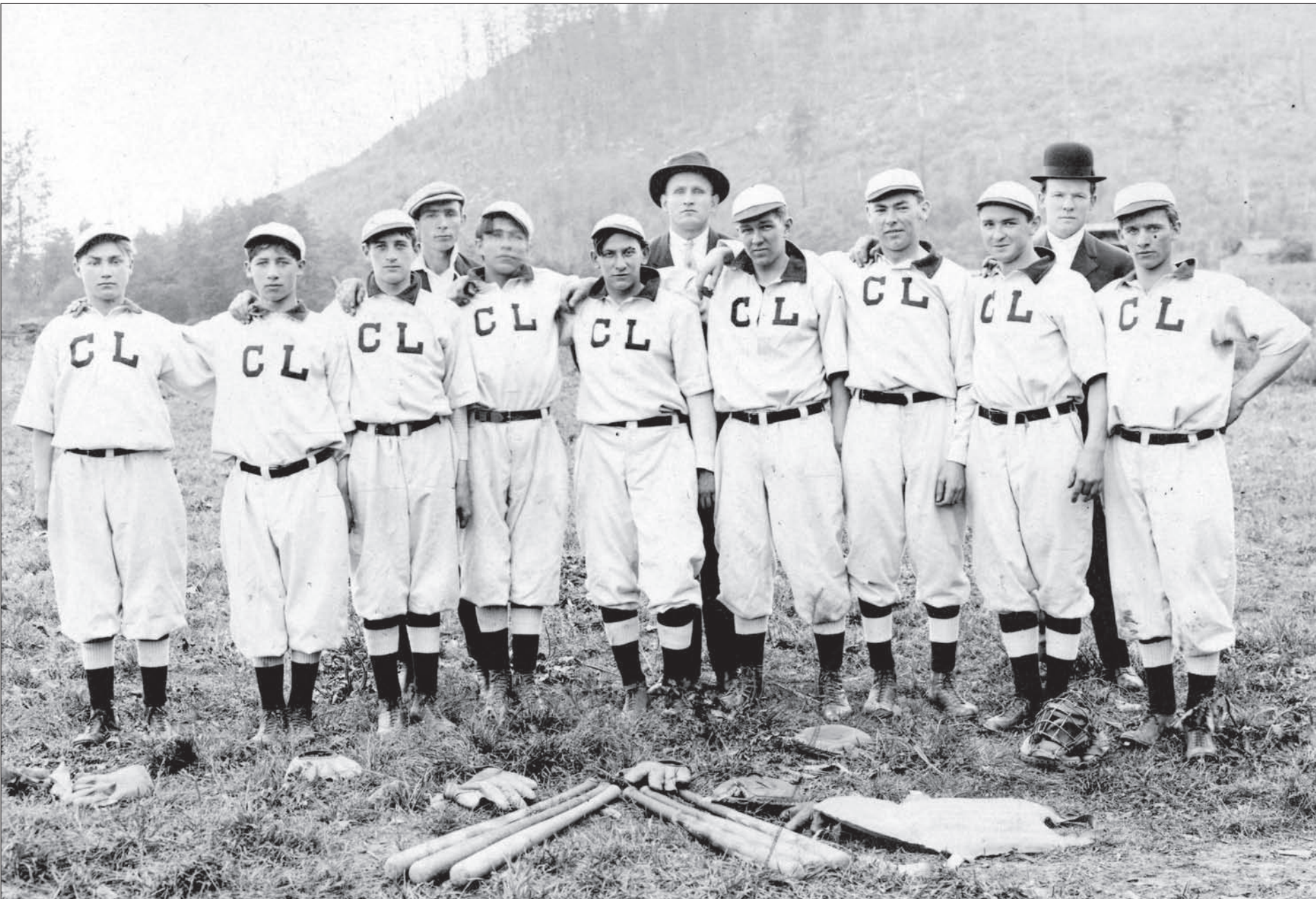
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Clear Lake



HISTORY CORNER

This photo of the Clear Lake town baseball team, sponsored by Clear Lake Lumber Company, was taken circa 1913.

Second from left is Reuben (Tuffy) Boyd. Fifth player from left is Lenny Calkins (Lenny was a filer for the mill). Sixth player from the left is Bob Parker. Lenny Boyd is at the far right. Mr. Jarvis is the man behind the team in the center.

Clear Lake Lumber Company's manager, B.R. Lewis, was known for hiring good

baseball players who were students at the University of Washington and giving them office jobs at the lumber company so that they would have winning teams. *Photo courtesy of Clear Lake Historical Association.*

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

—Deanna Ammons, historian

Notice:

The Clear Lake Historical Association has changed its hours to Tuesday only, from 10 a.m. to noon. Members may be able to accommodate appointments by request.

For more information, send an e-mail to clha1987@gmail.com and allow up to a week for a response.



Community Calendar



DECEMBER

- 2 Support Group meets for those with pulmonary diseases, PeaceHealth United General Medical Center (Coho Cafe), Sedro-Woolley, 3 p.m.
- 3 Upper Skagit Writes Open Mic, Upper Skagit Library, Concrete, 5 to 6 p.m.; info at 360.853.7939
- 5 Clear Lake Annual Arts and Crafts Fair, Clear Lake Elementary School, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; info at 360.855.0042
- 5 Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center opens, Rockport; open weekends 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; info at www.skagiteagle.org and 360.853.7626
- 5 Christmas Bazaar, Mansford Grange, Darrington, see notice, p. 25
- 5 Sedro-Woolley Magic of Christmas, downtown; kids' activities at 3 p.m., parade at 5 p.m.
- 5–6 Concrete Lions Club Christmas Tree Sales, Swap Meet lot west of Loggers Landing, Concrete, and at Albert's Red Apple, Grasmere
- 6 Marblemount Community Hall Christmas Bazaar, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Santa and his elf at noon; see notice, p. 26
- 6 Candle Lighting and Ceremony of Remembrance at Lemley Chapel, 1008 Third St., Sedro-Woolley, see ad, p. 3; info at 360.855.1288
- 7 Author Joline Bettendorf discusses her book, The Home Front, at Sedro-Woolley Senior Center, 715 Pacific St., Sedro-Woolley, 11 a.m.; info at 360.855.1531
- 10 SRSC Presentation and Community Meeting regarding Barnaby Reach proposal, Howard Miller Steelhead Park clubhouse; call 260.661.2110 for time and details
- 10 Holiday Open House at Community Action of Skagit County, 330 Pacific Place, Mount Vernon, 4 to 6 p.m.
- 10 Concrete Music Dept. Winter Concert, CHS gym, 6 p.m., preceded by Spaghetti Dinner in CHS cafeteria at 5 p.m.
- 11 East County Community Health Forum, Concrete Center, 10 a.m. to noon; info at stephaniem@communityactionsskagit.org or 360.853.7009
- 12 Community Bazaar and Children's Craft Fair, Concrete Elementary School gym, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; see ad, p. 13; info at 360.770.2836
- 12 Hometown Holiday Celebration at Whitehorse Farmers' Market, Darrington; 3:30 to 7:30 p.m.; activities include a visit from Santa, bonfire, caroling, cocoa, cider, roasted marshmallows and hot dogs (bring your own roasting stick)
- 12 Sedro-Woolley Museum Holiday Home Tour at the museum and various locations; museum open 4 to 8:30 p.m., homes open 5 to 9 p.m.; tickets \$5; see ad, p. 17
- 12 Darrington Community Dance, Mansford Grange, Darrington; potluck at 5:30 p.m., dance from 7 to 9:30 p.m.; admission with \$7 donation; see notice, p. 25; info at 206.402.8646
- 12 Christmas in Concrete Parade, 6 p.m., Concrete Town Center; Santa at American Legion building after parade; see article, p. 6
- 12–13 Concrete Lions Club Christmas Tree Sales, Swap Meet lot west of Loggers Landing, Concrete, and at Albert's Red Apple, Grasmere
- 15 Concrete Elementary School Holiday Program, school gym, 6 p.m.; free admission
- 20 Hamilton Volunteer Fire Dept. Christmas Party, Hamilton Town Hall, 2 p.m.; see notice, p. 22

JANUARY

Skagit Bald Eagle Festival, every weekend in January, various locations in Concrete, Rockport, Marblemount; details in January issue

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

Community meetings

Coffee Talk with Concrete Mayor Jason Miller meets the third Fri. of each month at 8 a.m., at 5b's Bakery in Concrete. 360.853.8213.

Community Chat, an informal conversation about projects in Darrington, meets the second Sat. of each month at 9 a.m., at Mountain Loop Books and Coffee, 1085 Darrington St., Darrington. 360.436.2167

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

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

Concrete Chamber of Commerce meets the second Thur. of each month at 8 a.m. Meetings usually are held 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 its next work session on Dec. 14, at 6 p.m. in the high school Commons. The board will hold its next regular monthly meeting on Dec. 17, 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 Strong meets the third Wed. of each month, 7 p.m., at Cascade Senior Center, 1115 Darrington St., Darrington. 360.436.2167.

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

Forest Park Cemetery District No. 5 meets the second Wed. of each month at the cemetery

office on Compton Lane in Concrete, at 8 a.m. 360.708.3656.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Saukrates Cafe meets the last Wed. of each month at Annie's Pizza Station in Concrete, at 5 p.m. Conversation topics are posted at Upper Skagit Library and <http://saukratescafe.wordpress.com>.

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

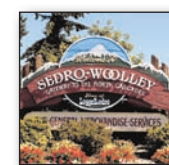
Sedro-Woolley School District Board will meet for a regular meeting on Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. at State Street High School. 360.855.3500 or kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us.

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

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

**Parents!
Get involved in your PTO!**

**Concrete Elementary PTO meetings are held
the second Wednesday of each month,
at 5 p.m., in the Concrete Elementary School library.
For more information, call 425.350.5988.**



Sedro-Woolley



S-W Boys & Girls Club names Youth of the Year

The annual Dinner with Friends was hosted by Sedro-Woolley Boys & Girls Club Members at the Sedro-Woolley Community Center on Nov. 12. Approximately 100 community members gathered to hear club youth present a program that recognizes their fellow club members with awards in several key programs, most notably Youth of the Year.

The process for the Youth of the Year program began with club members Hallie Simpson, Paula Banda, and Jazzelle Elias preparing their speeches and then presenting to a panel of judges from the

community: Christine Johnson (S-W School Board), Mike Anderson (S-W Mayor), Keith Wagoner (S-W City Council/Mayor Elect), and Lin Tucker (S-W Police Chief). Each candidate went on to share their speech at their club's Dinner with Friends event, where the winners were announced.

This year's candidates presented moving speeches. Jazzelle Elias was selected as Youth of the Year. She earned \$250 in scholarship money and will go on to speak at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Skagit County Youth of the Year event on Jan. 27.

Melanie Banda was named Junior Youth of the Year. The Junior candidate will continue on in the program as well, gathering experience and knowledge for their future run for Youth of the Year. All participants of the program gain valuable experience in public speaking and the opportunity to be awarded for their growth as club members.

Other club members were recognized in the following categories:

- Artist of the Year: Lance Hilton
- Spark Award: Shaely Spilker
- Sportsmanship Award: Riley Newman
- Academic All Star Award: Ryan Olson
- Boy & Girl of the Year: Connor Davis and Hayley Myrick.

The Sedro-Woolley Boys & Girls Club gave its Staff of the Year award to Desni Clay. Desni joined the Boys & Girls Club this summer as seasonal staff, and now focuses on programs like Project Learn and mentoring Club members.

The Mike and Diane Crawford Service Award was presented to Pat Grenfell, a long-time supporter of the clubs and an advocate for youth in all of Skagit County. She is an active volunteer and often provides food for family nights, secures donations, and gives monetary support.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Skagit County Youth of the Year event will be held on Jan. 27, where one countywide candidate will win \$500 in scholarship money and go on to the State Competition.



Several program participants took home awards at the Sedro-Woolley Boys & Girls Club Dinner with Friends event on Nov. 12, including, from left, Melanie Banda (2015 Junior Youth of the Year), Jazzelle Elias (2015 Youth of the Year), and Pat Grenfell (recipient of the Mike and Diane Crawford Award). Photo by Sarah Arquitt.

