

# Concrete Herald

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December 2020

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50 cents

City • Sauk Valley • Rockport • Van Horn • Darrington • Corkindale • Marblemount • Bullerville • Newhalem • Diablo



After 72 years in the Frank family, Albert's Red Apple Market begins its next chapter with Kirby Co.—and Mike and Richard Frank get to retire. *Page 10*

## End of an era



Concrete Herald

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

WNPA

Washington Newspaper Publishers Association

EST. 1987

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

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Guest editorial

## The costs of distance learning

By John Boggs

Our household no longer includes any school age children, so I have no current experience with distance learning that has become the new normal for public education. That doesn't mean I don't have memories of attempting to help ensure my son completed his homework. Not all those memories are pleasant ones.

The same can be said for the memories of my own parents doing their due diligence in trying to ensure I completed my assigned studies when I was in school. Still, I understand there is a huge leap between keeping a child on task for homework, versus keeping them on task for video lessons and homework. That extra investment required by parents or guardians to prepare their children for success in today's world is taking its toll.

What's happening at home is only half the picture. Two different spheres are collectively working together trying to adapt to all the restrictions and yet succeed in the basic mission of educating or being educated. One sphere involves the student and all their support staff at home. None of the "staff" at home was really prepared for the demands now placed upon them; they were drafted, and yet are generally serving admirably. That doesn't mean that family time and money budgets haven't been stretched to near the breaking point.

The other sphere consists of the school support staff. They too have encountered numerous hurdles. In-person teaching allows teachers to "read" the many nuances of the students and adapt the teaching methodology and presentation to capture the attention and interest of the entire class. Distance learning makes that much more difficult for the teacher, and thus for the student. Teachers have been required to put in extra time and effort learning new methods and technology, much the same as the home support staff. The technological wizardry that makes distance learning possible is not as simple as a video game uploaded for free from the Internet. It's part of a comprehensive package provided by a new and emerging industry.

As with any new product, it requires continual monitoring and updating, and has its own staff for support. In the case of the Concrete School District (CSD), this unbudgeted expense was provided by contract. In addition to the basic service, additional equipment and software is required to permit this new mode of instruction to be available to the students in an area known for Internet and cell phone dead zones. The comprehensive distance learning model developed by the CSD also involves providing meals delivered to the student's homes. This involves more costs than the cafeteria food service and more bus trips than the pick-up and drop-off of students. Probably the only part of the school district that has not seen an increase in their required expenditures in the transition to distance learning is the custodial staff, although I'm sure they're catching up on many overdue maintenance projects.

As we all long for times when we used to complain about more mundane things than COVID-19, we need to find ways to cooperatively work together to do the best we can do as a community. Everyone has their niche.

# Opinion

## Letters to the editor

**Let's focus on shared values**

As someone who has grown up on a small-scale, organic farm, I've seen farming be a force for good. It can employ good people, nourish the earth and humans, and raise healthy, content animals.

There is still much room for positive change, though. I heartily commend Senator Cory Booker for introducing the Farm System Reform Act. This comprehensive bill helps farmers who currently own concentrated animal feeding operations, or CAFOs (also known as factory farms) transition to more ecologically sound agriculture practices.

We know that CAFOs harm workers with low wages and unsafe conditions, which COVID-19 has exacerbated. Animals and the environment suffer in these unsanitary, confined operations too. By economically rewarding farmers for transitioning to renewable energy toward regenerative land-based farming, we put proven healthful agricultural methods into practice, and this benefits everyone.

No matter the outcome of the election or our political affiliation, perhaps we can unite behind meaningful measures to sequester carbon in the soil (thus removing it from the atmosphere). Our children and grandchildren will thank us for taking action now to mitigate and reverse climate change.

Let's support taxpayer dollars going more toward agriculture that stores carbon in the soil, treats animals kindly, and nurtures biodiversity.

Rebecca Canright  
Rockport

**Response to "Council mulls 2021 budget"**

Towns and cities have always provided utilities and other services for their

residents. It's what they do. Only in recent decades have consuming-obsessed citizens clamored for someone else to pay their lawful bills. Mom and Dad, where are you?!

Concrete's onerous debt burdens have been consolidated and relieved ..... great news, but this no doubt kicks the can down the road and further puts our lawful debts onto the shoulders of grandchildren and great grandchildren, ad infinitum.

Maybe it's time we reassess and figure out how to pay our own way. With global economies collapsing, we likely won't have a choice. Feckless buzzwords like "unfunded mandate" won't save us. What do you think, Dad and Mom?

Lynn McMillan  
Concrete

**Small communities, big hearts**

As a member of the farming and ranching community of Washington, I would like to extend a very heartfelt

See **Letters**, p. 6

**Correction**

A notice posted in November to the *Concrete Herald* Web site ([www.concrete-herald.com](http://www.concrete-herald.com)) regarding an open Concrete Town Council seat incorrectly stated that former Town Councilmember Elizabeth Easterday had been evicted from her in-town residence. The newspaper regrets the error and has edited the online notice.

**Letters policy**

Letters of 200 words or fewer may be e-mailed to [letters@concrete-herald.com](mailto: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, or grammar, or reject letters for potentially libelous statements.

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Holiday Lane

A Drive-Through Celebration

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

CONCRETE, WASHINGTON

Join us for a free holiday celebration from the safety of your car! Start by driving through Town Center to see Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Town Tree. You can deliver your letter to Santa and each family will receive a souvenir gift in return, while supplies last.

Watch for photo opportunities along the way! Enjoy the holiday music provided by KSVU Radio 90.1 FM and members of the Concrete Chorus, who will perform in front of the Concrete Theatre. Volunteers from Imagine Concrete Foundation will also be on hand to give out holiday treats for each car.

Elves and gnomes will distribute the maps of lighted homes and businesses in the area who have entered the decorating contest. We hope you'll drive around to enjoy the displays – and vote for your favorite! The People's Choice winner receives a pizza-a-month for a year from Annie's Pizza Station.

For more information and to enter the decorating contest, please go to [www.concrete-wa.com](http://www.concrete-wa.com). Download the entry form and return it by email: [chamber@concrete-wa.com](mailto:chamber@concrete-wa.com) before December 5.

*Holiday Lane is brought to you by the Concrete Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Concrete, with funding from Skagit County. Masks and social distancing are required of all participants.*



2020: THE YEAR WE ALL STAYED GNOME



# Town planner plans to leave for Mount Vernon

Concrete Town Planner Marianne Manville-Ailles will leave her contract position with Town of Concrete at the end of 2020, as she eyes a senior planner position with City of Mount Vernon in January, for which she'll likely be tapped.

