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Clear Lake and Samish Elementary schools are celebrating School of Distinction awards received on Nov. 6 for sustained improvement in English Language Arts and Math. *Page 14.*

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Old stories and good times were shared at the Darrington High School Athletic Hall of Fame awards held in the Darringtons High School auditorium on Nov. 18. *Page 25.*

WOODCUTTERS WANTED



Terrance Meyer and Washington Woodland Cooperative aim to produce a better class of firewood and forest products. *Page 11.*

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The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

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Concrete Herald owes its success to citizen journalists and photographers. **Reporter:** Chazlyn Lovely. **Proofreading:** Katy Tomasulo. **Ad Production:** Lynn Jefferson and Chazlyn Lovely. **Bookkeeping:** Upriver Bookkeeping Services. **Local contributors are welcome:** call or e-mail Jason Miller at 360.853.8213 or editor@concrete-herald.com.

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Concrete Herald is published the first Wednesday of each month and distributed via newspaper racks and retail businesses from Clear Lake to Newhalem and Darrington, Wash. A complete list of distribution points is posted online at www.concrete-herald.com/about-the-herald/distribution-points. Mail subscriptions are \$27 annually for U.S. addresses, \$39 for Canadian addresses. Other subscription options are listed on the "Subscribe" page at www.concrete-herald.com. Physical address: 7674 Cedar Park, Concrete, WA 98237. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Concrete Herald, P.O. Box 682, Concrete, WA 98237. Printed by Skagit Publishing, Mount Vernon, Wash. Contents © 2017 Concrete Herald LLC.

From the editor

An unexpected Christmas gift

After a bit of a rough year, *Concrete Herald* received a wonderful gift just last month. A local couple—who wishes to remain anonymous—donated an impressive array of barely used (and in some cases brand-new) camera equipment to our community newspaper.

The items will be worked into regular rotation and also serve as backup if my primary camera decides to freak out on me, which it has done twice during the past eight years. There's nothing worse than standing at a sporting event with a camera that has suddenly decided to become a problem child.

So this is to thank you—you know who you are—from the bottom of my heart. You've done a good thing for this newspaper and, by extension, for our Upper Valley community. Thank you, and merry Christmas.

—J. K. M.

Opinion

Letters to the editor

Sedro-Woolley remembers Patrick Janicki

This year as our Christmas season rolls around once more, we would be remiss not to remember Patrick Janicki, who left us too soon this past August. For the past three years, Patrick took on the task of cutting the branches that adorned our downtown poles lining Metcalf Street.

For many years, finding volunteers to perform this work had been difficult, but when Patrick took on the task he delivered with enthusiasm and a smile, which was greatly appreciated by Joann Lazaron, who then gets all the branches onto the poles.

Patrick made friends with everyone he met, he would help anyone at any time, and had a smile that melted hearts. Patrick's goal in life was to create

memories by bringing energy and fun to every event. Patrick spent his life gathering people and making sure that everyone had a good time. He would be seen in the parade with his small train, which his brother Peter drove in this year's parade.

The youngest of five children, Patrick

See **Letters**, p. 39

Letters policy

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

Message from the mayor

By Jason Miller

Our Town Center sure looks festive! What a pleasure it was to join a happy crowd on Dec. 2 for our tree-lighting, Christmas carols, snacks, and a visit from Santa.

Earlier that day, I was grateful for several volunteers who showed up to help me hang lighted wreaths and garland on the light posts. And thank you to our Public Works crew, who once again tracked down a gorgeous tree, cut it, transported it, placed it, and lighted it. This year's tree was donated by Mike and Phyllis Adkinson from Timbermantels.com. It looks fantastic!

Town of Concrete has been informed that the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB, a state agency) will award the town \$637,661 for completion of road improvements to Cedar Street. There will be a 5 percent match for the town, bringing the total anticipated project cost to \$671,222.

So after about eight years of attempts, that stretch of Cedar St. between S. Superior and S. Park is going to get FIXED! Right now it looks like construction should take place during summer 2019.

The project will include full depth reclamation (look it up; it's awesome) and 3 inches of asphalt overlay on approximately 930 linear feet of Cedar St., as well as a 5-foot-wide concrete sidewalk on the south side of Cedar St.

Concrete driveway entrances will be installed to serve the adjacent properties, as well as concrete ADA ramps and crosswalks to facilitate pedestrian traffic. Due to its shallow depth and deteriorated condition, the existing waterline will be abandoned in place. A new 12-inch water main will be installed beneath Cedar St., and new water service connections will be installed for all adjacent properties.

Finally, thanks for re-electing me.

Concrete Mayor Jason Miller can be reached at goodwords@frontier.com or 360.853.8213, or by sending correspondence to P.O. Box 39, Concrete, WA 98237.



Commentary Protecting our children's future

By Bill Pfeifer

Do you want your grandchildren to be able to raise their own grandchildren to enjoy the pleasures of living in the Pacific Northwest? Rampant and unchecked government corruption and environmental mismanagement might prevent this scenario. A key victim of this malfeasance is the salmon population in Northwest waters.

Commercial fish farms are breeding toxins and diseases and infecting virtually all the salmon during their migration. This, combined with polluted waters in Puget Sound and the Salish Sea, is causing drastic reductions in the populations of salmon and orca whales. If the whales can't find any salmon to feed on, is it a wonder why they are dying? The salmon are a fundamental, critical element in the West Coast ecosystem, and they must be saved. Fish farms must be eliminated NOW.

The University of Washington posits that the alarming rate of decline for southern resident killer whales may be due in part to the decline in the whales' primary prey, Chinook salmon.

Twyla Roscovich produced a video, "Salmon Confidential," that describes how the Canadian government is preventing scientists and citizens from taking fish farmers to task for their bad practices, which are decimating the salmon population. A key point: the Sockeye salmon population decline is exactly coincident with the installation of fish farms in B.C. waters in the early '90s.

In a related article, *The Seattle Times* (Oct. 18, 2017) reports that Coho salmon are dying before they can spawn because of polluted waters. If a fish dies before it can spawn, that means hundreds of fish die, not just one.

The evidence is overwhelming; we must convince our representatives that saving the salmon and orca population is paramount if we want our descendants to enjoy a rich, fulfilling life in the Pacific Northwest.

Bill Pfeifer lives near Concrete.

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CELEBRATE

Christmas in Concrete

You're invited to join us for music, movies, crafts, and some special events with very special people in December. We hope to see you!

IMAGINE CONCRETE FOUNDATION CHRISTMAS BAZAAR & CHILDREN'S CRAFT FAIR
Saturday, Dec. 9
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CONCRETE SCHOOLS MUSIC PROGRAM WINTER CONCERT AND COMMUNITY DINNER
Thursday, Dec. 14
at Concrete High School cafeteria and gymnasium. Dinner at 5 p.m., concert at 6:30 p.m.

CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM HOLIDAY POTLUCK
Wednesday, Dec. 20
6:00 p.m. at Concrete Community Center

CLASSIC MOVIE: MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET
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Concrete re-elects mayor, selects councilmembers

By Chazlyn Lovely
Edited by Katy Tomasulo

The Nov. 7 election saw Concrete Mayor Jason Miller re-elected for a second term along with the appointment of several councilmembers who ran unopposed.

The Skagit County elections as a whole—certified on Nov. 28—saw just 38 percent voter turnout. The Concrete mayor's race, however, drew interest after candidate Lesley DeKrey publicly remarked that she didn't particularly want to be mayor, but rather wanted to make a statement about her concerns regarding Miller's positions as both the Town of Concrete mayor and the editor/publisher of *Concrete Herald*. Stating that she fully expected not to win the mayoral seat, DeKrey declined to provide much information about herself, including the details of her profession and work in the community; she gave an interview to local radio station KSVU but declined

to participate in the Candidate Forum on Oct. 20 or grant an interview for an article in *Concrete Herald's* October issue.

In the end, Miller received 78 percent of the vote (107 votes) while DeKrey took 22 percent (31 votes). When asked about his win, Miller responded that he's "honored to serve the citizens of Concrete for another four years."

Other town positions were less contested, with all of those elected running unopposed. Elizabeth Easterday takes over the Town of Concrete Council Position #2 from Jude Dippold, who chose not to run again due to personal reasons. Michael P. Bartel will retain the #3 position of the council, and position #5 will be held by incumbent Ginger Kyritsis. The Concrete School District gains Hulda (Hildi) Parker as director of District 1, Janet Culver as director of District 3, and Allison Burton as director of District 4, At-Large.

Building inspector, town attorney announce retirements

Town of Concrete Building Inspector Jack McCormick and Town Attorney David Day last month announced their intention to retire from their respective duties at the end of this year.

McCormick has served the town as building inspector since June 2003. Day has served slightly longer: since February 2002.

Both men are working with the town

to make the transition as smooth as possible, with candidates already being interviewed for the contracted positions. McCormick has stated he'll work with the new building inspector to bring him up to speed, and Day has floated the idea of working as a part-time employee for the proposed new town attorney for one year, also to ease the transition.

—J. K. M.

Pearson moves from Senate to USDA

State Sen. Kirk Pearson, R-Monroe, last month was named state director for rural development for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington.

Pearson started Nov. 13 in the federal position, and resigned his 39th District Senate seat on Nov. 10.

"What I loved most were the friendships I made and the opportunity to serve the people of the 39th District," Pearson said. "I am looking forward to serving them in a greater capacity, as well as the people throughout Washington state and our great country."

Pearson, chair of the Senate Natural Resources and Parks Committee, was first elected to the state House of Representatives in 2000. He joined the state Senate following the 2012 election. His district covers rural portions of Snohomish, Skagit, and King counties, including parts of Sedro-Woolley and eastern Skagit County.

In the Legislature, Pearson has been an advocate for rural communities and for strong leadership on natural resources issues. This year his committee probed management problems at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and passed a Pearson bill, SB 5474, to stop the spread of elk hoof disease among the state's elk herds. Another Pearson bill, SB 5472, requires a ballot drop-box in every city, town, or census-designated location

with a post office, allowing voters in smaller communities to save on postage.

Pearson this year also sponsored a measure, SB 5083, requiring notice to sexual assault victims when offenders in their cases petition for their names to be removed from the state sex-offender registry. All three bills have been signed into law.

"I have been proud and honored to represent the people of my area," Pearson said. "We've been through a lot—the Oso mudslide, the concerns for the safety of correctional officers working at the state penitentiary at Monroe, and the statewide concerns about the spread of wildfire. It has been a pleasure working with the many diverse communities of the 39th District."

Senate Majority Leader Mark Schoesler, R-Ritzville, said, "While I am sad to see Senator Pearson leave us, I'm pleased that he will be leading the current administration's efforts on rural development in Washington."

"Those who live in Washington's rural areas couldn't have a better person working on their behalf than Kirk. His appointment will make a big difference for rural economies that often struggle with issues those who live in urban areas can't relate to."

Replacing Pearson

The task of replacing the outgoing senator falls to the state Republican party. A Nov. 30 vote of precinct committee officers found Sedro-Woolley Mayor Keith Wagoner the favorite, leading contenders Elizabeth Scott and Georgene Faries.

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



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- Photos of Concrete and the Upper Valley taken by local photographers
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- Community Meetings list

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December events in the Upper Valley

Several Christmas and holiday-related events remain to enjoy this month in the Upper Skagit Valley.

Dec. 9: Imagine Concrete Foundation Christmas Bazaar and Children's Craft Fair

This family-friendly favorite will be held in the Concrete Elementary School gym on Sat., Dec. 9, from 1 to 4 p.m. Look for hands-on crafts, photos with Santa and his elf, plenty of vendors with holiday gift ideas, a silent auction, and more. Lunch will be provided by Concrete Youth Cheer, serving a soup and salad and/or spaghetti lunch for just \$5. Raffle items and a bake sale are on the agenda too.

Dec. 9: Christmas on Moen Road

Designed to appeal to all Upper Skagit families, Christmas on Moen Road is hosted by Marty and Adrienne Smith at their home at 48040 Moen Rd., about 2 miles east of Concrete.

This year's event is scheduled for Sat., Dec. 9, with Santa arriving at 6 p.m. and a slew of fun activities following. Santa will bring one gift for every child up to 12 years old. Guests can stroll the beautifully decorated (and lighted) grounds. Look for hay rides and a live nativity scene, complete with animals. A drawing for a girl's bike and a boy's bike is planned, plus a few gift baskets filled with Christmas goodies. Hot dogs and hot drinks will keep you warm. Bring a chair, sit around the fire, and enjoy the warmth of the season.

Dec. 10: Christmas program at Community Bible Church

Concrete Food Bank Building Fund still accepting donations

Even as repairs to its building continue, Concrete Food Bank is still accepting donations to the building fund at any Columbia Bank, according to Board

Enjoy "The Gift" at 10 a.m. at the church, 45672 Limestone St., Concrete.

Dec. 13: Elementary School Holiday Program

This year's program will be held on Wed., Dec. 13, at 6 p.m. in the elementary school gym.

Dec. 14: Community Dinner and Winter Concert

Everyone's favorite doubleheader, the Community Dinner and Concrete Schools Music Program Winter Concert will be held on Thur., Dec. 14.

Sponsored by the Concrete Elementary PTO, the dinner starts at 5 p.m. in the Concrete High School cafeteria. The concert follows in the gymnasium at 6:30 p.m. Both events are free and open to Upper Valley community members.

Dec. 20: Concrete Heritage Museum Holiday Potluck

Join museum members at the Concrete Community Center on Wed., Dec. 20, at 6 p.m. for a delicious potluck dinner paired with good conversation. Museum membership is not required to attend.

Dec. 21: Classic Movie: "Miracle on 34th Street"

Head to Concrete Theatre on Thur., Dec. 21, at 7 p.m. for a free showing of a Christmas classic. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. "It's our gift to you and your family," said theater owner Val Stafford. Aw.

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve service at Shepherd of the Hills

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church will host a Christmas Eve service on Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. at the church, 46372 E. Main St., Concrete. The family candlelight service will be followed by a candlelight communion service at 11 p.m.

President Gladys Silrus.

An open house is planned for Jan. 14 at 12:30 p.m. to put the building improvements on display. A food drive also is planned for the same day.

"We want everyone in Concrete to see the improvements," said Silrus.

For more information, call Silrus at 360.826.4848 or Adrienne Smith at 360.853.8505.

—J. K. M.

Council summary

Concrete Town Council met for regular meetings on Nov. 13 and 27, as well as a Budget Workshop on Nov. 4. Following is a summary of those meetings. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are posted on the town's Web site at www.townofconcrete.com/cminutes.php.

Nov. 4 Budget Workshop

- Council discussed the proposed 2018 budget, including the proposed utility rates and fees. An increase of \$5 per month, followed by \$1 increases per month for the remainder of 2018, is planned for the sewer utility rate, in part to balance the debt load incurred by construction of the wastewater treatment plant and its maintenance.
- At the last Sewer Utility Rate Study Committee meeting, it was suggested to remove the flat fee for nonprofits and to charge them the same as others, with the option of seeking assistance from the town to assist in providing their services. Council decided to follow this recommendation.
- Discussion ensued on possibly adding a per-meeting amount to the current pay scale for the fire chief, who is being strained by in-town meetings when he works 45 minutes away. It was suggested to have the current chief track his time and meetings to get a better idea.

Nov. 13 regular meeting

- Michelle Coda, Debbie Lloyd, and Marnie Russell presented their idea for the Upriver Craftsman & Artisan Guild, which would include a Farmers Market at Silo Park. They stated the underlying aspect is the development of community and they believe this idea will match up well with the town's Economic Development Plan. Town Planner Marianne Manville-Ailles suggested this group set up a pre-application meeting to discuss with staff the different aspects of this idea, so that when they come back to council with their event application, they will already have researched and discussed certain aspects with staff, and have their approval to move forward. The group plans to hold their events on Saturdays, beginning in May 2018.
- Julie Hubner and Drew Jenkins with

the North Cascade Vintage Aircraft Museum presented a proposal to sell its fuel station and one of its hangars to Town of Concrete for \$1 each. The museum plans to close and is spending the next two years donating and selling its assets. After discussing some of the details, council agreed to the proposed sale.

- Town Flag Contest:** Councilmember Ginger Kyritsis reported the Economic Development Commission (EDC) had narrowed the flag submittals down to four out of the 114 that were submitted. She stated that Eric Archuletta will bring those four choices to the council on Nov. 27.

Nov. 27 regular meeting

- Economic Development Commission presentations:** EDC Chair Eric Archuletta brought several items to present to council. Archuletta presented the top four flag contest finalists, as well as the EDC's recommendation for the winner. Council requested additional time to review the entries and make the final decision at its Dec. 11 meeting. Archuletta presented the data from the branding workshop held earlier this year. He explained the concept and intent of branding, and its relationship to economic development. He shared 13 related recommendations from the EDC, as well as town motto ideas.