CASCADE MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

The following 7th and 8th grade students at Cascade Middle School received honors for high marks for the first quarter of the 2015-16 school year. An asterisk denotes a student with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Grade 7 Honor Roll

Elizabeth L. Abhold, Kalin J. Adkerson*, Matthew Aguilar-Sanchez, Jacob G. Anderson, Megan R. Andrews, Magali Antonio Salgado, Gabrielle M. Ashton, Lane P. Aungst, Heidy Z. Avila-Cruz, Katie L. Backstrom*, Paula C. Banda, Alexa J. Becerra Torres, Kian Beisler, Noelle G. Belanger, Camryn A. Benham*, Lauren A. Benham*, Brady O. Biggs*, Christian J. Bowers, Juliana Brown, Adam J. Bryson, Diego Bueno, Alicia Cardenas, Jayda M. Carter, Megan E. Christensen*, Kaysiah Clark, Ashton C. Constantine, Colby W. Constantine, Dalton J. Cook, Eliot S. Cooper, Wyatt J. Covert, James A. Cukierski, Victoria D'ariento*, Erin R. Davis, Olivia L. Dillard, Kylee N. Dobson, Beau G. Elder, Jonathan T. Emerson, Harmony L. Fetterly, Damien L. Field, Nathaly Flores, Dakota R. Fox*, Colsen J. Friedrichs, Alexis Frizzell, Shawn Froneberger, Lillian M. Fulford, Parker S. Garcia, Bryan Garcia Cervantes, Kylie R. Gibson, Kailar K. Greenough, Mackenzie E. Grimm, Savannah K. Halverson, Ethan J. Hasenoehrf*, Leslie C. Hastings, Joshua E. Heath, Claire Hindman, Christopher J. Hoffman, Anna C. Hollenbeck, Marcus L. Hubble, Meghan N. Hudson*, Seth W. Humerickhouse, Savannah G. Hupp*, Olivia M. Isakson*, Emily C. Johnson*, Madilyn C. Johnson*, Mackenzie E. Justus, Hannah K. Jutte, Adin M. Kilcup, Sommer A. King, Curtis M. Klaus, Evan C. Kolb, Kailo J. Lampkin, Olivia A. Leas, Brynna K. Lee, Kelton R. Marshall, Emma C. Martinson, Zaylor R. Mauck, Gabriel Z. Maxson, Noelan T. Melton, Samantha L. Meyer, Charles J. Moore, Isabella M. Moore, Leonel W. Morales, Alexander S. Morgan, Owen S. Murdock, Ty A. Neal, Annalee R. Nersten*, Kendra L. Neumann, Machaela R. Nieshe, Camree L. Nilsen*, Alexis M. Noyes, Karlee M. Nurmi*, Troy L. Peterson, Jakob N. Pilon, Kaden J. Plymale, Mallory C. Poppe, Jeffrey C. Prestmo, Anjelica Prisyazhnyuk, Cameron Queen, Emily M. Redling, Xander M. Renkema, Madelyn A. Requa*, Dustin L. Rhodes, Isabella G. Rinne*, Devin J. Roberts, London A. Roberts*, Lyric P. Robinette, Cameron D. Russell, Isaak E. Sanders, Shanoah L. Shanes, Jeffrey Z. Sheridan, Keaton Skiles*, Madesyn

PeaceHealth United General recognized for excellence in rural health

PeaceHealth United General Medical Center in Sedro-Woolley has received recognition for overall excellence in three hospital performance categories assessed by the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health. The recognition places the hospital in the top quartile of all acute care hospitals in the nation for

C. Skinner, Katelyn S. Snodgrass, Meghan C. Snyder, Vanessa Soto Lopez*, Seth Sternhill-Tift*, Jenna R. Stevens, Jakob E. Storm, Olivia A. Stormo, Bode J. Stout, Lila Suchsland*, Pedro I. Tamayo, Keyaira L. Taylor, Keely A. Thibodeau, Abigail H. Thomas*, Cassie G. Thomas, Elizabeth N. Thrumer, Gabriella M. Timblin, Mikayla R. Townsend, Layne A. Tucker, Carmen E. Ugalde, Kaylynn E. Vahovick, Amelia R. Vaith*, Josiah A. Vellegas*, Jessica C. Wahlgren, Josie M. Weppler, Gracie A. Wesson, Devon M. Whitney, Douglas D. Wilton, Tess A. Wimer, Jasan S. Winship, Heidi M. Winters, Allison J. Wood, Gabriel W. Zarate.

Grade 8 Honor Roll

Ammon M. Acton, Emma C. Adams, Jonathan R. Adams, Anahy Alcazar Salinas, Isabella R. Archer, Maryna Baidak, Courtney M. Bawden, Angelina J. Benitez, Keegan A. Blaine, Ariana K. Brown, Lexani B. Brown, Kylee N. Bryan, Peyton X. Burrell, Lorianne V. Castellanos, Grace E. Collins, Emma L. Cook, Nathaniel A. De La Vergne, Colby J. Dills, Camden J. Dowhaniuk, Jasmine J. Evans, Macy L. Evans, Eleanor R. Fair, Kaleb C. Ferris, Shauna C. Flores, Hannah M. Forst, Megan Friend*, Elise C. Gamson, Tommy Giang, Amy J. Graber, Devin A. Gray, Isaiah M. Guerero*, Jared C. Gunderson, Mackenzie L. Hamilton, Crista J. Harris, Jordyn R. Harris, Amber T. Helinski, Karin A. Henderson, Fatima Hernandez-Lara, Madisyn R. Hill, Lily J. Himes, Caleb R. Hoogendam, Chloe N. Hynds, Taylor A. Isaacs, Joseph L. Jennings, Morgan B. Johnson, Cameron M. Kapan, Breanna J. Laaker, Dascha L. Larm, Alyssa J. Lecca La Cruz, Jacob N. Lennox*, Mark S. Leus, Ryan L. Litke, Kelsey N. Loop, Emma N. Lootens, Israel Lopez Martinez, Marcelino Lopez Martinez, Denisse Lopez Nolasco, Trinity R. Luchi, Alexa D. Lynn*, Asia A. McDermott, Kaitlyn M. McKibbin, Harleigh K. McSpadden, Mauricio Medina Mondragon, Destiny J. Mehlum, Rylee R. Moors, Jennifer Morales, Rachel M. Neeld, Jacob B. Norris, Cora J. Orton, Mitchel A. Pepper, Makenna A. Peterson, Jerzee Pigford, Grace M. Pohl, Elijah I. Price, Ariel A. Resnik*, Karsyn T. Rooks, Romel A. Saragena, Dylan J. Scheib, Alyssa J. Scherf, Natalya A. Schwetz, Hallie J. Simpson, Zoe K. Slabodnik, Alex S. Smith, Piper R. Smith, Tessa C. Smith, Jared J. Snodgrass, Shelly L. Staples, Brandi E. Stewart*, Natalia R. Taylor*, Kaylee M. Thomas, Madisun R. Tobisch, Ian A. Valdovinos, Brent J. Vanderveen, Avery E. Wagner, Rowann A. Wagner, Serina E. Wilson, Samantha R. Wise, Mitchell T. Wolkenhauer.

performance in the areas evaluated.

Among the 39 rural hospitals in Washington, PeaceHealth United General is one of seven to be recognized for excellence in quality, one of 10 for excellence in patient satisfaction, and one of six for excellence in financial strength.

PeaceHealth United General's rural service area covers more than 2,000 square miles, extending from north of Diablo east to Bow, and includes Concrete, Burlington, and parts of Whatcom County.

SEDRO-WOOLLEY MUSEUM ANNUAL HOLIDAY HOME TOUR

**Saturday,
December 12**

4 to 8:30 p.m.
at the museum
Homes open 5-9 p.m.

Stroll the streets,
visit historical homes,
listen to carols,
see Santa at
the museum!

**Tickets
\$5**

Advance tickets for sale
at the museum (725
Murdock) or at Oliver-
Hammer Clothing.

Tickets for sale at
the door on Dec. 12.
All proceeds benefit
the museum.
Free admission for
children under 5

Bring a
flashlight for
this nonguided
walking tour.

For more information, call 360.708.0006.

The Town of Sedro-Woolley Presents

The Magic of Christmas

INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT
sedro-woolley.com

@Whoolleyville

December 5th - Parade Starts at 5pm Kids Activities at 3pm

December 12th - Santa Breakfast 9am

December 12th - Holiday Home Tour 4:30pm - 8pm



Lyman



Day Creek



Lyman will get new mayor; incumbent councilmembers retain seats

With three Town Council seats contested during the Nov. 3 general election, Lyman voters chose not to clean house, although one race was close.

Incumbent Mike Swanson faced challenger Charles (Dick) Saunders for Position 3, and won re-election by only three votes, taking 51 percent of the vote to Saunders' 49 percent.

Incumbent Mike Couch beat opponent Ryein Kitchen with 56 percent of votes, and will retain his Position 4 seat.

In the Position 5 race, incumbent Gail

Ganga garnered 56 percent of votes, defeating her challenger Donald Frye.

Lyman Mayor Debra Heinzman chose to finish her term at the end of 2015. Current councilmember Eddie Hills (Position 1) ran unopposed for the mayoral seat and won.

All winning candidates will take office effective Jan. 1, 2016. The Town Council will need to appoint an individual to fill Hills' vacated Position 1 seat.

—J. K. M.

Lyman charity seeks scarf donations

Lyman-based Heart to Heart Charity is seeking donations of scarves. These can be new or used if still in great shape.

The charity will donate the scarves around Upper Valley communities for those in need this winter. The scarf drive is a Give Back project for the charity's KIDS Club children.

The charity also seeks donations of yarn or fleece fabric and volunteers to make scarves. Anyone who wants to help in any way is asked to contact Tammie Werner at hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com.

—Tammie Werner

Need a great gift idea?

Pick up the Concrete Heritage Museum Cookbook!

Find it Albert's Red Apple Market or www.concreteheritagemuseum.org

Community notes

Community Block Watch planned

The November community meeting at the fire hall with Patrol Chief Chad Clark was well attended. Day Creek plans to organize a Community Block Watch after reading about similar efforts in Marblemount and Darrington in the November issue of *Concrete Herald*.

Stay tuned for more information and opportunities to join the planning efforts.

First Aid class planned

A CPR/First Aid class is being planned for Jan. 9 or 23, possibly both. The class will be held at the Community Hall. The class will be 4.5 hours and, with 10 students or more, would cost \$10. Look for a sign-up sheet at the Dec. 15 potluck.

Missing your keys?

A set of keys was found at the fire hall. If they are yours, call 360.826.3003.

Day Creek Chapel Chatter

This year's annual Christmas Play will be performed in December at the monthly Community Potluck (Dec. 15) and during church service on Dec. 20. After the service, you are invited to a Family Christmas Party (around noon). Bring a potluck side dish; the main dish will be provided. We will have cookies, mini tree decoration, games, and a special performance of the night Christ came. Fun for all ages, and all are invited.

Day Creek Kids has been busy packing shoeboxes with toys to send overseas with Operation Christmas Child. We raised enough money to pack and send 38 boxes.

Day Creek Book Club

The book club is open to new members. Members are welcome to host a book club meeting at their favorite "hang out" spot. Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month, at Cedar Springs Lodge on Barben Road. For more information, call 360.661.0247.

Kingdom Builders

If you know anyone in need during the Holiday Season, please call the numbers below. Kingdom Builders can put together

food baskets and gather Christmas gifts for kids and families.

Donna Pulver and Kathy Henderson, co-directors of Kingdom Builders, are reaching out to those in the Day Creek community who need help with trips to the doctor, hospital visits, store runs, and more. If you would like to become available to be a community helper, call 360.826.3003, 360.826.3581, or 360.826.3822.

WOMEN HAND in hand

WOMEN HAND in hand welcomed Sarah Hill Nov. 19–21.

April's event will welcome Isik Abila. Born in Turkey, Abila was raised in a devout Muslim home, left the Muslim religion, and converted to Christianity. For ticket information, go to www.womenhandinhand.com or follow Eventbrite to purchase your tickets. For more information, call 360.853.3066.

WOMEN HAND in hand can be followed on its Facebook page or on its Web site.

To join WOMEN HAND in hand, call 360.826.3067.

Garden dirt

December is the time to think spring flowering trees. Now is the time to finish your planting of the trees to bring spring colors into your yard. Get out there and get them purchased, taken home, and planted.

- You should have most of the clean-up in the garden areas done, but remember to leave something for the wildlife to harvest. With winter coming on, they depend on your garden leftovers to help them through the winter.
- Mulch for winter protection and begin applying dormant spray. If needed, lime your vegetable garden.
- Some pruning of fruit trees, hydrangeas, and deciduous shrubs can be done, but remember to wait until late winter to do your second trimming of the wisteria.

News and tips should be sent via e-mail to winningcircleanch@gmail.com.

—Compiled by Kathy Henderson



WOMEN HAND in hand designed and decorated this Christmas tree for the 2015 Festival of Trees, an annual fundraiser for the Skagit Valley Hospital Foundation. The tree's theme was "A Journey to Christmas." Its creators were Kathy Henderson, Maureen Royal, Tara Harris, Tara Day, and Jessi Harris. Photo by Kathy Henderson.

2015 Community Potluck dates

December 15, 6:30 p.m.

Target a new audience.