Employed by Skagit Surveyors in Sedro-Woolley, Manville-Ailles has contracted with Town of Concrete for planning services since 2012. During the past eight years, she has shepherded the town's comprehensive plan update; managed permitting for PSE's dam grout curtain, clubhouse, and Baker River trail projects; and managed several airport-related projects.

"I've loved every minute of it," Manville-Ailles said of her work with Town of Concrete. "I've always been the biggest cheerleader for Concrete because it's one of the least-known jewels in the county, and I've loved working with its staff: Andrea Fichter is the best in the county—bar none."

—J. K. M.



Manville-Ailles

# Town Council seeks to fill vacancy

Town of Concrete is accepting letters of interest and applications from any interested, qualified resident to replace Elizabeth Easterday on the Concrete Town Council.

Easterday, who filled the Position 2 seat and was Mayor Pro-tem, tendered her resignation on Nov. 3.

Applications and letters of interest for the Position 2 seat must be submitted to the Town of Concrete Clerk-Treasurer at [andrea@concretewa.gov](mailto:andrea@concretewa.gov), hand delivered to 45672 Main Street, Concrete, WA 98237, or by mail to P.O. Box 39, Concrete, WA 98237 no later than 4:30 p.m. on Thur., Dec. 31. For more information, contact Fichter at 360.853.8401.

Applicants may be requested to attend a council meeting to give oral testimony as to why they wish to serve on the council and answer questions from the mayor and council. This meeting will take place on Mon., Jan. 11, 2021, at 6 p.m., and an appointment decision may be made during this meeting.

—J. K. M.

# Election 2020

## Skagit County results of contested races

Skagit County Elections certified the results of the county election on Nov. 24. Here are the results of the Skagit County vote.

### President/Vice President

Biden/Harris	52%
Trump/Pence	45%

### Congressional Dist. 1 U.S. Rep

Suzan DelBene	52%
Jeffrey Beeler, Sr.	48%

### Congressional Dist. 2 U.S. Rep

Rick Larsen	55%
Timothy Hazelo	45%

### Washington State Governor

Jay Inslee	50%
Loren Culp	50%

### Washington State Lt. Gov.

Denny Heck	45%
Marko Lias	29%
Write-in	26%

### Washington State Sec. of State

Kim Wyman	58%
Gael Tarleton	42%

### Washington State Attorney Gen.

Bob Ferguson	50%
Matt Larkin	50%

### Legislative Dist. 39 State Senator

Keith Wagoner	68%
Kathryn Lewandowsky	32%

### Legislative Dist. 39 State Rep. Pos. 1

Robert Sutherland	60%
Claus Joens	40%

### Legislative Dist. 39 State Rep. Pos. 2

Carolyn Eslick	63%
Ryan Johnson	37%

### Skagit County Commissioner Dist. 1

Ron Wesen	53%
Mark Lundsten	47%

### Skagit County Commissioner Dist. 2

Peter Browning	58%
Mary Hudson	41%

### Skagit Superior Court Judge Pos. 3

Elizabeth Yost Neidzski	50.1%
Tom Segwine	49.49%

### Skagit PUD Dist. Countywide (Comm. 1)

Andrew Miller	62%
Kenneth Goodwin	38%

# Concrete switches to Zoom for virtual council meetings

Town of Concrete has moved to Zoom for access to Town Council meetings.

Anyone who wishes to view and listen to a Concrete Town Council meeting should use the following:

### Join Zoom Meeting (video)

<https://zoom.us/j/3723563720>  
Meeting ID: 372 356 3720  
One tap mobile  
+12532158782,,3723563720# US (Tacoma)

### Call in by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
Meeting ID: 372 356 3720

Concrete Town Council meets on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, at 6 p.m. Its Dec. 28 meeting likely will be canceled for the holiday.

—J. K. M.

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# CHECKUP CHALLENGE

Join the Checkup Challenge to make sure every aspect of your health is covered.

Check all the boxes for you and those you care about:

- ☐ Get preventive screenings
- ☐ Make sure medications are getting refilled
- ☐ Get new health issues diagnosed
- ☐ Get a flu vaccination and any needed immunizations
- ☐ Check developmental skills (for children)
- ☐ Stay physically and mentally active (especially for older adults)



For a complete checkup checklist by age group, visit [peacehealth.org/challenge](http://peacehealth.org/challenge)



## "Holiday Lane" returns to town

At Christmas time in the 1960s, the Upper Skagit Garden Club sponsored Holiday Lane, a popular decorating contest with entrants all over town vying for awards and bragging rights. This year, the Concrete Chamber of Commerce is dusting off that tradition and bringing it back to life.

Holiday Lane will take place on Sat., Dec. 12, from 6 to 8 p.m. The event will feature a decorating contest just like in the '60s, with the special added attraction of seeing Santa make his annual appearance. You will find Santa at the brightly lit Town Tree, located near the old fire hall at the east end of Main Street.

After seeing Santa to drop off letters and collect a souvenir gift, guests will be given a map with designated homes, businesses, churches, and organizations that entered the Holiday Lane decorating contest. Judges will award prizes for best-decorated entries.

In December 1960, the home of Lowell Peterson won first place in the town's Holiday Lane decorating contest. Other winners included Edgar Monrad, Jack Hoover, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, and Albert's Serve-U. Sixty years

later, the prize is again up for grabs in the newly reborn contest.

Holiday music will be provided by KSVU Radio 90.1 FM, and members of the Concrete Chorus who will perform in front of the Concrete Theatre. Volunteers from Imagine Concrete Foundation will be on hand with holiday treats for each car.

Gnomes will distribute the maps of lighted homes and businesses in the area who have entered the decorating contest. Guests are encouraged to drive around to enjoy the displays—and vote for their favorite. The People's Choice winner will receive a pizza-a-month for one year from Annie's Pizza Station. For more information and to enter the decorating contest, go to [www.concrete-wa.com](http://www.concrete-wa.com). Download the entry form and return it by e-mail: [chamber@concrete-wa.com](mailto:chamber@concrete-wa.com).

Holiday Lane is free. Everyone is welcome to participate in either portion of the event. Masks and social distancing are required of all participants, who are asked to stay inside their vehicles and travel at a safe, slow speed while visiting Town Center.

