

Election 2019

Results of contested races

Hamilton Mayor

Carla Vandiver 57%
Joan Cromley 43%

Hamilton Town Council Pos. 1

Timothy Morrison 57%
Billy Fisher 43%

Hamilton Town Council Pos. 2

Travis Patrick 55%
Theresa Boots 45%

Hamilton Town Council Pos. 3

Lisa Johnson 61%
Dean Vandiver 39%

Hamilton Town Council Pos. 5

Geoff Perkins 73%
Patrick Benjamin (write-in) 14%
Write-in 14%

Sedro-Woolley Mayor

Julia Johnson 63%
Dennis O'Neil 37%

Sedro-Woolley Council Ward 1

Brendan McGoffin 57%
Dave Bates 43%

Sedro-Woolley Council Ward 4

Glenn Allen 59%
Pola Kelley 41%

Sedro-Woolley Council Ward 5

Charles (Chuck) Owen 61%
Corrin Hamburg 39%

Sedro-Woolley School Dist. 2 Dir.

Christina Jepperson 68%
Eric Lodjic 32%

Growing panes

High school greenhouse to grow food, knowledge. *Page 11.*



Jim Parker, Tom Jones, and project foreman Mike Brondi are some of the volunteers who are building a new greenhouse at Concrete High School.



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Studded tires, chains, batteries.
Sipe your tires for more traction.

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Les Schwab for all your
winter needs!

204 W. Moore St., Sedro-Woolley

360.855.1033

Concrete Herald
The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

WNPA
Washington Newspaper Publishers Association

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Concrete Herald owes its success to citizen journalists and photographers. Reporter: Chazlyn Lovely. 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 © 2019 Concrete Herald LLC.

From the editor

The care and feeding of our bank

SaviBank is here—now what? The fledgling branch opened to much fanfare in October, with most of the same familiar faces smiling from behind brand-new desks and decor. Branch manager Lynette Gentry reported a rush of new accounts as community members support them with their personal and professional financial business.

We all should pause for a moment, though, to consider if we're doing enough. Several people have told me that they opened an account to show support for the bank, but they're keeping their primary accounts elsewhere.

Why? SaviBank offers everything other banks do, so taking the time to move our primary accounts to SaviBank makes sense for both parties. SaviBank offers:

- Multiple free accounts for all ages, including business accounts.
- Free paper statements, online banking, and bill pay.
- Interest-bearing accounts

Unlike its predecessor, SaviBank is a true community bank, headquartered in Mount Vernon, with branches in Skagit, Island, and Whatcom counties. It came to Concrete to support the town and the Upper Valley community; we need to support the bank by continuing to come in for new accounts. Open main accounts and use them for your daily, weekly, or monthly transactions.

Whether or not you agree with Columbia Bank's stated reasons for leaving, let's do everything we can not to make the same "mistakes" twice. Support SaviBank in the most meaningful way(s) you can.

—J. K. M.

Stop in for a cookie

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360-826-6001

A hop, skip, and a jump west of Concrete

Bring this AD to receive discount

Opinion

Letters to the editor

Library delay costing resources

Is the extended delay in opening the new Upper Skagit Library location in Concrete costing it resources?

Yes. Inspired to downsize my extensive library, I filled six boxes with new or nearly-new books (biography, personal development, spiritual, fiction, etc.) with the desire to donate and therefore help expand the resources of the Upper Skagit Library so that many others would be able to benefit and enjoy.

Sadly, I was informed that they are no longer taking book donations as they simply have no more room. As such, thousands of dollars of books will find their way to Value Village in Mount Vernon instead of Concrete.

This can't be the first time donations have been turned away because of limited space. But if the new library were open, it would probably be the last time.

all deserve awards because they have clearly done it.
Thanks.

John Boggs
Concrete

Welcome new library director

On behalf of the entire community, I welcome Amanda Perez. She has chosen to accept the awesome challenge of directing the Upper Skagit Library into the next decade. I believe we all look forward to the opportunity of getting to know her and working with her.

For more details on those "opportunities," please contact the library staff, board of trustees, or foundation.

John Boggs
Concrete

Feeling a whole lot of gratitude

Thanks to Tad Lloyd, Sonny Taylor, and the third EMT who responded to my house on Nov. 5 and got me to PeaceHealth United General Medical Center ASAP. It turned out to be a heart attack! One stent later, I'm good to go.

Thanks also to volunteers Tim Hale and Sharon Riels, who helped me finish the dirt work at the spray park in October.

Jason Miller
Concrete

Boys & Girls Club marks milestone

The Concrete Boys and Girls Club marked a milestone on Nov. 18, when they held their first awards banquet. The kids did a stellar job running the program and it was great to hear of their many accomplishments during the past year. Not everyone realizes how much time and effort it takes to put together a successful program, but the staff and volunteers also

Corrections

Okay, let's see if I can get it right this time: Marblemount Community Hall offers Wi-Fi through the generosity of the Upper Skagit Library from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

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 first and last names 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.

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Commentary

KSVU's ship: Sink or swim?

By Christie Fairchild and Terri Wilde

After almost nine years of serving the upper Skagit with our own community radio station, KSVU's "mother ship," Skagit Valley College, is asking us to become financially independent.

The station is at a very crucial stage of making arrangements with the college to do so. Challenges before us include:

1. Reorganizing by applying for 501(c)(3) status (federal nonprofit).
2. Developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the college to define our mutual relationship.
3. Exploring local tower alternatives to our very expensive lease with American Tower.
4. Finding ways to raise more sustainable funds.

All of KSVU's staff are volunteers, but also rely on the college staff for expertise, as well as all of the technical infrastructure in order to broadcast upriver. The college, via KSVR, connects KSVU to many programs by simulcasting, both locally produced (e.g., We Do the Work, Upper Skagit Talks, Speak Up Speak Out, etc.) and nationwide subscriptions (e.g., Democracy Now!, Pacifica Evening News, Woodsongs, Folk Alley, Chamber Music Society, etc.). Pick up a current program schedule at the Albert's Red Apple lottery counter or the Upper Skagit Library to read about even more.

We are relying on dedicated volunteers, the local community, and the Skagit Valley College to help with this very challenging transition. If you have skills or desire to help, especially with the relocation of our antenna, come join us.

KSVU's next monthly meeting, held on Tue., Dec. 10 at 4 p.m., will focus

on these issues. Anyone interested in trying to keep this one-and-only upriver radio station afloat is welcome to attend. The studio is situated in Portable Classroom "B," behind the Concrete Elementary School. The phone number is 360.853.8588. If you can't make it, please leave us your thoughts and ideas to share with the group.

We need you. It's now or never. Sink or swim. Thanks.

Christie Fairchild and Terri Wilde are volunteer staff members for Concrete-based community radio station KSVU 90.1 FM.

Briefly ...

Your Relaxation Station massage changed hands effective Dec. 2. Former owner Anita Miller-Russo handed over the reins to Leslie Boyd.

Boyd has 30 years experience as a massage therapist. "I look forward to another 20 years of business," said Boyd.

Your Relaxation Station is located at 7460 S. Dillard Ave., Ste. C, in Concrete. For more information, call Boyd at 360.436.0286 or 360.454.6696.

Local Eric Cooper is working to develop an **East County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)**. The team would work under the Skagit County Department of Emergency Management (DEM), which would handle the training of team members. CERT teams do not replace first responders, but rather support the community until first responders can get to the areas needed. Training includes basic fire suppression, basic urban search and rescue, and first aid. Training will begin in February. Anyone who wants to get their name on the list is asked to contact Cooper at 360.840.7674 or medicyne_eagle@yahoo.com.

This holiday season, give a gift certificate from these local businesses

Annie's Pizza Station
44568 State Route 20, Concrete
anniespizzastation.net
360.853.7227

5B's Bakery
45597 Main Street, Concrete
www.5bsbakery.com
360.853.8700

Cascade Burgers
45292 State Route 20, Concrete
360.853.7580
www.cascadeburgers.com

Concrete Theatre
45920 Main Street, Concrete
www.concrete-theatre.com
360.941.0403

Ovenell's Heritage Inn
46276 Concrete Sauk Valley Rd., Concrete
www.ovenells-inn.com
360.853.8494

Albert's Red Apple Market
44546 State Route 20
360.853.8540

www.concrete-wa.com | 360.853.8784

Council passes 2020 budget

By Chazlyn Lovely
Edited by Katy Tomasulo

On Nov. 25, Concrete Town Council approved and adopted the 2020 budget for Town of Concrete. Passage came after workshops held on Oct. 12 and Nov. 16, and public hearings held on Nov. 12 and 25.

The workshop held on Oct. 12 focused on reviewing 2019's revenues and expenditures, 2020's utility rates and fee schedule, and adjustments to salaries and benefits for staff and council members. Resolution 2019-19, regarding setting fees for governmental services for 2020, was also looked at. These include business license fees, notary fees, dog licenses, and animal pickup fees.

After a suggestion from an airport leaseholder, council added a fee for the use of tie downs (\$5 per day per tie down with a 12-hour limit or \$10 per tie-down for overnight/24 hours). The Lot Wait List Fee is priced at \$75 and Lease Transfer Requests are \$25.

Commercial business and school sewer rates in town limits increased from \$119 to \$120.50. Outside of town limits, that price rose \$1.50 to \$151.50. Sewer rates for homes, churches, non-profits, and government groups in town limits rose from \$15 to \$16.50. Out-of-towners will pay \$146 as a base rate (up from \$145).

Water service increases are a little smaller: For houses, churches, and nonprofit and government groups in town, the rate will increase 40 cents to \$34.40. Outside of town, they'll pay \$47.85 this year, up from \$47.15. Commercial businesses and schools inside of town limits will pay an extra 53 cents for a total of \$35.53, while outside of town the rate rises from \$48.89 to \$49.63.

The town hopes that these rates will keep the town in line with what has been recommended in the most recent sewer utility study and will keep the total water/sewer bill for in town residents under \$160 per month.

During the workshop, Clerk-Treasurer Andrea Fichter noted that fines from the Department of Ecology, the costs for a mixing zone study, and the outfall evaluation that were required as part of the town's National Pollutant Discharge Eliminations System (NPDES) permit, as well as large item-replacement costs, have put the town \$85,000 over budget in this section. The town will need to discuss

options for covering these costs, which could come in the form of an interfund loan that would need to be paid back over time. Research will be conducted on the best course of action and will be brought back to council for approval.

The budget also includes salary adjustments. Public Works Director Alan Wilkins will retire in June, and the salaries for the new Public Works assistant and new Public Works maintenance worker (See "New faces join staff, council," this page) changed to bring them into line with state minimum wage increases. The groundskeeper and fire chief will see small increases in their monthly salaries as well. Fichter determined salary and wage increases by comparing against state minimum wage increases (Initiative 1422) during the same time frame; while the town pays more than the minimum wage, the goal is to increase at a similar rate. With this method, most employee per-hour wages are on track or slightly higher, but two positions (groundskeeper and office assistant) were found to be undercompensated. Councilmember Marla Reed said she would like to see all employee wages increase, and consensus among the council determined that while a majority of employees (including the mayor) would receive a 2 percent raise, the groundskeeper and office assistant positions would be given larger increases in order to bring them back on track.

During the workshop, Councilmember Rob Thomas asked about the last time the council's wages had increased. According to Fichter, the last raise was in 2013, when it rose from \$30 to \$35. Prior to that, in 2008 council pay increased from \$25 to \$30. Taking into account the average council meeting lasting two hours and the preparation time needed, the wage is not equivalent to minimum wage. Reed noted that current rules prevent council members from voting on their own wages, so any changes made would not take effect until each individual council member's next term, with the earliest increase in 2022.

The idea was proposed to increase pay to \$100 per meeting to compensate for the lack of increase during the last six years and to be more comparable to what other cities and towns pay their council members. Councilmember Mike Bartel opposed this number, saying that while he isn't against an increase, he thought

See Budget, p. 38

New faces join staff, council

By Chazlyn Lovely
Edited by Katy Tomasulo

Town of Concrete recently welcomed two new additions to Town Hall: Jesse Babcock and Jon Gunnarsson.

Jesse Babcock

In late August, Jesse Babcock took over the Public Works maintenance worker position formerly held by Josh Massingale, who resigned on July 24. Babcock is a former military combat veteran who owned his own construction company among other related experience. Having grown up in the area, Babcock was eager to return to his hometown. "I've been to lots of places, and this is one of the good ones," he said.

Babcock hopes to use the professionalism he learned in the military and his experiences operating heavy equipment in his prior work to help do his part to better the town. So far his biggest challenge has been getting to know the town's troubled wastewater treatment plant.

"That was a lot of information to try and learn all at once," he said. He's confident, however, that with time and familiarity, working with the plant will become easier, especially once all of the needed repairs and replacements are completed.

The most rewarding aspect of the job, Babcock said, has been "being back in my hometown and contributing with the skills I've developed over the years to become an asset to the town."

Jon Gunnarsson

On Oct. 14, Jon Gunnarsson was appointed to Town Council Position No. 5. The seat was held previously by Ginger Kyritsis, who resigned her position on Sept. 9 because she moved out of town. Gunnarsson competed with Drew Jenkins for the position and was selected by the councilmembers following a long executive session.

Originally from a small town in Iceland, Gunnarsson had attended the annual fly-in in Concrete for about 20 years. During his first visit, he fell in love with the area's small town feel and scenic beauty. In 2017 he moved to Concrete to get to know the town better and to spend more time with the friends he had made here. He began attending town council meetings as part of his efforts to become more familiar with the community, and decided to throw

his hat in the ring when Council Position No. 5 became available.

Gunnarsson has never been an elected official before, but he is confident that his prior experiences will aid him in the position. "I have worked as a chief engineer on a (fishing) vessel with over 180 people on it, so I'm used to making decisions with quite a few people around, so it's not too different," he said. His time working with fishing vessels in Alaska and on shipping freighters with distribution all over the world also has given him a strong work ethic.

For Gunnarsson there is no one aspect of being a town councilmember that is more exciting than the rest. "I'm still getting into what's going on, and learning about the town itself," he said. "It's all very exciting."