Advertise in Concrete Herald

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editor@concrete-herald.com

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The Magic of Christmas

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@Whoolleyville

December 5th – Parade Starts at 5pm Kids Activities at 3pm

December 12th – Santa Breakfast 9am

December 12th – Holiday Home Tour 4:30pm – 8pm

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*Source: 2013 National Newspaper Association Survey



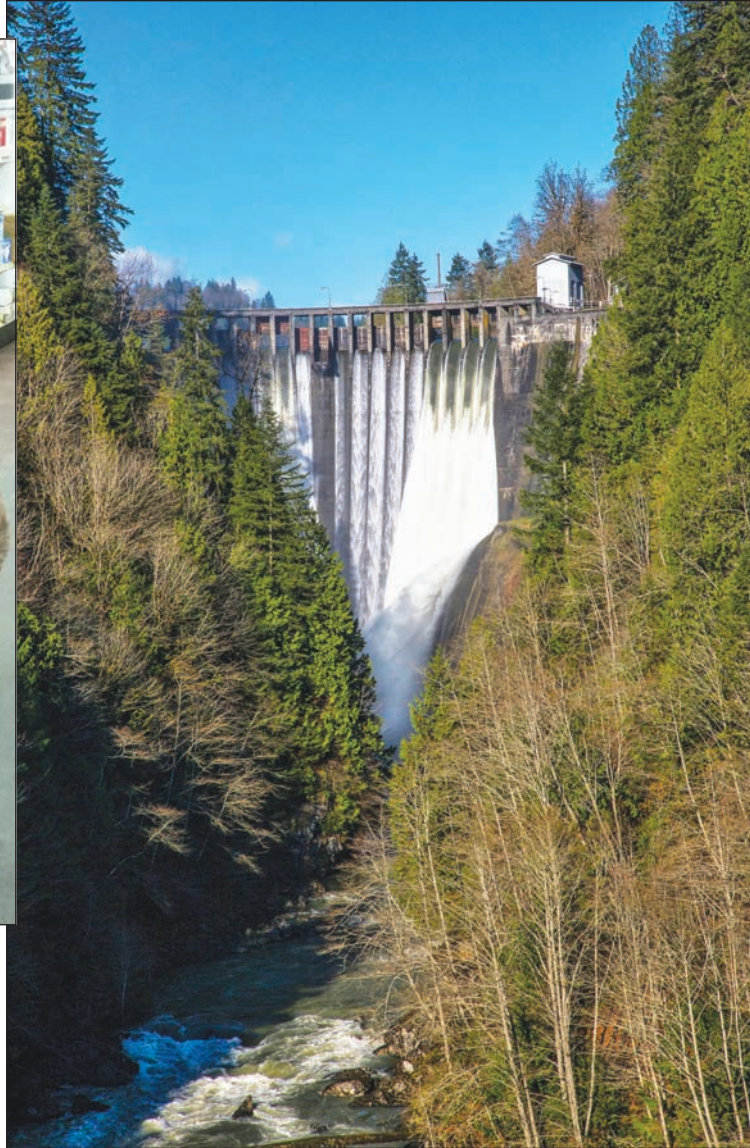
November in pictures



Above: Led by members of American Legion Post 132 in Concrete, community members participated in an Honor Walk on Nov. 11 to commemorate Veterans Day. The walk took place along a section of the Cascade Trail and ended at Veterans Memorial Park in Concrete, where a flag-folding ceremony was held and remembrances were shared. The group then moved to the Legion Post in Concrete Town Center for refreshments and activities for kids. The event was hosted by the Concrete American Legion and organized by Stephanie Morgareidge.



Above: Max scored big on Halloween, winning a big stuffed bear and other goodies from Cascade Supply in Concrete. Photo by Carol Rohan.



Above: Concrete photographer Jude Dippold captured this photo of water streaming through the flood gates of Lower Baker Dam on Nov. 19. Heavy rains in November swelled Lake Shannon and area rivers.



Below right: Seattle City Light workers unload a 30-ft. Douglas fir in Concrete on Nov. 23. The donated tree will preside over the Town Center this Christmas season.



Halloween activities in Concrete included the annual Concrete Lions Club Halloween party and a "Trunk-or-Treat" event in Bear Square. Clockwise from far left: J'din Lafayette tries to bite a swinging apple, Jordyn Hammon steps out as a little black cat, firefighter Ethan Drew gets a tattoo from a Grinchy Gladys Silrus, and Little Red Riding Hood Karley Suit asks for a treat from Maureen Ford.



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Hamilton



Rockport



Election results

Incumbent Hamilton Town Council members and mayor will keep their seats come January 2016. Two town government seats up for re-election were contested during the Nov. 3 general election.

Cromley will stay in the mayor's chair after defeating challenger Mathew Coker with 78 percent of the vote to Coker's 22 percent.

Council Position 5 was contested also, with incumbent Mike Brockman edging past challenger Lisa Johnson by two votes, gathering 53 percent of the vote to Johnson's 47 percent.

The other four council positions up for re-election were uncontested, with incumbents Bethany Betlem (Position 3), Timothy Morrison (Position 1), Brian Kirkpatrick (Position 2), and Scott Bates (Position 4) retaining their seats.

—J. K. M.

Council summary

The Hamilton Town Council held a regular meeting Oct. 13. Following is a summary of that meeting.

- Mayor Joan Cromley announced two public hearings prior to the regular meeting: the Budget Reviews for 2016 Property Tax Levy and the Parks and Recreation Element Comprehensive Plan Update. Mayor Cromley talked about both topics. The public was asked to comment. Discussion for the Property Tax was included. Mayor Cromley officially closed both public hearings.
- Mayor Cromley called the regular meeting to order and began with public comment, during which resident Debra Chance asked questions regarding property clean-up (garbage/trash, junk vehicles, etc.).
- Council voted to accept the minutes from its Sept. 8 meeting.
- Mayor Cromley asked council members if they would like to take another month to read through the Critical Areas information or move forward and adopt it later. Council member Morrison moved to table the Critical Areas until next month. Council voted approval to table.

- Quarterly Budget information was presented. No questions were asked.
- The annual flood letter was discussed. A few changes were suggested and agreed to.
- Water Dept.:** Cas Hancock announced that this month we are at 0 percent unaccounted for water loss. Hancock stated that everything was good.
- Fire Dept.:** Mayor Cromley announced and proceeded to open the four bids that the town received for the old ambulance. Councilmember Bates moved to accept the highest bid for \$2,159.99. Council voted unanimous approval.
- Mayor Cromley said that there have been more complaints about people speeding to the fire hall.
- Street Dept.:** Mayor Cromley stated that the Town Hall ramp has been worked on and will be ready to paint soon. Mayor Cromley announced that the town has been working on flood preparations. Next week is Flood Awareness Week.

From the Mayor



We made it through a few more high-water events. I would really like to know why the river always crests in our area in the middle of the night! Thanks to Nick and Tom for being on watch with me, and to the Fire Dept. for being ready.

This last one had the creeks doing funny things, which we'll need to watch since it could change how and where we need to respond. It's going to be a long, stressful flood season. We'll be as prepared as we can and take each one as it comes. Please remember that the wind and water tend to move things around, so keep your yard as picked up as possible. If you don't have an emergency plan

of what to pack and where to go during a flood or other crisis, please talk with your family and create one. It is easier to follow a plan when you're in the middle of an emergency than to create it on the spot and remember all the details that need to be taken care of, like pets and medications. We have extra copies of the annual flood letter at Town Hall if you want one.

Thank you to everyone who voted during the elections. Hamilton is such a small community, every single vote counts. Regardless of how you voted, I appreciate that you took the time to do it.

The Hamilton Volunteer Fire Dept. will again host this year's Christmas Party on Dec. 20 at 2 p.m., at Town Hall. Keep an eye out for fliers. If you want to donate toys, candy, etc., please drop them off at Town Hall. There is a collection jar at the café as well.

—Mayor Joan Cromley

Area happenings this month

Grandy Creek Grocery will have a "Giving Tree" again this year. On Nov. 27 the store began taking names of families that want to be added to the tree. If you would like to add your family or know of a family that could benefit, stop by and sign up. Families of all sizes can be accepted; store staff will attempt to address any need. Staff requests participants to reserve this tree for those who are not part of another Giving Tree program in our area.

If you would like to adopt a child or a family, stop in and store staff will give you the age, gender, and gift ideas for

those in need of your generous gifts.

If you do not wish to adopt a specific child but would like to contribute, staff will shop on your behalf with your contribution. They also assist with meals and/or fuel for families with cash donations. If you have items to donate, such as firewood or other helpful items, staff will connect you to someone who needs such items.

Heart to Heart Charity's KIDS Club will meet on Wed., Dec. 9 and 30, at the Hamilton Town Hall from 4 to 5 p.m. Kids may ride the school bus to the meeting with a signed note from their parents. Free meetings include snacks and an activity. This is a free event for children 3 years and older (younger with a parent/guardian present). Details at hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com.

Birdsview Buzz

December birthdays

16 Jack Mattingly, Matt Hocking
24 Jessie Mattingly, Ginger Kyritsis

The brewery will be closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. New Year's Eve is still TBD, but we'll be closed New

Year's Day for sure.

On Dec. 19 the brewery will host a Winter Solstice party with the local group The Fender Benders. They will play from 6 to 8 p.m. We'll also collect food that night for the Concrete Food Bank. Please bring nonperishables.

—Kris Voigt



A November wind storm blew down trees and this power pole in the Rockport area and countywide, causing power outages. The gusts were preceded by heavy rains that swelled the Skagit River above flood stage. Photo by Christie Fairchild.

KSVU experiences unexpected outage

On Nov. 15, the local airwaves from KSVU 90.1 FM suddenly went silent. It wasn't the first time that the local radio experienced an outage, but it was the longest and most serious breach since the station's first broadcast in March 2011. Discovered by listeners early the morning of Nov. 15, it took everyone by surprise, as this "dead air" incident occurred well before the windstorm hit.

What happened? No one knows for sure, but all things point to the station's DSL provider, Frontier, changing the station's equipment to something new, which was apparently incompatible with the current electronic systems. This was done without the radio station's knowledge, so identifying the problem, much less fixing it, was frustrating and difficult. In

addition, Frontier apparently didn't realize that the station's DSL line was the lifeline to the community radio station: Skagit Valley College sends its radio signal to the Pilots' Lounge at Mears Field via DSL, and the signal is then sent on to the transmission tower on Burpee Hill. That signal constitutes KSVU 90.1 FM radio programming.

KSVU studio co-manager Bill Pfeifer spent hours physically investigating the problem, as well as talking with and emailing Frontier's help desk and then their technical support, without success. After struggling with the mysterious situation for more than days, KSVR/KSVU General Manager Rip Robbins and Skagit Valley College Media Technician Ben Nason twice drove up from Mount Vernon to Concrete to fix the problem themselves.

—Christie Fairchild

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Darrington



Darrington Community Crime Watch members train

By Marla Skaglund

Darrington Community Crime Watch held a meeting Nov. 21 at the Community Center to educate attendees on the importance of establishing a phone tree and how to successfully patrol the different areas of Darrington, Sauk Prairie, Whitehorse, and Swede Heaven.

Members were encouraged to fill out information sheets to be compiled into a phone tree that will keep folks in touch if any suspicious activity, no matter how insignificant, is observed. The information will be shared with law enforcement.

Guidelines, routes, and safety tips were shared, as well as facts about the local known crime areas. Darrington has been divided into four areas that will be patrolled day and night. Teamwork is important for success, and patrols will always be done by a group.

Information about a cell phone application for reverse 911 calls is being obtained and will be shared with all participants.

Participants were encouraged to become Crime Watch Captains. Captains are the point persons for each designated section. They have the phone numbers of section participants and will relay any information they or another captain have to share. Residents were encouraged to keep a three-ring binder and to write down

anything they might deem suspicious or questionable.

Being a good note-taker was also encouraged. If a suspicious vehicle is observed, write the make, model, color, license plate number, and, if possible, the driver description in the notebook. This information will be shared with local law enforcement and will help focus their vigilance when on patrol. If enough information of the same type recurs, law enforcers will have the knowledge of what to watch for. It was instilled that under no circumstances are members of Crime Watch ever to confront suspicious activity. Leave that to the law.

A flier explaining the organization will be created, which can be shared with neighbors who might be unaware of Darrington Community Crime Watch and all the work going on to keep community members informed of illegal activity and the efforts to make such activity known to law enforcement.

It has been established that 10 percent of the population repeatedly commit crimes. Once everyone in and out of town, including law enforcement, is aware of specific criminal activity, it makes it difficult for the criminals to continue and they will move on.

Hall of Fame ceremony includes former Seahawk

Attendees at the Darrington High School Athletic Hall of Fame awards ceremony on Nov. 21 were treated to a visit from former Seahawk running back Kerry Carter, who spoke on the importance of community support in athletics and life.

Carter, who wore Seahawks No. 32, spoke of how Max Strong took him under his wing and made him feel welcome when he joined the Seahawks, and the lessons he learned about teamwork and family. Through the Seahawks Community Service Program, Carter received a call from Strong, asking him to speak at the ceremony. Carter admitted to researching information on Darrington, which was a factor in his decision to speak.

Master of Ceremonies Coach Dan O'Malley led the night with stories of little-known facts about each recipient. **Mandy Powell**, known for her skills in volleyball, was unable to attend, but sent a video of her acceptance speech. The daughter of longtime volleyball coach Greg Powell, Powell was a setter in her freshman year and went on to be an All-American for all four years of high school, helping the Loggers to a fifth place finish at the 2B State in 2007. Her honors include the *Everett Herald* All-Area team, NW1A/2B league Most Valuable Player, Associated Press First Team All-State, and *Seattle Times* Athlete of the Week. She also was selected to play in the WSVCA All-State series. Powell holds the all-time record for ace serves and digs in a career, and No. 2 in all-time assists for Darrington. She also became the Loggers' No. 1 singles player in tennis.