The event is co-sponsored by Town of Concrete and partly funded by Skagit County. For updated information and contest entries, go to [www.concrete-wa.com](http://www.concrete-wa.com) or contact Valerie Stafford, chamber president, at [chamber@concrete-wa.com](mailto:chamber@concrete-wa.com).

—J. K. M.

### Letters, cont. from p. 2

thank you to the members of Skagit, Whatcom, and Snohomish counties for selflessly giving their time, talent, and treasure during the fire season of 2020. Washington's east side endured a deadly and destructive fire season, killing and displacing livestock, and destroying people's lives and all they have worked for.

The call went out for help in the form of hay for cattle and other livestock, materials for rebuilding fences, and necessities for living. Our west side communities answered that call, sending countless loads of feed bound for starving livestock.

A convoy of trucks made their way east in a collaborative effort delivering hay. People donated round and square bales, provided trucks and trailers, a staging area, fuel, and time.

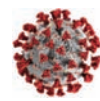
Deliveries were made possible from donations by Buddy Hamilton, Mike Hamilton, Toby Knutzen with Double K Farms, Chris Turner, Chuck Ashe, David Russell, Mark Sem, Aaron Stacey,

Jay Harvey, Chris and Kim Tarte, Tarte Trucking, Bob Engle, Sadie Sullivan, Bart and Patty Smith with Olmstead Transportation, Gary and Katerina Parrish, Parrish Trucking, Rob Gram Trucking, Anderson Transport, Ron McKinney, Sierra Pacific Industries, and Janicki Industries.

The list of donations continues with help from Jim Hinton, Brad Wyman, Mack Judd, Chuck Hodgins, Ron Johnson, Alan Greutz, Ray Riggles, John and Kim Mower, Jeff and Stacey Gunderson, Charlotte Morgan, Whatcom County Cattlemen, Skagit County Cattlemen, Snohomish County Cattlemen, Darrel Weidkamp, Bill Johnson, Monty Gerdes, Bill Rindal, and Stanwood FFA.

I know these folks do not expect the recognition, but I feel we need to give them all the acknowledgement they deserve and our sincere gratitude for their selfless contributions to those in need.

Cindy Kleinhuisen, President  
Skagit County Cattlemen



## COVIDwatch

### SKAGIT COUNTY BY THE NUMBERS as of 11.22.20

Total number of cases  
1,790

Total number of deaths  
26

Total hospitalized  
133

### New guidance from Inslee

New guidelines from Gov. Jay Inslee took effect on Nov. 16 (with a few exceptions) and will be in place until at least Dec. 14. The changes include:

- No indoor social gatherings are allowed. Outdoor social gatherings can have five or fewer people from outside an immediate household.
- Restaurants and bars are open for outdoor dining and takeout only; no indoor dining is allowed (these restrictions went into effect on Nov. 18).
- Bowling alleys, movie theaters, museums, zoos, and indoor fitness facilities are closed.
- Personal services (such as hair dressers, nail salons, etc.) and retail occupancy, including grocery stores, are limited to 25 percent of capacity.
- Long-term care facilities can allow only outdoor visitation, except in the cases of end-of-life care and essential support personnel.
- Religious services are limited to 25 percent indoor occupancy or 200 people, whichever is fewer. No choir, band, or ensemble shall perform during these services. Facial coverings must be worn at all times by congregation members, and there cannot be any congregational singing.
- Wedding receptions are prohibited. Wedding ceremonies will be allowed with no more than 30 people in attendance.
- Youth (school and nonschool) and adult sporting activities are limited to outdoor only for intra-team practices, and all athletes must wear masks.
- No real estate open houses.

Inslee also is requiring that those who are able to work from home do so. If a

business is not able to operate remotely, only 25 percent of the building's capacity can work from there at one time.

Further, no public services should be provided wherever possible. No changes have been made to the guidance governing schools or childcare facilities.

The full text of the new guidance is available at <https://medium.com/wagovernor/inslee-announces-statewide-restrictions-for-four-weeks-c0b7da87d34e>.

### Skagit County cases spiking

Skagit County reported more than 150 cases during the week of Nov. 9. According to the governor's risk assessment dashboard, Skagit County had 90.6 cases per 100,000 people during the previous 14 days. Skagit's percent positive test rate, which indicates the percentage of total COVID-19 tests that are coming back positive, has increased to 3.4 percent.

"Cases have been spiking throughout Washington, including in Skagit County. These restrictions are necessary to prevent further spread, deaths, and potential hospital overwhelm," said Skagit Health Officer Dr. Howard Leibrand. "I'm glad Gov. Inslee is taking these steps, and encourage everyone to follow them—if not for their own health, for their neighbors."

"I know it's hard to think about spending this holiday season away from our families, but these restrictions will save lives, and they will save the lives of people you personally know," said Public Health Director Jennifer Johnson. "Following these guidelines will help keep you, your family, and our community at large from facing a total health system crisis. Please, do your part."

More information on Skagit County's COVID-19 response is available at [www.skagitcounty.net/coronavirus](http://www.skagitcounty.net/coronavirus).

### Testing site closed during holidays

The COVID-19 drive-through testing site, located at the Skagit Fairgrounds South Gate, will close on the following days throughout the remainder of the holiday season:

- Thursday, Dec. 24
- Friday, Dec. 25
- Thursday, Dec. 31
- Friday, Jan. 1, 2021

## Council summary

Concrete Town Council met for regular meetings on Nov. 9 and 23. The following is a summary of those meetings. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are posted on the town's Web site at [www.townofconcrete.com/cminutes.php](http://www.townofconcrete.com/cminutes.php).

### Nov. 9 regular meeting

**Public Safety:** Mayor Miller reported that he had spoken with deputies regarding continuing issues with the local transient that he reported on during the last meeting. He said this man is believed to have set up under the Lowell Peterson bridge and deputies have been advised.

Mayor Miller updated on the lagoon decommissioning project. He said they are almost finished removing the liquids and sludge, and then will remove the liner. He stated after that the town will work to get it filled and compacted so the site can be used in the future for a new Public Works shop. He also reported that Water & Wastewater Services has reported a reduction in inflow and infiltration (I&I) into the plant, which means the I&I project has helped.

Council discussed the option of changing the groundskeeper position to a full-time position.

Mayor Miller reported on the unlawful landing and subsequent runway closure that had occurred at Mears Field the previous week. He referred council to the e-mails received, as well as his response to the incident. He updated the council on what occurred and why he felt the closure was needed. He stated the town has room to improve on closures, providing notice, and other items. He stated they have already begun working on that and council can see that in the response he has provided.