Chazlyn Lovely is a freelance writer and graphic designer. She lives in the Corkindale area near Marblemount. Katy Tomasulo is a freelance writer and editor from Bainbridge Island.



Babcock



Gunnarsson



Northwest Garden Bling

- Gift shop
- Stained glass & glass supplies
- Souvenirs

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



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!

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS

Saturday, Dec. 7

Singalong and Christmas movie at Concrete Theatre, 6 p.m.
Santa and Mrs. Claus at Concrete Theatre, 6:45 p.m.
Co-sponsored by SaviBank.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING & CAROLING

Saturday, Dec. 7

Caroling in Town Center, 7:30 p.m.
Tree-lighting and caroling, 8 p.m.

CONCRETE K-6 PTO HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Saturday, Dec. 7

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Concrete Elementary School Gym
Santa photos from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Thursday, Dec. 12

4:30 to 6 p.m., CHS cafeteria
FREE ADMISSION!

CONCRETE SCHOOLS MUSIC PROGRAM WINTER CONCERT

Thursday, Dec. 12

6 p.m. in CHS gym

Sponsored for the community by Town of Concrete and members of the Concrete Chamber of Commerce.

For more information: www.Concrete-WA.com or (360) 853-8784

Holiday events abound

With the holiday season well under way, here's a look at some of the events on the schedule for December in the *Concrete Herald* coverage area.

Dec. 7: Concrete K-6 PTO Holiday Bazaar

The mantle for this family-friendly favorite has been passed from Imagine Concrete Foundation to the PTO, but little more has changed. The event will be held in the Concrete Elementary School gym on Sat., Dec. 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (see ad, p. 5). Look for hands-on crafts, photos with Santa and his elf from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., plenty of vendors with holiday gift ideas, a silent auction, and more. Lunch will be provided for a wee fee.

Dec. 7: Small Town Holiday Art Show

A trio of Darrington artists, plus guests, invite you to their art show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. See the notice on p. 25.

Dec. 7: Christmas in Concrete

Concrete Town Center is the place to be tonight. The fun starts with singing and a Christmas movie at Concrete Theatre at 6 p.m. Santa and Mrs. Claus will show up at the theater around 6:45 p.m. Around 7:30, Santa will lead everyone to the tree at the east end of the Town Center for the tree-lighting and more caroling at 8 p.m.

Dec. 7: The Magic of Christmas Holiday Whoolley-bilation

Sedro-Woolley is jam-packed with Christmas cheer today, with a slew of events lined up. See the ad on p. 16 for details; there are simply too many things going on to list them here! For more information, go to sedro-woolley.com.

Dec. 7-8, 14-15: Concrete Lions Club Christmas tree sales

They're back! The Concrete Lions Club has been serving our community for decades; this is one way you can support them and get a beautiful Christmas tree. Head to the Swap Meet field, where Lions Club members will serve you up with a beautiful live tree on the above dates, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Dec. 8: Photos with Santa in Darrington

JoAnn Milton will snap your photo with Santa on Sun., Dec. 8, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Darrington Street Variety Gift Shop, located at 1080 Darrington St. A 5x7 photo is only \$5. Bring the whole

family—even pets.

Dec. 12: Community Dinner

This month's community dinner is special, with extra funding from community members. It will be a holiday dinner, held at Concrete High School cafeteria on Thur., Dec. 12, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Admission is free, and donations are welcome. The Concrete School District Music Program Winter Concert follows, at 6 p.m. in the CHS gym.

Dec. 13: Santa and Mrs. Claus at Last Chance Casino

The right jolly old elf and his bride will be at Last Chance Casino & Bingo on Sauk-Suiattle reservation near Darrington on Fri., Dec. 13, from 6 to 8 p.m. Free hot chocolate, hot cider, and cookies to be had. Photos are free and will be ready for pick-up within the week.

Dec. 14: 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. 14, 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. Caroling, storytelling, hot dogs, and hot drinks will keep you warm. Drawings for a bike or two (or three! Or four!) also are on the activity list. Bring a chair, sit around the fire, and enjoy the warmth of the season till around 9 p.m.

Dec. 14: The Magic of Christmas Holiday Whoolley-bilation

The fun continues in Sedro-Woolley. See the ad on p. 16 for details. For more information, go to sedro-woolley.com.

Dec. 24: Candlelight service

The congregation of Mount Baker Presbyterian Church in Concrete invites everyone to their Christmas Eve candlelight service on Dec. 24 from 7 to 8 p.m. "It will be a time of music and scripture to celebrate the birth of our savior," said Pastor Kevin Riley. The church is located at 45705 Main St. in Concrete.

Council summary

Concrete Town Council met for regular meetings on Nov. 12 and 25. The council also met for a 2020 budget workshop on Nov. 16. The following is a summary of the two regular meetings in chronological order. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are posted on the town's Web site at www.townofconcrete.com/cminutes.php.

Nov. 12 regular meeting

- Mayor Pro-tem Elizabeth Easterday conducted this meeting in Mayor Jason Miller's absence. An airport resident asked for clarification about the town's intent to develop Mears Field into a "port model." Town planner Marianne Manville-Ailles would put together a response for the council's Dec. 9 meeting.

- Public Safety:** Sgt. Greg Adams said the incident report for last month has been provided. He said there was small increase in response times due to some of the nonpriority calls that were pending for a length of time.

- He also reported that Deputy Wolfe continues to have meetings to get the East County court started. He also reported that Deputy Esskew will be back to full duty within the next two weeks. An audience member asked what the service area is for the deputies on the east detachment. Greg explained the zone 4 coverage, as well as the response times for within the town limits of Concrete. Councilmember Marla Reed requested more law enforcement presence at the school crossings in the mornings and afternoons. She stated that one of the crossing guards has almost been hit a couple times this year. She stated that people either are not seeing the flashing lights or are completely ignoring them. Sgt. Adams said that he will remind the deputies to focus more on traffic during down times.

- Town engineer Cody Hart reported he is proceeding with the lagoon decommissioning design and will hopefully be able to go out to bid in December. Hart also said the town is waiting for the approval on the funding agency to go to bid on the remaining water system improvements.

- A series of public hearings were conducted:
 - 2020 Utility Rates and Fees

(Resolution #2019-25), which was followed by council approval.

2020 Property Tax Levy (Resolution #2019-25), which was followed by council approval.

The first of two hearings for the 2020 Budget. This public hearing included comments from attendee Erin Davison, who stated that she had questions regarding the suggested council pay for 2020. She said that if they are being paid \$35 per meeting now and the suggested increase is a \$100 per meeting, that is a 185 percent increase in pay, and asked if someone could explain that to her. Councilmember Reed stated that the last time an increase was given was around 7 or 8 years ago. She stated the amount is per meeting and sometimes meetings can go 3 or 4 hours. She also explained the amount of time that is spent doing council duties outside of actual council meetings, for which they are not compensated. Further discussion ensued.

Nov. 25 regular meeting

- A public hearing was held for the 2020 Budget (second hearing, Ordinance #811) and 2020 Salaries and Benefits (Ordinance #812). Council approved both ordinances following the public hearing.
- Another public hearing addressed Adult Entertainment Interim Control Regulations. No comments were received and no action was taken by the council. Manville-Ailles reported the final ordinance will go through the required process for final approval by council and other agencies. She said this hearing is to allow for the public to comment or ask questions regarding the ordinance already in place. Councilmember Easterday asked if these types of establishments would be allowed to remain open after 2 a.m. The answer is no. The ordinance will mostly likely come to council for approval during the first quarter of 2020.

—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.

2020 SKAGIT EAGLE FESTIVAL

Four Weekends of Family Fun! Saturdays and Sundays in January

CONCRETE • ROCKPORT • MARBLEMOUNT

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

- Eagle Watcher Stations
- River Rafting & Boat Trips
- Photography Workshops
- 5K Salmon Run & Nature Walk
- Special Tours & Presentations
- Guided Walks, Talks & Hayrides
- Native American Storytelling & Music
- Raptor Presentations

www.SkagitEagleFestival.com

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

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





Sports



Record setters, cont. from p. 8

extra points for a total of 105 points on the season, tying Kyle Brown's 1997 mark. But he leveled another record—most receptions per game—with 10, relegating to second place Brandon Hoover's 8 receptions in 2003.

"Devin is a hard-working young man," said Head Coach Arthur Sanchez. "He started to develop last year and really pushed himself in the offseason. He spent much of his free time putting in the extra work in the weightroom. He added height, weight, and strength to develop himself to being the top receiver in not only his league, but also the county. Not many receivers in 11-man football in the state can say they hauled in 1,000-plus yards this season. He was a great leader in practice and was one of our four team captains. I believe if it wasn't for his broken finger he suffered early in the year, he would have hauled in more passes. We will miss him next year."

Blankenship was so focused, he barely noticed his accomplishments. "It was unbelievable and honestly surprising," he said. "I couldn't have done it without the entire team, and it was a season I'll never forget."

Peyton Sanchez

Sanchez stayed healthy during his final high school football season, and it showed. The Lion quarterback hammered numerous school records, finishing the

season with 3,148 career passing yards on 189 completions and 433 attempts.

His career passing record surpassed Ryan Lake's mark of 2,846 yards set between 1988–91.

Sanchez's 33 career passing TDs eclipsed Jesse Howell's 29, set between 1994–97.

And, like Blankenship, he got a match too: 16 single-game completions, tying Joey Penninger's record from 2003.

Sanchez led the team with four interceptions this year. He led Skagit County in rushing yards with 1,046 yards and 13 rushing TDs, and was second in passing with 1,596 yards and 18 TDs.

Sanchez topped things off with a first place nomination to be selected to represent CHS in the June 2020 East-West All State game.

See the awards box below for more of Blankenship and Sanchez's accomplishments.

"Peyton had great teammates on the field who helped him accomplish all these goals, and of course, none of this would be possible without them," said Coach Sanchez, who is Peyton's father. "He grew up around the sport. From the day he was born till he was 12 years old, he grew up around me playing football. At a young age he would train with me year-round no matter the weather. As soon as he

See **Record setters**, p. 10

Devin Blankenship

Peyton Sanchez



Record setters

The Concrete High School football team might not have made the playoffs this season, but seniors Devin Blankenship and Peyton Sanchez played as if they were about to win the state championship, crushing numerous school records along the way. They ended their final high school season with numbers that are the stuff of dreams for most of their peers.

Devin Blankenship
Blankenship apparently felt the task at hand was too easy; he earned his record-breaking numbers with a broken left little finger he picked up during Week 3. Passed over during his freshman year (too small) and injured during his sophomore year (broken collarbone), Blankenship began to break out during

his junior year, then unloaded on the field during his final year, after packing on pounds, getting stronger, and growing another couple inches. Blankenship was first in Skagit County in receptions and scoring this season. His numbers also topped several Concrete High School records. He had 62 receptions for 1,094 yards

this season, crushing Chad Luhr's 49 receptions in 1985. He also topped Kyle Brown's 934 receiving yards from 1997. Career receptions? 80 for Blankenship, edging Brown's 79, even though Brown retained his 1,508 yards record. Blankenship notched 15 TDs and 15

See **Record setters**, p. 9

Athletes of the Month



Athletes of the Month: Cassidy Smith, Peyton Sanchez

Kassidy Smith, a junior Libero for the Concrete High School Volleyball team, earned Athlete of the Month recognition for her outstanding efforts on the court, exceptional attitude on and off the court, and her hard work in the classroom. Kassidy finished the season second on the team in serve percentage (92) and second in aces (16). She set new school records in total serves received (457), perfect passes (253), perfect pass percentage (55), and digs (224) this season, while leading in saves (25) for the second consecutive year. Kassidy was named to the Northwest All-League Team as a Second Team Libero, also for the second consecutive year. Her teammate, Kylie Clark (Athlete of the Month in September) was also voted onto the Northwest All-League Team as a Honorable Mention Right Side.

passes and career passing TDs. Peyton led the Concrete team this year with four interceptions. He led Skagit County in rushing yards with 1,046 yards, and 13 rushing TDs, and was second in the county for passing, with 1,596 yards and 18 TDs. He was voted League Co-MVP on the offensive side for the second year in a row, and also voted first team defensive back for the third year in a row. Peyton also was the first place nominee to be selected to represent his school in the June 2020 East-West All State game. "Peyton had great teammates on the field who helped him accomplish all these goals," said Head Coach Arthur Sanchez, his father. "And of course, none of this would be possible without them."

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

Senior quarterback **Peyton Sanchez** was chosen as male Athlete of the Month after a spectacular October. He crushed school records (see story, p. 8), including career

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WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL AWARDS

Varsity Letters: Sierra Rensink, Kylie Clark, Rebekah Rider, Ashley Parker, Autumn Neece, Payton Dickinson, Kassidy Smith.

Varsity Most Valuable Player: Kylie Clark. **Varsity Most Improved:** Autumn Neece. **Perfect Passer Award:** Kassidy Smith (55 percent). **Best Server Award:** Kylie Clark (96 percent). **JV Most Valuable Player:** Leona Martinez. **JV Most Improved:** Destiny Gilbert.

FOOTBALL AWARDS

Varsity Letters: Robert Reed, Seth Martinez, Bryan Ribera, Gary Mitchell, Killian McCormack, Devin Blankenship, Corbin Coggins, Peyton Sanchez, Vincent Wenneker, Lucas Brisco, Skyler Ottow, Charlie Bartel, Owen Aamot, Dominic Cassell, Shawn Powell, Hunter Olmstead, Tylar Rogge, Mathew Yandle, Chris Bemke, Collin Martin, Levi Lowry, Cody Carlson, Anna Spangler (manager), Devon Howard (manager).

Northwest 1B/2B League Honors: Hunter Olmstead, First Team tight end and First Team linebacker. Devin Blankenship, Honorable Mention defensive back and First Team wide receiver. Peyton Sanchez, Co-Offensive Player of the Year and First Team defensive back. Levi Lowry, First Team offensive line and First Team defensive line.

Defensive Player of the Year: Hunter Olmstead. **Most Improved Player:** Robert Reed. **Coaches Award:** Seth Martinez. **Offensive Backfield Specialist:** Devin Blankenship. **Offensive Player of the Year:** Peyton Sanchez. **Offensive Lineman of the Year:** Levi Lowry. **Mr. Scout:** Tylar Rogge. **Coaches Award:** Killian McCormack.