Becky Nations was a starter in both basketball and volleyball during her sophomore year. She played in several state tournaments, including a seventh place finish in basketball in 2002 and sixth place in volleyball in 2001. In basketball, she earned a place as second team All



Remus Cabe holds the football from a 1930 game while speaking at the 2015 Darrington High School Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on Nov. 21. Among a field of individuals and teams, the 1939 football team was honored during the event. *Photo by Marla Skaglund.*

NW and first team All NW B. She was an *Everett Herald* Player of the Week in volleyball and selected for the All-State series. As a Logger volleyball player, she was No. 2 in career digs, No. 2 in career ace serves, and No. 3 in career assists.

Hayes Nations played football, basketball, baseball, and track from 1971–75. In his senior year, the baseball team won both the League Championship and District Championship. He was a four-year letterman and won Letterman of the Year in 1975. That year he was also voted Homecoming King. He coached and refereed basketball and baseball through the Darrington Junior Athletic Association and Little League.

Terry Cloer is probably one of the top three athletes to graduate from Darrington. From 1987–91 he played football, basketball, and baseball, including leading the football team, as quarterback in his freshman year, to an undefeated season in 1988, finishing fifth at State. Terry's team finished with league championships in 1987 and 1988. He was an All-League quarterback and an All-League linebacker.

See Hall of Fame, p. 27

Council summary

Darrington Town Council met for its regular meeting on Oct. 14. The following is a summary of that meeting. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are available at Darrington Town Hall.

- Guest speaker Jeb Boulton proposed a plan to rebuild the bike track at Old School Park into a "Pump Track." Mt. Pilchuck Bike Club has volunteered to help twice a year with the maintenance of the track. Most of the expenses would be donated; there would be no cost to the town. Council supported the project.
- Guest speaker Paula Wieserich and a group of schoolchildren discussed the STEM program at the Darrington School District. The children are working on a sundial project. Wieserich proposes to put a sundial in Old School Park as part of the project. Council indicated it would support her efforts.
- Matt Rikken discussed the proposed plans to put up a bike shelter at Town Hall for the existing bike rack. The Library Board supports the proposal; funding will be mostly from the remaining funds of the Linda McPherson fund. There would be no cost to the town. Council voted to support the project.
- An Interlocal Agreement with Puget Sound Clean Air Agency regarding wood debris was discussed. Council voted to approve the agreement after the cost has been reviewed.
- Another Interlocal Agreement for Emergency Management Services was approved.
- The cemetery flag pole was damaged in a wind storm and needs to be replaced. Insurance will replace the pole and pay for the crew to install it. An abatement was sent to a resident regarding rabbits he had been keeping on his property. The resident felt the code was unclear regarding rabbits. Council approved a "stay" for the resident until the Planning Commission is able to revisit the code in January 2016.
- Council discussed drug and crime activity occurring around the town and specifically the garbage at 1145 Alvord. The property is going to auction in December with Snohomish County, and cleanup may move forward after that.

Meeting gauges interest in mountain bike park project

Darrington residents met at the Darrington Community Center on Nov. 16 to hear plans for a 20-mile mountain bike park on North Mountain and give their suggestions on what the community would like to see transpire.

The gathering began with presentations from Brock Milliern, statewide recreational manager for the Division of Natural Resources in Washington, and Glenn Glover, recreational planning manager. The plan is to have several trails open for mountain biking by spring 2016. The park will also have areas for hiking and multi-use trails.

The proposed area will be accessible from Darrington, with the trailhead in town. North Mountain was deemed the best location in terms of accessibility for all levels of biking skills. Glover showed a map of the proposed area and invited attendees to write about particular areas that would be of interest to visitors.

The group decided on several goals, including community involvement and support. Another goal was to support family use for all ages. Attendees wanted destination-quality trails for all skill levels. Supporting the local economy was another goal. The final goal features local



Volunteers work on a planned pump track at the site of an existing bike track in Darrington's Old School Park on Nov. 21. The new bicycle track is being funded by donations, with no cost to the town. *Photo by Rick Knight.*

Incumbents retain mayor, council seats

All four town government seats up for re-election went to the incumbents during the Nov. 3 general election. Only the mayoral race was contested.

Mayor Dan Rankin won re-election with an overwhelming 83 percent of the votes, compared to opponent Todd Ronning's 15 percent. Two percent of the vote went to write-ins.

Incumbent councilmembers Judy O'Connor, Kevin Ashe, and Mary Requa will retain their seats. Ashe and Requa handily won re-election, while a write-in campaign made O'Connor's race closer: She won with 56 percent of the vote, against 44 percent in the write-in category.

—J. K. M.

culture, including the North Mountain Lookout.

Objectives include easy access from town to North Mountain, progressive skill zones in one 80-acre area, using trails to engage kids, and 20 miles of trails that will support mountain bikes, accommodate different riding styles, involve local kids in designing the trails, and support large events.

—Marla Skaglund

Holiday calendar

Dec. 5

The Mansford Grange will again be party central during a **Christmas Bazaar** planned for Dec. 5, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 360.436.1491.

Dec. 12

Whitehorse Farmers Market will host a **Hometown Holiday Celebration** on Sat. Dec. 12, from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. There will be a bonfire, caroling, cocoa, cider, roast marshmallows, and hot dogs. Bring your own roasting stick. Santa will visit.

Dec. 12

Darrington Community Dance will kick up its heels at the Mansford Grange. Potluck at 5:30 p.m.; dancing from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Admission by \$7 suggested donation. Details at 206.402.8646.

—Marla Skaglund

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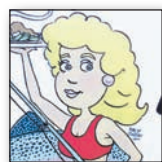
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Marblemount



Newhalem



December happenings at Marblemount Community Hall

By Christie Fairchild

With local radio KSVU's successful fall fundraiser Harvest Fest and Halloween Dance behind us, the hall also has hosted its share of other events, including one 90th birthday celebration, two weddings, the annual community Thanksgiving Dinner, and two community meetings: the newly formed Neighborhood Crime Watch and Community Action's energy assistance outreach.

Not to be outdone, the umpteenth annual Christmas Bazaar on Sun., Dec. 6 will find folks enjoying a hot, cooked-to-order pancake breakfast, a hallful of local artisans and crafters displaying and selling their wares, and, at noon, Santa Claus and

his trusty elf will make an appearance for the kids.

January will be here before we know it, and the New Year brings our famous wintering bald eagles and those who come to watch them. The Bald Eagle Festival, shared on January weekends among Concrete, Rockport, and Marblemount, offers a variety of opportunities indoors and out.

On the second weekend of January (Jan. 9–10), the Marblemount Community Hall will host artisan vendors, hot food, live music, and presenters representing and honoring our Native American cultures. Puppet shows, storytelling, drumming,

and flute music will fill each day's events. Mark your calendars now for Jan. 9 and 10. Doors open at 9 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. Admission is free, although donations are warmly appreciated.

Although shorter, darker, colder days are upon us, get out and enjoy the beauty of the season and all it has to offer. Bring an old friend or make a new one.

Community is unity. You won't be disappointed.

Read
Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley



Russ Dalton, a.k.a. King of the Forest or "Moss Man," made others green with envy at the KSVU Harvest Fest and Halloween Halloween Dance. *Photo by Christie Fairchild.*



Rose Oliver and daughter Cassidy came to the KSVU fall fundraiser dressed as Calista and her little dragon. *Photo by Christie Fairchild.*

The good news is ...SR 20 closes for winter

By Sasa and Starwalker

This month's article seemed it would be particularly challenging for us. Our mission is to find the beauty in the world and share it with our readers. In the midst of so much chaos, so much terror and darkness, where were we to find the light? Out of the horror where were we to find the beauty? We unexpectedly found beauty in the darkest places.

We discovered that horrific acts against humanity are catalysts for beauty to present itself—"Darkness reminds where light can be" (Christina Perri)—and for us all to remember how precious life is—ALL life. We are all connected; we are all one human family. To experience the peace we are looking for, we must become that peace. To experience that love, we must become that love. We must walk this existence in that prayer of peace and love. Traumatic events can be a catalyst for spiritual awakening, to remember who we are and why we are here. We send out blessings to all.

Not only did I find one beautiful story to share, but many courageous acts of love.

Courage: A Muslim man blindfolded himself and offered hugs to mourning Parisians. In another part of our globe, three friends reach out to everyone with a message we are all connected.

Forgiveness: One man in Paris is helping his son to learn forgiveness by sending a media message to those responsible for the Paris tragedy, forgiving them.

Compassion: An organization called Samaritans Purse was there on the beaches where Syrian refugees were landing after a dangerous journey in boats, with many not surviving the journey. They helped with warm clothing, water, and food, and even had doctors.

For more "inspiring" and inspiring stories, as well as an abundance of healing and personal transformation resources, follow us on Facebook.

Contact Sasa and Starwalker at cascadiaeffect@gmail.com. Experiences may be shared at <http://cascadiaeffect.weebly.com> and on Facebook: Cascadia Effect.

A weekend blast of wintery weather on State Route 20 in mid-November kept the highway closed until next spring.

The Washington State Department of Transportation temporarily closed the highway at 10 a.m. on Nov. 12, because

of heavy snowfall and a forecast for heavy rain, providing a rising potential for avalanches. After an assessment on Nov. 16 by maintenance and avalanche technicians, WSDOT determined it could not safely keep the North Cascades Highway open.

"Avalanche chutes are full and icy, and we'd be putting the public and our crews at risk if we tried to keep the road open any longer," said Twisp Maintenance Supervisor Don Becker.



On Nov. 16, WSDOT avalanche and maintenance technicians needed a plow truck to reach Washington Pass. They encountered four avalanches that blocked lanes, and 2 feet of new snow with a layer of ice on top in the chutes and at the summit. The forecast called for up to 4 feet of new snow by Nov. 18. The determination to make the closure permanent was made as those conditions create an environment that is unsafe for travelers and WSDOT crews. Last year,

WSDOT closed the North Cascades Highway for the season on Nov. 24.

The 37-mile-long winter closure zone begins 14 miles east of Newhalem at milepost 134 on the west side of Rainy Pass (4,855 feet) and ends 22 miles west of Winthrop at milepost 171 below Washington Pass. Avalanches usually close the highway between Thanksgiving and the second week of December. The earliest closure recorded was Nov. 2, 2005.

Left: WSDOT crew members work to clear SR 20 just east of milepost 153 on Nov. 17. **Below left:** A Nov. 18 slide on SR 20 carried mud, rocks, and woody debris onto the roadway. *Photos by Bob Hopfield.*

Hall of Fame, cont. from p. 24

He played in the East/West All State game after graduation and continued in football at Walla Walla Community College and Eastern Washington University. He scored more than 1,000 career points in basketball and earned first team All-League honors. In 1989 the team went to State. He was an All-League as an outfielder in baseball. In 1989, the team played the last game in the Kingdome in Seattle and earned a third place trophy at State. In 1990 and 1991 he was awarded the DHS Athlete of the Year and named as a National Football Foundation Scholar Athlete in 1990. He has been teaching and coaching since 1996 and is a teacher and defensive coordinating coach.

The night's entertainment came from **Remus Cabe**, 93, member of the 1930 Darrington High School Football team, B League Champions. Walking onto the stage unaided, he told stories of winning plays, complete with football moves, remembering every important play made and the names of players.

Oso slide survivor **Reed Miller** also was a recipient of the Athletic Award. As a Darrington star track player, he set many league records during his junior and senior years. He was the first Darrington graduate to further his education at the University of Washington on a scholarship, where he set many records. He continued in track while in the Army. From 1976–2010, he participated in 33 marathons and one 50k (31 miles)

competition.

Wendy Gauksheim received the award for her father, **Walt Robinson**. He participated and lettered all four years in football, basketball, and baseball. He was the first president of the Letterman's Club at DHS. He participated in plays, Glee Club, and Annual staff, and was ASB president in his senior year. He played football at Bellingham College.

Several members of the **1980 Darrington High School softball team**, Cascade League Champions, were presented with awards from their former coach, Dan O'Malley.

Clarence Caspers received his award for coach and is also known for his teaching skills, which include history, current affairs, and band. While his bands played at many basketball and football games, he is known as the first Darrington tennis coach.

Four members of the Girls Athlete Association 1930–49, **Billy Cloer**, **Frankie Nations Bryson**, **Francis Cabe**, and **Margie Black** came on stage to accept the team award. The Athlete Hall of Fame committee is working on recognizing all the girls who participated in sports for two or more years during the years prior to 1969.

Capping off the evening was a slide show compiled by Julie Newberry, featuring all the athletes, coaches, and teams represented at the ceremony.

—Marla Skaglund

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Seniors

Coffee Break

Assisted living choices

By Patrick M. Kennedy

Choosing the right assisted living facility should be a carefully thought-through process.

Financial considerations should be at the top of the list. Can you afford it? For how long can you afford it? There are too many stories of elderly citizens being evicted from assisted living homes because they run out of savings. It's best to consult your financial adviser or someone who knows your financial situation to examine whether this is the best choice for you.