Archuletta presented the EDC's year-end report to the council, which included an update on the tasks the EDC had taken on in 2017, including the town Web site, brand creation, broadband efforts, a database of key buildings, adaptive reuse of the old police station/fire hall, and the town flag.

- Concrete Food Bank presented a proposal to add an awning to their building. They were asked to first create a design and discuss it with the Historical Preservation and Landmarks Commission.

—Compiled from staff minutes

Keep track of your council

To have Concrete Town Council agendas and meeting minutes e-mailed to you automatically, e-mail your request to andrea@concretewa.gov or call 360.853.8401. Concrete Town Council meets the second and fourth Mondays of each month, at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

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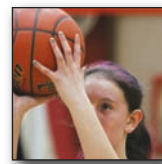
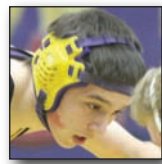


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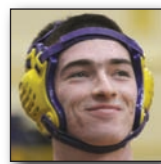
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Sports



Men's basketball season kicks off

By Madison Garding

Football: It's a wrap

By Jason Miller

The Concrete football season ended with a 28-0 loss to the Toledo Indians during a first-round playoff game in Sedro-Woolley.

The Lions trailed 6-0 going into the second half, but failed to convert possessions into points. Toledo scored several more times, cementing the win and keeping Concrete scoreless.

"We had a great season," said Head Coach Marcus Carr. "Right now we're on our way up, but next season is going to be harder than this one—our schedule is tough."

The Lions' 2018 schedule will include strong teams, including Sultan, Granite Falls, South Whidbey, Davenport, and Rainier, said Carr.



Left: Tyler Nevin avoids a Toledo opponent during the Lions' first State playoff game on Nov. 11.

Above: Quarterback Riley Fichter hands the ball to his brother, Marshall Fichter, during the Nov. 11 game, which saw the Lions fall to the Indians 28-0. The loss took Concrete out of the playoffs and ended its season.

FOOTBALL AWARDS

JV Awards: Shawn Powell, Robert Acevedo, Cody Carlson, Dominic Cassell, Daniel Mitchell, Jonas Rensink, Kendall Bass, Brandon Downing, Killian McCormack, Skyler Otto. **Varsity Awards:** Tyler Hansen, Cole Meacham, Robert Thompson, Blake Carpenter, Evan Cleland, Levi Lowry, Hunter Olmstead, Joe Ramirez, Alexander Markley, Peyton Sanchez, Devin Blankenship, Tyler Nevin, David Swain, Hayden O'Neil, Tyler Coffell, Tanner Johnson, David O'Neil, Dalton Newby, Marshall Fichter, Riley Fichter. **All-League Running Back:** Marshall Fichter. **Offensive Most Valuable Player:** Marshall Fichter. **All League First Team Linebacker:** Marshall Fichter. **First Team Offensive and Defensive Line:** Cole Meacham. **All-State Team Nomination:** Cole Meacham. **All League First Team Tight End:** David Swain. **All League First Team Defense Honorable Mention:** David Swain. **All League First Team Offense and Defense Honorable Mention:** Hunter Olmstead. **All League First Team Running Back Honorable Mention:** Dalton Newby. **All League First Team Running Back:** Peyton Sanchez. **All League First Team Defensive Back:** Peyton Sanchez. **All League First Team Tight End:** Tyler Nevin. **All League First Team Linebacker:** Tyler Nevin. **All League First Team Offensive and Defensive Line:** Tyler Hansen. **All-Star Game Nominee:** Tyler Hansen. **All League First Team Offensive Line:** Levi Lowry. **All League First Team Quarterback:** Riley Fichter. **Team Captains:** Riley Fichter, Tyler Hansen. **Comeback Player of the Year:** Cole Meacham. **Coaches' Award:** Hunter Olmstead. **Defensive MVP:** David Swain. **Offensive MVP:** Marshall Fichter. **All League First Team Defense Honorable Mention:** Evan Cleland. **Coach of the Year:** Marcus Carr.

VOLLEYBALL AWARDS

Varsity MVP: Kaitlin Earheart. **First Team All-League Middle Hitter:** Kaitlin Earheart. **All-State Nomination:** Kaitlin Earheart. **Varsity Most Improved:** Jaidyn Swanson. **Best Server:** Jalayne Hastings (97%). **Honorable Mention All-League Setter:** Jalayne Hastings. **Perfect Passer:** Grace Clemons (44%). **JV MVP:** Josie Acevedo. **JV Most Improved:** Sadie Peif.

For the Concrete High School men's basketball team, the winter sports season began with a bang during the last November weekend.

On Nov. 28 the team traveled to face Overlake Christian. Overlake took home the win with a final score of 61-41.

On Dec. 1 the Lions hosted their first home game against the Eastside Prep Eagles, getting the W with a solid 63-40 final score.

December 2 also was a home game, this time against Mount Rainier Lutheran. Though the game came close, Mount Rainier left with the victory of 63-46.

The team is looking forward to a very promising season with returning players, and hopes to see some new faces on the court.

December play

The team tears into December with a full schedule of games:

- At home vs. Sulamita Christian on Dec. 8 at 7 p.m.
- At home vs. Bush on Dec. 9 at 7 p.m.
- At Auburn Adventist on Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m.
- At Orcas Island on Dec. 15 at 4:30 p.m.
- At Lopez on Dec. 18 at 4:30 p.m.
- At home vs. La Conner on Dec. 19 at 6 p.m.
- At Coupeville on Dec. 20 at 7 p.m.
- At Cedar Park Christian on Dec. 23 at 7 p.m.
- At home vs. Sands Secondary (a British Columbia team) on Dec. 27 at 2 p.m.



The Concrete Lions men's basketball team sent the Eastside Prep Eagles home with a 63-40 loss on Dec. 1. Top: Rey Garibay stretches out for a shot. Right: David Swain drives past defenders on his way to the hoop.

Athletes of the Month



Athletes of the Month: Kaitlin Earheart and Cole Meacham

Kaitlin Earheart is a 5' 9" senior middle hitter for the volleyball team. This is her second year lettering on varsity, and she is a co-captain. Kaitlin led the team with 99 kills and 33 assists, while ranking second in pass percentage and aces. She has had a great career as a volleyball player and was recently recognized by area coaches for her tremendous attitude and work ethic by being selected First Team All-League. Additionally, she will represent Concrete High School in the All-State volleyball game in March. Coach Kevik Rensink stated "She is well deserving of this recognition, and I am proud of her accomplishments and who she has become."

Cole Meacham is a senior captain and has received recognition as an outstanding lineman for the Lions. Coach Marcus Carr said Cole mentored the younger players on the team. Cole was voted to First Team All-League on offense and defense.



He also will participate in the East/West All-Star Game in June. Future plans include attending college, where he can get a degree in criminal law and play football.

Earheart and Meacham were selected by Concrete Lions Booster Club members based on their performance, leadership, positive attitude, and demonstrating sportsmanship and character.

—Kathy Hurn



Right: Concrete Lions Booster Club charter member Bill Newby was honored during the club's November meeting for his 40-plus years of leadership and service. Newby has been an active participant in all the projects the club has initiated to serve Concrete students. Photo by Barb Hawkings.

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Women's hoops rebuilds with new players

By Kevik Rensink, head coach

The first practice of the Concrete women's basketball season was Nov. 14, and with it came new expectations—and a ton of new players.

Our basketball program lost a great group of seniors to graduation, and although they were only four, the void they left was huge. For the third time in the last 19 years, more than 90 percent of our scoring (and every other statistic in basketball) walked down the aisle last June.

When that happens, coaches continue to put one foot in front of the other, teach the fundamentals of the game, and hold to team standards and philosophy. On the first day of practice, we had 24 girls in the gym, and when I asked them to raise their hand if they lettered on varsity last year, three of them raised their hands.

After starting with 12 freshmen, we have retained nine, and this is a group with a lot of potential if they continue to play together. We also have an inexperienced group. There are several players with no (and I mean zero) basketball experience. They may not completely understand the game yet, but they are here every day, working hard and learning. I can't ask for more than that. I love teaching the game, and seeing these players improve right before my eyes every day is a big reward for us as coaches.

Tasha Nick is in her fourth year as the assistant coach; she does an outstanding job of heading up the JV program. Eight of her 10 players on JV are freshmen, so it is a great opportunity to build relationships and create trust as a team.

The varsity squad is led by their three returning seniors: Madisyn Renzelman, Jalayne Hastings, and Jenna Whorten.

These three are our captains this season, and are stepping up (and growing up) to lead this team. We need leadership this year, and I believe they are up for the challenge. Renzelman is in her third year of varsity, while Hastings is in her second, and Whorten is coming off an injury-plagued junior year that only saw her in six games.

Two other seniors have emerged on the scene in major ways: Kaitlin Earheart and Asusena Fregoso. I was more than thrilled when both of them decided to play

their senior year. Earheart already has established herself as our top rebounder, shot blocker, and one of our leading scorers. As a force on the volleyball court this fall, she is learning a new game with a new ball this winter, but so far so good. I like the early results, and I see a much brighter future. Fregoso has impressed me since day one. I wasn't sure where her commitment level would be, but her work ethic and attitude have convinced me otherwise. She is all in, and plays hard every time she is on the court. She too will continue to impress her coaching staff and teammates as the season progresses.

We have two juniors, one with a little varsity experience (Maddy Pritchard), and one with one year of total basketball experience (Jaidyn Swanson), but both add real value to what we are trying to accomplish this season. Both are very vocal, and will continue to be great leaders for our team.

Our two sophomores are Izzy Ramos and Ebby Buchta. Ramos played in just two games last season before succumbing to injury, but the foundation was laid. She has really stepped up and is probably our most fundamental player when it comes to footwork and knowledge of the game. Buchta is another girl who has not played basketball since she was young, but came out and really showed some fire from the beginning. I believe with some more court experience, her game and her confidence will grow by leaps and bounds.

I am excited about the potential this group has, and it has been fun to watch them learn. Although we have played only three games so far, the girls are competing well and showing a lot of courage. After losing our first game at Overlake, we won our home opener over Eastside Prep in a dramatic come-from-behind win. We then lost to Mount Rainer Lutheran the next night, and will now have a week off from games. This will give us time to prepare, add more options to our offense and defense, and continue to grow together as a basketball family. Our home games are limited this year (eight total), with only three in December. Since we have already played two at home, that leaves us with one more home game this month vs. La Conner on Tue., Dec. 19 at 7:30 p.m.



The Concrete High School women's basketball team tangled with the Eastside Prep Eagles on Dec. 1 and came out on top 37-33. Shown making all the right moves on their way to victory are, clockwise from left, Kaitlin Earheart, Kylie Clark, Madisyn Renzelman, and Jenna Whorten.



Sports schedules:
nw1a2bathletics.com

WOODCUTTERS WANTED

Terrance Meyer and Washington Woodland Cooperative aim to produce a better class of firewood and forest products.

Terrance Meyer of Rockport wants to improve the firewood market in the Upper Skagit Valley, lessen smoke pollution from home fireplaces, and give forest owners a financial incentive for cleaning up forest waste (a fire hazard) on their lands.

Meyer is the director for Washington Woodland Cooperative (WWC), a newly formed nonprofit that initially will run a firewood bank and wood enterprise center. Its goal is to address the above three challenges and provide solutions. A similar program is up and running in Kendall, in eastern Whatcom County.

"The idea is in these foothills communities, we tend to have high unemployment, lots of wood resources, and skilled people with wood," said Meyer. "And like Kendall, we end up burning wet wood, leading to poor air quality."

Meyer has secured a U.S. Forest Service Wood Innovations Grant, which will pay for expenses to get the venture up and running, but not for equipment. Meyer has found a home for WWC: He's leasing a

portion of the old Janicki Logging shake mill site at the corner of Russell Rd. and SR 20 in Birdsvie, which includes a large pole building where he'll set up operations.

How it works

Meyer will model the co-op after the historic Oregon Woodland Cooperative, which was begun in the 1940s and survives to this day. Back then, the cooperative was a strategy for small forest landowners to get reasonable prices at the local lumber mills. Today it's a way for those same small landowners to get more from their forested land than simply milled lumber.

Washington Woodland Cooperative will accept firewood at any stage (from logs to split quarters) and at any moisture level, from any co-op member who has paid their \$50 membership fee. The co-op will dry the wood, sell it, and then pay the woodcutter or forest landowner.

"We're basically a service to the upriver

woodcutters to ensure their wood is dry," said Meyer. "We do the marketing and sales, and because the co-op margin is so small, the cutter is getting almost the same price as they were before."

Some of the dry firewood is carefully bundled, labeled, and sold at wholesale for \$4 per bundle. WWC just landed a supplier in Seattle, which will help increase sales volumes. The niche product has a proven track record, said Meyer, who was involved in the Oregon Woodland Cooperative and made decent money doing what he called "relatively easy, good work."

The co-op should make dry firewood accessible to everyone, cutting down on air pollution and making homes more comfortable.

And it's not a competitor, Meyer adds.

"The whole point is not to put existing firewood suppliers out of business; it's to complement them and provide a market."

Firewood buyers will be able to get their hands on the quality firewood in a variety of ways. They can use low-income energy assistance vouchers through Community Action. They can volunteer at the wood bank and get firewood as compensation. They can use the co-op as a "bank": Bring in wet firewood and walk away with some smaller quantity of dry firewood. Or they can purchase the firewood outright, just like they would anywhere else.

—J. K. M.



Washington Woodland Cooperative's Upper Skagit home is the former Janicki Logging shake mill at 7628 Russell Rd. in Birdsvie (across SR 20 from Birdsvie Burgers and Grandy Creek Grocery). WWC is leasing three acres of the 21.55-acre site, and will set up shop in this covered area after securing its perimeter with chain-link fence. Roof and site repairs and improvements are under way; Meyer said there's an immediate need for a forklift, a culvert, gravel, firewood donations, and volunteers to fix up the site and building.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH (STEM)

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Academics



Scholarship calls begin

AWC Center for Quality Communities

Town of Concrete is accepting applications for the AWC Center for Quality Communities Scholarship fund. The scholarship is available through a statewide competitive process for students who are actively engaged in their city government and/or community and plan to attend post-secondary school in fall 2018.

To be eligible, a student must be graduating from high school or home school or receiving a GED in spring/summer 2018, live within the Concrete School District boundaries, plan to continue their education at an accredited post-secondary institution in the 2018–19 academic year on a half-time or more basis, and been involved with a city government or with a community/school leadership activity.

Information and application materials can be obtained at www.townofconcrete.com or cfqc.org. Completed applications are due no later than 4:30 p.m. on Fri., Feb. 16, 2018. Submit completed materials to:

Town of Concrete, Attn: Andrea Fichter
P.O. Box 39, Concrete, WA 98237

E-mail to andrea@concretewa.gov or hand-deliver to 45672 Main St., Concrete, WA 98237.

Soroptimist scholarship

Soroptimist International of Sedro-Woolley is awarding additional Continuing Education vocational scholarships for 2017–18. The qualifications are:

1. The student must have been a graduate of Sedro-Woolley or Concrete high schools (any year), and
2. Be currently enrolled in a vocational program.

To apply, provide a letter telling about yourself and stating your education/career goals, and a copy of your most recent transcript showing current enrollment in your vocational/certificate program.

Send all to Soroptimist International of Sedro-Woolley, Attn: Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 249, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284.

This application deadline is Dec. 31, 2017.



Fourth grader Olivia Coke competes during the 2017 STACKUP speed stacking event at Concrete Elementary on Nov. 9.

Concrete students see how they stack up

On Nov. 9, Concrete Elementary students and staff joined participants from around the world in the 2017 STACKUP, a speed stacking event, trying to break the Guinness World Record for "Most People Sport Stacking at Multiple Locations in One Day." The goal for this year was set at 635,000 participants.

The local event, held in the Concrete Elementary School gym, saw 287 Elementary students and staff join the rest of the world to speed stack for a minimum of one half hour during their P.E. class. A total of 2,400 schools participated, from first timers all the way to those who have helped break the record for the previous 11 years. The good news is people joined together around the world with more than half a million stackers, but unfortunately came up short in breaking the previous record.

Nevertheless, this year's event was considered a success. Organizers were thankful for the 578,704 who participated.

—Paul Bianchini

Farm to School gets grant for garden shed

United General District 304 received a Rural Communities Grant of \$1,500 from Northwest Farm Credit Services (NWFC) to fund the construction of a garden shed for the Concrete Farm to School Program at Concrete Elementary School.