Audience member Steve Bolan said he would like to open better communications, and he's appreciative that the town has acknowledged some of the issues and is working to correct those.

### Nov. 23 regular meeting

**Public Safety:** Clerk-Treasurer Andrea Fichter said the October incident report is in their packets. Mayor Miller reported the door and deadbolt at Suite A in the old police

station had been broken sometime during the weekend. He said Public Works reported that nothing had been disturbed or taken, but that they had gotten through the steel door and deadbolt.

Fichter reported the town had received notice of a funding award for the overlay project on Limestone St. She said she believed design will start next year, with construction going out to bid around January 2022.

Three public hearings were held: 2021 Utility Rates and Fees – Resolution 2020-13. No comments were received. Council voted to approve Resolution 2020-13.

2021 Property Tax – Resolution 2020-14. No comments were received. Council voted to approve Resolution 2020-14.

2021 Budget Hearing No. 1. Mayor Miller reported this is the first of two required public hearings on the 2021 budget, and that no action would be taken this evening. Fichter reported that she had heard back from the Department of Retirement regarding the potential for changing the groundskeeper position to full-time. There would be no retroactive balances due for doing so. No comments were received during the public hearing.

**Parks:** Councilmember and Parks Committee Chair Marla Reed reported on the fence panel that was reinstalled at the community garden. She said it appeared that someone had pushed on it until the brackets bent and broke. She reported that she also met with Tyler Nibarger and got an update on his progress.

Councilmember Reed also reported on the Community Dinner situation in light of the virus constraints. She and her team at the school district want to distribute a holiday meal to the families that receive school meals, and she is seeking donations from local organizations. Council voted to donate \$200 toward the effort.

—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](mailto: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. Meetings can be attended via Zoom; see notice, p. 4.

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# Academics



## Essay contest for grades 5 to 8

An essay contest for students in grades 5 to 8 is being sponsored by the Ann Washington Chapter of the Greater Skagit Valley of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Students may be in a public, private, or parochial school, or home-schooled.

The subject is "The Boston Massacre," to commemorate the 250th anniversary of that event considered to be pivotal in paving the way to the American Revolution.

Writers are encouraged to imagine they are living in Boston and after witnessing the event, to describe their family's discussion about it and what role it played in organizing the colonists against the British king and Parliament.

Essays must be the student's own work and 300 to 1,000 words, with all words counting except for the title page and bibliography. Dates count as one word. They must be handwritten in black ink, or typed or prepared on computer with nonscript font no smaller than 12-point and no larger than 14-point.

The deadline for submissions is Jan. 10, 2021.

Judging is based on historical accuracy, adherence to the subject, organization of material, originality, interest, spelling, punctuation, grammar, and bibliography.

Prizes are a ribbon medal, a certificate, and eligibility for the state contest, whose winner will be honored at a luncheon banquet in the spring.

For a copy of the official entry form or more information, send an e-mail to kimekimmy@gmail.com. Students need not live in Skagit County, but must reside in Washington State.



## Concrete Resource Coalition



the absence of masks!).

We invite the community to our last meeting of 2020 on Dec. 17 via Zoom at 2 p.m. For more information, see my contact info below.

Stay healthy!

—Stephanie Morgareidge, coordinator

Concrete Resource Coalition  
United General District 304

stephanie.morgareidge@unitedgeneral.org  
360.854.7179

Concrete Resource Coalition wishes everyone a happy and healthy holiday season and new year!

The photo above is the last photo of our coalition together in February 2020 (hence

## YD update

We had our last in-person meeting with students on Nov. 16, playing a game of Yahtzee, eating fine chocolates, and drinking tea. I know: a little different than the days of old when we had 20-against-20 dodgeball nights. But you take what you can get, and that is what we have been doing since September.

Now our time together with students has been taken from us again, until at least Dec. 14, according to the governor's orders. I still plan to call and check in, as I do not like the idea of our young people being isolated again. This is not good for them, and I saw this first-hand during the last several weeks, as we were allowed to socialize in small groups for the first time in months, how they started to blossom, grow relationally, and open up about ... well, everything!

I vow to stay involved. As leaders, I

think we have to. If we don't occupy their mind for at least part of their time, other things will, and not all of those things are positive. Their plans for returning to school have been postponed, their volleyball and basketball practices have been altered, and questions linger about Christmas and 2021.

Please continue to pray for the teens of East Skagit County. I pray for hope, engagement, and their investment into meaningful relationships as they continue to navigate their way through this life.

Life is good, but life can be tough. I think we are all experiencing that toughness right now. Let's remember to build each other up, encourage one another, and lift each person up in prayer as they come to our mind.

Thank you for all you do for our kids in Concrete!

—Kevik and Marta Rensink  
area directors

## Sports

## WIAA board alters season schedule

The Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) Executive Board on Nov. 17 voted to amend the current season schedule for the remainder of the 2020–21 school year, opting to delay the start of WIAA Season 2 to Feb. 1 and shorten each WIAA season to seven weeks in length.

WIAA Season 2, which consists of traditional winter sports, is scheduled to begin with practices on Feb. 1 and end with a Regional culminating event on March 20.

WIAA Season 3, which consists of traditional fall sports, is now scheduled to begin on March 15 (March 8 for football) and end on May 1.

WIAA Season 4, which consists of traditional spring sports, will begin with practices on April 26 and conclude on June 12.

The decision comes in light of surging COVID-19 cases around the state, putting in jeopardy the ability to begin WIAA Season 2, which was scheduled to begin on Dec. 28.

While the board approved the framework for each WIAA season, flexibility remains at the local level because of the protocols approved at the board's Nov. 2 meeting. If fewer than 50 percent of schools in a classification are able to compete in a sport, in accordance with Department of Health Guidelines, the board will make an adjustment to the scheduled season in order to allow the chance for greater participation.

Because of the delay of WIAA Season 2, the board voted to approve an extension of the WIAA Open Coaching Window to Jan. 23. The window allows for coaches in all sports to work with student athletes in the same fashion as the summer coaching window.

The full WIAA Season schedule can be found at [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vRop6HNtm7WrTzJ\\_C9Xoy0YwF2iGmh5vXV4HjxpUfG5H5eXCU1eTv3CFkzQAmODD8Ogry3-PayYQzag/pubhtml](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vRop6HNtm7WrTzJ_C9Xoy0YwF2iGmh5vXV4HjxpUfG5H5eXCU1eTv3CFkzQAmODD8Ogry3-PayYQzag/pubhtml).