What is an assisted living facility? It's one that provides care for seniors who want some help with activities of daily living, although they're not helpless and wish to remain as independent as possible. It is sort of the middle ground between independent living and a nursing home. It should offer 24-hour supervision and an array of support services, with more privacy, space, and dignity than many nursing homes, and at a

lower cost.

There is a long list of facilities from which to choose. Approximately 33,000 of them are operating in the U.S. today.

Be aware that assisted living facilities can go by other names, such as personal care homes, residential care facilities, domiciliary care, sheltered housing, community residences, residential care, personal care, adult foster care, and more.

What should every assisted care facility provide for all that money? The basics must include help with daily needs like bathing, eating, dressing, grooming, toileting, and getting around. But while choosing a facility, you should look beyond these basics. Check out their local community activities and transportation to these outings, and other activities beyond the walls of the rooms. Are community services such as laundry and dry cleaning available on site or nearby, and do they provide transportation for shopping trips? Are there medications or some kind of medical service, a nurse or qualified medical person, or an emergency service or system available on site?

The environment of the facility also is an important consideration. Do individuals have independence? Do they allow pets? Can you bring your own car and furniture? Is it clean?

You can only find out the answers to most of these questions by visiting the facilities yourself to choose.

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

Way Back When

80 years ago

Dec. 5, 1935: Since the Skagit Valley Rural Telephone company took over the management of the local telephone exchange, they have made many improvements,

including extensive repairs and new wire from Rockport to Marblemount, and Birdsvew to Hamilton.

As a method of securing new patrons, the company is offering free installation of phones until Dec. 15. At that time, a new directory will be issued, containing an updated list of patrons.

—Compiled from archives



30 years ago: Concrete football players Jeremy Stafford (55), Chad Luhr (87), and Carter Aungst (90), flanked by a crowd of teammates, let the world know they were State B-11 Football champions following their 42–21 win over the Irish of DeSales High School in the Kingdome on Dec. 7, 1985.

Archive photo by Patty Moore.

Concrete Center

December 2015

Activities

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

Mondays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo

Tuesdays

All-staff retreat, 12/8. Center will be open, but lunch will not be served.

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles
Noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo
12:30 p.m. Ladies ornament exchange

Wednesdays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles
10:30 a.m. Advisory Board mtg., 12/9
Noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo
12:30 p.m. Bingo, 12/9, 12/30

Thursdays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles
Noon Lunch
Noon Christmas Lunch, 12/17
12:30 p.m. Skip Bo
12:30 p.m. Christmas carols sing-along, 12/17
12:30 p.m. Pinochle, 12/3, 12/17, 12/31

Fridays

10 a.m. Jigsaw puzzles
Noon Lunch
Noon Birthday Celebration 12/18
12:30 p.m. Dominoes, Skip Bo
1 p.m. Coffee with Commissioner Janicki, 12/4
1 p.m. Watercolor painting

Closures

12/25



Sedro-Woolley historian Noel Bourasaw, shown above conducting a tour of Sedro-Woolley in March 2010, lost his six-year battle with cancer on Oct. 27 at age 71. A memorial was held in the town of his youth—Sedro-Woolley—and many of his misadventures and accomplishments were attested to by former classmates from grade school through college, and others who knew him in the many decades of his life. It was Noel's knowledge and enthusiasm when he shared what he knew concerning life during the early settler days in Skagit County that added to the imagination of pioneering at the formation of our beloved Skagit County.

—Dan Royal, Historian of Skagit County Pioneer Association



Verna's Kitchen

By Verna McClure



This is a quick and easy meal, especially handy when both spouses are working. It's also good served with applesauce or a tossed salad.

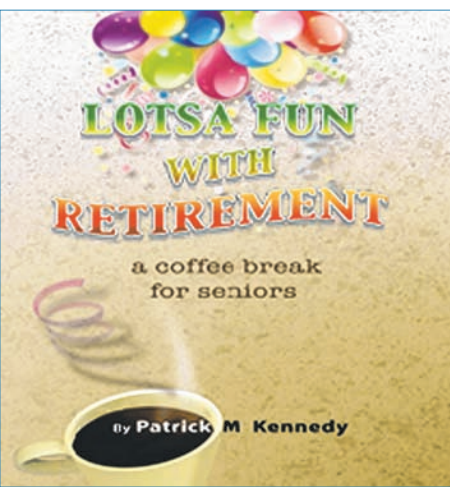
Hamburger casserole

Place 1 lb. browned hamburger in a baking dish, then add:

- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 2 cans water (measure with soup cans)
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 cup chopped onion
- ½ or ¾ cup raw rice
- 4 Tablespoons soy sauce

Mix everything together and bake in a 375-degree oven for 45 minutes.

30 years ago: After several days of snow too cold to use for building a good snowman, temperatures in the Upper Valley finally warmed enough for this group of kids to create a new "friend." Pictured in the Dec. 5, 1985, issue of *Concrete Herald*, the kids are Shawn Philbrick; Sara, Nicki, and Jason Voigt; and Laura Flores. Archive photo by Anne Bussiere.



Obituaries

Francis R. Booker, 83, of Rockport, passed away peacefully on Nov. 4, 2015, as the result of injuries sustained from several falls.

Francis was born Feb. 5, 1932, in Detroit, Ore., to Millard and Ida (Marks) Booker.

Francis lived most of his life in Darrington and Rockport. On Sept. 11, 1959, he married the love of his life, Ann (Green) Booker. They spent 56 years together, enjoying trips to Yakima (where he spent many of his younger years) and going to casinos. Together they had three children, Judy (Doug) Pendergrass, Diane Booker, and Steve Booker.

In his younger years, he enjoyed fishing (taking the little ones along with him) and hunting. He especially loved gardening and spending time with family.

Francis was a shingle weaver for many years and was proud to serve as president of the Shingle Weaver's Union, Local 2580. In 1988 he suffered a back injury at work. His mobility was greatly affected after that, ultimately being a direct cause of his falls and then death. He was a hardworking man and a great provider, and his family is very proud to call him husband, father, brother, and grandfather.



Surviving him are his wife, children, 11 grandchildren, 19 great grandchildren, and his sister Shirley (Dennis) Killingstad. He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers Roy and Herald Booker, and sister Darlene Cox.

The family would like to thank Dr. Fish, Dr. Stickle, and all his wonderful caregivers from PeaceHealth United General Medical Center in Sedro-Woolley.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks donations be made to the Darrington Funeral Dinner fund.

A memorial service will be held on Sat., Dec. 12, at 1 p.m., at the Glad Tidings Assembly of God in Darrington. Immediately following will be a dinner at the Darrington Community Center.

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

Recommended thinking

By Bill Mueller

We are once again in the time of year where we sing "Joy to the World." Yet "joy" doesn't seem to be reflected in many of our faces. It is understandable though, what with the crises in the world, the daily grind, and other aspects of life that crowd

in on us. We are hard pressed at times to experience joy at any level.

Believers, according to Scripture, despite the circumstances, are to be all about joy. Jesus even said in Matthew 5:12, "Rejoice and be glad ..."

I think that Jesus is telling His immediate audience and us that we are to rise above the fray because we walk daily with Him.

The reason for such an attitude is twofold. One, it allows us to experience freedom from the cares and concerns of this world, knowing that God is ultimately in control. Two, it affects those around us as we reflect a peace within us that surpasses human understanding.

Truth be told, we don't normally function like that. At a church conference, people were given helium-filled balloons and told to release them at some point in the service when they felt like expressing the joy in their hearts. It was a conservative crowd, so they weren't used to shouting out "hallelujah" or "praise the Lord" at an appropriate time. All through the service balloons ascended, but when it was over, one-third of the balloons were still unreleased.

Here is some recommended thinking on how to prepare your mind so that joy may become a more consistent part of life.

1. Practice mindfulness. Be aware of your surroundings and how you are thinking in the moment. Are negative thoughts center stage in your mind? Change your state of mind (Phil. 4:8).
2. Be kind to yourself. Drop the idea

of perfection. We tend to berate ourselves for mistakes. Stop it! Challenge your thinking; odds are, your thoughts are incorrect.

3. Practice self-observation and evaluation. This means be willing to be uncomfortable. Be honest, find out what your triggers are that cause negative reactions.
4. Stay physically healthy. I suggest three steps to this: Sleep well, increase activity (take the stairs), and eat healthful foods.
5. Make and strengthen healthy relationships. Remember I Cor. 15:33. Spend time with folks who encourage you, are honest with you, and make you laugh.

These are merely suggestions that may free you to truly enjoy this time of the year. We are celebrating the greatest event in human history: the breaking into history by God Himself for our salvation! If that doesn't bring about a sense of joy, I truly don't know what will.

One of my favorite verses is found in Psalm 16:11. It states that there is joy in God's presence. During this season may we find time to be in His presence, because if we find ourselves there, we may be able to let go of our balloons. Then we will be able to sing "Joy to the World" and really experience it.

Bill Mueller preaches at Martha Lake Covenant Church in Lynnwood.

Skagit County Sheriff's Office Blotter

Nov. 4

A caller from Prevedal Rd. in Lyman discovered malicious intentional damage to her car. Someone had smeared some sort of adhesive on the sides of the car. There will be significant cost to remove it. There may be some suspects, and deputies are following up on leads.

Nov. 5

A caller from Healy Rd. near Hamilton had reported a burglary. He had initially thought a pistol was taken; however, the gun was located and is now secured.

Nov. 11

Deputies and Hamilton Fire Dept. personnel responded to a motor vehicle accident in town. A car had slid off the roadway, and a man was seen leaving the area on foot. Upon arrival, no one was around and there were alcohol containers in the car. Deputies have a good idea who

the driver is and will follow up on the DUI investigation.

Nov. 12

A driver just east of Burreese Rd. near Lyman struck an elk. Luckily for both, the car was going slow enough that the elk was able to roll onto the car's hood, then fall off and run away. There was minor damage to the car.

Nov. 13

Several businesses in town reported a man acting strange. He had been at the Resource Center and hardware store, asking odd questions, making folks uncomfortable. A short time later his mother asked about this man and it appears he's suffering from some mental health issues. He didn't appear to be a danger to anyone, but deputies later found him inside a church on Shular Rd. They brought him to the ER to be seen by mental health care professionals.

Nov. 14

Washington State Patrol (WSP) and Lyman Fire Dept. personnel responded to a pickup truck rollover accident. A Ford 4x4 pickup truck was eastbound on SR 20 in Lyman when it hit the guardrails on a bridge just east of Healy Rd. at the slough. The truck spun around in the roadway before rolling over, landing on its top. The driver fled, but WSP gathered good evidence to follow up on the investigation.

Nov. 16

An errant driver tried to drive across a lawn on the east end of town. It appears they didn't realize there was a 2-foot retaining wall; the vehicle crashed off it onto the roadway below. Deputies are looking for a car with front-end damage.

Nov. 17

A warrant will be issued for a Registered Sex Offender who has failed to be located. Deputies discovered the man had been using an address in Lyman, but not actually staying there, which is a clear violation and will get him arrested.

A man on Mill St. in Concrete slapped a stop sign as he walked by it, and the sign broke off at the base. It appears the post was rotted, and the town will fix the issue.

Nov. 18

Significant winds caused several trees to fall in and near Concrete. PSE crews worked vigorously to restore power. Deputies and fire crews did their best to mark downed trees where they crossed the roadways to prevent any accidents. Several reports of power surges and outages kept first responders busy. The river also was high, and deputies along with Emergency Management personnel monitored the gauges all night.

—Compiled by Sgt. Chris Kading

Sergeant's corner

Winter driving tips

By Chris Kading



As the leaves disappear and we face winter head-on, remember these helpful travel tips, and as always, watch for elk.

Allow yourself extra time to reach your destination during inclement weather. It takes only one unprepared or careless driver to slow or stop traffic.

Protect yourself and your passengers. Do not be the driver who shuts down the road. SR 20 between Marblemount and Burlington has very few alternate routes east in the event of a road closure. The South Skagit Highway kind of has a mind of its own in winter. The road is often plagued by mudslides and downed trees as winter arrives. There are hazards on both sides, which limits your escape routes if you happen to speed upon a downed tree or mud on the road.

- Drive for the conditions: slower speeds, slower acceleration.
- Use your headlights all the time. They're free; they came with the car.
- Don't use cruise control. That's a luxury reserved for flat roads and good weather, not wintertime in elk country.
- Four-wheel and all-wheel vehicles do not stop or steer better on ice. Anti-lock brakes are helpful, but slowing your speed is the best advice.
- Leave extra room between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of

you. The larger the vehicle, the longer the stopping distance.

- Slow down when approaching intersections, off-ramps, bridges, or shady spots. We all know Burpee Hill can be tricky, and don't forget about the bridge on SR 20 over the Baker River. Bridge decks always ice up faster than the roadway around them.
- Check your tires and make sure your chains fit before the first winter storm. Check tire pressure during cold weather. Remember, tire shops and mechanics are busiest just before and during winter storms.
- Get a vehicle winter maintenance check-up. Don't wait to check your battery, belts, hoses, radiator, lights, brakes, heater/defroster, and wipers.
- Keep your fuel tank full. Don't let it fall below half a tank on winter trips.
- Keep a basic winter survival kit in your vehicle: flashlight, batteries, blanket, snacks, water, gloves, boots, and first-aid kit. Tire chains, ice scraper/snowbrush, jumper cables, road flares.