This is the second Rural Communities grant received by Farm to School; last year NWFC was the first organization to fund the Farm to School kitchen classroom renovation.

"The Concrete Farm to School program is very grateful for this grant," said Farm to School Coordinator Rachel Sacco.

"The Northwest Farm Credit Services Rural Community Grant provides seed money for a fundraising effort to construct a much-needed garden shed for the Concrete Elementary School garden. An organized toolshed will enhance students' experience in the school garden and allow for greater independence and responsibility during garden lessons."

The funding check was presented at the Farm to School classroom on Nov. 27.



Farm to School Coordinator Rachel Sacco stands in the newly renovated Farm to School portable classroom on the Concrete Elementary School campus. The renovation was funded by a Northwest Farm Credit Services grant.

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Concrete Resource Coalition



It's hard to believe 2017 is coming to an end. Looking back, our coalition has a lot to celebrate:

1. Completed a six-month strategic plan update.
2. Helped support local youth and community members to pass no smoking or e-vaping at Concrete parks.
3. Led a successful 10th Annual Concrete Youth Activity Day.
4. Sent 12 local youth to leadership conferences in Yakima and Grand Mound.
5. Supported the trainings of five new teachers in the PAX Good Behavior Game, three new adult facilitators for Strengthening Families program, and one new facilitator for Incredible Years.
6. Engaged more than 300 students in prevention activities led by the coalition, either Life Skills or PAX Good Behavior Game.
7. Recruited 13 unduplicated families to participate in evening programs to focus on strengthening parenting skills.
8. Partnered on a Traffic Safety project to provide teens an educational option vs. a Minor in Possession if they are caught with alcohol or marijuana.
9. Provided Suicide Prevention trainings at the Concrete Fire Department and Upper Skagit Library.

More work needs to be done and we have an ambitious 2018 ahead of us. Our next training is called Hidden in Plain Sight, for parents of youth ages 11 to 17. This informative presentation sets up a mock teen bedroom and puts clues in plain sight that could indicate your child's drug use or abuse. This takes place Dec. 5 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Concrete Community Center. Our coalition meetings are open to the public, and we usually meet the third Thursday of each month from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at the Concrete High School Library.

For more information, contact me at stephanie.morgareidge@unitedgeneral.org or 360.854.7179.

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

4th Annual

Christmas Bazaar and Children's Craft Fair

Brought to you by
Imagine Concrete Foundation

Saturday, December 9
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
At Concrete Elementary School gym

- Kid-friendly! All ages welcome!
- Holiday treats, crafts, and gifts!
- Photos with Santa!
- Awesome Silent Auction!
- Lunch provided by Concrete Elementary PTO!

Vendors of all ages welcome!
E-mail inquiries to morgareidge@frontier.com



Clear Lake



From cream to butter: Local historian offers first-hand glimpse into the past

By Cookson Beecher

A pint of whipping cream and a small butter churn in hand, Clear Lake historian Deanna Ammons took a group of vintage-trailer enthusiasts back into the past when her family milked two cows and made butter from some of the milk.

The group was attending the Third Annual Vintage Trailer Roundup in Lake Havasu City, Ariz. Hosted by Skagit County residents Cherri and Mike Aiken, the campout attracted an intriguing assortment of restored trailers and classic cars. Representing one of America's fastest growing hobbies, vintage trailers are generally 25 years old or older.

After a willing volunteer churned a pint of cream, Deanna poured out the milk left over from the churning and patted the remaining butter into a ball. She then proceeded to wash the butter with water, a process that helps the butter stay fresh longer. The churning took only about 7 minutes and washing the butter and patting it into a round shape took only about another 7 minutes.

From there, it was time for the audience members to taste the butter. Not surprisingly, it received an immediate thumbs-up from the eager taste-testers, who spread it on Hawaiian bread or

saltine crackers. Many of them said they had never tasted homemade butter before.

For Glenda Heath from Grand Junction, Colo., it was an eye-opener. "If you've never seen butter made before, it's really quite amazing," she said. She was also surprised to learn that cows have to be milked two times a day. "It was a hard life," she said. "I can't imagine doing it. But now I'm inspired to make my own butter."

Ammons said she's always pleased when her audience learns about how things were done in the past. "I like to educate people and inspire them," she said.

Right: Skagit County historian Deanna Ammons shows vintage-trailer rally participants and visitors the finished product: delicious butter made from the pint of cream.



Clear Lake, Samish Elementary win School of Distinction awards

Clear Lake and Samish Elementary schools are celebrating School of Distinction awards received on Nov. 6 for sustained improvement in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math during a five-year period.

The schools are two of 98 schools so honored by the Center for Educational Effectiveness and their partner organizations that have recognized schools all over the state for continuous and substantive improvement.

"Clear Lake and Samish have great staff and students, with very supportive parent and school communities. I'm especially proud of our students," said Superintendent Phil Brockman.

Clear Lake Principal Dina Fox said, "We are so excited about this award. We are very fortunate to work with such amazing students and families. As a staff, regardless of their position, we believe all children can achieve at high levels. We continuously work on getting to know each and every one of our students and help them realize the magnitude of their potential."

Clear Lake Elementary will be recognized during the March 26 school board meeting at Clear Lake, and Samish Elementary will be recognized during the April 23 meeting.

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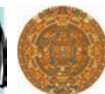
Woodcutters Wanted!

WWC is building an Upper Valley dry firewood bank so that everyone has year-round access to dry wood.

To join the co-op, donate time, or for more info go to www.washingtonwoodland.coop, call (360) 855-8768, or email info@washingtonwoodland.coop

Continue the cycle

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this newspaper



Community Calendar



DECEMBER

- 5 "Hidden in Plain Sight" interactive presentation, Concrete Community Center, 5:30 p.m.; see article, p. 13
- 9 Santa Breakfast, Sedro-Woolley, 8:30 to 11 a.m.; info at www.sedrowoolley.com
- 9 Darrington Holiday Art Show, 605 S. Emens Ave., Darrington, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; info at 360.436.0711
- 9 Imagine Concrete Foundation Christmas Bazaar and Children's Craft Fair, Concrete Elementary School gym, 1 to 4 p.m.; free admission; see ad, p. 13, and notice, p. 6; info at morgareidge@frontier.com or 360.770.2836
- 9 Holiday Home Tour, Sedro-Woolley Museum, 5 p.m.; info at <http://sedrowoolleymuseum.org>
- 9 Christmas on Moen Road, 48040 Moen Rd., 6 p.m.; see notice, p. 6
- 10 Christmas program: "The Gift," Community Bible Church, 45672 Limestone St., Concrete, 10 a.m.
- 12 Santa's Can-to-Cane Exchange, Tree Lighting, and Parade, Darrington, 6 p.m.
- 12 Barnaby Reach Habitat Project update, Howard Miller Steelhead Park clubhouse, Rockport, 6 p.m.; see notice, p. 23
- 13 Coffee with Rep. Carolyn Eslick, Mountain Loop Books & Coffee, Darrington, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- 13 Concrete Elementary PTO meeting, elementary school library, 5 p.m.
- 13 Concrete Elementary School Holiday Program, school gym, 6 p.m.
- 14 Community Dinner, Concrete High School cafeteria, 5 to 6:30 p.m.; free admission
- 14 Concrete Schools Music Program Winter Concert, CHS gym, 6:30 p.m.; free admission
- 16 Guidebook author Craig Romano speaks at Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center, Rockport, 11 a.m.
- 16 Hamilton Volunteer Fire Dept. Children's Christmas Party, Hamilton Town Hall, 1 p.m.; photos with Santa included
- 16 Spaghetti Feed Fundraiser for Lyman flood victims, Lyman Baptist Church, 31441 W. Main St., Lyman, 5 p.m.; \$10 suggested donation; see article, p. 18
- 17 Richard Brocksmith presents "Salmon and Trout of the Skagit River" at Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center, Rockport, 1 p.m.
- 20 Concrete Heritage Museum Holiday Potluck, Concrete Community Center, 6 p.m.; free admission; see notice, p. 6
- 21 Classic movie: "Miracle on 34th Street," Concrete Theatre, 7 p.m.; free admission; see notice, p. 6
- 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 46372 E. Main St., Concrete, 7 p.m.; followed by candlelight communion service at 11 p.m.; see notice, p. 6
- 30 Rockport State Park Interpreter Amos Almy presents "The Story of the Forests" at Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center, Rockport, 1 p.m.
- 31 Dr. Steve Glenn presents "Winter Birds of the Upper Skagit" at Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center, Rockport; hike at 11 a.m., talk at 1 p.m.

JANUARY

- 1 Guided hike at Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center, Rockport, 11 a.m.
- 13 Native Cultural Day, Marblemount Community Hall; see article, p. 26
- 13 Darrington Community Dance, Mansford Grange, Darrington; potluck at 6 p.m., dance from 7 to 9:30; \$7 suggested donation; info at 206.402.8646

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

Community meetings

Cascade Days planning meetings will be held the third Mon. of each month, at 7460 S. Dillard, Ste. A (corner of SR 20 and Dillard), at 5:30 p.m. Meetings are not mandatory for volunteers. Info at ember@cascaadedays.com.

Christian Motorcyclists Assn Morning Star Chapter 39 meets the first Mon. of each month at Royal Star Buffet in Mount Vernon. Optional dinner at 6 p.m.; meeting at 7 p.m. 425.770.6154 or cmchapter39@gmail.com.

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 meets the second Tue. of each month, Sept. through May, at 1 p.m., in the conference room of the East County Resource Center. 360.853.8347.

Concrete Economic Development Commission meets quarterly at Concrete Town Hall. Its next meeting is Nov. 8 at 6 p.m. 503.333.2406

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 in the Pilots' Lounge at Mears Field 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 www.concreteheritagemuseum.org.

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

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

Concrete School District Board: The board will hold a work session on Nov. 27 at 6 p.m. in the high school commons room. The board will hold its regular monthly meeting on Nov. 30 at 6 p.m., same location. 360.853.4000.

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

Darrington Strong meets the third Wed. of each month, 7 p.m., at Cascade Senior Center, 1115 Darrington St., Darrington. 360.436.2167.

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

Forest Park Cemetery District No. 5 meets the first Tue. of each month at the cemetery office on Compton Lane in Concrete, at 6 p.m. 360.708.3656.

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

Imagine Concrete meets the third 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 staff and volunteer meeting, second Tue. of each month at Portable B behind Concrete Elementary School, 4 p.m., open to public. 360.853.8588.

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

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

Marblemount Community Hall board and staff meet the second Wed. of each month at the hall, at 6 p.m. 360.873.2323.

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

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: A regular meeting is planned for Nov. 13 at 7 p.m. in the Support Services Bldg. A second regular meeting is planned for Nov. 27 at 7 p.m. at Big Lake Elementary. 360.855.3500 or kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us.

Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center Board meets the second Tue. of each month, 5:30 p.m., at Annie's Pizza Station in Grasmere. Open to the public. sauskister@frontier.com or www.skagitaeagle.org.

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

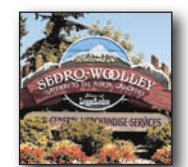
Upper Skagit Writers Group meets the third Mon. of each month at 6 p.m., at 5b's Bakery, Concrete. Open to the public and all skill levels. em@5bsbakery.com.

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.

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Sedro-Woolley



Lemley named Grand Marshal for Christmas Parade

Chosen for his commitment to the Sedro-Woolley community, Rick Lemley was this year's Grand Marshal for the Sedro-Woolley Christmas Parade. Lemley is well-known and beloved here.

Lemley graduated from Sedro-Woolley High School in 1972, and then followed his passions for the forests by earning a Forest Tech Degree at Everett Community College. He worked for the DNR and the USFS during the summers fighting forest fires, and working on reforestation after the fires. He proudly proclaims he was a charter member of the Baker River Hotshots Crew.

In March 1977 he hung up his forest boots and entered the family business as an apprentice working with his father, Dick Lemley; his grandfather, Harold Lemley; and his uncle, Bob Lemley. He is a lifelong resident of Sedro-Woolley who grew up around the family business at Lemley Chapel. When asked about the success of his business for three generations, he credits it to personalization, which is an attribute one cannot find in the larger urban areas.

With deep roots in the community—his mother Joanna Land Lemley was from Clear Lake—he seems to know just about everyone.

He stated that all of the local funeral homes are family owned and operated, and he believes it is why they become so personally involved with each family. Certainly his own ability to truly empathize with the families is something his clients feel firsthand.

In March 1979 he married his high school sweetheart Debbie Gallagher, and after over 38 years they have successfully raised three children: Evan, Lauren, and Kayla, with each one of their children having presented them with a grandchild during the past year. Their three grandchildren are Braden (Evan's son), Mackenzie (Lauren's daughter), and Adeline (Kayla's baby girl).

As their children matured into adulthood, Rick began volunteering more, he has been a Rotarian since 1999. He has served on the Chamber of Commerce board for in excess of two terms. He has assisted the chamber with Blast from

the Past and Woodfest, and portrayed a great grandfather John Guddell (bank president) in the Founder's Day Bank robbery shootout reenactments put on by the Sedro-Woolley Museum. He also was involved in the car shows at Blast and Founders' Day with JJ Cruisers.

Although he chose not to run for another term on the City Council, he was the longest serving member, having started in 2000 representing Ward 6.

Rick and Debbie both volunteered with the Senior Parents Group for all three of their children, working the espresso stand and concession stand at local games and as chaperones on the ski bus. Debbie is also a community volunteer with Beta Sigma Phi, a service group that annually hosts the Santa Breakfast at the Sedro-Woolley Community Center.

Coultas family donated tree

This year the city Christmas tree was donated by the family of Harold W. Coultas, who passed away peacefully at his home last December after an extended illness. For many years the City of Sedro-

Woolley has asked him to donate the tree ... and he would say no, maybe next year.

In September 2016 Parks and Recreation Supervisor Nathan Salseina saw Mr. Coultas at City Hall and asked again if they could have his tree. He told Salseina he wasn't in good health and would need to ask his sisters. The sisters said, "After he passed away, we felt this would be a great way to honor him this year. It will be very special for our family to be at the tree lighting with his tree shining brightly in the center of his home town."

Harold was born on May 23, 1951, in Sedro-Woolley, the son of Charles and Margaret (Cowill) Coultas. He was raised and attended school in Sedro-Woolley, graduating from Sedro-Woolley High School with the class of 1969. He played tennis at the high school and was one match from going to State when he injured his ankle and was unable to compete in the doubles match. He loved following SWHS sports and the records that were set or broken.

See Coultas, p. 19

Election 2017 Election results certified

This year's general election is over, with the results certified last month.

In Sedro-Woolley, four City Council positions were on the ballot, three of which were contested. Two school district seats were up for grabs, as was one commissioner seat for Hospital District 304.

Here's the final tally.

City Council Council-At-Large

Pola Kelley and Jared Couch vied for the at-large council seat, which found Couch edging Kelley by only 41 votes, 800 to 759.

City Council Ward 2

Incumbent Germaine Kornegay ran unopposed during this election cycle, and retained her seat with 187 votes.

City Council Ward 3

Incumbent Brenda Kinzer retained her seat after facing challenger J. Dennis O'Neil. Kinzer collected 126 votes to O'Neil's 100, taking home 56 percent of the vote.

City Council Ward 6

The Ward 6 seat was sought by Harold Beitler and Karl de Jong after Councilmember Rick Lemley announced his intention not to run for re-election. De Jong bested Beitler with 185 votes to Beitler's 88, or 68 percent.

Eric Johnson and Wendie Granberg vied for the District 4 director position, with Johnson winning 2,668 votes compared to Granberg's 1,840 votes.

S-W School District Director Dist. 5

Ken Van Liew ran unopposed, and won 3,281 votes.

Hospital District 304 Commissioner Pos. 2

Chuck Ruhl ran unopposed and won with 6,530 votes.

Hospital District 304 Commissioner Pos. 4

Jeri Kaufman ran unopposed and won with 6,375 votes.

S-W School District Director Dist. 1

Enrique Lopez-Cisneros ran unopposed, and collected 3,316 votes.

S-W School District Director Dist. 4

Business Spotlight: Smuggler Brothers Marijuana Mercantile

Three years after opening its doors in Sedro-Woolley, Smuggler Brothers Marijuana Mercantile is still going strong. The business has made a name for itself by carefully curating the products it offers for sale, and offering a unique experience for customers, whether they're shopping for medicinal or recreational purposes.

"They get better and more attention from our staff. No rush," says owner Jeff Kraus. "Our staff is OK with slowing down and taking time with customers."