—WIAA

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MARKET fresh



# End of an era

After 72 years in the Frank family, Albert's Red Apple Market begins its next chapter with Kirby Co.

By Jason Miller

After seven-plus decades, the Upper Valley's landmark grocery store changed hands on Sept. 21.

Albert's Red Apple Market, owned and operated under a handful of other names by the Frank family of Concrete, sold to Kirby Co. and was renamed Concrete MarketFresh.

Former co-owner Richard Frank said the decision was years in the making. "We looked for a buyer for four years, looking for someone who would be good for the community and good for the employees. That's why we negotiated with them for more than a year," he said.

Frank and his brother, Mike, took over the family business in 2007. Their father, Albert Frank, started the grocery store

in 1948 and called it Van Horn Service, located in Van Horn, east of Concrete. During the ensuing decades, it moved into town and then to its present location in Grasmere in 1974.

## History lesson

The Albert's Red Apple story begins in 1907, when Gaetano Francomano arrived at Ellis Island, New York, from Italy. His wife, Raffaella, and their daughter, Teresa, arrived two years later, in 1909. As was common for many immigrants of that time, Gaetano changed his last name to an Americanized version: Frank. He was fiercely pro-American and eventually became the first 50-year employee of Superior Portland Cement Co.

"My grandpa and his brothers never spoke Italian," said Richard, who will turn



Albert and Harriette Frank with a young Mike Frank in front of their store, Van Horn Service, in Van Horn—the beginnings of a legacy that would last for seven decades. Facebook photo.

78 in December. "Albert was forbidden to speak Italian too. 'You're an American now; you speak English,' my grandpa said. Grandma kept speaking Italian; she never learned much English—only enough to tell us what to do."

Albert was born in 1914, in the "Little Italy" section of Concrete.

"There were a lot of Greeks and Italians in Concrete; they helped build the town with the Tarheels from North Carolina," said Richard. "It was a community of Tarheels, Italians, and Greeks, and nobody wanted to get involved with that! But they got together and made it work. They were two very different groups of people, but they all got along and prospered."

Albert graduated from Concrete High School in 1932. His future bride, Harriette Larsen, graduated from CHS in 1934. They married in 1937 and had the two sons who would eventually take over the family business: Richard and Mike.

Albert kicked off the family legacy in 1948, leaving his logging work in the forests and buying Van Horn Service in Van Horn from Harriette's sister, in 1948. Born in 1942, Richard had just started first grade when the family took over the store, a combination grocery store/service station.

Both sons recall their childhoods mostly fondly. "We learned the family work ethic at an early age," said Mike, 75. "We were

raised in the back room of the Van Horn store. We sacked potatoes, sorted bottles, and more. We went home at bedtime. Mom cooked our meals in the back room."

The brothers viewed the bottle-sorting chore as a punishment.

"Some of the beer bottles were the most disgusting bottles ever," he said. "We did it begrudgingly. Mike and I still talk about it in terms of it being a punishment."

As the boys hit their early teens and moved into their high school years, they were allowed to go to the creek and fish, but they still had chores to do after school. They checked air in customers' tires. They washed windshields. They pumped gas. They boxed groceries. They stocked shelves.

"We had a good childhood," said Richard. "It was great."

Work was paramount, and Albert modeled that work ethic for his sons.

"Albert's schedule was set in stone; you could set your clocks by him leaving for work," said Mike. "And Mom—'She may be little, but she is fierce' was written for her. She was a boss."

Life sped by, and Richard left home first after graduating from CHS in 1961. He went to Washington State University for five years, got an education degree, and came home to help with the store, but

Frank Era, cont. from p. 10

Albert at first pushed him away.

"After I declined an offer from the Concrete High School superintendent, Dad said, 'Didn't I send you off to school? Didn't I pay for that?'"

Richard taught at CHS for four years, then hit the road. Back to WSU, then Spokane to build houses, then Moclips, Wash., to teach junior high. Ten years later, in 1985, he and his wife, Andrea, were back in Concrete. "You've played long enough; it's time to get back to work now," Albert said to his oldest son.

"We've been here ever since," said Richard.

Mike bounced around less after graduating from CHS in 1963. He went to Skagit Community College and Western Washington University, married Vicki in 1966 and came home to help Harriette at the store while Albert had a surgery.

"He never had that surgery—and I never left," said Mike.

## Building a legacy

Short in stature, Albert Frank's iconic figure loomed large in the Upper Valley. The business that he and Harriette built transformed as the decades rolled by. From Van Horn Service it became Albert's Serve-U, then Albert's Family Grocer, then Albert's Red Apple Market. The store moved to Grasmere in 1958, and in 1974 the family built the building that became Albert's Red Apple Market—now Concrete MarketFresh.

Through it all, Albert worked with a dedicated fervor.

"Dad never went on vacation," said Richard. "He'd work from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. The Van Horn store was closed on Sundays, but years later they changed to seven days a week. We'd sometimes go

camping—leave Saturday night and come home Sunday night."

Harriette stayed home with the boys when they were young, but then joined Albert at the store—just the two of them—after the boys reached school age. Later in life, Harriette would take vacations with her sisters, her sons, and her granddaughter, Dianne Frank Aamot (Mike's daughter), but Albert never did.

"I had to 'earn my stripes' with Dad as my boss," said Mike. "He was tough and stubborn at times. It took a while for him to let go and let 'the kid' handle anything. I helped them modernize the office and sales floor. Dad had only a high school education, but he was 'business smart.'"

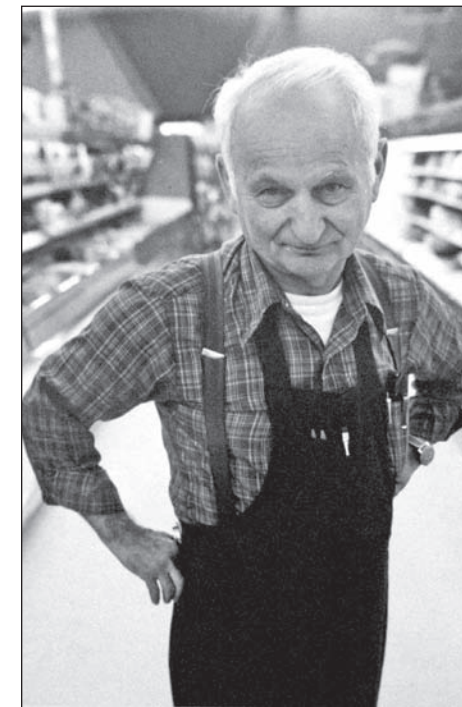
Economic and industry dynamics fluctuated over the years, and the brothers found they had to adapt or perish—a stiff challenge sometimes, especially when "the superstores and big box stores came in with huge selections and volume pricing," said Mike. "That changed things. Also, people in our area became so much more mobile."