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Two weeks in: Concrete women's basketball

The first two weeks of the season have been exciting. During the summer we had 13 girls playing basketball, and I wasn't sure what our numbers were going to look like when it came time to play basketball this winter. That sense of wonder was quickly erased when 17 girls showed up the first day, and then we gained three more throughout the first week!

Assistant Coach Tasha Nick and myself are thrilled to have two full teams (varsity and JV), have the ability to do some different things in practice, and a bench to go to during games. We didn't have this luxury last season, as many players were called on for double duty (varsity and JV) most nights. I am encouraged by our returning players, who all come back with another year of experience. Every one of them is a better basketball player, and they are starting to play well together in practice.

Returning players from last year's varsity team are: 5'11" senior forward Izabela Ramos, 5'6" senior guard Ebby Buchta, 5'8" junior forward Kylie Clark, 5'8" junior guard Sierra Rensink, 5'3" junior guard Kassidy Smith, and 5'5" sophomore forward Payton Dickinson. That brings back six players with lots of minutes, the majority of our scoring, and the backbone of our defense.

We also have added three players to this experienced group: 5'10" junior forward Andrea Rogers, 5'4" sophomore guard Ashley Parker, and 5'2" eighth grade guard Hayley Daniels.

These three players already are showing signs of contributing in major ways. Rogers got some time on varsity last season as a sophomore and will be a

strong player for us around the rim this year. Parker sat out all of last year with an illness and is anxious to bring her basketball savvy to the team. Daniels got a lot of really good experience with the high school girls last summer and has come in ready to earn some varsity minutes from day one.

Both of last season's captains return in Ramos and Buchta. These two girls are great leaders and examples of what a Concrete girls basketball player should look like on and off the court. I am excited to see how they lead their team this year.

Clark has added some speed and quickness, and a strong step to the hoop this season to go along with her already deadly outside shooting capabilities.

Rensink played in only eight games last year before breaking her hand, and can't wait to get going this year. She will look to step up her game defensively and distribute the ball on offense.

Smith has been our defensive stopper and we will continue to rely on her for that. She also has added the ability to finish at the other end, which will lend itself nicely to what we are trying to do as a team. Dickinson, meanwhile, is the heart of this team, and plays all out all of the time. She is our hybrid player, and will be used both inside and outside this year to help stretch the defense.

I am really looking forward to this season, and I am excited to see what the first few weeks look like after we get some games under our belt.

Take a look at our schedule, highlight the home games, and come on out and cheer these girls on.

—Kevik Rensink, head coach

Record setters, cont. from p. 9

started walking, he would go with me to my football practices, from Bellingham and Mount Vernon to Oak Harbor and Kirkland."

Peyton Sanchez said he was aware he was closing in on records, but chose to stay focused on the games at hand.

"My uncle Eli, who does the stats, told me the game before that I only needed a little more to break them. It was great to

accomplish that, because growing up I always wanted to get a record back in my family's name after Eli's rushing record was broken by Kyler Howell and Gibson (Fichter), so it's cool to have my family's name back on top of a record. I couldn't have done it without having such a great line and receivers, especially Tyler Nevin and Devin."

—J. K. M.

Growing panes

High school greenhouse to grow food, knowledge

Concrete School District is about to experience a growth spurt of the horticultural variety. A new greenhouse is under construction on the high school campus, promising hands-on learning opportunities and home-grown produce for a variety of community recipients, including the district cafeterias.

The hothouse measures 24 feet wide x 50 feet long, with a partial concrete foundation, metal frameworks, and tough polycarbonate panels on the roof and sides. A group of volunteers—average age 74—broke ground at the site in late September; they hope to have the structure completed by January.

Volunteer project manager and Concrete School District Board of Directors member Mike Brondi is leading the construction effort.

"I got involved because I have benefited greatly from my education, I believe in the value of hands-on education, and I have been a big supporter of the district's science program and the Farm to School program," said Brondi.

Seed-starter

The greenhouse is the result of an ongoing partnership between the school district and United General District 304, which landed a USDA Community Food Project grant in September 2018, and sent part of that grant—\$12,000—toward the greenhouse project. The school district contributed matching funds to pay for the \$40,000 structure.

"It's coming along," said school district Superintendent Wayne Barrett of the greenhouse and the district's career and technical education (CTE) lineup. "One of my goals is to continue to increase our CTE offerings. This project will accomplish that and increase opportunities for healthful eating too. Down the road, some of the produce will go to the Concrete Food Bank and our school cafeterias. Maybe we run a little booth at the Concrete Saturday Market."

Barrett lauded the learning component too, noting the state requires students to take three lab sciences in order to graduate. "This will give us another

option," he said. "We've added a food science class this year, so that's a third lab science opportunity. In the future, perhaps a horticulture option could be available."

Growing with volunteers

Brondi is proud of what he calls a "core group of very experienced volunteers," most of whom are members of Concrete Lions Club or Concrete Lions Booster Club—or both. The group is composed of Jim Parker, Patrick Cooney, Bill Newby, Tom Jones, and Brondi. "This group of volunteers has been doing this kind of volunteering for decades," said Brondi.

The volunteers have been aided at critical stages by Barrett and school maintenance employees Paul Carter and Cameron Rose.

Green dreams

Farm to School Program Coordinator Rachel Muia is monitoring the project with twitchy green thumbs. Her work at the elementary school has been a success by any measure; now she has her sights on older students.

"The hope is that it will help us grow our program with the kids and provide something for the middle and high school students," she said. "Horticulture and soft

skills—we've identified a lack of those job skills that this could help to provide: how to interview well, show up on time, what's required of them to be successful in a position. And connecting academic skills with the practical, hands-on stuff that we do in Farm to School. We've seen that some students who tend to struggle in a classroom setting really thrive in a less traditional setting, such as the greenhouse would provide."

Brondi, who owns and operates Blue Heron Farm in Rockport with Anne Schwartz, his wife, sees tremendous opportunities in the project that could reach far into the Upper Skagit Valley.

"The grant was meant to address food security in eastern Skagit County, and I know that there are people who are not food secure. With this greenhouse, students and partners can better work toward ending food insecurity in eastern Skagit County. It's meaningful work for the students, and will be meaningful education along the way," he said. "The greenhouse will provide a place for hands-on exploration of science for students, with the end result being tasty food to eat."

Already the greenhouse is attracting students' attention, said Muia. "It's been



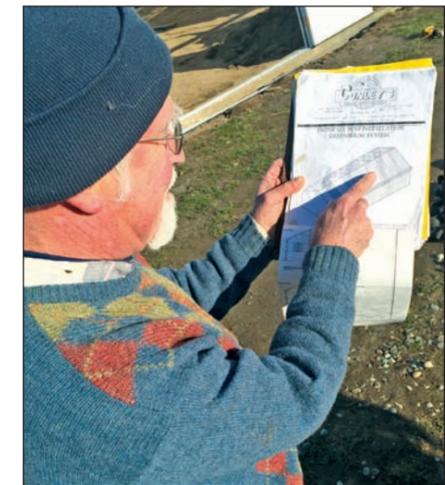
Project foreman Mike Brondi (on ladder) fastens the framework for a vent to the front of the greenhouse while volunteer Jim Parker steadies it in place.

an amazing community effort to build the greenhouse, with minimal funding for the labor and earthwork. It's been amazing to see the volunteers come together and 'raise a barn.' They've put in a lot of hours, rain or shine. A lot of kids have come to watch and see what they're doing. For the students, it's been a tangible and visible example of what it means to be a community. They're doing it for the kids, and they know that. That gives it value."

—J. K. M.



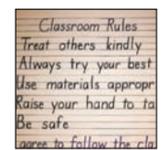
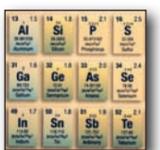
The new greenhouse at Concrete High School measures 24 x 50 feet, with metal supports and polycarbonate panels. The volunteer construction team hopes to have the structure complete by January.



Project foreman Mike Brondi studies the greenhouse construction plan during a November work day.



Academics



YD update

Do you ever feel that if you could make the difference in one child's life, then it is all worth it? That describes how I feel every day. But then I ask questions like "Am I making a difference?" and "How am I making a difference?" and "Is it just a little, or is it a lot?" and "Is it more than one kid that I am reaching?" and "Am I having a lasting impact?" or "Will they remember anything I say?"

A lot of times, the answer to these questions is "I don't know." I need to be okay with that. I try to be consistent, every Monday night, regardless of the students who show up and those who don't. I try to model what a loving and caring adult could, or maybe should look like. I want each high school student to know they are loved and accepted, but I don't want to leave them where they are; I want them to search for something more, something better. I like to challenge our students to affect their homes, our local community, and the world in a positive, life-changing way. I believe in investing in each one of their lives, and building relationships

beyond a "first name" or "hey, wassup?" I am still working on that. Concrete Youth Dynamics offers a place for teenagers to come have fun, eat food, play games, have positive interaction with each other, and learn more about themselves in a safe environment. Last month we held a huge kickball/dodgeball night, had our annual Human Scavenger Hunt night at the Bellis Faire Mall in Bellingham (let's announce those winners between these parenthesis real quick: Levi Lowry and Ebby Buchta, and the sister-brother combo of Tasha and Jakob Allard), and then a night all to ourselves at the Concrete Theatre (a big thank you to Fred and Val).

In December we have three more fun events planned, so we are hoping you can make it out to all three (if you are a high school boy or girl looking for something to do). On Thur., Dec. 5, we are hosting Inflatable Game Night, and after trying this event out last year for the first time, we know it is bound to be a big hit again.

The following two Mondays will be our annual Christmas Party, followed by us Christmas Caroling around town on a hay ride. Sounds like fun, right? Yep,

sure is! So if you have a son or daughter in high school looking to have a great time being in a positive environment, and meeting some really cool people, then send them our way. If you live in town, this also serves as your official warning that we will be singing carols very loudly, very off-key, while not knowing most of the words to almost every song we sing. If we so happen to choose your house to carol at, please insert ear plugs before answering the door (otherwise it is just rude), smile as the children sing, and remove your ear plugs after closing the door (again, just rude if you remove them before closing the door).

Thanks, everyone, for allowing kids to be kids, and for us adults to be—well, adults of course!

I am so proud to live and serve in this community. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

—Kevik and Marta Rensink
area directors



Concrete High School represented at the 35th Annual Prevention Summit in Yakima, Nov. 4-6. Students engaged with several keynote speakers and workshops aimed at inspiring youth to take action in their local communities around prevention. Topics included leadership skills building, storytelling verbally and with pictures, moods, emotions and conflict resolution skills, and assessing one's community for level of readiness for learning. Students also learned about opioids and vaping, and how they can talk to their peers about these substances and the harm their use can cause. The Concrete students had a chance to listen to other high school students talk about successful projects they completed in their communities. Back row, left to right: Alex Whitford, Stephanie Morgareidge, Erynn Sendrick, Andrea Rogers, Anna Spangler, and Mitch Metcalf. Danika Troupe is in front of Metcalf. Cheyenne Lewis is seated in front. *Submitted photo.*

In The Service

★ ★ ★



Jon Reed (CHS 2019) graduated from Navy basic training on Nov. 27. He will next leave for Charleston, S.C., for his A school.

Reed is the son of Darrel and Marla Reed of Concrete. *Submitted photo.*

Winter Break registration for Boys & Girls Clubs of Skagit County

Skagit County Boys & Girls Clubs will be open for Winter Break, Dec. 30-31 and Jan. 2-3. Registration is available for current members at the club or online at skagitclubs.org. The cost is \$100 for the week and the registration deadline is Dec. 13. Prospective members can visit their local club to apply for membership. Waiting lists may apply.

Here are the details for the two clubs in the Concrete Herald coverage area:

Concrete Club

- 7838 S. Superior Ave., Concrete
- Winter Break hours: 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Contact: Brian Gustafson
brian.gustafson@skagitclubs.org
360.419.3723, x46

Sedro-Woolley Club

- 915 McGarigle Rd., Sedro-Woolley
- Winter Break hours: 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Contact: Evan Greenlaw
evan.greenlaw@skagitclubs.org
360.419.3723, x43

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Nov. PTO calendar

Dec. 7: Holiday Bazaar from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tons of great shopping, brunch for purchase, and photos with Santa and his trusty elf! Vendors contact Monette Bauer at Concrete Elementary.

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Clear Lake



HISTORY CORNER

Our picture this month shows the Puget Sound Pulp & Timber (PSP&T) train near Day Creek circa 1930. PSP&T, a new company, purchased the holdings of the Clear Lake Lumber Company in 1929. They continued logging with trains until they switched to logging trucks a few years later. Then the trains sat idle until they were scrapped or sold. *Photo courtesy of Clear Lake Historical Association.*

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

Like the Clear Lake Historical Association on Facebook at www.facebook.com/clearlakehistory.