At a glance: Smuggler Brothers

Where: 1912 SR 20, Sedro-Woolley

Hours: 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day

Phone: 360.746.9229

Web: www.smugglerbrothers.com

Our customers constantly tell us that they don't really experience that elsewhere."

Manager and head buyer Olas Yoho has taken the reins of product selection, and in a booming industry (upwards of 1,400 production licenses in Washington), carefully listens to customer feedback, then buys in small batches to ensure product freshness.

"I look at it as being a curator," says Yoho. "We're more curated than the average shop. I'm an extremely picky person, and these choices have to fit through my filter."

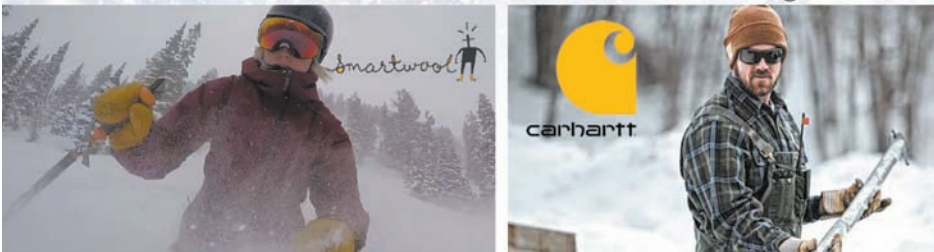
There are choices galore in the cozy shop, with its decidedly familial atmosphere and private entry at the back of the building. You'll find bud, trim, pre-rolled joints, infused joints, hash vaporizers, and the always popular and ever-expanding edible products.

Everyone who shops at Smuggler Brothers is an individual, says Jeff, and the goal is to provide what information they can to help suit their needs. "Relieve pain? Relax? Sleep better? We help people find what works for them."

"It's a journey for every customer," says Jeff.

—J. K. M.

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From left: Olas Yoho, Ernest Jackson, Jeff Kraus, and Michelle Wader are some of the friendly faces you'll see at Smuggler Brothers Marijuana Mercantile in Sedro-Woolley.

Weekend sales at Naked Clothing in December: Sharing the same building as Smuggler Brothers, Naked

Clothing will be open for weekend sales this month after closing earlier this year. Stop by and check out their wares!



Lyman



Day Creek



Lyman examines its options for flood recovery

Lyman Mayor Eddie Hills is not getting the answers he'd hoped to hear after a flooding Skagit River devastated three of his constituents' properties during the Thanksgiving holiday.

Richard and Vicky Guidinger, Michael Taxdahl, and Mark Harris have suffered property losses—literally—as the raging Skagit ate away at the shoreline, which tumbled into the water and took the Guidingers' propane tank and Harris' garage with it. Once more than 100 feet away, the shoreline is now at the corners of their homes.

"The way it sits right now, if we were to have another flood like the last one or

worse, we would be hurting," said Mayor Hills.

The mayor has reached out to Skagit County officials and federal officials in his bid to save the town's infrastructure and the three homes from further destruction.

Skagit County Commissioners sent a letter dated Nov. 24 to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, formally requesting the corps take "emergency action to construct a temporary berm, to prevent the further erosion of land that threatens critical infrastructure."

Another meeting is pending between the corps, Town of Lyman, Skagit County, and Rep. Carolyn Eslick. Hills said the corps

is doing a cost analysis, "seeing what the options are for 'advanced measures' to shore things up."

A sickening start

The problem began on Thanksgiving Day, when the swollen Skagit began tearing down trees on a point of land near the Guidingers' house.

"It took out the point, then started slamming into Mark Harris' bank," said Hills. "It was sickening and crazy. I was begging and pleading everyone for help, and it wasn't coming."

Hills expressed initial frustration with the corps. "I played every card I could play, and got nowhere. They called and started talking about 'next time.' I said, 'There is no next time. It's done. You failed.'"

While some options are off the table

at the moment—FEMA, for example, won't step in and provide buyouts unless the president declares an emergency—Congresswoman Suzan DelBene's office is pursuing strategies to help the property owners get out of their mortgages.

The Guidinger home might be able to stay, but the other two homes are a loss, said Hills. Taxdahl's home had been there since the early 1900s, a logging bunkhouse that had since been remodeled and expanded. Harris' house was about 28 years old; it's gone now.

"To allow homes to fall into the river and allow fish to be more important than humans and their property ... that concerns me," said Hills.

Locals respond

A spaghetti feed fundraiser is planned for the three Lyman families most affected by the disaster. The fundraiser is scheduled for Sat., Dec. 16, at 5 p.m. at Lyman Baptist Church, 31441 W. Main St., Lyman. A silent and live auction is planned, as well as a 50/50 raffle. Admission is a \$10 suggested donation.

—J. K. M.

Community notes

Operation Christmas Child

Day Creek kids are gearing up for "Operation Christmas Child." They'll fill shoeboxes with toys and fun gifts, pack them up, and send them overseas to children who have very little.

For more information, contact Sue Walden at 360.391.1709.

Potluck needs new leader

Donna Pulver is retiring as organizer of the Community Potluck and gatherings. She hopes someone will be willing to take over her position by January 2018.

Interested? Call 360.826.3003 or 360.826.3581. The last potluck of the year is Dec. 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Coultas, cont. from p. 17

For many years Harold was employed at the National Food Cannery in Burlington and then as a mechanic at a fishing cannery in Alaska. Harold enjoyed fishing with his dad on opening day at Cain Lake.

Upon returning from Alaska, he enjoyed the quiet life, working around his home, gardening, and teaching important skills to his nephew Austin Frizzell. But his greatest joy was sharing life with Sandi and Ciera Brown.

Harold loved to go uptown to pay his bills and do his banking so he could talk with the city clerks and bank tellers. He loved his family and friends. He enjoyed watching sports on TV, especially the Mariners and Seahawks. He loved getting hanging baskets for his mom for Mother's Day and gave her a dozen red roses for her birthday last year.

As his sisters said, "Christmas brings families together, and our brother was all about family. This tree will bring our community together this holiday season, and our family together this year too, as we remember our brother."

Thanks to Lori Frizzell, Nancy Patterson, and Sherri Hopkins for sharing their brother's legacy to the city.

—Pola Kelley



Congresswoman Suzan DelBene visits with Lyman residents during a series of community forums in the Upper Valley on Nov. 18. DelBene's route took her to Concrete, Lyman, and Big Lake, where she spoke to a number of topics, including health care reform and the pending federal tax plan.

Ladies Retreat

Day Creek Chapel will host a Ladies Retreat. For more information and to RSVP, call 360.391.1709.

Prepared to answer

Day Creek Chapel will host "Prepared to Answer," a three-hour event streamed live from Houston Baptist Theological Seminary. For more information, call 360.826.3581.

Friendship House Helping Hand

We can reach out to the homeless and serve a monthly dinner at the Friendship House. Prep is at 3 p.m. and dinner is at 5 p.m. on the last Sunday of each month. For more information, call 360.391.1709.

WOMEN HAND in hand

WOMEN HAND in hand is scheduling

its spring event. Stephanie Fast will be the featured speaker. More information soon.

Kingdom Builders

Kingdom Builders works together with the help of our community, reaching out to be a help to those in need of trips to the doctor, hospital visits, store runs, and more. Drivers are needed and donations are always welcome.

Kingdom Builders and the Friday Morning Bible Study Group have assembled Homeless Giveaway Bags. Anyone who wishes to keep a few in their car should call 360.826.3581.

Anyone interested in becoming available to be a community helper may call 360.826.3003 or 360.826.3581.

Report illegal dumping

If you see anyone illegally dumping

garbage, report the activity by calling 360.428.3211.

Cowboy Church

Cowboy Church is held in the clubhouse at the Sedro-Woolley Rodeo grounds every Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call 425.395.4014.

Women's Bible study

A women's Bible study is planned to begin soon, to be held Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. The group will study Beth Moore's "The Quest."

For more information, call Sue Walden at 360.391.1709.

If you have an idea for community gatherings, call 360.826.3003 or 360.826.3581, or send an e-mail to winningcycleranch@gmail.com.

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November in pictures



Above: A select group of Concrete students was recognized last month as Academic and Citizenship achievers for the first quarter. Their reward? Lunch at Cascade Burgers, with Principal Mike Holbrook picking up the tab. Not bad, not bad. From left, Romie Salipot, Josie Acevedo, Grace Clemons, Collin Martin, and Riley Fichter. Not pictured: Vanessa Aikens.



Above left: Melissa Carr and her littles found their way in full costume to the Trunk or Treat event in Bear Square, Concrete Town Center, on Halloween.



Above right: Mini witch Jada Watson, 3, attended Trunk or Treat with her brother Zander Watson, 6, who dressed as Dracula.

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Above: Youth Dynamics Scavenger Hunt targets paused for a photo at the Bellis Faire Mall after fooling several high school students who had searched the premises for them. Some of the targets dressed to disappear into the crowd. The targets this year were Sierra Rensink, Iona Werda, Hayden and David O'Neil, Jonas Rensink, Paul Rider, and Robert Smith.

Right: Billie Jane Hills (right) calls numbers while her mother records them during "Bingo and Buffoonery in Lyman," on Nov. 18. The lighthearted event had a serious goal: Raise seed money for Wilderness to Wellness, a 2018 fundraiser hosted by the Linnehan Institute, which is working to cure people with borderline personality disorder. Hills paused for a moment to explain her opinion of the ultimate goal: "Save one life."



Above: Cheri Coward of Hamilton showed up at Trunk or Treat in Concrete with a problem: She couldn't find her puppy anywhere. Most people took her seriously until she turned her back to them, smirking. Sewn into the back of her dress was a plushy puppy, looking like it had been swallowed up by her ... umm ... ample derriere.

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 Dec 16th, 11:00 AM
 Craig Romano: "Discover your wild backyard"
 Dec 17th 1:00 PM
 Richard Brocksmith: "Salmon & Trout of the Skagit River"
skagiteagle.org

CITY OF BURLINGTON
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Hamilton



Rockport



Skagit jumps Hamilton levee during Thanksgiving flood

It wasn't the worst flooding that Hamilton has seen, but it was enough to drive residents from their homes, destroying property and carrying downstream everything that wasn't tied down.

Hamilton Mayor Joan Cromley said that she expects another flood event before the end of this winter.



This aerial photo shows the extent of flooding in Hamilton during the Thanksgiving event. Photo by Carson Snyder.

Barnaby Reach Habitat Project update

The Barnaby Reach Habitat Project sponsors will hold a community meeting on Tue., Dec. 12, at 6 p.m., in the clubhouse at Howard Miller Steelhead Park in Rockport.

The results from a study of drainage-related flooding in the south Rockport area will be presented and attendees will be asked for input on culvert / drainage improvements. The project's sponsors also

will provide an update on the Barnaby Reach Habitat Project technical analysis work and be available to answer questions on the project. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information, contact Devin Smith, project manager, at 360.391.1984 or Cynthia Carlstad, outreach coordinator, at 206.661.2110.

Information is also available on the project Web site: <https://barnabystudy.wordpress.com/>.

—Cynthia Carlstad

Rockport State Park hosts guided hikes, Junior Ranger activities through the winter

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission invites the public to experience an ancient forest this winter at Rockport State Park, through guided hikes, educational programming, and interpretive activities for all ages.

Deep Forest Experience will take place between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays through Feb. 18 at Rockport State Park, 51905 SR 20, Rockport.

Guided hikes depart from the Discovery Center at 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m., and 2 p.m.

Rockport State Park staff and volunteers will lead half-mile, 45-minute walks under a canopy of maple trees and old growth fir, cedar, and hemlock. Many of the Rockport trees are more than 400 years old and top out at 250 feet. They include the 500-year old Grandmother Cedar.

During the walks, interpretive staff and guest speakers will discuss the ecosystems that keep forests healthy, including salmon-bearing streams, bird and animal scat, and mycorrhizal fungi.

Participants are encouraged to dress for cold, wet winter weather, including suitable footwear.

Visitors can also duck into the Discovery Center, enjoy free refreshments and hot cocoa by the woodstove, explore interactive displays, watch nature videos, read books, and make crafts.

Rockport also will offer Junior Ranger programs this winter, which combine age-appropriate opportunities for

children to learn, play, and protect natural spaces. Junior Rangers are encouraged to complete the Junior Ranger activity booklet, as well as attend a guided hike. Booklets are available at the Discovery Center, and activities are suitable for children age five and older.

Three guest speakers also are scheduled as part of the 2017–18 Deep Forest Experience:

- “Edible and Medicinal Plants,” with local expert Terri Wilde: Dec. 9, noon
- “Lichens and Why They’re Important to the Forest,” with Dr. Katherine Glew, associate curator, Univ. of Wash. Herbarium, Burke Museum of Natural History: Feb. 10, 11 a.m.
- “Tree Ecology—Discussion and Walkabout” with Kevin Zobrist, author and forestry professor, Washington State University: Feb. 17, 11 a.m.

More speakers may be added to the Deep Forest Experience programming; their presentations will be listed on the State Parks online calendar at <http://parks.state.wa.us/Calendar.aspx>. For more information, contact Rockport State Park, 360.854.8846 or 360.853.8461.

The Deep Forest Experience programs are free. A \$10 day-use pass or \$30 annual Discover Pass is required for parking at Rockport State Park; passes can be purchased at the office or Discovery Center.

For more information, go to www.discoverpass.wa.gov.



Repair work at MP 101 expected to last till Christmas

After the flood-swollen Skagit River undermined SR 20 about four miles east of Rockport during the Thanksgiving holiday, emergency repairs to the failed section of road began on Wed., Nov. 29. Crews are expected to be on the job until Christmas, although more wet weather could delay the repair process.

Travelers who use that stretch of SR 20 should prepare for possible 30-minute daytime traffic delays while work is completed.

Contractor crews working for the Washington State Department of Transportation will repair the eastbound lane.

Travel delays

One-way traffic will continue to

alternate through the westbound lane using a temporary traffic signal. However, travelers should prepare for up to 30-minute delays between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. With the eastbound lane closed to traffic, crews will work in the westbound lane and need the delays to allow trucks to enter and leave the area safely.

For more information about the project, read the WSDOT Blog or visit Flickr to see photos from the work area. Drivers also can get real-time traffic information on their phone with the WSDOT traffic app, tracking the WSDOT traffic Twitter feed, and visiting the WSDOT travel alerts page.

—Submitted by WSDOT

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From the Mayor

I wish I could say that was our one flood of the season. History shows a trend of more than one high water event in the years they happen (2015 had five), so I don't think we are in the clear yet. The good news is most of the garbage has been picked up, so hopefully there should be a lot less if we have water in town again! I appreciate everyone who is helping to clean up our community, especially Brian for keeping such a good eye on it, Tom and Scott for helping all over town, and Skagit County for providing the dumpsters so fast.

We are working to get the levee and trail fixed as quickly as possible.

Some reminders:



1. The flood warnings are staged. First warning: South St. needs to be moving out; everyone else needs to wake up! Second warning: RVs should be out, everyone packing up and keeping an eye out. Third warning: Evacuate. The flood siren is a solid tone, not the up and down wailing used to call the fire dept. The fire dept. got toned out immediately after the second warning on Thanksgiving Day. When the third alarm is sounded, we are serious. There will be water in town; you need to finish preparing and leave! The decision to sound the sirens is not one we make lightly.
2. Keep your yard picked up. Garbage and fire wood float. You will not get your stuff back if it floats away.
3. The river predictions are just that: predictions. It can change from hour to hour. Please don't assume that since your source states the river will

only get so high, it will automatically stop rising as soon as it reaches that point! Be aware of where you are in relation to the water level. If the river is higher than the levee, it will come over the top, and there is nothing we can do to stop it. Water was pouring over and through 150 feet of levee before it came over the gravel berm.

Every time this happens, we learn and try to adapt strategies to improve for the next time. It's going to keep happening. It's part of Hamilton's past, present, and future.

On a happier note, the Hamilton Volunteer Fire Dept Children's Christmas party is Sat., Dec. 16, at 1 p.m. at Town Hall. Come get your picture taken with Santa!

—Mayor Joan Cromley

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Darrington



Hall of Fame awards held

Story and photo by Marla Skaglund



Superintendent Dean Farley shares his thoughts during the Athletic Hall of Fame awards ceremony on Nov. 18.



A sunny Halloween day drew dozens of eager skaters to the bowl in Old School Park. The skate park bowl will celebrate a grand opening in spring 2018.

Election 2017 Final election results certified

Snohomish County election results have been certified, with the following results:

Darrington Town Council Position No. 1 Position No. 2

Incumbent Gary Willis ran unopposed and retained his Position 1 seat with 182 votes (94%) of the vote. Twelve write-in votes accounted for the remaining 6 percent of 194 total votes cast.