The brothers worked with Associated Grocers, Unified, SuperValu, and finally Northwest Grocers, which owns Red Apple Markets. Collaborating with the more muscular organizations helped the Frank family business stay competitive by providing assistance with pricing and new products.

But those collaborations weren't created equally; some were less helpful than others. At the worst points, the brothers had to work just to stay afloat, performing time-consuming tasks for which larger stores had dedicated personnel.

"We had to scour the warehouse books to see what products they had," said Richard. "It was tough to keep up with the new changes and innovations

See Frank Era, p. 12



Albert and Harriette Frank, the couple that started it all. Submitted photos.

**Nick VanJaarsveld**  
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See Frank Era, p. 11 Albert's Serve-U celebrated its grand opening in October 1973. Facebook photo.

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Frank Era, cont. from p. 11

that came along, but we tried. It's very difficult for a small neighborhood store to do that while keeping the pricing down. We had to accommodate the state government forcing wage increases, plus stay competitive. We thought of our employees as family and treated them as well as we could in the competitive market."

#### Commitment to community

Albert Frank's business philosophy was "help the community," and he drilled that philosophy into his sons.

"We were taught at an early age to love this town as our parents did," said Mike. "We donated everything we were asked to or when it was needed. We always stepped up."

#### Frank Family timeline

1907	Gaetano Francomano arrives at Ellis Island, NY
1909	Rafaella Francomano arrives at Ellis Island, NY
1914	Albert Frank is born to Gaetano and Rafaella Frank
1916	Harriette Larsen (Frank) is born to Marius and Kristina Larsen
1932	Albert Frank graduates from Concrete High School
1934	Harriette Larsen graduates from Concrete High School
1937	Albert Frank marries Harriette Larsen
1942	Richard Frank is born to Albert and Harriette
1945	Michael Frank is born to Albert and Harriette
1948	Albert Frank purchases Van Horn Service in Van Horn, opens Serve-U
1959	Albert Frank builds new store; Serve-U becomes Family Grocer, later Albert's Red Apple Market
1966	Mike Frank marries Vickie and helps with store management
1969	After operating two stores, Albert Frank sells the Van Horn store
1985	Richard Frank retires from teaching and returns to store management
2007	Albert leaves the store for the last time on Sept. 27
2007	Albert passes away on Dec. 15
2016	Harriette passes away on March 19
2020	Richard and Mike Frank sell Albert's Red Apple Market to Kirby Co.; name changes to Concrete MarketFresh on Sept. 21

Timeline research by John Boggs.

Working with the Concrete Lions Club, the Franks helped the Concrete School District in particular. "Anytime the school needed something, we did not turn them down—ever," said Dianne. "That was very important and we took great pride in it. That was something we loved."

The family's past actions sometimes almost seem lifted from a Norman Rockwell painting: Helping strangers whose car broke down. Grabbing an item from the shelf for a tourist who showed up an hour before opening. Holding items for people to collect later. Cashing checks for people or letting them pay for groceries later. Filling the basement of the store with boxes because people sometimes need them.

"Try any of that in a big city," said Dianne. "Nobody would even come out to meet you."

The family business kept the families busy. Vicki worked part-time for several years, as well as the children—six of them total. Two of Mike's grandsons have put in time during the summers, and Dianne has logged the most time: 19 years until the store sold to Kirby Co. in September. Dianne jokingly referred to her role as "flunky," but she was a jack of all trades, doing the books, working the floor, and "picking up my pieces," said Mike.

After 72 years, the business has been run by only two generations. "It's a long run, especially for one family," said Richard. He and Mike chalk up their success to Albert's work ethic and that he instilled it in them. "We all had



Albert's Family Grocer. Facebook photo.

that work ethic; we didn't want to give it up. Once we got into it, that was the thing to do," said Richard.

"We knew our clientele and we did them huge favors," said Mike. "It was a lifestyle for us. We served a small town in the best way that we knew."

"Our nature is the work ethic and helping people," said Richard. "Grandpa had 50 years of service with Superior Portland Cement. And Grandpa Larsen (Harriette's father) was a well-known logger, working everywhere in the Upper Valley. Even at 90 years old, he was still

inspecting shakes at the shake mills."

"It's a mindset. We had to give up some things, such as not seeing our kids as often as we'd have liked to while they were growing up. 'You were always working,' they tell us. But we tried."

"My family was the hardest-working people I will ever know in my life," said Dianne. "It didn't matter if you were sick; you go to work. Tired? Go to work. You handle your responsibilities. And customer service: That hometown feeling was so important and made a huge difference. That was our life—and I wouldn't trade it for anything."

#### The next chapter

Now in their mid- and late-70s, Mike and Richard have earned their retirement. Mike said he and Vicki plan to travel after the pandemic lifts, and already are "having a great time spending our days together—we've never been able to do that."

Richard said he has "35 years worth of items on my to-do list, so I have to straighten that up." After that, he and Andrea will take some road trips. "I've enjoyed every minute of my life. Why stop now?"

Meanwhile, the Upper Valley community's grocery store appears to be in good hands. Kirby Co. CEO David Kirby said the only initial major changes to the Red Apple building will be new refrigeration units and the name change to Concrete MarketFresh. Beyond that, they'll take things slowly

Frank Era, cont. from p. 12

and methodically. "We really focus on smaller communities; that's where we're comfortable," he said. "We try to become a good neighbor in those areas, working with the local population. We let our employees lead the way, and we'll take it one step at a time."

Kirby marveled at the Franks' tenure in the business. "We don't take that legacy lightly. We feel a strong obligation not to mess that up," he said.

Concrete MarketFresh manager Rob Blowers worked for Richard and Mike for two and a half years before the ownership change. He said his training period with the brothers taught him a lot about the grocery business. "I enjoyed it thoroughly."

Moving forward, Blowers noted what he called a "cultural change" with the Kirby Co. ownership, which focuses on empowering employees to make decisions on their own and provides opportunities

for upward mobility.

With five other stores in southwestern Washington and northwest Oregon, Kirby Co. has the muscle to increase the store's inventory to the tune of at least 300 new items, said Blowers. "We're able to buy in larger quantities, which reduces the price, which gets passed along to the community," he said.