As a reminder, let's take a few minutes to visualize this scenario: It's late fall, it's getting darker earlier, it's much colder outside, the temperature is in the 30s. Your car slides on black ice into a snow-filled ditch out of sight from passing motorists, and your cell phone is dead. Are you prepared to face Mother Nature alone, and how would you resolve this?

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

Worship directory

Assembly of God

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

Citipoint Church North Cascade

59850 SR 20, Marblemount
360.873.2504
Sunday Gathering: 10:30 a.m.
www.citipointchurch.com
E-mail: matt@citipointchurch.com

Baptist

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

Hamilton First Baptist Church

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

Lyman Church

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

Catholic

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

Covenant

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

Sun. worship: 11 a.m.
Call for weekly youth group/Bible studies

Episcopal

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

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.

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.

Lutheran

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

Nondenominational

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

Community Bible Church

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

The RIVER Gathering

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

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

Level 3 Sex Offender NOTIFICATION

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

Case, Thomas Roger

Age: 52
Race: W
Sex: M
Height: 6' 0"
Weight: 218
Hair: Gray
Eyes: Hazel
Address: 5xx Noble Ave., Hamilton
Case was convicted of first-degree rape and first-degree kidnapping in 1994 in Thurston County. A photo was not available on the Skagit County Sheriff Sex Offender Notification Web page.

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

Source: Skagit County Sheriff

PHOENIX MOBILE NEEDLE EXCHANGE BUS

The bus will offer 1 for 1 needle exchange and safe disposal services **first and third Monday of each month.**

2–4 PM
Concrete Center (senior center)
45821 Railroad St., Concrete, WA



Skagit County Public Health
and Community Services

Phoenix Recovery Services LLC • 360-848-8437



CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

The latest and greatest Museum Association publication—our new **Museum Cookbook**, is now at the printer as of submission time for this edition, but should be available online (www.concreteheritagemuseum.org), at Albert's Red Apple, and at 5b's Bakery by the time this paper hits the stands and just in time to purchase as Christmas gifts. Favorite recipes from the Upper Skagit Valley were graciously submitted for this special edition. We chose a cookbook project because cooking is a key part of our cultural heritage.

Although we rather proudly consider ourselves a small community, we are made up of people who have come together from many places and traditions. Even more surprising is how many relatives we have scattered around the world in far-flung places, experiencing different traditions or creating new ones.

This is the perfect time of year to reflect on how traditions can bind us together and yet can also set us apart. The Christmas traditions in my own household are a mix from various family members that

have been patched together over many generations, and the original sources have long ago been lost but have been retained as important reminders of those who came before me. If your family has some special or unique family traditions you practice at this special time of the year, please let me know (jboggswash@aol.com) and I'll include some in next month's article. Although our pasts may have been very different, we will share a future together, and if there's one time of the year to rejoice in that, this is it.

The next museum function will be our annual **Christmas potluck** on Dec. 16, beginning at 6 p.m. Our monthly business meeting will be held on Jan. 20, beginning at 7 p.m. at the museum. The public is always welcome.

For more information about the museum, contact John Lloyd, president, at 484.575.6374, or John Boggs at 360.853.8347. Our Web site is www.concreteheritagemuseum.org.

—John Boggs

November at the Darrington Library

Children and family programs

- Family Storytime, Dec. 2, 9, 16; 11 to 11:45 a.m.
- LEGO Club: Robotics, Dec. 2, 1 to 2 p.m.
- Read-A-Loud: *Little Wolf's Book of Badness*, by Ian Whybrow, Dec. 7, 14; 3 to 3:30 p.m.
- DIY Holiday Crafts, Dec. 9; 1 to 3 p.m.; for teens and tweens.
- Star Wars Day: The Force Awakens! Dec. 16, 12:30 to 2 p.m.; all ages welcome.
- Winter Science Extravaganza: Pacific Science Center Presents Radical Reactions! Dec. 19, 1 to 2 p.m.
- Ozobots: The Great Maze, Dec. 21, 3 to 4 p.m.; for children 8 and older.
- Minecraft Build Challenge, Dec. 22, 11 a.m. to noon; for ages 9 to 12.
- Gingerbread Houses, Dec. 23, 1 to 2 p.m.; children under 7 must have a

guardian present.

- Get Your Game On: Guitar Hero, Wii, Xbox, more; snacks provided, Dec. 28, 1 to 3 p.m.

Adult programs

- Darrington Bibliophiles, Dec. 2; 5:30 to 7 p.m. *Hard Road Home*, by Aya Walksfar.

Closures

- Early closure (3 p.m.) for Christmas Eve on Dec. 24.
- Closed for Christmas on Dec. 25.
- Early closure (5 p.m.) for New Year's Eve on Dec. 31.

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

—Asheley Bryson, branch manager

At the Upper Skagit Library

Welcome Concrete residents, to the Upper Skagit Library District! The library annexation vote passed! Our district comprises the Concrete School District and now includes everyone living within Concrete town limits too. A **Welcome Open House** will be held on Jan. 2 from 1 to 3 p.m. Come meet our helpful staff, learn about our services and programs, and get your new library card! Visit our Web site for more information, www.upperskagit.lib.wa.us.

Join our **Winter Food and Book Drive** this season and make a difference in your community. December 15 is the last day the library will accept nonperishable food items and gently used children's/teen books. Drop off items at the library during open hours. Items will be donated to the Concrete and Marblemount Food Banks.

Learn how to make **"Story Snowflakes"** on Dec. 4 at 6 p.m., at 5b's Bakery. Brooke Pederson will share her passion of making stories from cutting intricate snowflakes. This is a timely craft to learn for the holidays. All materials will be provided. Free and open to all ages.

Upper Skagit Writes, our November writing challenge, had positive feedback. Participants were able to develop and connect to their own creative work through this project. Come share your inspirations at Open Mic on Dec. 3, from 5 to 6 p.m., at the library. All are welcome.

Join us for **Gingerbread Storytime** on Dec. 5 at 11 a.m. Miss Brooke will have yummy stories, songs, and a delicious craft for kids.

New arrivals

In adult fiction, *The Guilty* by David Baldacci. In adult nonfiction, *Find a Way* by Diana Nyad. In children's, *Samurai Santa*.

The library will close at 5 p.m. on Dec. 23 and will be closed Dec. 24–26 and Jan. 1.

The Library Board meeting will occur on Dec. 10 at 5 p.m.

—Cora Thomas, library associate

Lions ROAR

shower chairs, and commodes, that can be loaned out to help those in need. Please contact any Lions Club member and we will do our best to help you.

As winter begins, it is the time to think about our commitment to ourselves and to others. I encourage members of our community to think about and **join your local Lions Club**. Our club is your club. We are a club to serve you and our community. Our hope for 2016 is to increase our membership numbers times two. We all have friends and family who have seen the outreach of your local Lions Club, so now is the time to give great thought about being a member!

We are happy to announce there are **four new members** who have joined the Lions Club so far this year and another one ready to join. We cannot thank you enough for wanting to be part of this wonderful organization.

Thank you for your continued prayers for the healing of our club members.

—Connie Smithhart

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

There will be only one meeting this month so that the Lions Club members and their families can enjoy a Christmas gathering on Dec. 16.

Christmas tree sales will be on Dec. 5–6, 12–13, and 19. Trees will be sold in the lot west of Loggers Landing and at Albert's Red Apple.

The Lions Club has access to **medical equipment**, such as wheelchairs, walkers,

Open for business: Naked Clothing

A natural-fiber clothing store has moved from Bellingham to Sedro-Woolley. On Oct. 31, Naked Clothing opened at 1912 W. SR 20, along with Munchies, a cafe. The two businesses share their building with Smuggler Brothers Marijuana, which has a separate entrance at the north end.

Naked Clothing was located in downtown Bellingham for two years. It specializes in synthetic-free clothing made from natural fibers such as hemp, bamboo, and organic cotton. Men's, women's, and children's clothing in sizes XS-4X is available.

"When choosing products for Naked

Clothing, I recruit first from local talent, instead of the regular route of massive trade shows, because I love seeing the direct returns of supporting our community," says Amy Kraus, who co-owns the businesses with her husband, Jeff. Seventy percent of the store's clothing, jewelry, and gifts is designed within a two-hour driving radius.

—J. K. M.

At a glance: Naked Clothing

Where: 1912 W. SR 20, Sedro-Woolley

Phone: 360.746.9916

Hours: Mon. – Sat., 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Web: <http://nakedclothing.com>



Amy and Jeff Kraus own three businesses new to Sedro-Woolley. Naked Clothing, Munchies, and Smuggler Brothers are located at 1912 W. SR 20.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Bookkeeping

UpRiver Bookkeeping Services

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

Brew pubs

Birdsview Brewing Co.

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

Construction

Don Payne's Backhoe Services

Extensive experience, reasonable rates
Trenching for electrical and plumbing lines, site preparation, road- and lot-clearing
360.853.7838 / 770.0178 / #PAYNE*066BC
dpaynes2001@yahoo.com

Donald K. Moore Construction

Dump truck / Sand / Gravel / Topsoil
Complete excavation and lots, to acreage cleared / log loads, underground utilities avail.
Licensed, bonded, and insured
360.853.8525 / Reg. #DONALKMO15KE

Gifts

All Valley Storage & Gifts

31687 SR 20, Ste. 102, Lyman/Sedro-Woolley
Our prices can't be beat! Beanpod candles, home/garden items, decorating ideas, more!
360.826.6001 / allvalleystorageinc@live.com
Online: www.allvalleystorageinc.com

The Rustic Rooster

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

HOLIDAY SPECIAL AT RUSTIC ROOSTER!

Check out our specials Nov. 29 – Dec. 24!
15% to 50% off many items throughout store
Discounted items change weekly, just to keep it interesting!
Check out our Facebook page to learn more.
We will be open Christmas Eve, 9 to 3.

Hair salons

Hair Fitness

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

Liquor stores

Concrete Liquor Store & Convenience Store

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

Pawn shops

Gold Nugget Jewelry & Loan

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

Ranches

Double O Ranch, LLC

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

Restaurants

Cascade Burgers

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

Perks Espresso & Deli

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

RV Repair

Goldner RV Repair, Concrete

Mobile RV Maintenance & Repair
LP gas systems, water, heating systems, AC/DC electrical
360.826.3303 // rvrepair@frontier.com

Self-storage

Concrete Self-storage

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

Septic services

Cinema Septic

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

Thrift stores

Second Floor Thrift Store

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

Towing services

Cascades Towing

Professional roadside assistance. Flatbed towing and winch-outs. Lockouts, jumpstarts, fuel delivery, and motorcycle towing. Licensed and insured. Lowest prices around!
360.853.8599 // www.cascadestowing.com

Dave's Towing 360.853.7433, Concrete, WA

For all your roadside service needs.
Call Dave's towing for fast, courteous response.
10 years' experience can get any job done.
We tow all motorcycles, RVs, and trailers.
Storage, cash for clunkers, remove junk autos.
Registered, insured, bonded. 360.853.7433

To add your business
to this directory, call

360.853.8213

or e-mail

editor@concrete-herald.com



Out & About



Washington

Washington State takes enforcement action against Volkswagen

The Washington Department of Ecology announced on Nov. 16 it had issued Volkswagen AG, Audi, and Volkswagen Group of America a formal notice that they violated the Washington Clean Air Act. This is the first step in an enforcement action that could result in sizable penalties.

"Volkswagen broke the trust of consumers and exposed people to harmful pollution," said Ecology Director Maia Bellon. "Their actions violated our state's laws, and we're taking action." Volkswagen put sophisticated defeat

software on many of its diesel vehicles to dupe emissions tests. The software only turned on the vehicle's full suite of emissions controls when it detected that the car was being tested.

Washington, 46 other states, and the District of Columbia are investigating and may pursue action against Volkswagen. The multi-state investigation began after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued Volkswagen a notice of violating the federal Clean Air Act on Sept. 18, 2015. EPA alleged that emissions test defeat software had been put on certain vehicle models. Since then, an ongoing investigation has been under way and a second notice of violation was issued by EPA alleging more vehicle models have the defeat software installed.

The Volkswagen diesel vehicles initially identified with the defeat software emit between 10 and 40 times more nitrogen oxide than state and federal emission standards allow. Ecology estimates that

in Washington the vehicles emitted from 122 to 529 metric tons of nitrogen oxide above the standard since 2009. The total extra nitrogen oxides emissions are likely higher, as more models are added to the investigation.

Nitrogen oxide is a harmful pollutant that contributes to ground-level ozone and fine particle pollution. Exposure to these pollutants is linked with a range of serious health effects, including increased asthma attacks and contributing to premature death from respiratory-related or cardiovascular disease. Children, the elderly, and people with pre-existing respiratory diseases are particularly vulnerable to these pollutants.

New construction stormwater permit going into effect

OLYMPIA — Washington Department of Ecology announced Nov. 18 it had finalized changes to its water quality permit that covers approximately 2,000 construction sites across the state and helps prevent muddy runoff when it rains.