Position 2 was left vacant after Richard Osenbrock moved out of the area in late summer, too late to remove his name from the official ballot. The council appointed Kerry Fable to the position in October.

Darrington School Dist. Director-at-Large Position No. 4

Erin Nations-Green topped opponent Greg Powell for the Director-at-Large Position No. 4 seat on the Darrington School District Board, tallying 334

votes (58 percent) to Powell's 238 votes (42 percent).



Nations-Green

Darrington School Dist. Director-at-Large Position No. 5

A razor-thin margin separated the two candidates for Director-at-Large Position No. 5 on the Darrington School District Board, with Dave Holmer squeaking past Jennie Requa by one vote. Holmer received 283 votes to Requa's 282 votes.

—J. K. M.

Council summary

Darrington Town Council met for a regular meeting on Nov. 8, preceded by a special meeting to conduct interviews to fill Position No. 2. The following is a summary of those meetings. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are available at Darrington Town Hall.

Nov. 8 special meeting

- The meeting was called to order at 5:57 p.m. Interviews were conducted with the following applicants: Todd Ronning, Carolyn Erickson, JoAnn Milton, Kerry Fable.
- The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Nov. 8 regular meeting

- Kerry Fable was sworn in at Council Position #2 and signed the Oath of Office for a two-year term, to complete Richard Osenbrock's term.
- Public hearings were held for Ordinance No. 733 and Ordinance No. 734, establishing the 2018 budget for Town of Darrington. There were no questions from the public.
- Council discussed the town's liability regarding kids at the skate park bowl who were not using helmets. It was stated that the town has done its due diligence to ensure the public is aware of the rules. The fire dept. has been asked to run drills at the park in the event there is an injury in the bowl. A grand opening for the skate park bowl is planned for spring.
- Councilman Kevin Ashe announced that Kirk Pearson will resign his Senate seat. Ashe stated that he feels Pearson has done a great job representing the Darrington community.
- It was announced that Nate Nehring was re-elected to the Snohomish County Council.
- This year's Trunk or Treat event was a success.
- Audience member Todd Ronning requested that the east end of Seeman St. be added to the street list for 2018.
- Council directed Mayor Dan Rankin to sign a letter of support for the Summer Learn and Earn program, a

collaboration among WSU and north counties. So far 30-plus kids have used the program and progressed significantly. There is a push to expand the program into a Workforce Development program. There was general support for the letter.

- Council discussed a price increase for an interlocal agreement with Snohomish County regarding District Court filing fees.
- Council will discuss at its next meeting whether to move its Thursday meetings from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- The T-Mobile tower is complete. A generator has provided power; PUD should have the power hooked up by the end of the week.
- Council approved numerous items in addition to the two ordinances listed above:

A SnoPac 911 interlocal agreement with Town of Darrington.

Amendment 3 within an interlocal agreement with Snohomish County for law enforcement service. The town still owes approximately \$113,000 to the SCSO for back pay. It was recommended to ask for the full amount from grant funding.

Cascade Design Collaborative Certificate of Substantial Completion for Old School Park.

Ordinance No. 732: imposing an interim official control regarding the prohibition of community health engagement locations, safe injection sites, and other uses or activities designed to provide a location for individuals to consume illicit drugs; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date.

Permission to award to the lowest responsible bidder for the Givens Ave. water line project.

- Mayor Rankin reported on his trip to the SHIFT Convention in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and a Puget Sound Regional Council session.

—Compiled from staff minutes

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

Old stories and good times were shared by all at the Darrington High School Athletic Hall of Fame awards held in the Darringtons High School auditorium on Nov. 18.

The 2017 inductees were selected based on their contributions as athletes, team members, coaches, school personnel, or community members supporting athletics in town.

Master of Ceremonies Brett Galbraith shared stories—many of them personal—with humor and dignity. A Darrington graduate, he knew and attended school with several of the evenings' newest inductees, which greatly added to the humor and seriousness of the evening.

The ceremonies began with a musical slideshow presentation by Diane Boyd and Julie Newberry, which provided a look back at the inductees. With the familiar sound of Tarheel music in the background, the presentation showed the lives, in pictures, when each inductee contributed their all to the Darrington Athletic Program.

Coach Nancy Snyder told stories of her time as a coach in Darrington and shared her thoughts on the joys of retirement, many of which involved several folks attending.

After a welcoming speech given by Superintendent and Athletic Director Dr. Buck Marsh and some story telling by guest speaker Beryl Mauldin, the ceremony began in earnest.

The first inductee to mount the stage was superintendent and community contributor, Dean Farley. After receiving his Bachelor Degree in Biological Science, he went to work teaching science and later became counselor, coach and Head Coach at a school in Idaho. The Darrington School District offered him the position of superintendent and he accepted. He told many stories about his time in Darrington, including the construction of a new athletic field. As Construction Superintendent of the project and with the help of community volunteers and students, the athletic field was constructed.

After several years of due diligence and determined detective work, Kevin Ashe, co-owner of the Darrington IGA and Hall of Fame Committee Member,

uncovered the story of who football coach, teacher, and Superintendent Robert M. Crown was. Several years ago, 1939 football team player, Renis Cabe, spoke of Coach Crown with an endless reserve of humorous stories. After graduating with a teaching degree from the University of Washington, Crown accepted a position with the Darrington School District as teacher, coach, and superintendent, and lived from the mid '30s to late '40s in Darrington with his family. He has the honor of being the coach of the Darrington High School football team that won the 1939 League Championship and received the trophy, which became the first trophy a Darrington team had ever won. He will be remembered as a "founding father" of sports in Darrington.

John Bates, a 1968 graduate, took to the stage and proceeded to share his own humorous stories of bus rides to and from games and athletes determined to win. His sport was baseball and after graduating, he played four years of college baseball at Western Washington University with a .325 average in his senior year.

Robin Fleming attended Darrington High School from 1970–74 and was inducted into the Hall of Fame for her excellence on the basketball court and behind the volleyball net. Her antics include playing a prank on Coach Snyder.

Larry Reeves also attended from 1970–74 and excelled in football, basketball, baseball, and track. As a four-year letterman, he was on the baseball team that won three Cascade A League Championships and a District

Championship. He was also sophomore Football Royalty and senior Basketball Homecoming King.

David Harcrow excelled in football, basketball, and baseball. He won All-League honors with a batting average of .485. He continued his baseball career at Skagit Vally College and the University of Washington. He received a teaching degree from the U of W and returned to Darrington to teach and coach for 10 years. As a student and colleague of Coach Snyder, he told stories of players mimicking Coach Snyders' speaking style and being honored to have her as his mentor.

Deke Reuwsaat was remembered for

his contributions in basketball, including 1st Team All-State recognition, football and 1st Team All-League defensive cornerback, and baseball, where he was awarded 1st Team All-League catcher and 1985 Player of the Year.

The 1985 girls basketball team, along with Coach Emil Whitman, were also added to the Darrington High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Coach Whitman told stories of girls who were not afraid to get skinned knees and elbows in an effort to win a game. He was grateful that instead of hanging their heads in silence after a loss, the girls would sing songs, which made the often long ride home much more pleasant.

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Marblemount



Newhalem



Native Cultural Day returns during Skagit Eagle Festival

Marblemount Community Hall will again host Native Cultural Day during the Skagit Eagle Festival next month, this year held on Sat., Jan. 13.

A gathering of various tribal presenters are on tap to share ancestral stories, songs, arts, and music, as well as contemporary project efforts to enhance salmon habitat. In addition, native and natural crafts vendors will offer their wares, as well as Indian fry bread tacos and other hot food and beverages made on site for sale throughout the day.

Go to the festival Web site at <https://concrete-wa.com/skagit-eagle-festival-2018> or pick up a printed schedule of each weekend's events at the Concrete Chamber of Commerce for more details.

For more information, call the Marblemount Community Hall at 360.873.2323 and leave a message.

—Christie Fairchild



Dryad Mom Rebecca Rising brought her wee garden gnome, Dahlia Davis, to the Trunk or Treat event in Concrete's Bear Square on Oct. 31.



Above: Andrea Weiser and daughter Vija looked wonderfully witchy at the Concrete Lions Club Halloween Party on Oct. 31. Below: Isabel Parent was perfect as a little country girl at the party.



The good news is ...

By Sasa, Starwalker, and Two Hats

"Enjoy the little things, for one day you will look back and realize they were the big things."

—Robert Brault

Find a large glass jar with a lid and decorate it with love (thrift stores have many beautiful jars available). At the end of each day, remember something that made you happy and grateful. Whether it happened that day or not is just fine. You can put things in the jar that have meaning to you as well, such as ticket stubs, a lucky token, etc. Write it down on a piece of paper. If you don't have paper, save the message to your phone and write it down later.

Try and make daily deposits into the happiness jar. Life gets busy, so no worries if you miss a day or two; you can always think of two things the following day if you like. If you have trouble remembering, put it on your calendar or phone reminder. Remember to keep the jar in a safe place.

Next New Year's Eve, open the jar and reflect on all the beauty the past year brought you. Then start filling it up again. You can also read the messages on tough days when it seems the world is closing in around you.

"It will also remind you that happiness is found in moments along the journey and is not a single destination with any defined point or actions."

—www.momypotamus.com

Please feel free to also share your happiness with us on Heartspeak, a page of Cascadia Effect on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1900038986912369/?ref=bookmarks>.

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

Read Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

SR 20 closed

More snow and avalanche risk triggered seasonal closure between Newhalem and Winthrop.

The final page has turned on State Route 20/North Cascades Highway this year. The winter gates closed at 4 p.m. on Fri., Nov. 10 because of avalanche risk, leaving one less route for vehicles crossing the Cascade Mountains.

Washington State Department of Transportation crews had plowed SR 20 between the gates at mileposts 134 near Diablo and 171 west of Mazama since snow began falling in early October. But new snow continued to fill avalanche

chutes. The forecast for more made it too dangerous for crews to work or the public to drive below full avalanche zones.

"We know this route is popular for access to businesses, relatives and outdoor adventures," said WSDOT Twisp Maintenance Supervisor Don Becker prior to the closure. "Our crews work hard to keep it open through the Thanksgiving weekend, but this year it isn't possible due to the amount of snow in the forecast."

The highway had temporarily closed twice during the prior three weeks because of snow accumulation in avalanche chutes.

This year's closure was a week or so earlier than typical. Last year, the North Cascades Highway closed on Nov. 18. The only time the highway remained open

through the winter was in 1976, when a drought produced record-low snowfall.

Winter access along the highway

Snowmobilers, hikers, skiers, and other winter adventurers are free to use the roadway behind the gates, but they do so at their own risk.

Starting the 2018 chapter

When conditions permit, crews will reopen the highway in spring 2018. Clearing the 37-mile-long mountain pass highway requires crews working from both sides for roughly four to six weeks.

—Submitted by WSDOT



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peacehealth.org/samedaycare





Seniors



Way Back, cont. from p. 28

Way Back When

70 years ago

Dec. 4, 1947: With no one appearing to protest the petition, Edgar V. Gates was given approval of the council Wednesday night to have his property brought within the town limits.

This means the addition of a large block of land to Crofoot addition on the south and east, and

will bring the Gates home inside the town. It is now on a town street, but just beyond the line.

The petition was filed with the council some months ago and has been going through the legal procedure necessary to have the town annex the property.

Dec. 11, 1947: Old history cropped up in an article in the *Mount Vernon Herald* last week about Charles Hopkins, convicted murderer, who is now dying after 33 years imprisonment in the state penitentiary at Walla Walla. Hopkins was captured at Van Horn after a statewide hunt that climaxed his several cold-blooded murders. Known as "the tattooed bandit," his story included Concrete.

Hopkins was deemed one of the meanest men on record. It was back in 1914 when he started on his final killing streak. In Seattle he murdered a man in a skid-row hotel. Two days later he shot a policeman and two bystanders in Everett. Then coming up this way, he encountered two hobos along the railroad track at McMurray. He demanded a razor from one of them and when refused, shot one

dead and fatally wounded the other. The latter identified him before dying through tattoo markings on his hand.

A few days later, Marshal Joe Glover, one of the most fearless men in Upper Valley law enforcement, got word that a man matching the murderer's description had rented a room at the Van Horn Hotel.

Marshal Glover made the trip to Van Horn, where he checked the description and found it was the real McCoy. Hopkins was exhausted from his flight and had barricaded himself in the room to get some rest.

The marshal climbed through the transom and managed to disarm the man and take him prisoner with his own gun.

When the train left for Sedro-Woolley the next day, kids skipped school to watch a heavily armed posse led by Marshal Glover take the prisoner aboard for a trip to the county jail. For weeks afterward the boys played "tough" and went around with pen tattoos of "love" and "hate" on the backs of the four fingers of each hand.

In jail Hopkins planned escape with a gun carved from a portion of his chair, but his ruse was discovered. In court he assaulted the deputy sheriff who brought him in and threw the courtroom into an uproar. He was quickly sentenced to life. There was no capital punishment in those days.

He remained mean and sullen for the 33 years of imprisonment. Now he is in the prison hospital awaiting death that must have come awfully slowly for such a violent person.

Concrete Community Center

December 2017 Activities

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

Monday through Friday
Jigsaw puzzles, walking group, games, more

All subject to change. For latest information:
www.facebook.com/concretecommunity or call 360.416.1377.

Monday
12/25 CLOSED Christmas Day

Tuesday
12/5 5:30 p.m. Hidden in Plain Sight
12/26 CLOSED for Christmas

Wednesday
12/13 6 p.m. Ohana Support Group
12/20 6 p.m. Concrete Museum Potluck
12/27 6 p.m. Ohana Support Group

Thursday
12/7 12:30 p.m. Pinochle
12/21 12:30 p.m. Pinochle

Friday
12/8 12:30 p.m. Commissioner Janicki

Saturday
All 7 p.m. AA meeting

60 years ago

Dec. 5, 1957: An attempted safecracking job was badly bungled in Concrete Tuesday morning—so badly that the burglar failed to open the safe, was caught with what little cash he took that was not in the safe, and didn't even have time to drink the two bottles of liquor he carried away.

The culprit, arrested and now held for trial, was John L. Barnes, 27, of Concrete. The scene of his crime was the local Eagles Club. The act involved jimmying the rear door, two inside doors, and all cabinets in the back bar. The new safe had its hinges and combination dial knocked off with no result, so the next move was an attempt to peel the cover off the door. As that proved too much work, the safe was turned on its side and a hole torn in the bottom sheet of steel. There the would-be safe man gave up.

His loot consisted of a bottle of gin and a bottle of vodka, a \$10 bill, and four \$1 bills taken from "contribution" jars.

The Eagles Club suffered considerable damage to its safe, and back bar cabinet and doors.

50 years ago

Dec. 27, 1967: The prospect of a white Christmas was quickly dissipated last Friday, when the 4 to 6 inches of snow began disappearing in rising temperatures and rain. By Saturday, creeks were overflowing with the quick runoff from the higher regions, and flooding became prevalent in the lower valleys.

As usual the Upper Valley had its share of damage, but mostly from the swollen creeks and resulting slides. On the new Faber and Sauk Hill highway, Wild Creek decimated a spur roadway and caved in beneath the main highway. Faber Hill lost a big chunk of fill too.

Above the old Faber site, a chunk of highway shot out, leaving one-way traffic. On Sauk Hill a creek overflowed its bank above the Hornbeck place, ran down the access road to the new highway, and cut a deep gash in the fill a

40 years ago

Dec. 29, 1977: Environmental studies are now in progress for a proposed fourth hydroelectric facility and dam on the upper Skagit River, Seattle City Light announced this week.

Two possible dam sites are being studied in the Copper Creek area: one approximately 8 miles downstream from Newhalem, and the lower site roughly 4 miles farther down.

Preliminary site evaluation determined that concrete dams were not feasible at the sites because of an extremely deep riverbed and wide valley configuration, said Gordon Vickery, superintendent of Seattle City Light.

A rock-filled dam, consisting of a core of clay material and outer layers of river deposits and rock fill, would be the most structurally efficient for the site, the Seattle City Light spokesman stated.

"We haven't made a decision to proceed with the dam," Superintendent Vickery said. "This environmental assessment is designed only to determine if it is desirable to construct a dam on the site. Our aim is to extend the capability of the Skagit River in a way that is environmentally sensible and economically feasible. We also want to provide for the greatest amount of public input and opinion."

When built, the hydroelectric facility would add from 45 to 60 megawatts of average generation. The dam also would permit installation of additional generating units in power houses at Gorge and Diablo dams to help meet peak energy demands. Vickery said this would be made possible because the Copper Creek reservoir would be available to absorb high water flows discharged during peak periods.