—Deanna Ammons, historian

Continue the cycle

Please recycle this newspaper

Community Calendar

- DECEMBER**
- 3 Hamilton Town Council workshop, Hamilton Town Hall, 584 Maple St., Hamilton, 7 p.m.; info at townofhamilton.2010@gmail.com or 360.826.3027
 - 5 Burlington Tree Lighting and Community Caroling, Alpha Park, Burlington, 6 p.m.; free admission
 - 7 Concrete K-6 PTO Holiday Bazaar, Concrete Elementary School gym, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; see notice, p. 6
 - 7 Small Town Holiday Art Show, Darrington, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; see notice, p. 25
 - 7 Holiday Hearts Arts and Crafts, Marblemount Community Hall, Marblemount, 1 to 4 p.m.; see notice and column, p. 26
 - 7 Christmas in Concrete, Concrete Theatre and Concrete Town Center, movie at 6 p.m., Santa and Mrs. Claus at 6:45 p.m., tree lighting at 8 p.m.; see notice, p. 6
 - 7 Magic of Christmas Holiday Whooley-bilation, Sedro-Woolley; see ad, p. 16; info at sedro-woolley.com
 - 7-8 Concrete Lions Christmas Tree Sales, Swap Meet field, Concrete, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 - 8 Photos with Santa in Darrington, Darrington Street Variety Gift Shop, 1080 Darrington St., Darrington, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.; see notice, p. 25
 - 8 "Holiday Harmony" presented by Harmony Northwest Chorus, Community Center, 1401 Cleveland Ave., Mount Vernon; 2 to 4 p.m.; admission by suggested donations: \$7, seniors \$5, children under 10 free; info at www.harmonynorthwest.org
 - 10 KSVU monthly meeting, Portable B, Concrete Elementary School, 4 p.m.; see commentary, p. 3; info at 360.853.8588
 - 12 Community Christmas Dinner, Concrete High School cafeteria, 4:30 to 6 p.m.; free admission
 - 12 Concrete Schools Music Program Winter Concert, CHS gym, 6 p.m.
 - 13 Santa and Mrs. Claus at Last Chance Casino, 5318 Chief Brown Ln., Darrington (Sauk-Suiattle reservation), 6 to 8 p.m.; see notice, p. 25; info at 360.436.2252
 - 14 Magic of Christmas Holiday Whooley-bilation, Sedro-Woolley; see ad, p. 16; info at sedro-woolley.com
 - 14 Christmas on Moen Road, 48040 Moen Rd., 6 to 9 p.m.; free admission; see notice, p. 6
 - 14 Community Dance, Mansford Grange, 1265 Railroad Ave., Darrington, potluck at 6 p.m., dance at 7 p.m.; see notice, p. 25
 - 14-15 Concrete Lions Christmas Tree Sales, Swap Meet field, Concrete, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 - 17 Barnaby Reach Project Advisory Committee meeting, Concrete High School commons room, 6 to 8 p.m.; see notice, p. 23; info at 360.391.1984 or 206.661.2110
 - 24 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, Mount Baker Presbyterian Church, 45705 Main St., Concrete, 7 p.m.; see notice, p. 6

- JANUARY**
- Every weekend: Skagit Eagle Festival; see ad, p. 7
 - 8 Grub and Groove, Marblemount Community Hall, Marblemount, 6 to 10 p.m.
 - 10-12 Skagit Eagle Festival events at Marblemount Community Hall, Marblemount; see article, p. 26
 - 11 Gathering to remember Lou Hillman, Concrete Community Center, Concrete, 1 to 4 p.m.; see obituary, p. 30

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

Community meetings

- Cascade Days** planning meetings are held the third Mon. of every month, at Concrete Community Center, 45821 Railroad Ave., Concrete, at 5:30 p.m. Meetings are not mandatory for volunteers. Info at pr@cascadedays.com.
- Christian Motorcyclists Assn Morning Star Chapter 39** meets the third Sat. 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 Friday 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 Chamber of Commerce** meets the second Thur. of each month at 11 a.m. Meetings are held at Annie's Pizza Station in Grasmere Village. 360.466.8754 or concretechamber@mac.com.
- Concrete Economic Development Commission** meets quarterly at 6 p.m. at Concrete Town Hall. Call 503.333.2406 for the date of the next meeting.
- Concrete Elementary PTO** meets the second Wed. of each month at 5 p.m. in the Concrete Elementary School library. 425.350.5988.
- Concrete Heritage Museum Board** will meet **this month only** on Dec. 18 at 6 p.m., at Annie's Pizza Station. 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 2 p.m., in the Concrete High School library.
- Concrete School District Board:** The board will hold its regular monthly meeting on Dec. 19 at 6 p.m., in the admin. bldg., room 111. There will be no workshop this month. 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 third 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 Thur. of each month in the Pilots' Lounge at Mears Field in Concrete, at 7 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** meets the second Wed. of each month at the hall, at 6:30 p.m. 360.873.2323.
- 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:** Meets for one regular meeting this month, on Dec. 9 at 6 p.m., at State Street High School. 360.855.3500 or kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us.
- Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center Board** meets the second Tue. of each month, 5:30 p.m., at Annie's Pizza Station in Grasmere. Open to the public. sauksister@frontier.com or www.skagiteagle.org.
- Upper Skagit Library District (USLD) Board** meets the second Thursday of each month, 6 p.m., at the library. Public is welcome. 360.853.7939 or info@upperksagitlibrary.org.

Did You Know?

The Port of Skagit has invested resources into **Value-Added Agriculture**, including programs like "Genuine Skagit Valley." This certification mark is used to increase the demand for, and recognition of, Skagit agricultural products.

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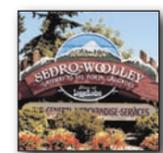
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Sedro-Woolley



First in state: PeaceHealth St. Joseph announces new valve treatment

PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center is the first in Washington state and the fourth in the western United States to offer a new lung valve treatment for patients with emphysema, a severe form of chronic pulmonary obstructive disease (COPD).

Recently approved by the FDA under its "Breakthrough Devices" status, the Zephyr Endobronchial Valve treatment represents a major advancement because it is the first minimally invasive procedure to help emphysema sufferers breathe easier without major surgery. Done through a simple bronchoscopy, the valves improve patients' quality of life by allowing them to breathe easier and experience less shortness of breath while completing their daily routines and activities.

Seventy-eight-year-old Mount Vernon resident Marjorie Cowee was the first patient to undergo the Zephyr Endobronchial Valve procedure at PeaceHealth St. Joseph on Oct. 10. She reported that emphysema had previously reduced her quality of life as breathing became more and more difficult.

"It was very uncomfortable. I constantly felt winded and had to talk myself out

of panic attacks," she said. "I had to use my electronic scooter to get to meals and around my retirement facility because I just couldn't walk without feeling breathless."

"Since the treatment," said Cowee, "I haven't used the scooter at all. I walk to all activities and meals. I feel like a new person."

"We are very excited to offer this new treatment option because emphysema patients are often in poor physical condition, struggling with each breath despite medication therapy," said Amir Gharaei, MD, pulmonologist with PeaceHealth Medical Group Pulmonary Medicine who completed Cowee's procedure. "Before the Zephyr Valves, the only options for relief were highly invasive treatments, like lung transplantations. This minimally invasive procedure has the potential to improve the quality of life for many who suffer from emphysema in our community."

"It's just an incredible feeling to be able to bring this new technology to our patients," said Mario Sosaya, RRT/NPS, manager of respiratory care at PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center.

"The recovery is minimal, and they see results in as little as 45 days."

Emphysema is a progressive and life-threatening lung disease. There is no cure, and patients live with severe shortness of breath that keeps them from doing simple daily activities, like walking or taking a shower, without pausing to catch their breath or resting. This extreme shortness of breath is caused when air becomes trapped in parts of the lung that are damaged by the disease.

The one-time procedure blocks off these damaged areas of the lungs so that air no longer gets trapped within them. It is completed during a simple bronchoscopy that requires no cutting or incisions. On average, four tiny valves are placed in the airways to block off the diseased parts of the lungs to allow the healthier parts of the lungs to expand and take in more air, thereby also relieving pressure on the diaphragm. This results in patients being able to breathe easier and experience less

shortness of breath.

"It can really make a night-and-day difference for those people with debilitating emphysema who qualify for the procedure. It's one of the many ways our team is staying on the leading edge of pulmonary medicine technology to support the best possible outcomes for our patients," said Gharaei.

"It clearly changed my life overnight for the better," said Cowee.

More information about the Zephyr Endobronchial Valve procedure can be found at www.mylungsmylife.com. More information about the PeaceHealth Medical Group Pulmonary Medicine Clinic can be found at <https://www.peacehealth.org/phmg/bellingham-lynden/pulmonary-medicine>.

—Submitted by PeaceHealth

Council summary

The Sedro-Woolley City Council held a study session on Nov. 6 and a regular meeting on Nov. 13. Following are summaries of those meetings. Complete minutes for every council meeting are posted online at https://www.ci.sedro-woolley.wa.us/governing_bodies/city_council/meetings.php.

Nov. 6 study session

- Randi Miller from Railroad Ave. shared concerns about speeders on her street. Russ Rockafellow, also from Railroad Ave., shared the same concerns. Tina Rockafellow from the same location shared the same concerns and stated that the number and speed of cars have increased since the SR 9/Jameson roundabout was opened. She also talked about police enforcement and an experience when no tickets were given, and requested additional stop signs be added at various locations. Councilmember Couch requested that Public Works Dir. Freiberger review the request and bring back a recommendation for the council.

- Mayor Julia Johnson introduced the 2020 budget and discussed her priorities, including the new full-time employee for public works operations; improvement plans for Bingham, Olmsted, and Winnie Houser parks and the land on Reed St.; the second phase of the public

works facility; fire station 1.5; and increasing ending fund balances from 8 percent to 12 percent over time. Mayor Johnson also talked about her plan and request to the council to move from an annual budget to a biennial budget, as well as her direction to staff to fully develop a comprehensive Capital Improvements Plan. She also talked about budget pressures and demands such as increasing liability insurance costs, personnel costs, mandates, etc., along with proposed revenue increases and highlighted specific expenditures.

Nov. 13 regular meeting

- Mayor Johnson presented outgoing Councilmember Pola Kelley a plaque recognizing her contributions.
- Police Chief Lin Tucker reported that Sgt. Eaton is part of a peer support program that is a collective of officers from different agencies; this is now being formalized. Chief Tucker also reported on the Public Safety testing event held at Sedro-Woolley High School. He noted Officer Wilson was down recruiting and spoke of the need of a pool of people from which to pull. There is a possible six positions for hire within the next year. He also spoke of needed changes in the civil service rules.

—Compiled from staff minutes

The City of Sedro-Whoolleyville presents

The Magic of Christmas Holiday Whoolley-bilation

December 7th: Central Skagit Library Holiday Book Sale (10-7pm), SWHS Holiday Tree Festival (1-4:45pm) Ugly Sweater Dash (2pm), Mary Purcell Festival of Arts (3-5pm), Kids Activities (3-5pm), Parade/Tree Lighting (5pm)! Meet & Greet with Santa at the Eagles after the parade.

December 14th: Santa Breakfast by Beta Sigma Phi at SW Community Center (9-11am), Central Skagit Library Holiday Book Sale (10-6pm), SW Museum Holiday Home Tour (Open House 4-8pm, Tour 5-9pm)

For more information visit sedro-woolley.com or Facebook @Whoolleyville

Sedro-Woolley High School Class of 1971 seeks class members for its 50-year reunion on July 3, 2021. Activities and a parade entry are now being planned, but not all classmates have been located. If you are a classmate and wish to be included in the celebration, contact Judy Johnson at judyjj@comcast.net or any Class of 1971 member.

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Winter Break registration for Boys & Girls Clubs of Skagit County

Skagit County Boys & Girls Clubs will be open for Winter Break, Dec. 30–31 and Jan. 2–3. Registration is available for current members at the club or online at skagitclubs.org. The cost is \$100 for the week and the registration deadline is Dec. 13. Prospective members can visit their local club to apply for membership. Waiting lists may apply.

Here are the details for the two clubs in the Concrete Herald coverage area:

Concrete Club

- 7838 S. Superior Ave., Concrete
- Winter Break hours: 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Contact: Brian Gustafson brian.gustafson@skagitclubs.org 360.419.3723, x46

Sedro-Woolley Club

- 915 McGarigle Rd., Sedro-Woolley
- Winter Break hours: 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Contact: Evan Greenlaw evan.greenlaw@skagitclubs.org 360.419.3723, x43



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Lyman



Day Creek



Charity aims to “pack the pantry”

Lyman-based Heart to Heart Charity will host a Pack the Pantry event to benefit Lyman Elementary school in Lyman.

The event is designed to support a new program at the school, which aims to provide students with snacks and lunch items. The program is active only when the school is open, not on weekends.

All donated items should be nonperishable. Suggested items are granola bars, nuts, tuna meal kits (that do not require refrigeration), Pop-Tarts, fresh apples, cereal bars, etc. Easy-to-eat items that are low in sugar and offer substance are especially appreciated.

Drop off locations:

- Rouw Insurance Services, 408 S. 2nd St., Mount Vernon; Mon. through Fri., 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Lyman Town Hall, 8405 S. Main St., Lyman; Mon., Tue., Thur., Fri., 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, contact Tammie Werner at hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com.
—Tammie Werner

Community notes

Happy December and the end of yet another trip around the sun! As a new year approaches, I always tend to evaluate my life, my goals, and my priorities. In 2020, I would like to simplify and invest more time in my family, my friends, and my faith.

With that in mind, this will be my last community newsletter. I would love to pass the torch to someone else who can take this project on. If you're interested, please give me a call (or text) at 360.840.2576 or an e-mail at jandkv@gmail.com. If you'd like to stay connected to the community happenings, a great way to do that is to join the Day Creek Neighbors Facebook page. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Community Potlucks

Day Creek Community Potlucks are held on the third Tuesday of every month at the fire hall. Dinner is served at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact Bill Scalf at 360.826.3234.

Day Creek Chapel

- On the last Sunday of each month, we serve a meal at Friendship House. Call 360.391.1709 for more information.
- On the third Sunday of each month, a potluck lunch is hosted at Day Creek Chapel, immediately following the service. All are welcome. Lunch starts around noon. For more information, call 360.826.5322.
- Day Creek Quilters meet at Day Creek Chapel on the third Monday of each month from 10 a.m. to

4 p.m. Work on projects at the church or bring your own. For more information, call 360.770.1765.

- Homework Club for students happens in the Youth Room at Day Creek Chapel (across the parking lot from the church) every Monday and Wednesday from 3 to 5 p.m. This is a quiet time to get your homework done and have a snack. Your child can ride the bus to the youth room and enjoy an after-school snack while they get their homework done. Call 360.661.7976 for more information or to volunteer to help.

- Youth Group, for 7th to 12th graders, happens every Tuesday in the Youth Room at Day Creek Chapel. High schoolers (grades 9-12) meet from 5 to 7 p.m. Junior high (grades 7-8) meet from 6 to 8 p.m. Dinner is provided.

- Day Creek Chapel Youth Breakfast is served in the Youth Room at Day Creek Chapel every Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m.

- Fun events are being planned for Christmas Break. Check out the Day Creek Chapel Youth social media pages for details: www.facebook.com/daycreekchapel-youth and www.instagram.com/day_creek_yd. You may also contact the Youth Ministries director at 360.661.7976 with questions.