The changes will come incrementally—indeed, they already have—creating more and more reasons for Upper Valley residents to spend their grocery dollars at Concrete MarketFresh. "As we continue to add products, expand our selection, and increase sales, that means more job opportunities—positions and available hours," said Blowers. "It all comes back full circle."

Local historians John Boggs and Dan Royal contributed research services for this article.



Mike (left) and Richard Frank were photographed in October 2012 for a *Concrete Herald* story on I-1183, the initiative that privatized liquor sales in Washington State. The brothers called I-1183 "a big hassle," bringing slim profit margins and more work, while taking up more space in Albert's Red Apple Market in Grasmere.

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# Clear Lake



## HISTORY CORNER

Xaver and Mary Etta Bartl were among the early settlers in and around Clear Lake. They filed a timber claim on the hill at the south end of Clear Lake in 1882.

Their oldest daughter, Mary Frances, was born on Whidbey Island in 1872 and was 12 years old when the family took up residence at Clear Lake. Her father was logging with oxen and hired Mary Frances to grease the skids with dog salmon oil, making it easier to pull the logs out of the woods on a skid road.

Mary Frances married Thomas Edgar Turner in 1888; they were the parents of three children: John, Charles, and Daisy. John was Jack W. Turner's grandfather, and Xaver and Mary Etta were his great-great-grandparents. Xaver and Mary Etta's youngest daughter, Phoebe, was born in Clear Lake in 1885. She

married Bud Jones; they were the parents of nine children. Their daughter, Pearl, married Ed Case; they were the parents of two daughters, Dorothy and Orpha Case. The Bartls were the girls' great grandparents.

We are sad to say that both Orpha and Jack W. passed away last month, both descendants of Xaver and Mary Etta Bartl. Orpha was 97 years old and Jack 78. Both were charter members of the Clear Lake Historical Association and both will definitely be missed. *Photos courtesy of Clear Lake Historical Association.*

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

—Deanna Ammons, historian  
Clear Lake and Day Creek



Xaver and Mary Etta Bartl



Jack Turner



Orpha Ward



## Community Calendar



### DECEMBER

- 1–12 Darrington Christmas Art Show, Darrington, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; see notice, p. 25; info at [btwo.gtoo@gmail.com](mailto:btwo.gtoo@gmail.com) or 360.436.0711
- 4–5 How the Chamber Saved Christmas, Sedro-Woolley; see ad, p. 17
- 5–6 Concrete Lions Club Christmas tree sales, Swap Meet field west of Loggers Landing, Concrete; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; trees also available at Concrete MarketFresh during regular store hours
- 12 Holiday Lane in Concrete Town Center, 6 to 8 p.m.; see ad, p. 3, and article, p. 6
- 12 Christmas Parade in Darrington, 6 p.m.; see article, p. 24
- 4 How the Chamber Saved Christmas, Sedro-Woolley; see ad, p. 17
- 12 How the Chamber Saved Christmas, Sedro-Woolley; see ad, p. 17
- 12–13 Concrete Lions Club Christmas tree sales, Swap Meet field west of Loggers Landing, Concrete; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; trees also available at Concrete MarketFresh during regular store hours

\*Community Calendar is updated daily at [www.concrete-herald.com/calendar](http://www.concrete-herald.com/calendar)

## Community meetings

**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 [cmachapter39@gmail.com](mailto:cmachapter39@gmail.com).

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

**Concrete Resource Coalition** meets the third Thur. of each month, at 2 p.m., in the Concrete High School library.

**Concrete School District Board** will meet via Zoom on Dec. 17 at 6 p.m. For more information, call 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](mailto:andrea@concretewa.gov). See notice, p. 4, for information regarding virtual attendance.

**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](mailto:darrcityhall@frontier.com).

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

**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](mailto: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** will meet Dec. 14 at 5 p.m., at the District Office, 801 Trail Rd. Attendance is limited to Zoom. Info at [kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us](mailto:kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us) or 360.855.3500.

**Upper Skagit Library District (USLD) Board** meets the second Thursday of each month, 6 p.m., via Zoom. To attend, go to [upperskagitlibrary.org](https://upperskagitlibrary.org) for the Zoom link or e-mail [info@upperskagitlibrary.org](mailto:info@upperskagitlibrary.org).



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360.853.7580

**Concrete MarketFresh**  
44546 State Route 20  
360.853.8540

**5B's Bakery**  
45597 Main Street, Concrete  
[www.5bsbakery.com](http://www.5bsbakery.com)  
360.853.8700

**Ovenell's Heritage Inn**  
46276 Concrete Sauk Valley Rd., Concrete  
[www.ovenells-inn.com](http://www.ovenells-inn.com)  
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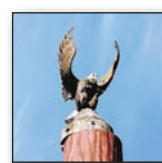
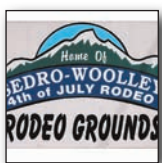
Not advertising in Concrete Herald is like winking in the dark.\*

\*You're the only one who knows what you're doing.





# Sedro-Woolley



## PSE electric rates increase Dec. 1

State regulators last month allowed a slight rate increase to go into effect on Dec. 1 for Puget Sound Energy's electric customers.

An average residential customer using 900 kWh per month will see a bill increase of \$1.92 per month, or 2.1 percent, for a total monthly bill of \$95.57.

PSE's unrecovered power costs of \$39.5 million were eligible for recovery last July when the Utilities and Transportation Commission approved its annual power cost adjustment. However, the company chose not to pursue recovery at that time because of concern about the economic impact of the rate increase on customers during the pandemic.

—J. K. M.

PSE recently requested the previously approved recovery, citing credit rating concerns and continued growth of the deferral balance that could lead to larger customer rate increases in the future if not recovered in a more timely manner.

A power cost adjustment is a regulatory mechanism that allows companies to

recover the difference between the actual cost of generating and purchasing electric energy and the authorized revenue from the sale of that energy. While the utility's cost of generating and purchasing electric energy fluctuates constantly, under a power cost adjustment, customer rates generally change only annually after the cost differences are determined. In the past, the difference has resulted in a credit to customer bills.

The commission received four public comments, all opposed to the rate increase.

Bellevue-based PSE provides electricity service to more than 1.1 million electric customers in eight Washington counties, including Skagit and Whatcom.