30 years ago, Dec. 24, 1987: Leann Howell, daughter of Colin and Kathy Howell of Concrete, gives Santa her Christmas wishes last Saturday at the Concrete Fire Hall. The jolly gent arrived on a Concrete Volunteer Fire Dept. truck and greeted dozens of eager children crowded into the hall. *Archive photo by Kay Berkhouse.*

Verna's Kitchen

By Verna McClure

Broccoli and Corn Casserole



This is a quick and healthful casserole. Enjoy your garden!

- 1 10 oz. package frozen broccoli
- 1 can cream-style corn
- 1 egg, beaten
- 2 tablespoons melted butter
- 2 tablespoons minced onion
- Salt and pepper to taste

1. Mix all above ingredients in a casserole dish. Spread ¼ cup cracker crumbs over the top of the mixture.
2. Bake in a 350-degree oven for 20 to 30 minutes. If the broccoli is fresh from the garden, it may help to cook it a bit before using in the casserole.

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See Way Back, p. 29 short distance below.

Obituaries



Rollin (Rollie) Vance Potter, 75, of Concrete, passed away on Tue., Oct. 31, 2017, at the Life Care Center of Skagit Valley after suffering from a stroke. Rollie is preceded in death by his wife, Judy, who passed away in their home Sept. 30, 2017, and his parents, Clarence Leo Potter and Alida Karine Potter. Rollie is survived by his sister, Lois (Robert) Patterson; brother, Virgil (Sharon) Potter; and many nieces and nephews.

After graduating from high school in Souris, N.D., Rollie farmed for his sister, worked at Sund Manufacturing in Newburg, N.D., and drove mail truck to Minot, N.D. Rollie was driving delivery trucks in Seattle where he met the love of his life, Judy Blakey. They were married in July 1969. While still living and working in the Seattle area, they built a home in Concrete. Judy and Rollie retired with full pensions early in life and began their RV traveling. They loved meeting new friends and family all over the U.S. They were very involved in the Skagit Sams RV Club.

The family would like to thank their kind and loving friend Debbie Varner for the assistance in enabling Judy to remain in their home during her extended

illness. Also we would like to thank their devoted friends Bobbie and Judy Leopard, Duane Eddy, Dick Benson, Ron and Jenny Baker, and Bob and Jody Holland.

A celebration of life and graveside gathering will be scheduled for April in Concrete. Family and friends will have an opportunity to celebrate the lives of Judy and Rollie in North Dakota this summer. Cards and memorials can be sent to Judy and Rollie's Concrete address: 46268 Baker Loop, Concrete, WA 98237.

Memorials will be sent to the Life Care Center of Skagit Valley in Sedro-Woolley.

Please share memories of Rollin and Judy, and sign the guest register at www.lemleychapel.com.

Obituaries published in Concrete Herald from May 2009 to present are posted online at: www.concrete-herald.com/obituaries. For more information, contact Concrete Herald at 360.853.8213 or editor@concrete-herald.com.

Sunday School lesson Fans or followers

By Bruce Martin

If you love the game of basketball as I do, you enjoyed the NCAA tournaments that took place last month. There were many talented individuals, and we were able to see the very best in college basketball. No matter how talented the individual team members may be, it takes a team to play the game at the highest level.

So it is for us as a community of

Christians that make up the Church. When we emphasize our distinctions and preferences over and above the basic Biblical truths we all have in common, we lose our effectiveness. Our level of commitment to the Lord and one another determines our final destination. Our natural abilities are not enough to carry us; we need to draw from the Lord and one another.

The celebration of Palm Sunday preceding Easter is an essential focus upon these important truths. It was God's formal presentation of His Son to the nation of Israel and the world as their Spiritual King and Messiah. All of the Gospel writers carefully recorded this event in each of their accounts.

As Jesus rode into Jerusalem that day on a donkey's colt, he fulfilled the words of the prophets Zechariah (9:9) and Isaiah (62:11): "Do not be afraid daughter of Zion; see, your king is coming seated on a donkey's colt."

This point was not missed by the crowds who lined the streets that day. The Bible tells us they laid down their coats and waved palm branches welcoming Jesus as a conquering hero, and shouted "hosanna" (save us now!). Though many people recognized the fulfillment of prophecy and that God had sent Jesus to them, they did not understand the greater plan of salvation God had in store for them and all of mankind. Their desire was to throw off the oppression of the Roman government, and they were sure Jesus was that kind of hero and savior.

In the Gospel of John, the Apostle mentions four groups of people who were

present and who were witnesses as Jesus entered the city that day.

The first mentioned is "... the great crowd that came to the feast" (John 12:12). The city of Jerusalem was overflowing with people. It was six days before Passover and there were pilgrims from all over the known world who had come to celebrate the feast. Many had come early to go through the lengthy process of preparation. There were numerous religious and devoted people present that day.

A second group that is mentioned were the people who had heard about the resurrection of Jesus' follower Lazarus. They came "... not only because of Him (Jesus) but to see Lazarus, who had been raised from the dead" (John 12:9). In fact, the resurrection of Lazarus had caused such a stir that "the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well" as Jesus.

A third group is described as "the crowd that was with Him ..." (John 12:17), which included the 12 disciples (v. 16). These were the disciples who never left His side. They had just come from Bethany with Jesus and had been eyewitnesses to the resurrection of Lazarus.

A final group who were part of the crowd that day were the religious leaders of the nation. The Pharisees (John 12:19) were the ones who represented God to the people. They were always somewhere in the crowd at every public appearance Jesus made. They were not pleased with what was taking place and were looking for an opportunity to kill Jesus (Luke 19:47).

See Sunday School, p. 35

Skagit County Sheriff's Office Blotter

Oct. 26

Deputy Esskew responded to a report of malicious mischief in Cedar Grove. The reporting party advised his vehicle had been damaged. Deputy Esskew determined that the damage was old and had not occurred recently.

Deputy Esskew received a call of a suspicious person wearing a mask and wielding a stick on Burpee Hill Rd. near Lake Tyee. He checked the area, but did not locate anyone.

Oct. 27

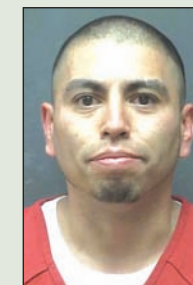
While driving on SR 20 near Grandy Lane in Birdview, Deputy Wiggins observed a vehicle traveling at an extreme

Level 2 Sex Offender NOTIFICATION

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

Mora, Steven Francisco

Age: 39
Race: H
Sex: M
Height: 5' 10"
Weight: 175
Hair: Black
Eyes: Brown
Address: 8xx Bennett St., Sedro-Woolley



Mora was convicted of third-degree rape of a child in Skagit County. His victim was a 16-year-old female who was known to him; Mora was 21 at the time. He has five convictions for fourth-degree assault, as well as a domestic violence conviction in 2006. He has been known to fail to register as a sex offender.

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

Source: Skagit County Sheriff

speed toward Concrete. Using his radar he measured the vehicle's speed at 141 mph. Deputy Wiggins attempted to stop the vehicle, but it took off. He advised Deputy Devero, who was in Concrete. Deputy Wiggins and Deputy Devero were able to locate the vehicle at Logger's Landing. They contacted the driver and he admitted to trying to elude Deputy Wiggins and driving recklessly. The driver was arrested for felony eluding and booked into jail.

A citizen reported that he had seen his stolen vehicle on the news. A report was filed. Later that night, Deputy Ben Hagglund located the vehicle in Sedro-Woolley. The owner was advised and the vehicle was turned over to him.

The Sheriff's Office received a report of two stolen bicycles in Cedar Grove. There are no suspects at this time.

Oct. 29

Deputy Wolfe responded to a call of a distraught female on Main St. in Concrete near the Baker River Bridge. The female was extremely upset and appeared to have possible medical issues. She was transported to the hospital by Deputy Wolfe.

Oct. 30

Deputy Backstrom took a call of stolen gas from an address on Baker Dr. in Cedar Grove. The reporting party advised that he has had his gas stolen from his vehicle several times in the recent past. There are no suspects at this time.

Oct. 31

A citizen reported that her vehicle had been broken into and several keys were stolen. Her vehicle had been parked in the 45000 block of Main St. in Concrete. The theft had occurred sometime overnight. No suspects at this time.

Nov. 1

Deputy Montgomery received a call of malicious mischief in the 45000 block of Main St. in Concrete. The victim advised that someone had thrown a rock through her window. Deputy Montgomery checked the area, but was unable to locate anyone. There are no suspects at this time.

Deputy Dills responded to someone trespassing near the 9200 block of Thunderbird Lane, east of Concrete. The property owner advised someone was sleeping on their porch and wanted the person removed. Deputy Dills located the suspect and advised them they needed to leave or they would be arrested. The suspect left.

While patrolling Cedar Grove, Deputy Dills observed a vehicle with a broken reflector light and illegal brake light lenses. He stopped the vehicle and

contacted the driver. The driver had a suspended license. The passenger had several warrants. Both subjects were arrested.

Deputy Dills and Sergeant Adams went to a residence on B Ave. in Concrete to attempt to serve arrest warrants on a suspect. The suspect was located and arrested. He was transported to jail.

Deputy Wiggins stopped a vehicle for a defective tail light. He determined that the driver did not have a valid license. While writing a ticket to the driver, a female approached the vehicle and started talking to the driver. Deputy Wiggins recognized the female and knew that she had warrants for her arrest. Deputy Wiggins contacted the female and advised she was under arrest. She advised Deputy Wiggins that he didn't have the authority to speak to her since she was doing nothing wrong. He explained the law to her and then arrested her and put her in the back seat of his car. He finished writing the ticket to the driver, then transported the female to jail.

Nov. 2

Deputy Dills stopped a vehicle for speeding on the South Skagit Hwy. The driver was cited for speed and no insurance, then released. Later, when

Deputy Dills was able to investigate further, he discovered that the driver had given him a false name. The driver actually did not have a driver's license and had several warrants for her arrest. Deputy Dills was unable to locate the driver again, but referred her for several new charges, along with the original traffic tickets.

Nov. 4

Deputy Devero and Deputy Gonzales responded to Cedar Grove in reference to a domestic violence situation. The deputies arrested a male suspect for assaulting his girlfriend, and took him to jail.

Nov. 5

While patrolling Concrete, Deputy Devero stopped a vehicle for a broken tail light. The driver's license was suspended. She was given a ticket for an expired vehicle registration, and arrested for driving with a suspended license. The passenger in the car had outstanding warrants, including a felony warrant. He was taken to jail.

Deputy Devero and Sgt. Morgan responded to an apparent overdose in Hamilton. They discovered a person slumped over in his trailer. Sgt. Morgan

See Sheriff's Blotter, p. 33

Worship directory

Assembly of God

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

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, 1 p.m.

Free Methodist

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

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 / 360.853.3714
www.uprivergrace.com
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

Rockport Christ the King Comm. Church

46372 Main St., Rockport, WA 98283
Church office: 360.853.8746
Pre-service fellowship: 9:30 a.m.
Sun. service: 10 a.m.
Sun. eve. Bible study: 5 p.m.

Wildwood Chapel

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

Concrete Volunteer Fire Dept. needs firefighters!



[Chief Darrel Reed]

Interested?

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



Applicants may live inside or outside town limits.

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

CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

The Museum crew is gearing up for their annual **Holiday Potluck**. This will take place at the Concrete Community Center on Dec. 20 at 6 p.m. in lieu of the normal December meeting.

The **next monthly business meeting** will be on Jan. 17 at 7 p.m. at the museum. For more information, call 360.853.8347 or e-mail jboggs@concrete-herald.com.

It's time to renew the **Fred Meyer Rewards Program** link to donate to the Museum. Call the toll-free number, 866.518.2686, Mon. through Fri. from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tell them you're renewing your card and the link to the Concrete Heritage Museum (No. 89860). If they ask, our mailing address is P.O. Box 445, Concrete, WA 98237. We appreciate your donations.

Looking in the *Concrete Herald* archives, I found that most of the December news had little to do with all the hubbub we usually associate with getting ready for the Christmas holiday. (See www.concreteheritagemuseum.org for more information on the snippets presented here.)

Business-wise: The State Bank of Concrete announced plans to move into its new offices on Jan. 10, 1916. The town anxiously awaited this upgrade since the building had been going on for months. Carl Monrad, the owner of probably the first and one of the longest-lasting grocery stores in Concrete, purchased the building. This store was located in during December 1919. In more recent history, this location was the Baker River Trading Post and is

currently being remodeled to be the future party room for the Lone Star Restaurant.

Concrete Herald announced its upcoming move in 1960 from the old building next to the Post Office (now the dental office) to new quarters. The "new" *Herald* building was a garage in 1923 and owned by H. C. Lisherness, who operated the Ford and Fordson sales agency. And for a story about the courageous battle by Kate and Nell Quackenbush, of the Skagit River Telephone and Telegraph Company, a representative from Bell Telephone failed to appear at the Town Council meeting in 1929 to apply for a franchise to operate another phone system in town. They must have read how Nell did all the pole setting and linework herself, and didn't like being messed with.

On the more sensational side: A dispute over the ability to play a harmonica in 1915 led to a shooting in Concrete. As the comedians say, "and alcohol was involved." In 1928, Merlin Leonard was shot and killed by Rex Connally at the Connally home in Crofoot Addition. The Hamilton Town Marshal, Edward Luton, was killed on Main Street of Hamilton near the school house on a Sunday morning in 1929. It is not known if he was murdered or the victim of a hit-and-run auto accident. Curiously, just a week later, the home of Mrs. Perry Harding in Hamilton was destroyed by fire. This house was the location of the party that was possibly involved in Marshal Luton's death.

—John Boggs

November at the Darrington Library

Children and family programs

- Family Storytime, Wednesdays Dec. 6–11 at 11 a.m.; all ages welcome, caregiver required.
- LEGO Engineering, Wed., Dec. 6; 3 p.m.; LEGO WeDo Robotics kits available.
- LEGO Free Play, Wed., Dec. 13; 3 p.m.
- Creative Minecraft, Sat., Dec. 9; 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Tweens and Teens programs

- Darrington Teen Book Group, Mon., Dec. 11; 5:30 p.m.: *Brewster*.

All ages

- Star Wars Episode VIII Release Party, Thur., Dec. 14, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- Saturday Family Movie Matinee: "Sing," Dec. 16; 11 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.
- Star Wars Jedi Academy, Wed., Dec. 27, 1 to 3 p.m. DIY light sabers, trivia, snacks. Come in costume.

Adults

- Darrington Book Group, *The Empathy Exams* by Leslie Jamison, Wed., Dec. 6; 5:30 p.m.

The Darrington Library is located

At the Upper Skagit Library

We want to thank Betty Hughes and Christie Fairchild for bringing their service dogs Luke and Kip, respectfully, to our "Read to a Dog Day" on Nov. 10, sharing what Luke and Kip do, and allowing children to read to them. We want also to thank you parents for bringing your children in to learn about these special service dogs.

Storytime is back! Families with young children are invited to join us for stories, songs, and a simple craft on the first and third Saturday of each month through May at 11 a.m.

Join us for **Craft Friday** at 5b's Bakery, always the first Friday of each month, at 6 p.m.

Upper Skagit Library invites everyone to "Stocking Stuffer Crafternoon" at the library from 1 to 3 p.m. on Dec. 21. Join us for an afternoon of kid-friendly crafts! Kids can make their own choice from a variety of DIY stocking stuffers, just in time to stuff their friends and family's Christmas stockings.

New on our shelves

In adult fiction, *An Unkindness of Ghosts* by Rivers Solomon, *The Midnight Line* by Lee Child, and *The Medical*

Examiner by James Patterson.

In adult nonfiction, *Stamped From The Beginning* by Ibram X. Kendi, *In Search of a Better World* by Payam Akhavan, and *What Happened* by Hilary Rodham Clinton.

In children's, *Waltz of the Snowflakes* by Elly Mackay, *The Wolf, the Duck, & the Mouse* by Mac Barnett, and *Clifford's Good Deed* by Norman Bridwell.

The next Upper Skagit Library **Board of Trustees meeting** will be held Dec. 14 at 5 p.m. The public is welcome.

Upper Skagit Library is having a **Children's Books and Glove Drive** in December. Drop off new, unused mittens or gloves, and gently used children's books, and we will make sure they get to needy children in our area.

All of us at Upper Skagit Library thank everyone for their support and participation with programs, drives, and events this past year. We have many wonderful programs and events planned for 2018, and we are excited about the move into our new spot on Main Street in spring!