Muddy runoff is a pollution problem when it reaches downstream waters, either directly or through stormwater drains. Sediment and minerals in muddy runoff can harm aquatic life and fish habitat, feed plant growth, and contribute to algae blooms that deplete oxygen in water.

Changes to the permit are minor, but include:

- Required electronic submittal of the permit application.
- Special protections for areas that will be used for low-impact development.

"This permit is an important tool in helping us prevent pollution as land is developed. The updates we've made are in keeping with our transition to e-business goals," said Heather Bartlett, manager of Ecology's Water Quality Program.

The updated permit goes into effect Jan. 1, 2016. More information is available online at the Dept. of Ecology's Web site, www.ecy.wa.gov.

Skagit County

Two positions will open on Skagit Conservation District Board

The terms of two positions on the Skagit Conservation District (SCD) Board of Supervisors will expire in 2016. One position is publicly elected and the other is appointed by the Washington State Conservation Commission Board. Candidates must be registered voters residing in Skagit County. Candidates for the elected position must file with the SCD by 4 p.m. on Feb. 23.

Candidates for the appointed position must apply to the Conservation Commission by close of business on March 31, 2016, by submitting an online application at <http://scc.wa.gov/elections/>.

Conservation district board supervisors are public officials who serve without compensation and set policy and direction for the conservation district. They spend about 15 hours per month attending meetings, providing oversight and direction to SCD staff, approving plans, and setting goals and policies to provide voluntary incentive-based options to support working landscapes while protecting and enhancing Skagit County's natural resource land base.

For more information, call the SCD at 360.428.4313.

Whatcom County

SR 542 work to continue through December

SR 542 emergency repairs west of Glacier will require a month-long lane closure through Dec. 30. Emergency repairs began Nov. 30 to replace a portion of a damaged culvert that was destabilizing the ground beneath Mount Baker Highway at milepost 16, about six miles east of Nugents Corner.

The repair area will reduce the road to one lane seven days a week.



Concrete Elementary 1st graders walked over to the Angele Cupples Community Garden in Concrete on Nov. 20 and planted garlic in the Farm to School bed there. Next summer they'll harvest their bounty.

Letters, cont. from p. 2

total. At \$1 per hatchery smolt, \$6.23 million was spent in 14 years with a resulting 90 percent loss of harvest once provided by wild steelhead 50 years ago.

*Lynn McMillan
Concrete*

Welcome, Concrete

The Upper Skagit Library's staff is thrilled to welcome the Town of Concrete into the library's service district.

When the Upper Skagit Library was established as a partial-county library district serving rural eastern Skagit County, the incorporated Town of Concrete was not included in the district. For the past 10 years, Concrete town residents were required to purchase library cards for borrowing privileges.

In the recent general election, the Town voted favorably to annex into the library district.

Concrete residents could apply for cards and begin checking out materials immediately after the vote was certified on Nov. 24. Town property owners will be taxed to support the library at the same rate as property owners in the unincorporated portions of the district

starting in 2017.

This is a vote of support for the strength of our community. Removing the barrier of an upfront fee is especially good for local kids; it gives them access to and encourages them to be involved in a broader world.

The library is currently in the process of a capital campaign to build a new, bigger, and better-equipped library. Everyone involved is excited to bring town residents alongside for input and participation in the project.

The Upper Skagit Library will host a Welcome to the Library Open House on Jan. 2, from 1 to 3 p.m. The library will survey current and new library users on new library services they would like to see, such as more open hours.

*Brooke Pederson, director
Upper Skagit Library*

KSVU fundraiser a winner

Enormous thanks to all who helped make this past KSVU fall fundraiser the best ever! October 31's Harvest Fest & Halloween Dance at the Marblemount Community Hall found scores of folks enjoying good food, great music, and wonderful raffle and auction items. Many

See Letters, p. 39



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

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

Concrete

Concrete Food Bank

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

Marblemount

Bread of Life Food Bank

59850 State Route 20, Marblemount
First and third Wed. each month
11 a.m.–4 p.m.
360.873.2504

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

Sedro-Woolley

Helping Hands Food Bank

601 Cook Rd., Sedro-Woolley
Wed., 10–11:30 a.m. and 12:30–4 p.m.
Open every Wednesday
360.856.2211

Hamilton

Hamilton Community Food Bank

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

*Changes? Call 360.853.8213.

Christmas Magic!

Join us for a **magical time** at the historic **Concrete Theatre!**

- **"The Polar Express"** — Sat., Dec. 5, at 5 p.m.: **Free Movie**
- **Cookies with Mrs. Claus** — Sun., Dec. 6, at 1:30 p.m.: **Free Event**
- **Geoffrey Castle Celtic Christmas Celebration**
Thur., Dec. 17, at 7 p.m.: Tickets available at our Web site.
- **"It's a Wonderful Life"**
Tue., Dec. 22, at 7 p.m.: **Free Movie**

For more details: www.concrete-theatre.com
360.941.0403
45920 Main St., Concrete, WA



Smile



Dwelleysms

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

“A Michigan town has solved the problem of civilian defense. They have a law forbidding airplanes to drop bombs on their city.”

—June 23, 1955

“If the women were all as beautiful and the men all as successful as the magazine ads would have us believe, America would have to get a whole new batch of immigrants over here to do the work.”

“There is no truth to the rumor that all post office pens furnished to the state of Washington in the future will be the type that write under water.”

“The government now owns more than a fifth of the land in the U.S. And has a tax lien on the balance.”

“We don’t mind someone else having the last laugh, as long as it is with, not at.”

—June 30, 1955

“Like a giant firecracker, the Fourth ‘went off’ with a bang, leaving a few heads ringing from the concussion. More and more, holidays are becoming days that are endured rather than enjoyed.”

“Things are getting pretty mixed up in the world when criminals can go on strike for better parole terms.”

“We now have a house trailer tax. They

are closing in on us; the last stand will be in a tent on a river bar.”

—July 7, 1955

“History shows that if it weren’t for a few loudmouthed malcontents, all the people in this nation would still be paying tea taxes to the British.”

—July 14, 1955

“Individual enterprise is the only thing that keeps any community together. Big payroll is always accepted, as well as rewarded by capital returns, but add to the list of community giants the small logger who operates on a shoestring and hires five men to keep it tied.”

“When you complete a good job, don’t wait around for rewards, but turn your back on it and get on with the next. You won’t miss a thing, because a pat on the back or a kick in the pants are both delivered from the rear.”

“Husbands with wives who have ‘nothing to wear’ can always take them to the beach, where it won’t be noticed.”

—July 21, 1955

“Our big trouble today is communication. A guy can reveal a stupid idea and before he can cover it up, a million people are using it to show their intelligence.”

“The federal highway bill failed because it would set the unheard-of precedent of spending taxpayers’ money for something they could enjoy.”

“Self-esteem is that happy faculty of so ignoring your own faults that you can live past the age of six without committing suicide.”

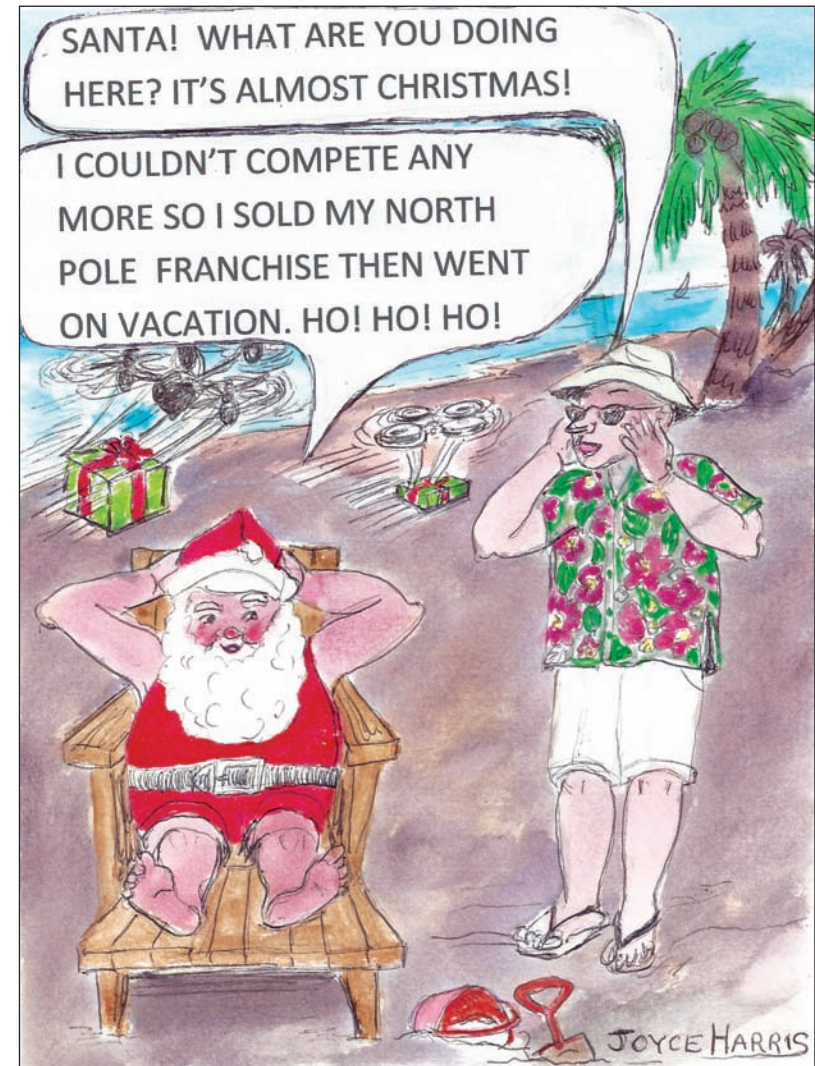
“As long as kids must look like their latest fad-hero, let’s hope the next one doesn’t have two heads.”

“After years of fighting to make every state highway lead to itself, Seattle is now finding that motorists demand they provide passage all the way through it.”

—July 28, 1955

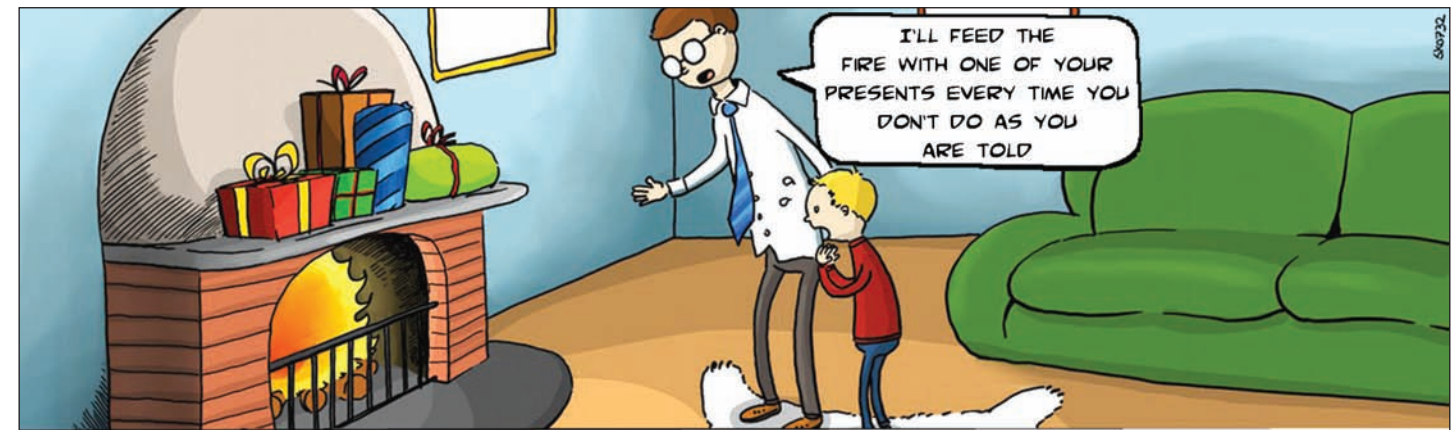
Concrete Harold

By Joyce Harris



Public Service Announcement

By Stig Kristensen



Concrete Laundromat

Open 7 Days A Week
9 a.m. – 9 p.m.
45781 Main St. Concrete
360.853.7838

Crossword: “The real thing”

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17				18						19				
20							21							
			22		23	24		25						
26	27	28		29			30		31		32	33	34	35
36				37				38			39			
40			41						42	43				
44							45					46		
47				48	49		50					51		
				52		53		54			55			
56	57	58	59				60			61		62	63	64
65								66	67					
68					69						70			
71					72						73			

Across

- Buddhist temples
- About
- Jackknife
- Touch
- Relating to a district
- Computerphile
- Real things
- Loose talk?
- Trial run, of a type
- Nip partner
- The facts of life?
- Island chain
- Nonpareil
- Woman’s hat
- Fate
- Innocent
- Linen fabric
- Really
- Actor O’Shea
- Chinese zodiac animal
- Part of i.p.s.
- “Golf, ___?”
- Sojourn
- Cousin of calypso
- “___ De-Lovely”
- Court attention-getter
- Turns into money

Down

- Lively dance
- Witness stand requirement
- Cheat
- Indigenous Canadian
- Sheet
- Dances
- Key West native, informally
- Brickbat

Down

- Witty ones
- Genesis brother
- Nickname for football coach
- Dwarf
- Jail, slangily
- E.U. member
- Behind
- Chocolate substitute
- Language group
- Way in or out
- Archipelago part
- Flashed signs
- At a previous time
- Lizard
- Baal, e.g.
- Veneer
- Interlocks
- Pack animal
- Red dye
- “Enchanted April” setting
- Ties up
- Broadway opening?
- Shows approval
- Diacritical mark
- Accessory
- Inspiration for poets and musicians
- Jersey call
- Sanction
- Most fairylike
- Like some decrees
- Italian, e.g.
- Musical notation
- Coffee cup holders, in the Middle East
- Impress clearly
- Handel opera
- Fast pace
- Priests’ vestments
- Jar
- Break
- Greek portico
- Start of a break-in
- Sot’s sound
- Numerical ending

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.