—Kristine Van Notrice



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November in pictures



Novelist Michael Grimm and Judy, his wife, showed up at 5b's Bakery in Concrete on Nov. 8 to promote his new book, *Tell Edith Goodbye*, with a book signing and discussion. Grimm is a descendent of the Grimm family, two of which were murdered in Sauk in 1935. Grimm spent a busy November in Skagit County, with additional appearances at the Skagit County Historical Museum in La Conner and the Sedro-Woolley Museum. Grimm is a retired forensic scientist with 38 years of service with the FBI and the Virginia Dept. of Forensic Science. He spent most of his childhood in western Washington, in the same area where the events of the book took place. He and Judy live in Virginia. *Photo by Gail Boggs.*

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- ♥ **Birdsview Brewing Company**
38302 WA-20, Concrete
- ♥ **Concrete High School**
7830 S. Superior Ave, Concrete
- ♥ **Concrete Theatre**
45920 Main St, Concrete

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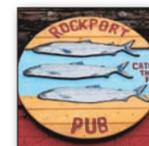
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Hamilton



Rockport



Council summary

The Hamilton Town Council held a regular meeting Oct. 8. Following is a summary of that meeting.

Oct. 8 regular meeting

Mayor Joan Cromley opened a public hearing for budget revenues at 7 p.m. Mayor Cromley explained the proposed 2020 budget and the actual budget for the past five years, and the projection of funds.

General Funds pays for office, public facilities, and maintenance equipment.

Streets pays for wages and street maintenance and street lights.

The Capital Facilities Fund is for big purchases that have been planned; for example, radios for the fire department.

The Water Fund is the income from the water customers. It is a utility fund, so you cannot use the General Fund to pay for the water expenses and you can't use the Water Fund to pay for streets expenses.

The Capital Facilities Fund receives income from the B&O taxes from PSE and also a portion of the Real Estate Excise tax collected at the county level when properties in Hamilton sell. An estimate on the amount from PSE is \$30,000.

The Street Fund has three main sources. B&O tax utility use from communications companies; we charge that same B&O tax to our water system at the rate of 6 percent, essentially taxing ourselves. \$10,000 comes from miscellaneous revenue from the state based on our population; an example is gas tax. The General Fund is composed primarily of property tax and sales tax, which make up 82 percent of the revenue for the General Fund. Property tax collection can only be increased by 1 percent per year and sales tax is based on site-based ownership; for example, if you buy a car in Burlington, the sales tax would stay in Burlington. But if you bought gravel in Burlington and it was delivered here, the sales

tax is supposed to come here. So in theory the Amazon purchases that are delivered to your house, the sales tax should come to Hamilton. It is very hard to predict who will have money to purchase anything, so the sales tax they pay isn't easily predicted.

About \$16,000 in other taxes come from state-shared revenues. Some of it is for criminal uses, such as special purpose programs to reduce crime.

The county runs those programs and Town of Hamilton pays its share to the county. So essentially we get these funds, but we don't get to keep them.

There is liquor tax, which comes from the state, and the marijuana taxes. The state sends us a small amount based on our population. State-shared funds can be predicted by the state. When it comes to revenues, the 1 percent for property tax last year was \$600 spread out over the entire community and the entity with the largest property (Janicki) probably paid most of that. Even with its 1 percent increase in the property tax levy, the most the town will collect will be about \$700.

- Audience member Maria asked if the town receives the sales tax from the county for Sedro-Woolley addresses who live in Hamilton. Mayor Cromley said she has received assurances from the county that we are receiving those taxes, but she has yet to receive a statement that supports that claim.
- Mayor Cromley ended the public hearing at 7:19 p.m. and called the regular Town Council meeting to order.
- Rebecca Bouchey with Forterra reported the property is mowed and the house was demolished due to disrepair and asbestos. The town was awarded a CDBG grant for \$24,000 to study what its water and wastewater infrastructure needs will be. Forterra is raising the required matching funds of \$16,000. The contracts should be signed by January. Forterra will hold an open house on Oct. 19 at Town Hall.

—Compiled from staff minutes

From the Mayor

This is my last column for Concrete Herald as mayor of Hamilton.



Once again, I appreciate everyone's support over the years. We've accomplished a lot, and I've learned more about a wide variety of subjects in the past seven years.

We've started a library, with well over a ton of books (literally). There's new playground equipment, and the gravel in both play areas is now refreshed to remove weeds. Grants from two different applications were used to repave 23 percent of the streets in Hamilton. The house that was the first to be surrounded by water every time the river rose is now gone, replaced with new trees, a picnic table, and a parking area. The final design to replace the blocked culverts on Pettit St. is almost done, and the hydrology model is created so that we know we can replace that without increasing the flooding elsewhere, and we know that the culvert on Maple St. shouldn't be changed for that same reason!

The town has grown for the first time in a decade, with the zoning to put in housing, which hasn't increased in 24 years. We've purchased, and paid off, an ambulance. We've dealt with numerous high water events and one flood. We've cleaned up and made repairs after that flood.

I've learned about water systems, how to write and maintain a government budget (which can be far more complicated than a family or business budget), and about lobbying in Olympia for Hamilton interests. I've learned about a wide variety of Emergency Management aspects—and most of that has been free! Skagit County hosts an Emergency Management training

calendar on the county Web site, which lists all kinds of local trainings. I've learned about grant writing, written our Comprehensive Plan, and learned about the rules regarding records management in Washington state. I've learned that most people don't know how local government works (and many don't care to know), and how many rules and regulations have to be followed at the local level that are almost impossible to track in a small community. I learned that most decisions in the county are made by various boards, and fought to make sure there is a seat at the table for the towns at some of the county boards. I hope someone steps up to fill that seat, or it will go away again.

Through the years we've had four clerks, which really are the backbone of small community government, and had clean audits. Our Public Works guys keep everything humming, and we've maintained a green water license from the state (that's the best kind—no problems).

Speaking of staff, there's a change coming to the Fire Department. Nick Bates is stepping down as fire chief. He's been in the fire department for more than 25 years. Scott Bates will be taking over as fire chief. I appreciate all the knowledge Nick has shared with me, and fully support Scott as chief. Scott has officially resigned from the Town Council, effective Dec. 6, since he is becoming chief on Dec 7. Anyone interested in being on the council needs to submit a letter of interest to the town at P.O. Box 528 or townofhamilton.2010@gmail.com by Dec. 5. Please explain why you want to be on council, and any history, experience, or knowledge that would assist you.

I wish Carla and the members of our Town Council good luck, and am looking forward to what comes next.

—Joan Cromley
mayor until 12.31.19
Town of Hamilton

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Barnaby Reach project advisory committee meeting planned

A Barnaby Reach Project Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Tue., Dec. 17, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Concrete High School commons room.

The meeting will be hosted by Skagit River System Cooperative, Seattle City Light, The Nature Conservancy, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The project team and consultant will review technical work completed during the past year, characterizing existing flood and erosion risk conditions, and describe the range of alternatives currently being evaluated. This includes design work to remove obsolete hatchery

infrastructure and make drainage improvements in the south Rockport community. It also includes analysis for larger restoration alternatives for the Barnaby Slough vicinity as longer term habitat improvement options.

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

Community Dinner
Concrete High
School Cafeteria
Dec. 12, 4:30 p.m.

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Darrington



Fire districts get grant

Darrington Fire District 24 and Oso Fire District 25 have been awarded a \$593,110 FEMA Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency (SAFER) grant for Volunteer Recruitment and Retention from the Department of Homeland Security. The funding for both districts will be available for 4 years.

The rural fire districts rely on volunteers and EMTs to keep the residents of the Upper Stillaguamish Valley and surrounding communities protected during emergencies. In 2018, the two districts responded to nearly 1,000 calls combined. The SAFER Grant will provide funding to both districts for outreach to potential new volunteer recruits and provide additional resources for current volunteers.

Areas the grant will fund include hiring a full-time fire captain, whose job will be to coordinate the recruitment, retention, and training activities for both districts for the duration of the grant.

The fund also will provide a basic training program to train up to 40 new and existing volunteer firefighters to the National Standard Firefighter II level during the next four years. The grant also will

provide for marketing supplies needed to recruit prospective candidates in the local communities. New personal protective equipment and uniforms will be purchased for new volunteer firefighters and EMTs. The grant will provide stipends to new and existing volunteers who participate in training.

Both districts are working together in the selection process for the training captain position and with FEMA on final arrangements.

The two fire districts serve up to 5,000 people and cover 61 square miles in Snohomish and Skagit counties, extending west to the North Fork of the Stillaguamish River at Cicero, the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, and east to the Sauk-Suiattle tribal land. They are based out of three fire stations with a 97 percent volunteer workforce.

Anyone wishing to become a firefighter and/or an EMT may contact Drew Bono at 360.913.5003 or dbono@darringtonfire.org, or Willy Harper at 425.508.5271 or wharper@osofire.com.

—Marla Skaglund

Council summary

Darrington Town Council met for a regular meeting on Oct. 9, 2019. The following is a summary of that meeting. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are available at Darrington Town Hall.

Oct. 9 regular meeting

- Bruce Straughn, Acting EH Director for Snohomish Health District, presented to council what the district has been accomplishing throughout the year and what effect their programs have had on the Darrington community. Discussion ensued. Council voted to approve the renewal on the town's per-capita contribution to the Snohomish Health District.
- Signs for 3-wheel ATVs have been ordered. Town staff will install.
- Mayor Rankin went to Okanogan to speak against the release of the Grizzly bears during an open house. He could not finish the letter he had written in the 2 minutes allotted to each guest, but the letter was submitted in its entirety.
- Three new air quality monitors from Puget Sound Clean Air have been installed at Old School Park, Town Hall (back of building), and on the small tower at the airport, which also

will host a weather station. Data from all four monitors will be averaged for future burn bans.

- Council considered a request from Snohomish Board of Health: Does Town of Darrington want to be a part of and contribute to the Narcan Distribution Program? After discussion and several unanswered questions, council decided to postpone a decision until more information could be gathered.
- Council approved several items, including CERB-funded wetlands work and a Memo of Understanding with Snohomish Health District and Snohomish County Rural Opioid Response Project.
- Mayor Rankin reported the following: He has a copy of the slideshow from the Mountain Loop Feasibility Study available in the office for those interested in reading it. He has been asked by the USGS to attend an all-expenses-paid program in Columbia.

—Compiled from staff minutes

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

Snohomish County Sheriff's Report

Nov. 12

An anonymous threat made against Glacier Peak High School today prompted the school to evacuate and close the campus while the Sheriff's Office conducted an investigation. The threats, which were sent via e-mail to a staff member, indicated explosives would deploy in the school today.

The Washington State Patrol Intra-Agency Bomb Squad and multiple K9 teams responded to the school. A full search of the campus was completed and no explosive devices were located.

Deputies have not identified a suspect, but will work with detectives to investigate the source of the threat.

Nov. 10

The Sheriff's Office Collision Investigation Unit responded to a fatal collision near the 13100 block of Arlington Heights Rd. today for a single-vehicle fatal collision around 2 p.m. The vehicle was traveling on Arlington Heights Rd. when the driver lost control around a corner and crashed into a pasture off the roadway. The driver of the vehicle, a 50-year-old Arlington man, died at the scene. The road was closed for several hours Sunday afternoon while detectives investigated the crash. The driver was not wearing a seat belt and detectives believe alcohol may have been a contributing factor.

Identification of the deceased, as well as cause and manner, are pending from the Snohomish County Medical Examiner.

—Compiled from SCSO releases



Seaman Cameron Scrimgeour, from Arlington (left), and Boatswain's Mate 3rd Class Thomas Thompson, from Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., man the helm in the pilot house of the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Pinckney (DDG 91) on Nov. 20. Pinckney is under way conducting routine training in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Erick A. Parsons.



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December calendar

Mark your calendars this month for these events in Darrington.

Santa photos

JoAnn Milton will snap your photo with Santa on Sun., Dec. 8, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Darrington Street Variety Gift Shop, located at 1080 Darrington St. A 5x7 photo is only \$5. Bring the whole family—even pets.

Small Town Holiday Art Show

A trio of local artists, plus guests, invites you to their "Small Town Holiday Art Show." The show features the unique and fascinating art of Ron Wolff, Holly Cannell, Gordy Beil, with

special guest artists Natalie, Paulina, and Mae Skuta. The show will be held on Sat., Dec. 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 605 S. Emens Ave. For more information, call 360.436.0711.

Community Dance

This month's Old-Time Community Dance is slated for Sat., Dec. 14, at Mansford Grange. Live music will be provided by \$4 Shoe, with caller Jerry Gallaher. A potluck at 6 p.m. kicks off the evening, followed by the dance from 7 to 9:30 p.m. A suggested donation of \$7 goes directly to the band and the caller.

Mansford Grange is located at 1265 Railroad Ave. For more information, call 206.402.8646.

Darrington merchants bring you Concrete Herald each month. Please support them!

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little science lab

In partnership with Imagine Children's Museum, join us for a 30-minute weekly science, technology, engineering and math program that encourages preschool-age children to explore the world around them.

This program is developmentally appropriate for children 3 - 5 years. Due to supplies, space is limited to 30 children at each class.

FRIDAYS • 3:30 p.m.

ASTONISHING AIR
 Dec. 6 - Dec. 27

MAGNIFICENT MAGNETS
 Jan. 3 - 24

DARRINGTON LIBRARY
 1005 Cascade St. • 360-436-1600

Imagine children's museum sno-isle.org

Accommodations for people with disabilities will be provided upon request. Please contact your library with two weeks advance notice.



Marblemount



Newhalem



Marblemount Community Club presents Eagle Festival 2020

By Syvella Kalil

The Skagit Eagle Festival is held every weekend in January, but in Marblemount in 2020, the focus is on Jan. 10–12, expanded by one day with a special performance on the evening of the 10th.

January 11 will kick off with fried bread tacos, with the works for only \$8. Other great items will round out the menu. The festival will begin at 10 a.m. and end at 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Many great entertainers will be performing, including JP Falcon Grady, Lisa Temcov, Andy Badd Dog Koch, Cindy Sioux, and Dave Donahue. Falcon will be the MC, as well as a guitar player and storyteller.