We wish you all a happy, healthy, and safe New Year!

—Tess Carroll, Library Associate

Lions R-O-A-R



Concrete Lions Club is selling **Christmas trees** again this year at the lot west of Loggers Landing in Concrete. Your last chance to snag a tree will be the weekend of Dec. 9 and 10. The sales will start at 9 a.m. and go to about 3 p.m. Trees also will be available at Albert's Red Apple.

The Concrete Lions Club has access to **medical equipment**, such as wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs, and commodes, which can be lent to help those in need. Contact any Lions Club member, and we will do our best to help you.

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 2017 is to double our membership numbers. 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!

Thank you for your prayers for the healing of our Lions Club members.

—Connie Smithhart

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

Read Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 31

administered NARCAN to the person, which reverses the effects of heroin, but it had little effect. When aid arrived, they administered NARCAN through an IV. The suspect immediately regained consciousness and was transported to the hospital.

Nov. 6

The Sheriff's Office received reports that the suspect who was arrested for a domestic that occurred on Nov. 4 had been calling the victim, violating a no-contact order. Deputy Esskew and Sgt. Adams attempted to contact the suspect at his residence in Cedar Grove. He barricaded himself in his bedroom and refused to come out. While deputies were attempting to contact the suspect, the suspect called the victim and threatened her. Deputies then forcibly opened the door to find the suspect holding a knife, threatening to harm himself and screaming threats toward the deputies while acting very aggressively. The suspect refused to drop the knife and started to move aggressively toward the deputies. Deputies tased him,

incapacitating him. He was arrested and taken into custody. He was booked into jail and charged with felony violations of a no-contact order.

Nov. 8

Deputies responded to a reported domestic assault in Hamilton. The reporting party advised that he and his wife had been assaulted by his 23-year-old stepson. After investigating the call, deputies Wiggins and Montgomery determined that the stepson had assaulted both his stepfather and mother. He was arrested and taken to jail.

Deputy Harrison responded to a report of trespass in progress in Punkin Center. When he arrived, he contacted a subject who had been served an order not to be on the property. The suspect already had been arrested once for violating the order. Deputy Harrison arrested the suspect and took him to jail.

Nov. 11

A motor vehicle accident was reported on Concrete Sauk Valley Rd. near South Skagit Hwy. Deputy Adams and Deputy Esskew investigated. They discovered

that one of the cars was traveling on Concrete Sauk Valley Road when the driver attempted to put on his seatbelt, causing him to drift into the oncoming lane of travel. The other car, which was traveling the opposite direction, was unable to avoid the car. The driver of the first vehicle and the driver and passenger of the second vehicle were all injured. All were taken to the hospital. The driver of the first vehicle was given a ticket for no driver's license, no insurance, and failure to stay right of the center line.

Nov. 12

Deputy Devero investigated a burglary on Main St. in Concrete. Using video evidence, he was able to identify the suspect. Deputy Devero was unable to find the suspect at the time, so he referred him to the prosecutor for second-degree burglary.

Nov. 13

The suspect in Deputy Devero's case from the previous day was identified in another burglary that occurred in Concrete today. The suspect was located on Nov. 14 and arrested on all the previous charges.

Nov. 14

Neighbors reported a burglary in progress on Healy Rd. near Hamilton. Deputies responded and caught two suspects taking things from a house to their vehicle. One of the suspects advised that he was just there checking on a dog for a friend. When asked about having permission to be at the house or why they were taking things out of the house, he became upset and refused to speak further. Both suspects were arrested for residential burglary and booked into jail.

Nov. 15

A citizen in Cedar Grove reported that his dog was just attacked by a pitbull. Deputy Devero checked the area, but was unable to locate the aggressive dog. The investigation was turned over to Animal Control Officer Diaz for follow-up.

Nov. 17

Deputy Devero identified a suspect at Logger's Landing in Concrete who had several warrants, including a felony warrant for illegal drugs. He contacted the suspect and took him into custody. The

See *Sheriff's Blotter*, p. 35

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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360.853.9006

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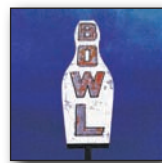
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Out & About



Mt. Vernon

Slavic Gospel Choir, Cantabile at library

Two choral groups will entertain at the Mount Vernon City Library this month.

On Thur., Dec. 7, at 6:30 p.m., Cantabile of Skagit Valley will perform. An ensemble of auditioned vocalists gathered from the Skagit Valley area, Cantabile performs Christmas and spring concerts of sacred and secular works.

"Cantabile" is an adjective, meaning songlike, or in a smooth, flowing, lyrical style. The group enjoys performing classical music that has withstood the test of time, and experimenting with contemporary selections that challenge them and entertain their audiences. Their mission is to share their love of beautiful choral music with audiences throughout the Skagit Valley area and beyond.

An evening of traditional Russian and Ukrainian Christmas songs performed by the Slavic Gospel Church Youth Choir is planned for Mon., Dec. 11, at 6:30 p.m. at the library. In between songs choir members will share stories about holiday traditions.

For more information about either performance, call 360.336.6209 or go to the "What's Happening?" link at www.mountvernonwa.gov.

Both events will be held in the Resources Room at the library and are free and open to the public.

Burlington

Kiwanis Club selling smoked salmon again

The Burlington-Edison Kiwanis Club began its annual Holiday Smoked Salmon Sale at Cascade Mall on Dec. 1.

The sale is on at the Cascade Mall northeast parking lot and Kiwanis tent during the following dates and times:

- Dec. 8–10, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Dec. 15–17, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (until sold out)



The Slavic Gospel Church Youth Choir will perform this month at the Mount Vernon City Library on Dec. 7, followed on Dec. 11 by the Cantabile of Skagit Valley. Submitted photo.

A second sale site is planned for 900 E. Fairhaven Ave. in Burlington (west side door) during the weekly Kiwanis Club meeting during the following dates and times:

- Dec. 6, 6:45 to 8 a.m.
- Dec. 13, 6:45 to 8 a.m.

Two package choices are offered:

- Corporate gift orders: Businesses can place an order for Barlean's Reef Net brand smoked salmon fillets for \$12, which doesn't need refrigeration and can be shipped. Call 360.941.3545 or 360.333.1031 by Dec. 15 to place an order.
- Fresh: Barlean's Smoked Salmon sides can be purchased. Two prices: \$20 (1.25 to 1.60 lb.) or \$25 (1.61 to 1.95 lb.); purchase includes gift box.

Cash, check, or Visa/MasterCard are accepted for payment. All profits for the fundraiser are invested back into the community.

Sedro-Woolley

New provider joins PeaceHealth

PeaceHealth Medical Group has added Feng Zhao, DO, a new board-certified Family Medicine physician, to its Sedro-Woolley Family Medicine Clinic.

Dr. Zhao earned her medical degree at the Kirkville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Kirksville, Missouri. She then

went on to complete the University Hospital's Family Medicine Residency in Richmond Heights, Ohio. Dr. Zhao has an interest in preventative medicine, women's health, mental health, and community health. She has a desire to provide service to underserved and underinsured populations.

Dr. Zhao practices medicine "to provide comprehensive and compassionate care to the whole person and family—encompassing body, mind, and spirit."

More information about Dr. Zhao can be found using the "Find a Doc" tool at www.peacehealth.org.



Zhao

Snohomish County

Opioid response group established

Multiple agencies and governments in Snohomish County have formed an Opioid Response Multi-agency Coordination (MAC) Group to address the county's opioid crisis.

While not a formal declaration of emergency, as typically used during natural disasters, the county directive provides additional staff resources

to facilitate better coordination and communication across multiple jurisdictions, government agencies, and service providers. The Snohomish County Executive, Snohomish County Council, Snohomish County Sheriff, and the Snohomish Health District are among the agencies involved.

"Our guiding principles for this effort are collaboration and coordination for the benefit of all of our residents," said Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive.

The Opioid Response MAC Group has developed a multiagency plan focused on reducing the negative impacts opioids have on the health, safety, and quality of life of communities. The seven goals agreed upon are:

- Reduce opioid misuse and abuse.
- Lessen the availability of opioids.
- Reduce criminal activity associated with opioids.
- Use data to detect, monitor, evaluate, and act.
- Reduce collateral damage to communities.
- Provide information about the response in a timely and coordinated manner.
- Ensure the availability of resources that efficiently and effectively support response efforts.

"We've learned in law enforcement that we can't arrest our way out of the opioid epidemic," said Ty Trenary, Snohomish County Sheriff. "We've also learned that the only way to make any significant impact is through collaborative partnerships and by addressing the problem at the local level. By coordinating the efforts that are already in place across the county, I believe we can be more effective and efficient in our response to the crisis."

Now that the initial framework and objectives have been identified, team leads will reach out to other public agencies and private entities to participate in the action teams.

For more details about the Opioid Response MAC Group—including its objectives, action team leads, and future progress reports—go to www.snohomishoverdoseprevention.com.

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 33

suspect was transported to jail and booked.

While driving on SR 20, Deputy Wiggins stopped a vehicle for traveling 97 mph in a 55 mph zone near Hamilton.

Upon contacting the driver, he determined that the driver was intoxicated. The driver was arrested and taken to the East Detachment Office for a breath test. The driver agreed to take the test. It showed that the driver had a blood alcohol level almost double the legal limit.

Nov. 20

While patrolling near Concrete, Deputy Wolfe observed a vehicle driven by a subject who did not have a valid driver's license. He stopped the car and contacted the driver. The driver was arrested for driving with a suspended driver's license and for no alcohol interlock device. He was also given a ticket for no insurance.

Nov. 21

Deputy Devero observed a car exceeding the speed limit on Main St. in Concrete. He stopped the car and contacted the driver, who had a suspended license. Deputy Devero thought the driver may also have been drinking, but he was unable to determine if the driver was under the influence. He issued her a citation for driving with a suspended license and for speeding. He told her not to drive. A short time later, Deputy Holmes, who had stayed in the area to make sure the driver didn't drive, saw the car leave. He attempted to stop the car, which ran the stop sign at SR 20 and Superior Ave. North. The car stopped in the parking lot of Logger's Landing. Deputy Holmes was able to investigate further and developed probable cause for driving under the influence. The driver was arrested and taken to jail.

Nov. 22

Deputy Wolfe stopped a car for no front license plate on SR 20 near Concrete. The driver of the car had a suspended driver's license and was also required to have an alcohol interlock device, which he did not have installed in the car. The driver also had several warrants for his arrest, including a felony warrant. Deputy Wolfe arrested the driver and took him to jail.

Nov. 23

Deputy Esskew received a report of a person stuck in their vehicle because of flood waters. Before he could arrive, he was advised that the family made it to safety, but the vehicle was floating down the river.

—Compiled by Sgt. Greg Adams

Sunday School, cont. from p. 30

As we take a step back from the crowd and commotion and focus on what was really taking place that day, we are told that few recognized "the time of God's coming to you" (Luke 19:44c). Neither the great crowd, the followers, the disciples, nor those religious leaders understood the spiritual impact and importance of this event. The key to God's perfect plan was revealed by Jesus' final destination that day.

As the nation watched, every eye upon Him, Luke's gospel tells us how Jesus entered the temple that day and began to drive out those who were buying and selling in the temple, declaring, "My house will be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of robbers" (Luke 19:46). This was the second time Jesus had done this. The first is recorded in John's gospel (John 2:13). Jesus went straight to the heart of the spiritual need and problem of the nation. He did not go to the seat of civil government, He did not go to the university or to the economic experts. Instead He went to the place that represented the heart of the nation's spiritual need.

Jesus came that day "... to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10), "to give His life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28). There were many fans in the crowd, those who were caught up in the moment, but were not committed to follow Jesus when the excitement faded.

As we celebrate during the Easter season and worship, let us do so with a true understanding. Jesus came to give His life as a sacrifice for our sin upon the cross, then to rise on that third day victorious over death, sin, and the grave (Luke 24: 5–7). Forgiveness and new life comes to each and every person who places their faith in Jesus Christ.

Bruce Martin is pastor of Concrete Assembly of God.



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Doctor's office? Same-day care clinic? Emergency department?

By Corrie Boe

It's difficult to accurately do at-home medical triage. Most people know when to call 911, but there are illnesses that can cause high fevers and wheezing coughs. There are accidents that result in deep cuts and bleeding that Band-Aids won't stop. Most people's medical knowledge is limited, and they find themselves vacillating between "Maybe I should make a doctor's appointment to check this out" and "It's catastrophic internal bleeding and I should get to the Emergency Room STAT!"

The best place to get care is usually your regular healthcare provider's office or clinic, as he or she knows you and your medical history. You should make an appointment with your provider for:

- Common illnesses, such as colds, flu, earaches, sore throats, migraines, fever, and rashes.
- Minor injuries, such as sprains, back pain, minor cuts and burns, minor broken bones, or minor eye injuries.
- Physicals, prescription refills, vaccinations, and screenings.

Urgent care or same-day clinics

When your doctor is not available, urgent care or same-day clinics provide attention for nonlife-threatening medical problems or problems that could become worse if you wait. This includes:

- Common illnesses, such as colds, the flu, earaches, sore throats, migraines, fever, and rashes.
- Minor injuries, such as sprains, back pain, minor cuts and burns, minor broken bones, and minor eye injuries.

Hospital emergency departments (EDs)

EDs are for emergencies. You should use a hospital ED only for very serious or life-threatening problems. If you are experiencing any of the following symptoms, call 911 or get to your nearest hospital ED:

- Chest pain or severe abdominal pain.
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath.
- Numbness in the face, arm, or leg.
- Coughing or vomiting blood.
- Severe burns, deep cuts, or bleeding that won't stop.
- Sudden blurred vision, dizziness, weakness, or loss of coordination/balance.
- Sudden, severe headache (not a migraine); seizures; or high fever.

When you visit an emergency department, it can be frustrating to wait while you watch others receiving treatment before you. Because a person's illness or injury is not always obvious, it may look like we're playing favorites. We promise, we're not. Emergency visits are evaluated based on the risk to life or limb. If someone with a more serious, life-threatening condition arrives after you, they may indeed see the doctor sooner.

Before your next visit, use the handy guidelines above to help you choose the most appropriate place for care.

Corrie Boe is medical group clinic manager for PeaceHealth.

Nick VanJaarsveld Financial Advisor

Edward Jones
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Smile



... from the Concrete Herald archives ...

"Children," said the teacher, "be diligent and steadfast, and you will succeed. Take the case of George Washington. Do you remember my telling you of the great difficulty George Washington had to contend with?"

"Yes, ma'am," said a little boy. "He couldn't tell a lie."

— § —

An official in the federal Dept. of Health has reassured us concerning the local soap shortage. He says that if we miss a few baths, it will not hurt. He knew of a man who did not bathe for 60 years and was never sick a day in his life. That is readily understandable, for very likely after the first couple of years, he was in a constant state of fumigation.

— § —

Wife: "How helpless you men are! What would you do if there were no women to sew on your buttons for you?"

Husband: "Has it occurred to you, my dear, that if there were no women, we men would need no buttons?"

— § —

A concert was being held in a village school room, and it became Sandy's turn to give his bagpipe solo. When he had finished and the applause had died down, a voice from the back of the room shouted, "Give us Annie Laurie, Sandy!"

"What!" said Sandy, surprised and flattered. "Again?"

— § —

Wisdom: Knowing what to do.
Skill: Knowing how to do it.
Virtue: Not doing it.

Dwelleysms

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

"Ever stop to think that it is more fun chasing dreams than finding them come true? One look around and you'll find your premises cluttered with former desires that lost your interest when actually realized. We go through life leaving a trail of discarded dreams that pile up on shelves, in the closets, and dusty attics. Today's necessities are tomorrow's toys and next year's rummage."

"The big drawback to fame is the publicity. A person can survive honors. Few can stand up to wearing them 24 hours a day."

"Constructive criticism is that which you are able to grant your fellow man. Carping complaint is similar in nature, but that is when he directs it to you."

—Sept. 13, 1967

"The only reason there are so many middle-income families in the U.S. is that the majority of us would rather work than spend our time figuring out how to get rich."

"Our approach is becoming reversed. We move on serious problems with a juvenile attitude, and handle juvenile situations with the solemnity of a council of high priests."

"Now that strikes have become an accepted protest by public employees, the way has been opened for the largest group of all: the taxpayers. When they quit doing their share of suffering, that strike is going to shake the whole country, fringe benefit offerings or no."

"How many good ideas have been dreamed into being, then talked into an early death?"