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

*Solutions to both puzzles are on p. 39.

Funny as Facebook

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

- “Conversation for the day with Creature: ‘Mom. Hey, Mom. I am annoying you.’
‘You’re failing, I’m not annoyed.’
‘No, not annoying you, IGNORING you.’
‘You’re failing, I am not being ignored by you.’
‘Aaah, Mom! Stop!’
‘Hey, Creature. I am annoying you.’
‘Stop, mom.’”

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The Man in the Mud Room

By Nicola Pearson

Editor's note: This is the 12th installment of a monthly serialized story by award-winning author and playwright Nicola Pearson of Sauk City. Future installments will appear on this page each month until the story is complete. Previous installments are posted at www.concrete-herald.com.

They rode down the hill and turned left, preparing to drop down to the singlewide mobile home where the boys lived. But there was no need. All three boys had stopped running and were scuffing their awkward-sized feet in an unhurried, teenage way along the gravel road, heads down, shaggy hair flopping down into their eyes. They were brothers—Zach, Casey, and Seth—the two oldest blonde and fair-skinned, and Seth, the youngest, stockier and darker. Different dads. Lange didn't know for sure, but guessed Seth was 10 or 11, and the other boys closer to 15. He had interacted a number of times with all three of them and never would have guessed they'd steal from him. He rolled down his window and yelled, "Hey, I want my firewood back!"

This time the boys didn't bother to act surprised. "You can have it," said Zach. "We never even wanted to steal it," piped in Seth, his voice high with childish indignation. "And it wasn't us that took your milk!"

"What milk?" Lange was confused. "And what do you mean, you never wanted to steal it?!" Suleka was caustic. They all three spoke at the same time: "We were gonna pay for it ..."
"You weren't home ..."
"We didn't know how much ..."
"What milk?!" insisted Lange.

Casey took control of the explanation. "We came to buy firewood, like, three days ago, but you weren't there so we figured we'd walked all that way, may as well take a coupla armloads and make it right with you next time."

His brothers joined in. "But then you weren't there again yesterday."
"And it was cold."
"So we took some more."
"But we have money."
"Or we'll work."
"Whatever you want," Casey ended. "Why didn't your mother just drive you up to buy wood?" Suleka interjected

and the boys looked at each other and down at the ground so quickly that their embarrassment could have been missed. But it wasn't.

"What milk?!" Lange asked for a third time.

"The milk in your fridge," Seth said, as if this should have been obvious.

"You went into my yurt?!"

"No! But we've seen that guy go in twice now and both times leave with a quart of milk."

Suleka puckered her lips in irony. "No wonder you're always out."

"Which guy?" Lange wanted to know.

"The one with the long hair that's always sneaking through the woods."

"You've seen him?"

"Sometimes. But he moves fast."

"Does your mother know you're roaming the woods when you're s'posed to be in school?" Suleka admonished, and again the brothers became sheepish. She wasn't about to ignore it a second time. "What's going on?" she demanded. "Where's your mother?"

Hurried glances from underneath fallen fringes and shuffling of feet indicated they really didn't want to say, but Lange knew they would if he could just wait. He shot Suleka the full force of his clear blue eyes to hold her tongue. She took the hint. A ten count later, Casey reluctantly admitted, "She took off on a drug binge with her new boyfriend."

"Is that why I've been seeing you walking the highway up to Rockport so much lately?" asked Lange.

They nodded. "To get groceries."

Suleka's hackles went up immediately. "She left you alone in the house with no groceries?"

"And no wood," added Lange.

The brothers glanced at each other then back at Lange. "We don't want anyone to know."

"Else they'll split us up. Put us into care."

Lange checked with Suleka, but she avoided eye contact. The brothers had only been living in the Upper Valley a few years when mom had moved in with her previous boyfriend, but they'd obviously adjusted to life in the woods. Lange could understand their reluctance to move again, especially if it meant being separated. "All right," he declared. "Come up to my place

when Suleka is there with the Nissan and you can load it up with wood."

"And it's okay for us to work it off?"

Casey asked.

"Sure." Lange didn't care whether they paid for the wood or not, but he knew they'd feel more comfortable giving him some hours. Then a thought occurred to him. "How come you ran if you were planning to pay me?"

More glances and shuffling, and Lange realized they didn't have a clue. They'd run from instinct rather than guilt. He let it go. "Can you show me where this milk thief wanders?"

"Okay," they agreed.

"It'll have to be later though."

"After school."

"You're not in school," Suleka reminded them.

"Two-hour late start," Seth shot back.

"Good. Good!" Lange emphasized,

leaning forward in his seat. "Don't want to give Child Protective cause to come looking for you."

"Yeah," agreed Zach. "Plus it's warm at school."

"School bus!" Seth snapped at his brothers, eyes bulging, fleshy cheeks quivering with urgency. They glanced up at the highway as their feet began moving away.

"Gotta go," Casey said over his shoulder to Lange.

Suleka let the Nissan drift along the road beside them. "We'll pick you up from school at 2:30," she said through the open window. The sound of a growling diesel engine became louder and she glimpsed school bus yellow in her rearview mirror.

"Okay," agreed the brothers, stopping in the middle of a wide spot in the road. Suleka lifted herself up in the driver's seat and craned her neck around to keep talking to them as the Nissan coasted by. "I'll take you grocery shopping later too if you want."

They turned away and she heard the accordion expulsion of air as the school bus stopped in the middle of the road. She put her foot down on the gas, moving the Nissan forward toward Highway 20 and The Inn. "One mystery solved," she announced, relieved. Lange sucked softly on the plate in his mouth. The road narrowed as the Skagit River came in on their left. They both jumped as a bald eagle leapt off an overhanging hemlock tree branch directly in front of them. Its large, brown body dipped scarily close to the Nissan before the action of its wings, flapping hard and tight, propelled the magnificent, white-headed bird upward.

"That was close," Suleka grimaced, the

white tail feathers zigzagging through a dense patch of trees to their right before disappearing.

Still Lange said nothing. He was watching the bird, but thinking about the brothers wandering onto his property when he wasn't there. Maybe he should talk to them about that. Not that he necessarily wanted to deny them access to his place, because having them around periodically was a way to keep an eye on things when he wasn't home. But he'd prefer to be informed immediately if they saw something unusual. Like the guy stealing his milk. Who knew how many quarts he'd furnished for this fellow? If they'd left him a note saying what they'd seen, he would have hung his trail camera sooner.

He yawned, arching his chest toward the sun pouring through the windshield now that they were on Highway 20, heading for Concrete.

"You want to tell me about the shooting?" demanded Suleka, and his moment in the sun was over.

"What shooting?" he queried, cautious.

"The one that caused you to do a header when you heard that car backfire."

He felt himself slump; she'd figured it out. "It was nothing."

"Didn't look like nothing the way you were squirming around with your face all crunched up."

They were crossing the Baker River, and Lange looked past Suleka to where the Baker met the Skagit; usually they were two bodies of limestone-fed green water, but today the Skagit was a torrent of glacial melt chocolate milk. "We were chasing a suspect," Lange began, letting his two worlds come together. "In the Bronx. I could hear my partner gaining on me from behind, when suddenly the suspect flipped around and shot at us. Next thing I knew I was on the ground, with my shoulder on fire with pain. Like someone had drilled a red hot poker into my collarbone and left it there."

Suleka glanced at him. His fingers had crept toward a spot on his left collarbone. "You weren't wearing a vest?"

Lange shrugged. "We were detectives. We weren't expecting a shootout."

"Did you catch the guy?"

Lange nodded. "My partner, Jimmy, chased him around a corner and caught him scrambling up a metal fence. He screamed at him to freeze, but the guy kept climbing so Jimmy shot. When that didn't slow him down, Jimmy shot again. But the guy made it over the top of the

Mud Room, cont. from p. 38

fence and kept on running. About 30 paces later he crumpled into a heap. Dead." He rubbed the scar through his fleece jacket. "We think it was adrenaline that kept him going."

Suleka slowed to let a logging truck go past her, then turned to cross the Skagit over the Dalles Bridge. "I can't imagine," she sighed.

"You're better off not," Lange told her. He sat forward, leaving New York City behind him, and looked past Suleka at middle Finney Ridge. Finney Creek came down from the mountains toward the Skagit and then turned left to run parallel to the river for a good 10 miles, then it dropped in south of the Dalles Bridge.

He remembered when he was a boy, out visiting his uncle Glen for the summer, how they would stand at the side of Finney Creek, watching sunlight dapple the water braiding in and out around myriad tiny islands. His uncle would explain that the flatness of the creek meant the water flowed evenly, making it perfect for fishing. Lots of spawning grounds and not too many water pools. They'd tie on some lures and catch their limit of long, beautiful cutthroat trout.

Lange felt a sad sweetness settle on him, like he'd said goodbye to a loved one. Finney Ridge was made almost entirely of sediment and glacial debris, and intensive logging had caused sloughing and sliding, silting up the creek water and putting an end to the fishing. He clucked at the roof of his mouth.

"What?" Suleka asked, as they headed down the South Skagit, toward The Inn. "This gourd better be worth the trip," was all he said back.

Continued next month ...

Crossword solution, from p. 37

	W	A	T	S	4		5	C	I	R	C	A		10	D	I	V	E			
14	A	B	U	T		15	A	R	E	A	L		16	U	S	E	R				
17	G	E	N	U	I	18	N	E	A	R	T	I	19	C	L	E	S				
20	S	L	A	N	G		21	R	O	A	D	T	E	S	T						
					22	T	U	C	K		23	A	O	N	K		24	B	I	O	
26	L	E	I		27		28		29		30		31	C	L	O		32	33	34	35
36	L	O	T		37	N	A	I	V	E		38		39	F	L	A	X			
40	A	S	A	M	A	T	T	E	R		42	O	F	F	A	C	T				
44	M	I	L	O		45		46	S	N	A	K	E		48	P	E	R			
47	A	N	Y	O	N	E		50	S	T	A	Y		51	S	K	A				
					52		53	I	T	S		54	O	Y	E	Z					
56	E	N	C	A	S	H	E	S		60		61	S	A	L	L	S	A			
65	T	E	L	L	I	N	G	T		66	67	H	E	T	R	U	T	H			
68	C	R	I	B		69	I	N	U	I	T		70	F	L	O	E				
71	H	O	P	S		72	C	O	N	C	H		73	S	L	A	M				

See Mud Room, p. 39

Letters, cont. from p. 35

dressed in fabulously original costumes, and the revelers raised the roof—as well as more than \$1,200—for the community radio station. And just in time, as our connection via the DSL provider, Frontier, broke down for almost a week during the end of November.

Belated thanks go to the following businesses who contributed items and services for the raffle and silent auction: Glacier View Mules, Concrete Theatre, Cascade Supply, Perks, Northwest Garden Bling, Wolf Hair Salon, 5b's Bakery, Concrete Liquor Store, Glacier Peak Winery, and Annie's Pizza Station.

In addition, numerous individuals donated too: Lance and Ingeborg Hightower, Jan Rashko, Betty Seguin, Nancy and Steve Johnson, Chris Henning, Patti and Jim Bannister, Linda Carpine, Rose Oliver, Jim McClure, Terri Peake, Erma Baude, John "Peace Wizard" Bromet, Richard Lewis, and Don Smith. My apologies if anyone has been forgotten.

Huge thanks to our music makers, the new Richard Lewis/Jeff Mehr/Jim Fichter trio and Marblemount's wonderful Jumbled Pie. We couldn't have a dance without them!

*Christie Fairchild
Rockport*

To place a Classified ad, call 360.853.8213 or e-mail ads@concrete-herald.com. Ads are \$5 per every 10 words, rounded up to the nearest 10. Payment is due at time of placement. Deadline for the January 2016 issue is Dec. 28.

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Sudoku solution, from p. 37

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

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all our patrons and loyal supporters a very happy holiday season. Without you I would not be here, and I would like to thank you.

This year our Holiday Open House is Dec. 12, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please stop in for some good cheer.

Northwest Garden Bling will remain open through the year with regular hours; however, beginning

Jan. 1, I will be open only Mondays and Tuesdays until further notice, to clear up some important family business. If you need anything any time, give me a call: 360.708.3279.

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