Along with these great performers will be fantastic vendors that will give you a glimpse into the life and art of our national symbol, the eagle. Souvenirs, books, and educational items will be on hand, too, featuring handmade original items from local artists. You can view eagles in many areas; however, remember to put safety first. Respect private property and avoid stopping on the highway; opt instead for a parking lot or designated parking. Dress warmly and wear appropriate footwear. We recommend that you do not approach wildlife or harass the eagles.

The area in Marblemount that is a great vantage point is the fish hatchery 1.5 mile from the Marblemount Hall. Bring your camera and binoculars for a wonderful time at the Marblemount Community Club Eagle Festival 2020.

Help us keep the eagles safe and the Marblemount Eagle Festival flying: Donations are welcome.

The club

Marblemount Community Club holds monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of each month, at 6:30 p.m. at the hall. Book a party or a fundraiser; the hall is here for the community. Our calendar lineup is:

- Holiday Hearts Arts and Crafts on Dec. 7, from 1 to 4 p.m.
- Grub and Groove on Jan. 8, from 6 to 10 p.m.
- Marblemount Eagle Festival on Jan. 10–12, from 6 to 10 p.m. on the 10th and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the 11th and 12th.
- Grub and Groove on Feb. 15, from 6 to 10 p.m.
- Grub and Groove on March 28, from 6 to 10 p.m.

The good news is ...

By Sasa, Starwalker, and Two Hats

“Mission Possible: Acts of Kindness” Help sponsor a local family in need this holiday season. What to help with?

- Gas cards
- Volunteer driving downvalley
- Food (healthy, easy prep/simple dishes) or host a dinner box (meal sharing)
- Roof replacement or remedy until roof replacement is possible
- Firewood or fire bricks
- Christmas gifts: E-mail us for a wishlist and/or clothes sizes
- Large-print books
- Fun audio books like fairy tales and such

This mission, should you choose to accept it, will show you the power of love and the law of attraction. What we send out comes back to us. What is within is shown to us without. Your mission:

Every day, practice being kind in all situations no matter how ugly they seem. Every day, be aware and watch the patterns of behavior change and shift as you shift your vibration into one of love. See how the slightest bit of kindness can bring out miracles and start the healing process for our collective human consciousness.

Daily, practice forgiveness and gratitude. Say to yourself, “What am I learning?” instead of “Why is this happening?” and

feel how light you become. This is one meaning behind enlightenment: release of old patterns and intent of new patterns.

We all have dormant gifts waiting for us to open them. They reside within our hearts and can be opened through intentional acts of kindness to others as well as self. To make a complete equation we must include all, not just some or parts. All peeps must be included regardless of whether we agree with their current actions or not because if they understood the universal truths of love and kindness, they would behave to reflect that. Right now a majority of us reside in fear of what may or may not happen, when we can resolve situations more quickly if we look within the problem for a solution that is always there waiting to be discovered. When we reside in fear, we tend to react, preventing us from the next step, which is to respond with love. Love is, has, and always be the simplest answer for all problems, but it comes in infinite creative ways depending on who is

There is no right or wrong when it comes to being kind no matter what. We can still express ourselves, but in a way that does not project onto others in a harmful way.

Come celebrate with us. “Holiday Hearts” Free Art Faire and Art Supply Drive, Dec. 7, 1 to 4 p.m., Marblemount Community Hall.

Contact Sasa at cascadiaeffect@gmail.com. Experiences may be shared at <http://cascadiaeffect.weebly.com>.

New book celebrates Washington’s literary heritage

PULLMAN, Wash. — Written to spark interest in and celebrate the Northwest’s literary heritage, a new essay collection, *Salmon Eaters to Sagebrushers: Washington’s Lost Literary Legacy*, has been published by Washington State University (WSU) Press.

Author Peter Donahue hopes readers will share his delight in discovering these early novels, memoirs, and poems about the Northwest. Based on his popular, long-running Retrospective Review column in the Washington State Historical Society journal *Columbia: The Magazine of Northwest History*, Donahue’s new book is a hybrid of literary criticism, history, and biography. He combines reappraisals of more than 40 titles with short excerpts and author profiles, including memoirist Charlotte Paul, who ran the *Snoqualmie Valley Record*, and logger Edward Dorn.

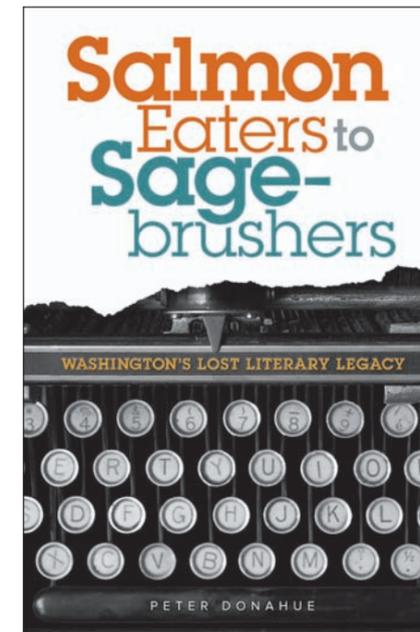
Salmon Eaters to Sagebrushers gives an informed and careful examination of their “vintage” fiction, nonfiction, and poetry works—all at least 50 years old. These long-forgotten Washington State classics once enjoyed wide regional, national, and even international readership. Some were bestsellers.

Stories of 1850s Puget Sound, homesteading, running a weekly newspaper while raising rambunctious boys, piloting Columbia River paddle-

boats, nursing an orphan bear cub, the logging industry, and more, captured readers’ imaginations. They offered vivid depictions of the region’s people and places, and sometimes harsh renderings that contrasted previously whitewashed history. While most have fallen out of print and circulation, collectively they reveal an impressive legacy.

Each of the included authors made notable contributions to Northwest literature. The selections span 70 years—from the end of the pioneer period in the late 1800s to the mid-1960s—and evoke countless aspects of the Northwest. In portraying everyday life, presenting sub-regions such as the Olympic Peninsula and Copalis Beach, and casting a critical eye on social issues such as white settlement and early industrialization, they reflect how Northwesterners regarded themselves and their region throughout most of the last century—perceptions that continue to shape Northwest identity.

Peter Donahue is the author of four works of fiction set in Washington, including *Madison House* and *Three Sides Water*, and is co-editor of the anthologies *Reading Seattle* and *Reading Portland*. He currently teaches English at Wenatchee Valley College-Omak in the Okanogan Valley. In fall 2015, he and co-editor Sheila McLean published an abridged and



annotated version of *Seven Years on the Pacific Slope*, Mrs. Hugh Fraser’s memoir about Methow Valley life.

Salmon Eaters to Sagebrushers is paperback, 268 pages, and lists for \$26.95. It is available through bookstores nationwide, direct from WSU Press at 800.354.7360, or online at wsupress.wsu.edu. A nonprofit academic publisher associated with Washington State University in Pullman, Wash., WSU Press concentrates on telling unique, focused stories of the Northwest.

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Seniors



Verna's Kitchen

By Verna McClure

Miniature Fruitcake



- ½ cup light molasses
- ¼ cup water
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 15-oz. box raisins
- 1 pound candied fruit, chopped
- ¼ cup milk
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- ½ cup butter or margarine
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup flour + 2 Tablespoons
- ¼ teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- ¼ teaspoon ground all spice
- ¼ teaspoon cloves

1. Combine molasses, water, raisins, and vanilla. Bring to a boil.
2. Reduce heat and simmer 5 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in fruit. Let cool.
3. Add eggs one at a time.
4. Stir together dry ingredients and add to creamed mixture alternately with milk.
5. Stir in fruit mixture; fold in nuts.
6. Bake in a 325-degree oven for 22 to 25 minutes.

Way Back When

70 years ago

Dec. 22, 1949: The Faber ferry was the center of another controversy during the past week, as residents on the south side of the Skagit River refused to send their children across it on the daily school bus, charging that the ferry is unsafe.

The state inspector visited the ferry landing last week and after a check, recommended that the barge be beached and the bottom be looked over for possible leaks. He informed county engineers that no immediate danger was apparent.

However, the people still refused to allow the school bus to operate and are still holding out.

The ferry had been beached last weekend and all possible weak spots on one end welded. County men will beach the barge again as soon as conditions permit to repair the other end, after which the state inspector will be called again by the county to give an OK.

All are agreed on one point: The ferry never was or never will be absolutely safe. The argument is mainly as to who will say it is safe enough.

60 years ago

Dec. 24, 1959: The rains of last week set more real estate to moving in the Upper Valley. The most damaging slide, however, was on the Sauk Valley Rd. to Darrington, where some 600 feet of road slid on "Mile Hill." A similar washout and slide occurred

at this point about six years ago.

County crews managed to complete a detour around the missing section so that traffic could be resumed. A new road location probably will be forced to make a permanent repair.

The slide was caused by a subterranean stream.

More damage was caused when the washout left one of the City Light transmission towers standing with one leg dangling in the air. The tower had to be dismantled to prevent it from toppling and taking out the highline. A crane was dispatched to the site to speed the job.

40 years ago

Dec. 6, 1979: Awards for outstanding Christmas decorations in Concrete will be offered this year by the Retail Merchants Committee of the Concrete Chamber of Commerce.

Contest Chair Marcene Nick said categories this year will be house and yard, outdoor tree, doorway, house window, commercial window, best decorated street or neighborhood, and a sweepstakes award for overall display.

Dec. 6, 1979: Slides blocked sections of the North Cascade Highway Monday, causing temporary closure at Newhalem. The closure is rated as "temporary," according to WSDOT. Slides also were reported in Gorge Canyon above Newhalem and east of Washington Pass.

Dec. 13, 1979: No relief is yet in sight for Diablo residents who are

See **Way Back**, p. 29



30 years ago, Dec. 21, 1989: Kathleen "Anne" Young, a resident of Concrete, recently was honored by Seattle City Light for outstanding performance on the job. She was one of 12 winners of the utility's High Voltage Performance Award and received a check for \$400.

Young is an administrative support assistant in the City Light Operations Division, who in 42 years at the Skagit River Project has become renowned for her efficient visitor reservation scheduling and her eagerness to help her co-workers.

Winners were nominated by co-workers among the 1,900 employees at City Light and selected by an employee committee. The award is based on job performance beyond expectations, outstanding achievements on the job, and contributions to a productive work environment. *Archive photo.*

Way Back, cont. from p. 28

marooned by a massive rockslide since Thursday of last week. Russ Nicholls, area maintenance superintendent for WSDOT, surveyed the canyon by helicopter Monday and reports extremely unstable conditions, with more rock apparently ready to fall.

East County

Dec. 2019 activities

Concrete Community Center
 Mon. - Fri., 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Lunch served at noon
 Fresh Start kitchen internships available
 Donations always appreciated

Abbreviations:

East County Resource Center: RC
 Concrete Community Center: CC

Monday
 All 8 a.m. Edge Analytical water sample pickup: RC
 All 10 a.m. Community Closet: CC
 12/16 5:30 p.m. Cascade Days Committee: CC

Tuesday
 12/10 1 p.m. American Legion Post 132: RC

Wednesday
 All 9 a.m. VA Service Officer: RC
 All 10 a.m. Community Closet: CC (retail job training volunteer needed)

Thursday
 12/5 12:30 p.m. Pinochle: CC
 12/5 1 p.m. DVSAS: RC
 12/12 10 a.m. WIC: RC
 12/19 11:30 a.m. DVSAS: C
 12/19 12:30 p.m. Pinochle: CC
 12/26 10 a.m. WIC: RC

Friday
 All 10 a.m. Community Closet: CC
 All Noon Painting Class: RC

Saturday
 All 7 p.m. AA meeting: RC

"It doesn't look good," Nicholls said Tuesday. "We'll have to wait and see the condition of the slope before putting men and equipment under it."

A rock cornice, about 200 feet wide and 75 feet high, slipped from the canyon wall and blocked the highway two miles east of Newhalem on Dec. 6.

—Compiled from archives



50 years ago, Dec. 10, 1969: Mrs. George Harrison (upper right) was joined by former Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish and Wildlife Clarence Pautkze at a ceremony last Sunday dedicating a new pond at Barnaby Slough: the George Harrison Rearing Pond. The pond was named after Harrison's late husband. The plaque (above) reads, "A memorial to George R. Harrison for unrelenting dedication to the cause of conservation. His wise leadership and foresight were focused on youth and preservation of outdoor recreation. His life and work reflect the highest ideals of true sportsmanship."

The new addition to the pond complex on the Skagit River near Rockport was designed to rear and release summer-run steelhead, and would greatly expand the highly successful steelhead-rearing program first begun at Barnaby Slough in 1961. *Archive photos.*



Continue the cycle
 Please recycle this newspaper

Obituaries

Kelly E. Gallington passed away unexpectedly at the age of 47. Kelly was a kind and gentle soul. He will be greatly missed by family and loved ones.

Kelly was preceded in death by his parents, Wanda and Virgil Gallington; brothers Greg and Dale Bryson; Uncle Jim Clark; and Aunt Janice Jones.

Surviving Kelly are his daughter Kalina Gallington, sister Sharon Bryson, brothers Rodney and Randy Bryson, Aunt Annie Mae Booker, and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Private arrangements are being made by family.



truly missed by all who knew her.

Lou was blessed when she met the love of her life in 1980 and eventually came to settle in Concrete, where her passion was working for the Community Action Resource Center, where she was able to touch and change many people's lives.

Some of her proudest accomplishments in Concrete were providing support for our veterans by organizing the Veterans Stand Down, which helped many local vets. She also started the Angel Tree to ensure that the children of Concrete in need had a gift to open at Christmas. Lou was very devoted to helping her beloved community.

In the end, Jim and Lou continued to enjoy life together by traveling in their motorhome and wintering in Lake Havasu until her untimely death. She will truly be missed.

A gathering of friends to remember Lou is planned for Sat., Jan. 11, from 1 to 4 p.m., at Concrete Community Center.