—Sept. 27, 1967

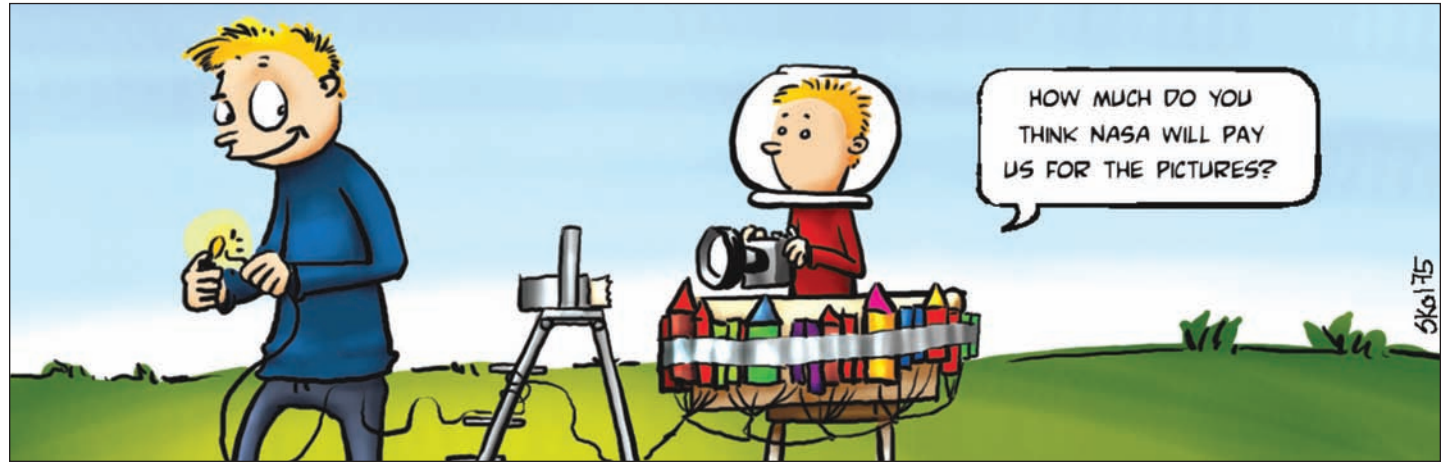
Concrete Harold

By Joyce Harris



Public Service Announcement

By Stig Kristensen



Crossword: "Cornered!"

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			

Across

- 1. Phoenix neighbor
- 5. Year type
- 9. Touches
- 14. Denmark monetary subunits
- 15. Oscar winner Paquin
- 16. Salami choice
- 17. Targeted
- 20. Untilled tract
- 21. Unstable particle
- 22. Urges onward
- 23. Match game?
- 24. Point to the right
- 25. Cornered
- 32. Safari sighting
- 33. Windows forerunner
- 34. Lending letters
- 35. Litmus reddeners
- 36. Low-_____
- 37. Off to one side
- 39. Coffee order: Abbr.
- 40. Swell place?
- 41. Gadabouts
- 42. Ensnared
- 47. Rabbit _____
- 48. Swelter
- 49. Two-part

Down

- 1. Drudgery
- 2. Haliatus albigilla
- 3. Stiff hair
- 4. Blue _____, Ohio
- 5. Gap
- 6. Implant deeply
- 7. Like most graffiti: Abbr.
- 8. _____ de deux
- 9. Shocked
- 10. Wild things
- 11. Newton, for one
- 12. Bolted
- 13. Get smart
- 18. Corrects
- 19. Persian potentates
- 23. Sort

Across

- 24. Conscious minds
- 25. Lively
- 26. Sore spot
- 27. Coniferous forest
- 28. Consummate
- 29. Less important
- 30. "Lohengrin," e.g.
- 31. Date
- 36. Some M & Ms
- 37. Certain discriminator
- 38. Good shot
- 40. Goat antelope
- 43. Flavored liqueur
- 44. Poetic feet
- 45. Old World herbs
- 46. Ruble kin
- 49. Certain herring
- 50. Container weight
- 51. They, in Trieste
- 52. Mesh of veins
- 53. Thin fastener
- 54. Crosspiece
- 55. _____ meridiem
- 57. Coal carrier
- 58. Be shy

Sudoku

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

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

*Solutions to both puzzles are below.

Funny as Facebook

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

- "IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: Aaron Burkhalter is drinking a winter ale and listening to Christmas music and doesn't care what you think."
- "Is there some sort of level up for having my opinion in a discussion on mansplaining mansplained to me by a man?"

Sudoku solution

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

Crossword solution

1	M	E	S	A		S	L	E	A	P		9	A	B	U	T	S
14	O	R	E	S		A	N	N	A		16	G	E	N	O	A	
17	I	N	T	H	E	C	R	O	S		19	S	H	A	I	R	S
20	L	E	A			M	U	O	N		22	H	A	S	T	E	S
						23	K	E	N	O		24	E	A	S		
25	P	U	T	I	N	A	T		28	I	G	H	T	S		30	P
32	E	L	A	N	D				33	D	O	S			34	A	P
35	A	C	I	D	S				36	R	E	S			37	A	G
39	R	E	G						40	S	E	A			41	G	O
42	T	R	A			43	P	E	D		44	L	I	K	E	A	R
						47	E	A	R	S		48	B	O	I	L	
49	S	T	E	R	E	O			52	R	E	P	E	S		53	B
56	H	A	S	E	N	O			57	H	E	R	E	T		58	B
59	A	R	S	O	N				60	O	T	I	C		61	W	A
62	D	E	E	D	S				63	D	E	S	K		64	E	D

THE BODY IN THE BLACKBERRIES

By Nicola Pearson

Editor's note: This is the third installment of a new serialized story by award-winning author and playwright Nicola Pearson of Sauk City. Future installments will appear on this page each month during 2017 and 2018 until the story is complete. Previous installments are posted at www.concrete-herald.com.

Pate-Swenson reached into the back pocket of her jeans with her thumb and forefinger and teased out an evidence bag. “You know this Clarkson?” she asked, slipping the check into the bag. “Everyone knows the Clarkson brothers,” said Lange. “Well, everyone in the Upper Valley. And probably all of law enforcement down in Mount Vernon. They’re the first to be questioned when anything happens up here, usually because they did it. “Although,” he added, watching Pate-Swenson take photos of the blood on the brush. “I thought one of them had settled down. That’s what Suleka told me.”

“Suleka?” “My ...” Lange hesitated. How should he describe Suleka? Most of the time she was the woman who cleaned his yurt, did some of his occasional shopping, drove him to appointments, and kept him updated on local news. But when it came to crime, she was much more than that. “My co-investigator,” he said. Then, because he hated to undersell Suleka, added, “And my friend.”

Pate-Swenson swung around and met his eye. “Do you think she’d talk to me?” “Probably,” he said. “Although the locals can be tightlipped with outsiders.” “So make me an insider then.” Lange half smiled. “I’ll do my best.” “I’d like to get her take on this Kyle Clarkson before I question him.” “You’ll be the one questioning him?” asked Lange, surprised.

“Sure.” Pate-Swenson’s blue eyes had a combative glint in them as she shook the loose hair off her face and pursed her lips. “Why not?”

“You called Skagit County Sheriff to come investigate Robert Doyle’s death, correct?”

“Uh-huh.”

“Don’t you think they’ll want to interview Clarkson?”

“About the dead body, yes. I just want to talk to him about the drugs.” She

motioned for him to come closer. He stepped forward and she pointed to the ground opposite her dog. “See that?” Lange saw where the ankle-high grass had been flattened, thistles broken at their bases, like something heavy had sat there. Then his eye caught the white residue on the dark leaves of the blackberries growing out of the ditch. “Good eye!” he exclaimed.

“Good nose,” said Pate-Swenson, scratching Kojak between the eyes. The dog tipped his head up appreciatively. “The Sheriff’s office can do all the investigating they want of the body, but any drug charges are mine.”

“How can I help?” asked Lange, genuinely awed.

“Can you get me a conversation with your friend?”

“I’ll give it a shot.” Inwardly he was disappointed. He wanted to be much more active in the investigation of Doyle’s death than just making sure people got to talk to each other. In the distance he could hear the sirens floating in and out, like pesky mosquitoes whining around his ear. Somehow they reinforced his impotence in the situation; a retired detective with no ally at the Sheriff’s office now that Detective Deller was out on maternity leave, and no connections within the local DEA.

“Would you also go talk to Robert Doyle’s wife?” said Pate-Swenson, as if she’d heard his mental deliberations. Her request perked Lange, relieving some of his feelings of uselessness, but he still didn’t want to step on any toes. Especially not the toes of local law enforcement. “Shouldn’t I wait for the coroner to get here?”

Pate-Swenson was crouched down next to her dog, her face against his muzzle, her hands rubbing vigorously back and forth on the thick fur around his neck, whispering praise for his good work. His question made her stop and look up at him, one eye partly closed against the

June sun. “He’s dead, Callum. Someone needs to go tell his wife.”

Lange nodded; she was right.

“And I cleared it with the Sheriff’s office already. The detective assigned to this case okayed you to inform the next of kin.”

Lange cocked his head. “Which detective?”

“Collins?”

“Collins made it to detective,” pondered Lange. “Well good for him. Okay then,” he said, eager to move forward now that he’d been given the go-ahead. “I’ll head back down to my yurt, get showered, dressed, and then go over to Robert and René’s house.”

“When will you talk to Suleka?”

“Before I leave, I imagine. She’s probably still at my yurt.” He threw the statement out casually as he started to walk away, but something about the look on Pate-Swenson’s face made him rethink the wording. “Cleaning it,” he called out. “She comes to clean for me twice a month.”

Pate-Swenson’s brow cleared and she jumped up, brushing dog hair off her jeans. She flicked her hand at Kojak, a nonverbal command for him to maintain his down. “The Range Rover’s unlocked,” she shouted after Lange. “I have some business cards in the cup holder between the seats. Why don’t you reach inside and get one, so you can call me later for updates.”

The ex-detective threw a thumb up into the air and stretched out toward the end of the road feeling pretty darn good. He slipped back around the heavy, yellow gate, ducking under a slender, overhanging wild cherry tree, and pulled open the door of the Rover. He loosened one of Pate-Swenson’s business cards, tucked it into the palm of his hand, and continued the jaunt down the road toward his property.

His mind lingered on the way Pate-Swenson had used his name—“He’s dead, Callum”—like they’d known each other a long time. And how, when she confronted him about why she shouldn’t be the one to question Clarkson, the hint of teal in her blue eyes reminded him of Ross Lake on a cloudless summer day. He was already enjoying being part of this investigation. Maybe that’s what his ex-partner was alluding to when he said, “the comfort of your presence.”

Jimmy had come out for a short visit back in May and, while he and Lange sat drinking scotch and watching the sunset from lawn chairs on the ridge overlooking the Skagit River, the young New Yorker

seemed restless with their total seclusion.

“Don’t you get lonely?” he asked.

“You forget I don’t like people that much,” Lange replied.

“You don’t like assholes,” Jimmy remarked. “I get that.” He took a slug of his scotch, then looked at Lange. “But there’s people out there that can put a real lift in your day.”

Lange didn’t say anything, even though part of him agreed. He certainly got a lift from the fact that this kid had chosen to spend his few vacation days out in the Skagit with him.

“I mean, I don’t know about you,” said Jimmy, “but I miss the way we bounced ideas off each other when we were partners.”

“Sure,” said Lange, skipping the fact that he did the same thing with Suleka now. “But we can still do that long distance.”

That was when Jimmy said, “We can. But I don’t get the comfort of your presence that way.”

Lange had found himself thinking about that phrase ever since.

He heard the sirens circling up Sauk Mountain Rd. as he walked through the gate at the end of his long driveway. He was glad he hadn’t encountered any of the vehicles. He almost jogged the last few hundred yards toward his yurt, wanting to get back then out on the road again so he’d be available when the preliminary forensics came in.

Suleka’s Nissan pick-up was still there. Good. He’d ask her to drive him over to René Doyle’s. He bounded up the steps to his tiny deck and tugged off his sneakers then stopped, his hand on the door. Was that a whine? He waited, thinking he might hear it again, but there was nothing. He stepped in to find Suleka finishing up his dishes. “Well don’t you look happy,” she burst out at him, her eyes piercing through his composure like she might uncover the reason behind it. “Is it because we’ve got another case?”

“How’d you know that?”

She gave a sarcastic tug on one side of her mouth. “I heard the sirens, of course. I figured they were either coming to arrest you or to get your help.”

“Is that why you’re still here?” he asked, placing Pate-Swenson’s card down on his writing desk before walking over to the Scrabble game. He looked at the board and felt his mouth fall open.

“Sure,” said Suleka, unapologetic. “I wouldn’t want to miss something juicy.” She peered across at his desk, then

The Body, cont. from p. 38

followed her curiosity and went to pick up the card. “Ahhh, now I get it.”

“Get what?” Lange muttered, still staring down at the Scrabble board. He thought he’d stumped her playing ‘quested’ yesterday, but apparently not.

“The reason for your good humor.” She held up the card and read. “Michelle Pate-Swenson. Is she cute?”

Lange’s head shot up. “What?!”

“Come on, don’t deny it,” Suleka goaded. “You’re blushing.”

“I’m 61 years old,” argued Lange. “I don’t blush.”

“New love’s still new love no matter how old you are.”

“Oh stop,” he rebuked, but not very forcefully. “As a matter of fact it’s you she wants to talk to.” He snatched a towel off the chair beside his bed.

“Me?!” protested Suleka, her voice so high it rang like a bell in the circle of the yurt. “I don’t do drugs.”

“What’s that got to do with anything?” She held up the card. “It says DEA.”

Lange laughed. “She just wants to pick your brain about some of the locals.”

“Which ones?”

“The Clarkson brothers.”

“Oh. Why? What have they done?”

“She doesn’t know. That’s why she wants to talk to you.”

“But why all the emergency vehicles?” Lange headed for the door, ready for the conversation to be over. “I’ll tell you about it in the car.”

“We’re leaving now?”

“After I shower.”

Suleka placed the card back on the desk. “Yep,” she declared. “She’s cute.”

Letters, cont. from p. 2

was born in Mount Vernon on June 29, 1987. He graduated from Sedro-Woolley High School in 2006 and from Gonzaga University in 2010, where he earned his bachelors in Business Administration. Patrick worked with his father, Mike Janicki, at Janicki Logging and Construction. His mother Lisa Janicki spoke eloquently about her son and his dependence on opioids following a logging accident; their family is very committed to helping end this crisis.

The Sedro-Woolley Rotary is still accepting donations for a playground Patrick wanted to build with Rotary

See **The Body**, p. 39 at Janicki fields so that the younger

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children have a place to play while their older siblings are at practice. For more information or to donate, contact Sedro-Woolley Rotary Foundation, P.O. Box 726, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284.

*Pola Kelley
Sedro-Woolley*

On again, off again?

As we know, it is storm season, and with that comes power outages, among other things. The Nov. 26 wind event found most upriver communities in the dark for many hours, and in the case of Upriver Community Radio KSVU, for many days. And while the tower to transmit power must be located on the highest hill around, it also becomes a casualty when these storms hit.

Please know that when this happens, repair workers are contacted right away, but it often takes a long time to fix. Dead air, however, is a thing of the past, as NW Public Radio in Port Townsend (and elsewhere) shares the same radio band with KSVU (90.1 FM), and their broadcast will “bleed” into our space when it’s not being used. So, stay tuned in—we WILL return—with the local news, views, and music you value.

Feel free to call us at 360.853.8588 anytime, and “thanks for listening.”

*Christie Fairchild
Rockport*

KSVU thanks you

Belated but very grateful thanks to all who helped to make the 7th annual Harvest Fest & Halloween Dance on Oct. 28 the best ever!

Hosted at the Marblemount Community Hall, the potluck supper, raffle and silent auction, photo booth, costume contest,

and of course, wonderful local music by both Undecided and Jumbled Pie, drew a huge crowd of enthusiastic partiers for the evening. Many radio station volunteers worked hard to bring the event to more than 300 people, and as a critical fundraiser for our Upriver Community Radio, it was deemed a total success.

*Christie Fairchild
Rockport*

Bear one another's burdens

Galatians 6:2 exhorts us to “bear one another’s burdens.”

As the Christmas season approaches, please remember in prayer the mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, wives, husbands, grandparents of the victims of the shooting in Texas (and other places). They have empty arms and mourning hearts. Only God can comfort those broken hearts and fill those empty arms. As we share their burden in prayer, God will lighten their load.

Don’t let world events make you calloused toward others’ sufferings or get

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too busy to help shoulder your brothers and sisters’ pain.

We have been called to bear one another’s burdens, to weep with those who weep (Romans 12:15) In fact ... Jesus wept (John 11:35).

*Kathleen Jelvik
Rockport*



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