**Kathleen Marie (Kinley) Hurn
Nov. 10, 1944 — Nov. 28, 2019**

Memorial service to be held on Sun., Dec. 8, at 1 p.m. at Concrete High School Gym, 7830 S. Superior Ave., Concrete. For the full obituary, go to molesfarewelltributes.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

To seek and to save

By Matt Del Bosque

Recently at our church we finished a 17-week study of Ecclesiastes. For those familiar with the Bible, Ecclesiastes is a book in the Old Testament. Written by Solomon to his son and others, it is a telling of all of his faults, failures, and findings as he studied everything regarding life on earth.

There is one verse that really stuck out to me, Ecclesiastes 3:1: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."

God has masterfully designed everything in life to have a starting point and a stopping point. Sometimes we start something and we want it to last forever, but all good things will eventually come to an end.

And that's not necessarily a bad thing. When God decides to close a door on something that's been in your life, there are new doors and new opportunities that are awaiting you. If you stayed in the same season of life forever, you'd never grow. That's part of the exciting adventure of following God. He will direct your paths and lead you into places and experiences that you'd never even imagine, but only if you allow him to.

It all comes back to knowing and understanding that there is a time and

season for every matter here on earth. Whether it's your career, a ministry, or whatever the matter may be, each and every matter in our lives will have a beginning and an end. And with each end comes the excitement of what will be next. I've learned in the last five years of ministry that God clearly knows more than I do. So as I trust in him daily, and if you will trust in him daily as well, he will lovingly guide our paths.

As we begin to wind down 2019, there will be some things that will come to an end, but that just means there will be new and exciting adventures ahead in 2020! I pray that you will join me in trusting in God with all of your heart and humbly follow where and how he leads.

Matt Del Bosque is pastor for Citipoint North Cascade Church in Marblemount.



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Skagit County Sheriff's Office Blotter

Oct. 22

Deputy Beisler responded to a report of a kindergarten child who was found to have brought .22 long rifle ammunition to Concrete Elementary School. The ammunition had fallen out of the child's pocket. The school had already contacted the father, who apologized. He said that the family had been out target shooting during the weekend and the child had picked up a couple rounds. There was no crime nor any danger to the school or other children.

Two more people were arrested by Deputy Wiggins for trespassing on the property known as "Devil's Tower." The suspects were discovered in the abandoned cement structure. Both were cited for trespassing, given court dates, then allowed to leave.

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.

Greathouse, Austin Michael

Age: 22
 Race: White
 Sex: M
 Height: 5' 5"
 Weight: 116
 Hair: Brown
 Eyes: Brown
 Address: 84xx Pinelli Rd., Hamilton



A Level 2 sex offender, Greathouse was convicted for first-degree rape of a child in Skagit County in March 2012. His victim was a 4-year-old, nonfamilial male.

Greathouse 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

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 a.m.
www.citipointchurch.com
 E-mail: mattd@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.

Lutheran

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
 46372 Main St., Concrete / 360.853.3714
www.uprivergrace.com
 Sun. worship: 10 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.

Mormon

Concrete Group Meeting
 7879 S. Superior Ave., Concrete
 (Pilots Lounge at Mears Field)
 360.540.7502
 2nd and 3rd Sundays each month:
 Sacramento mtg., 1 p.m.
 Potluck, 2 p.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

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.

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

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

Wildwood Chapel

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

She was transported to Skagit County Jail and booked.

Oct. 24

As he was patrolling the Concrete Community Center parking area, Deputy Wiggins located a vehicle with two subjects sleeping in it. He identified the male and knew from previous contacts that the subject had a warrant for his arrest. Deputy Wiggins was able to wake the male up after several attempts. He arrested the suspect and transported him to jail.

An employee at Concrete Town Hall called and advised Deputy Brown that a citizen had been at Town Hall making threats. The citizen had been advised of the requirement that dogs within town limits must be registered and kept on leashes when not on private property. The citizen became very upset and started screaming at the employee. East Detachment deputies were notified and the employee advised she would call back if the subject returned.

Oct. 25

Deputy Kitchens investigated a burglary in the 49600 block of Concrete Sauk Valley Rd. It was reported that some farm equipment was taken from the residence.

Some of the property had been recovered by an anonymous person who did not want to be involved. Deputy Kitchens attempted to convince the victim to have his friend call so information on the suspect could be attained, but he was unsuccessful. At this time the information was taken, but no further investigation will occur until the witness comes forward.

Oct. 27

A Concrete citizen called to advise that someone was living in a vehicle at the end of East Main St. in Concrete. The person was seen dumping garbage on the side of the road near the vehicle. Deputy Brenner checked the area, but the vehicle was gone. He asked that the reporting party call back if the car returned.

Oct. 28

Dispatch advised Deputy Wiggins and Deputy Case of a domestic disturbance near the 61000 block of Cascade River Rd. The reporting party said that he had been punched and slapped by his wife, who was now passed out in the doorway to the residence. When deputies arrived, the wife told them that she and

See Sheriff's Blotter, p. 33

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.

CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

“Concrete forged in fires: 1915”
Part 3

This fire was especially unforgiving. It spread like a bucket of water dumped on the floor, in all directions simultaneously, unless thwarted by obstacles. The prevailing wood-frame construction, with no fire breaks, offered little resistance. After engulfing the Griffin Hotel, the fire quickly leaped north across Main Street to the Concrete Theatre and the Zabel Saloon. If not for the heroic efforts of the volunteer firemen, those buildings would have met the same fate as the charred ruins of the Griffin Hotel.

C. D. Stickley, owner of the theater, first observed the fire about the same time as his residence behind the theater was ablaze, and it required the efforts of several men to put out the fire on the roof. The roofs of other nearby residences were also threatened, but were only slightly damaged.

The fire devoured its way eastward down the south side of Main from its ignition point of the Griffin Hotel, consuming the Bjerstedt and Weir Confectionery and the Bjerstedt's family residence upstairs. By the time the soundly sleeping family was warned, their rooms and store were already in flames and the family had to escape out a window. Very little was saved from their candy store. For several months after the fire, they operated out of a tent trying to liquidate what stock was salvaged.

Next in the line of fire was the Concrete Drug Company. Ray Hedrick, the store clerk who lodged in the building, escaped out a window garbed only in a pair of trousers. He quickly sought out a hose and began to spray down the roofs and walls of nearby threatened homes. Dudley I. Green, owner of the Drug Company, failed to save anything. As the building's interior partitions were collapsing, an attempt was made by a fireman to retrieve

the store's cash register. He braved the smoke and flames to grab it and struggled toward the door, only to have the register's electric wires, still live, short circuit and knock him to the floor. Other firemen dragged him from the building, but the register was left on the floor. The gasoline dispenser located in front of the Concrete Drug Store caught fire when the building's front wall collapsed on it, and firemen were warned to keep back, fearing the tank would explode. Fortunately, it did not. After the fire, Green planned to move his offices into the Kellner Building, formerly occupied by the Werner Meat Market.

Since last month, the museum has become an outlet for Michael Grimm's book *Tell Edith Goodbye*. Michael is the grandson of one of the Grimm boys who survived the heinous manipulation and the subsequent murder of two of his brothers in Sauk by Clifford Hawkins to hide an illicit relationship with 11-year-old Edith Grimm in 1937. This story had the entire nation's attention for weeks during the trial, which found Hawkins guilty of murder and ordered him to become the first person sentenced to death in Skagit County. The sentence was carried out at the Washington State Penitentiary located in Walla Walla on Feb. 23, 1938. Michael has not only a personal interest in sorting out this dark corner of his family history, but his career-long experience of forensics with the FBI helped him put all the pieces of the puzzle together. This intriguing book is now available on the museum's Web site, www.concreteheritagemuseum.org.

Concrete Heritage Museum is available for special tours, which can be arranged, with advance notice, by contacting John Lloyd (360.982.0423 autohistory@hotmail.com) or John Boggs (360.853.8347 jboggs@comcast.net).

—John Boggs

At the Upper Skagit Library

Last month we welcomed a new director: **Amanda Perez**. The next time you're at the library, give her a warm hello!

Library Associate **Tess Carroll** has moved on to new adventures, but we thank her for the impact she had while here. Many patrons have expressed their thankfulness for her great book recommendations, sense of humor, and the diverse programming options she came up with every month.

November was **National Novel Writing Month**. We celebrated NaNoWriMo 2019 by being a “Come Write-In” location for participants. We also hosted a highly enjoyable Writer's Workshop lead by local author **Nicola Pearson**. Twenty-two writers joined us on Nov. 16 for a “gesture pose” exercise that ended with some very creative stories.

This month **Brooke Pederson** will return to 5b's Bakery for her annual Snowflake Workshop on Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. Brooke will share her story snowflakes, talk about how she makes them, and then teach everyone how to create their own. This year the inspiration is a fairy tale called

“East of the Sun and West of the Moon.”

Storytime will move to the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 11 a.m. Miss Amanda will lead the fun and the word is there will be puppets! (The second Storytime in December will be canceled because of library closure.)

Sign Language Club will move to every Friday at 4 p.m., and **Drop-In Tech Tutoring** holds steady at the first and third Wednesday of each month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

As always, the **Board of Trustees monthly meeting** is held on the second Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

The library will close on Dec. 24 and 25, and will close early (3 p.m.) on Dec. 31.

To stay up to date on events and closures, visit our Web site, www.upper-skagitlibrary.org. You can follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, and YouTube. Want to receive in-depth updates via our monthly e-Magazine newsletter email? Sign-up in person at the library or on our Web site.

—Chazlyn Lovely
Library Asst., Marketing

December at the Darrington Library

Children & Families

- Little Science Lab for children ages 3–5, Fridays, Dec. 6–27, 3:30 p.m., library meeting room. Join us for a 30-minute weekly science, technology, engineering, and math program. Space is limited to 30 children at each class.
- Family Storytime, Wednesdays, Dec. 4 and 11, at 11 a.m.; all ages welcome; caregiver required.
- LEGO Club. Create with LEGO at the library. Thur., Dec. 5, 3 p.m.

Tweens & Teens

- Sharpie Tie-Dye Tote Bags. Design your own tie-dye tote bag using Sharpie markers. Supplies provided. Ages 8 and up. Saturday, Dec. 7, 2 p.m.

All Ages

- Movie Matinee: “The Last Jedi,” Thursday, Dec. 19, 3:15 to 6 p.m.
- Cat Castles. Build the perfect cardboard habitat for your feline

friend. Caregiver required for children ages 7 and younger. Saturday, Dec. 21, 3:30 to 5 p.m.

- Sharing Memories of the Past: Oral histories shared by local, longtime community members. Saturday, Dec. 14, 10 a.m. to noon.

Adults

- Census 2020 Hiring Event. Learn about local employment opportunities. Friday, Dec. 6, 1 to 2:45 p.m.
- Birds of the West: An Artist's Guide. Join artist Molly Hashimoto for a hands-on experience in watercolor immersion. All supplies provided. Registration required. Saturday, Dec. 14, 1:30 to 3 p.m.

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

—Ashley Bryson, branch manager

Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 31

her husband had been in an argument over a civil dispute that they had taken to court and lost. She complained to Deputy Wiggins that the Sheriff's Office and the FBI were protecting a cocaine cartel and how a deputy she identified as “Pig Marlow” had made threats. She was finally able to tell the deputies that she and her husband had gone out walking and he had left her in the woods. When she got back to the trailer, she started an argument and pushed him. Deputies found the reporting party passed out in the trailer. When they tried to wake him, the wife grabbed him by the arm and tried to drag him out of the bed. At that point, deputies arrested the wife for domestic assault and booked her into jail.

Oct. 31

Early in the morning, Deputy Wiggins was parked at the intersection of SR 20 and Superior Ave. in Concrete watching for a suspect in a criminal matter. As he was parked there, he saw a car leaving Logger's Landing with no tail lights.

He stopped the car and contacted the driver, who didn't have a driver's license. The driver also had three warrants for driving with a suspended license. Deputy Wiggins cited the driver for driving with a suspended license, and then arrested and transported the driver to jail, where he was booked on his outstanding warrants.

As he was patrolling Main St. in Concrete, Deputy Wiggins observed a subject walking down the sidewalk between The Hub tavern and the Lone Star Restaurant. He stopped the subject and explained that it is illegal to smoke within 25 feet of a public entrance. Deputy Wiggins explained that there is no place on the sidewalk in the Town Center that is greater than 25 feet from an entrance except the public parking (Bear Square) on the north side of Main St. The subject was cited for smoking within 25 feet of a public entrance.

At approximately 9:30 p.m. the Sheriff's Office received a report of a female dumping a vehicle on the reporting party's driveway in Marblemount. The suspect then left in a white Nissan Pathfinder.

Deputy Wiggins located the vehicle and contacted the occupants. They told him that the abandoned vehicle had run out of gas and the driver was going to go get gas and move it. The female in the car had several warrants for her arrest. Deputy Wiggins took her into custody and transported her to jail. Later, the reporting party called to tell the Sheriff's Office that someone had returned and moved the vehicle.

Nov. 2

Early in the morning, Deputies Passovoy and Wolfe investigated a motor vehicle accident on East Main St. in Lyman. The reporting party said that someone had driven through his yard and had taken out the neighbor's fence. The vehicle had struck several things, then backed out and left, leaving its license plate. Deputies located the vehicle and arrested the driver for driving under the influence and hit and run. He was taken to Skagit County Jail and booked.

Nov. 4

A resident from Cumberland St. in Hamilton called to report that her ex-

boyfriend had just choked her, then left on foot. Deputy Grant responded. The victim told him that earlier, her ex-boyfriend, who still lives at the address, had come into the house to get ready for work. They got into an argument, at which time the suspect grabbed the victim by the throat and choked her. Deputies attempted to locate the suspect, but he had already left for work. On Nov. 6, Deputy Arndt contacted the suspect at his work and arrested him for assault. He was taken to jail and booked.

Nov. 7

A car was located by Deputy Wiggins parked near the gate at the Lake Shannon quarry property owned by PSE. This is the area known as “Devil's Tower.” Deputy Wiggins walked onto the property, where he discovered two subjects that had set up a tent and were camping. The subjects had several firearms with them and had gone to the quarry to shoot. Deputy Wiggins explained that it is private property and is posted as such. Both subjects were

See Sheriff's Blotter, p. 35

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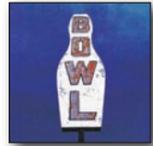
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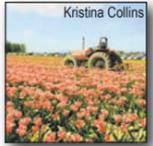
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Out & About



State

Net Nanny operation leads to 16 arrests

Yakima County — Sixteen sexual predators who targeted children in Yakima County were arrested after a multi-day operation involving the Washington State Patrol (WSP), local Yakima County law enforcement agencies, and several partner agencies.

Dubbed “Operation Net Nanny,” the operation was the 17th effort spearheaded by the WSP’s Missing and Exploited Children Task Force (MECTF), an Internet Crimes Against Children affiliate. Since the original operation in August 2015, MECTF has netted a total of 287 arrests and rescued more than 31 children across the state.

MECTF’s primary mission is to proactively target those persons involved in child abuse and child exploitation via the Internet.

“While the Internet is a powerful tool for information in people’s lives, criminals use the same technology to commit unspeakable crimes against vulnerable populations, including the young. Working with our local, state, and federal partners in law enforcement in operations like Net Nanny, we use every available resource to pursue the guilty and protect the innocent.” said WSP Chief John R. Batiste. “This operation is aimed at protecting our vulnerable children and making our communities safer.”

The names of the individuals arrested during the operation are:

- Thomson, Frederick W., 67, Union Gap
- Tschauner, Bradley V., 29, Ephrata
- Raymond, John B., 59, Yakima

- Erlandson, Hayden A., 22, Yakima
- Curry, David E., 34, Kennewick
- Littlebull, Kendrick y., 20, Yakima
- Martinez, Lucas N., 34, White Swan
- Gaidaichuk, Veniamin N., 28, Everett
- Robertson, Richie H., 21, Yakima
- Atkins, Brent M., 40, Naches
- Hernandez, Christian, 24, Union Gap
- Ramirez, Jessie J., 29, Yakima
- Sanchez, Breton L., 18, Yakima
- Randhawa, Rakinder S., 26, Sunnyside
- Hudson, Fidel A., 25, Yakima
- Cool, Benjamin J., 24, Nampa, ID

Anyone with information related to the suspects listed, or information leading to the identity of victims potentially involved in these cases is asked to contact MECTF at mectf@wsp.wa.gov.

WSDOT seeks public input on transportation plan

People who live in Washington have an opportunity to help create a vision for a transportation system that supports all modes of travel, including walking, biking, and rolling. Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is updating its active transportation plan, which serves as the needs assessment for accessible pedestrian and bicyclist connections. Public input is needed.

An online open house is available through Sun., Dec. 15, at <http://bit.ly/WSDOT-ATP-Online-Open-House>, with a questionnaire to collect input from Washington residents.

WSDOT also will host virtual events, during which staff will share information on the safety, mobility and accessibility issues the plan is intended to address. Those who are interested can register at <http://bit.ly/WSDOT-ATP-Virtual2019>. Participants will be able to submit questions and comments using the chat function in the presentation software. These will be recorded and available online after the presentations.

The first virtual event was held on Nov. 26. A second event is planned for Wed.,

Dec. 11, from 7 to 8 p.m. Washingtonians are invited to sign up for the plan’s e-mail newsletter to receive future event announcements: <http://bit.ly/WSDOT-2019-ATP>.

Community events open to the public that WSDOT staff are attending are listed on the Community Events and E-News page of the online open house (engage.wsdot.wa.gov/active-transportation-plan/community-events-and-e-news/). This list is updated as new events are added.

Body of Colville pilot found Nov. 16

COLVILLE — The search for a missing Colville pilot and his plane concluded after a local resident discovered the body of the pilot in Sullivan Lake on Nov. 16.

Terry Coleman, 67, flew out of the Colville Municipal Airport around noon on Nov. 11, intending to return in about an hour. Family notified authorities when he did not return and the search began Monday evening.

Search crews, coordinated by WSDOT, focused on the area around Sullivan Lake and the town of Ione based on the length of time Coleman was expected to fly, a ping of his cellphone recorded on a tower in nearby Metaline Falls, and radar that showed a plane in that general area at the time he would have been flying. The radar could not identify the plane.

Crews from several local agencies and Search and Rescue groups searched the area both by air and on the ground. Low visibility, rain, and snow prevented planes and helicopters from flying on several days of the search, but they were used whenever it was deemed safe to send them out. Ground crews worked throughout the area, including in tough, steep terrain.

Further information will be released by the Pend Oreille County Sheriff’s Office.

Sheriff’s Blotter, cont. from p. 33

cited for trespassing, then released with a promise to appear in court.

Nov. 8

Deputy Wolfe saw a male subject leaning against a parked vehicle near the 44500 block of Concrete Sauk Valley Rd. Deputy Wolfe was aware that the subject had several warrants for his arrest. Deputy Wolfe was able to arrest the subject and take him to jail.

Nov. 9

Deputy Mullen responded to a civil complaint at the Lake Tyee recreational community northwest of Concrete. While handling the complaint, he discovered that one of the parties involved had warrants. He arrested the subject and issued her a new court date.

A victim of a gunshot reported that he had been shot near the 61000 block of South Cascade Rd. in Marblemount. When deputies arrived, he told them that he had been attempting to use a wheelbarrow to move some of his belongings when he was confronted by another male who lived on the property. Apparently, this male became upset that the victim was using the wheelbarrow, so he pulled out an air rifle and shot the victim. The victim ran off into the woods with the suspect chasing him. The victim was able to locate a bicycle, which he used to ride into Marblemount to report the incident. Deputies attempted to locate the suspect, but were unable to find him. On Nov. 11, deputies were able to locate the suspect at a residence in Marblemount and arrest him for felony assault, possession of a controlled substance believed to be methamphetamine, and several warrants.

Nov. 13

Concrete High School called to advise a student had brought marijuana to school. Some students had complained of the smell of marijuana near some lockers. School employees checked the area and found a backpack with marijuana. Deputy Clark investigated the incident. He contacted the student and issued the student paperwork for the student in lieu of being arrested for Minor in Possession of Marijuana. The student was advised that he had five days after receiving the information to contact the Concrete High School and set up the class for alcohol and substance abuse.

Deputy Clark and Sgt. Adams, along with Upper Skagit Tribal Police Officers, responded to a report of gunshots and threats off Shoemaker Lane in

Marblemount. The reporting party said that a female had chased him with a rifle and threatened to shoot him. When deputies arrived, they searched the property, finally locating the suspect. She denied making any threats or chasing the alleged victim. Neither the victim nor the witness who was with the victim could be located. At the time deputies determined that there was not crime.

Nov. 14

As he was traveling west on SR 20 approaching Baker Lake Rd., Deputy Brannon observed a vehicle pull out in front of him westbound on SR 20. The vehicle accelerated away from him at a high rate of speed. As it approached a slower vehicle that was traveling 62 mph in a 55 mph zone, it passed that vehicle and continued to accelerate. Deputy Bannon used his radar to measure the vehicle’s speed at 86 mph in a 55 mph zone. He stopped the vehicle and contacted the driver. The driver had warrants for Malicious Mischief Domestic Violence and for Disorderly Conduct Domestic Violence. He was arrested and taken to jail.

Nov. 17

Anonymous information of a subject with multiple warrants for driving and drugs led Deputies Wiggins and Arndt to a residence near the 45000 block of Cedar St. in Concrete. Residents there told deputies that the suspect had left earlier that morning. Deputies advised them that they had overheard the suspect talking before they had knocked. After talking to them for a brief period, deputies were able to convince the suspect to come out. He was arrested and taken to jail.

Search and Rescue personnel, along with members of the Sheriff’s Office and National Parks, responded to the Lookout Mountain Trailhead located off the Cascade River Rd. to assist a hiker who had fallen and broken his ankle. SAR members found the hiker attempting to walk down the trail near the 4,500-foot level of elevation. He was placed into a wheeled gurney and taken to the trailhead, where he was transported to the hospital by friends.

Nov. 19

A citizen contacted Deputy Esskew to advise him that he had seen a male in all black near his vehicle on Robertson Court in Concrete. He was concerned that the subject might be out prowling cars and looking for things to steal. Deputy Esskew

’Tis the season to be jolly—or a Grinch

By Pamela Hassler

Holidays are joyful times, but they can also be stressful. And stress rarely brings out the best in us.

If there’s a “Scrooge” in your life—or if you feel a bit “Grinchy” yourself—consider what might be causing the difficult emotions. If it’s just a passing mood, chalk it up as a bad day. If it lingers for long, seek a little extra help.

Here are some ideas to help you or a loved one keep a healthful outlook through the holidays. Try to:

- Spend time with friends.
- Do things you enjoy, not only things you feel you have to do.
- Get plenty of rest. The better you feel, the better a holiday can be.
- Think about others. Helping those less fortunate than you can make you feel better.
- Get money off your mind. Money problems are a leading cause of

holiday depression. Focus on the spirit of the season.

- Watch what you eat and drink. Eat healthful foods, watch your portion sizes, and avoid alcohol.

Remember:

- Be realistic. Try not to build up the holiday too much in your mind.
- Say no sometimes. People will understand if you don’t do things. Wearing yourself out will make you feel worse.
- It’s okay to be sad or lonely. You don’t have to be happy just because it’s the holiday season.
- Get help if you need it. Seek out family or friends for support. Community or church groups can help too. If things get bad, talk with your doctor or counselor.

Pamela Hassler, PA-C, cares for patients at PeaceHealth Sedro-Woolley Clinic.

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See Blotter, p. 38

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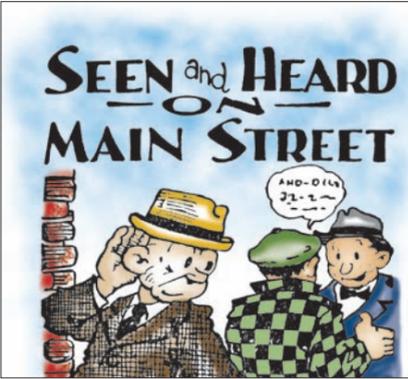
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Quit talking about yourself, suggests Dad Gummit, and see if anyone else brings up the subject.

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Sound, they tell us, travels at the rate of 400 yards per second. Scandal, however, will do 1,000 yards in the same length of time, while flattery will go 10 yards, and truth six inches.

America may be a peace-loving nation, but though we have a Secretary of War, we have no Secretary of Peace.

Dwelleysms:

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

"When it comes to spending money, most of us agree with Shakespeare's line: 'Parting is such sweet sorrow ...'"
"Pity the period. Always at the end of the line."
—July 9, 1969

"Come next year, all towns are going to have to bury their garbage instead of burning it. At the rate people discard things, somebody ought to stake out claims on all the holes they can find. They are going to be as valuable as farm acreage."

"A little knowledge keeps most of us from ever becoming rich. Knowing what money is, and knowing how to spend it."

"It seems the most active group on the home front today is the Dissension Breeders Association."

"All those years when 'reaching for the moon' was an exercise in futility. Then suddenly we have it in our grasp and we don't know what to do with it."

"If all the bad habits in the world were suddenly discontinued, we estimate that it would take about an hour and 20 minutes to think up another set."

"The stock market is acting up again. Nobody can be sure when peace will break out."
—July 16, 1969

Concrete Harold Classic

By Joyce Harris



Originally published in December 2010.

Public Service Announcement

By Stig Kristensen



Crossword: "Good Times"

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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61							62				63			

- Across**
- 1. Have a sudden inspiration?
 - 5. Go off script
 - 10. Discounted by
 - 14. Diva's solo
 - 15. Facetious
 - 16. Hurt
 - 17. Presents a brave front
 - 20. German spa
 - 21. Boat trailer?
 - 22. American photographer Edward
 - 23. Tiny arachnid
 - 24. Butter
 - 25. Focuses on a person's assets
 - 32. Bell sound
 - 33. "___ Toledo!"
 - 34. Big mouth
 - 35. Hazard
 - 36. Thunderstorm product
 - 38. Labyrinth
 - 39. Flowery verse
 - 40. Ancient greetings
 - 41. Auspicate
 - 42. Come through
 - 46. Catalan surrealist
 - 47. Any minute
 - 48. Horrified
 - 51. Flamboyance
 - 52. Conk
 - 55. Fantastic
 - 58. Fairy tale villain
 - 59. Control ___
 - 60. Chip maker
 - 61. Brain part
 - 62. Tone
 - 63. See 41-Across
- Down**
- 1. Goggle
 - 2. Jack-in-the-pulpit, e.g.
 - 3. Poses
 - 4. Dance bit
 - 5. Joined, in biology
 - 6. Male ducks
 - 7. Opera house box
 - 8. U.N. workers' grp.
 - 9. Whale part
 - 10. Sweethearts
 - 11. Genuine
 - 12. "Beat it!"
 - 13. Tailor-made
 - 18. Because of, with "to"
 - 19. Industrious
 - 23. Brother
 - 24. Continue
 - 25. New England catch
 - 26. Slur over
 - 27. Stand for Steen
 - 28. Hamlet's father, e.g.
 - 29. Adult insect
 - 30. In a fog
 - 31. Decorative pitchers
 - 36. Commands
 - 37. Poor test score
 - 38. Atomic particle
 - 40. Dispatch boat
 - 41. ___ goose
 - 43. They're cast
 - 44. Like an angel
 - 45. Allow
 - 48. At the summit of
 - 49. Kind of dancer
 - 50. Honker
 - 51. Lava maker
 - 52. Cup part
 - 53. River in northeastern England
 - 54. Hammer's end
 - 56. Morse T
 - 57. Low card

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.

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

*Solutions to both puzzles are on p. 39.

Funny as Facebook

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

- "So I had to go to the store today ... They are already blasting away horrible sounds from their radio, called Christmas music ... the horror is upon us, all who work in retail, it begins. Earplugs!!!!!!"
- "Me: 'Wendy looks adorable in that monkey hat.' Brandon: 'She looks like a dork. A dorkable.'"
- "Let the fat pants loose."
- "I'm thankful ... that in singleness, the only crazy I have to live with is my own."
- "When you ask your wife to bring you a dinglehopper and she knows what you're talking about."

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