The UTC is the state agency that regulates private, investor-owned electric and natural gas utilities in Washington. It is the commission's responsibility to ensure regulated companies provide safe and reliable service to customers at reasonable rates, while allowing them the opportunity to earn a fair profit.

—Submitted by UTC

## Project ReInvent launches

In response to the economic downturn spurred by the COVID-19 pandemic, Bellingham-based NW Innovation Resource Center has launched a new program to help startups and small businesses weather the changes or pivot to new models.

Project ReInvent launched in November. The program aims to help startups and small businesses during the economic downturn, and aims to boost dislocated

workers who have either been thinking about becoming an entrepreneur or would like to share their extensive industry knowledge to help improve the success of an existing local business. Project ReInvent is offered in Whatcom, Skagit, Island, San Juan, and Snohomish counties.

Efforts to engage, upskill, and re-employ our dislocated workforce is the key hallmark of Project ReInvent. The program is designed to provide a unique

opportunity for these individuals to share their knowledge and skills to improve the success of existing small businesses. It also encourages them to explore entrepreneurial opportunities for their own innovative ideas.

Anyone who has recently left the workforce and has been considering their own startup business might find an opportunity to make it happen with Project ReInvent.

Project ReInvent is a three-pronged effort: ReInvent Business, StartupNW, and the ReInvent Corps. Each component

is designed to help participants succeed in their efforts to reimagine their business, start a business, or support small businesses and startups.

NWIRC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that helps entrepreneurs and inventors in northwest Washington develop their business strategy by finding the right tools and community resources needed to bring their ideas to life. For more information, go to <https://nwirc.com/programs/project-reinvent>.

## Skagit County Sheriff's Office Blotter

On Nov. 3 at approximately 9:36 p.m., Skagit County Sheriff's Office deputies responded to a robbery that had just occurred at the Gull station located at 21481 SR 20 in Sedro-Woolley. The clerk stated that two men had walked in and demanded money at gunpoint. They left with the cash drawer and fled on foot eastbound.

A K9 track was attempted, but the suspects were not located.

If anyone has information regarding this robbery, call 360.428.3211.

Suspect No. 1 is described as a white male last seen wearing a red bandana, a black hoodie with a black shirt underneath, a gray hoodie, khaki pants, and black and white shoes.

Suspect No. 2 is described as a Hispanic or light-skinned black male last seen wearing a red bandana, a gray hoodie over a red shirt, blue jeans, and black shoes. He has a tattoo of a teardrop under his left eye.

The firearm, held by suspect No. 2, is described as a black semiautomatic pistol.

## Skagit Conservation Board to hold election

The Skagit Conservation Board of Supervisors voted during its Nov. 25 meeting to hold an election with mail-in ballots, and public poll and ballot drop-off site on Wed., Feb. 24, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. to coincide with the February monthly board meeting.

The election will be held at 2021 E. College Way, Mount Vernon, for a Skagit Conservation District (SCD) Board of Supervisors position that is currently held by Dave Malsed and will expire in May 2021.

The candidate filing deadline is Wed., Jan. 27, at 4:30 p.m. at 2021 E. College Way, Suite 203, Mount Vernon (SCD office), and the absentee ballot request deadline is Feb. 3 at 4:30 p.m., where absentee ballots may be requested by phone or e-mail.

For more information, interest in the position, or to request a ballot, contact Cindy Pierce at 360.428.4313 or [skagitcd@skagitcd.org](mailto:skagitcd@skagitcd.org).

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**December 4 At 5 PM**  
Kick off with a Virtual Tree Lighting  
(Facebook and Youtube Live)

**December 12 at 9 AM**  
**Beta Sigma Phi**  
Drive-thru Breakfast at the Community Center

**Shop the Museum/See Santa**  
from 12 PM to 3 PM

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## Share the Joy

COVID has affected us throughout the year and so with heavy heart — we have cancelled all parade activities

However Beta Sigma Phi presents a Drive-thru Santa Breakfast thanks to our sponsor the Hampton Inn and Suites, from 9 AM to 11 AM December 12. The breakfast will be a brown bag affair, people must wear masks and remain in their cars per the County Health Department.

At the Museum on December 12 from 12 PM to 3 PM the Museum Gift Shop will be open and Santa will pass out candy canes. The Museum will have an antique Santa Throne from decades ago, be sure to check it out.

See our website [www.sedro-woolley.com](http://www.sedro-woolley.com) and or facebook pages

<https://www.facebook.com/sedrowoolleychamber/events/>





# Lyman



## Charity announces coming events

Lyman-based Heart to Heart Charity's Christmas Angel Tree is accepting applications for this year's program. The Heart to Heart Charity's Christmas Angel Tree is looking for businesses, families, groups, and people who wish to spread some Christmas magic this year for families in need of holiday assistance.

This is a great way for families, groups, businesses and more to celebrate the season by adopting a child or family for Christmas. We have families of all sizes; just contact us for more information.

If you would like to adopt a child or family please e-mail Tammie at hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com. We will help as many families and children as we can, depending on how much support we get.

Donations of cash/checks are greatly appreciated to help with additional needed items. Checks need to be made payable to Heart To Heart Charity and can be mailed to Heart to Heart Charity, P.O. Box 1372, Lyman, WA 98263. For PayPal payments, use hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com or e-mail for a credit/debit card authorization.

—Tammie Werner



Upper Valley photographer Jude Dippold snapped this haunting view during a Nov. 21 hike in the Upper Cascade River Valley. "It was a relatively warm, sunny day, with the river throwing up quite a bit of fog at the bottom of the narrow valley," said Dippold. The crepuscular rays (a.k.a. "God rays") are caused by the sun casting shadows onto the fog as it passes through the trees. Photo by Jude Dippold.

## Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 35

arrived at the scene and located a county road sign in the back of the vehicle. She applied for a search warrant to recover the sign. The driver was referred for hit-and-run and for possession of stolen property.

**Nov. 4**

The caregiver of a person who lives on Main Street in Concrete called to advise that someone had stolen several items from her client in the last couple of days. Deputy Devero investigated. He was told by the victim that only one other person had been in his house other than himself and his caregiver, who was gone when the items were taken. At this time the other person is the primary suspect. Deputy Devero will follow up with the suspect.

A report of a burglary in the 34000 block of SR 20 in Hamilton was reported to the Sheriff's Office. Deputies Rogers and Murdock responded. They contacted the resident, who said that he had been gone for several days and when he returned, he found four to five people in his house. He confronted them and they fled east. Deputies checked the house, but did not find anyone in the house. They walked through the house with the resident and checked to see what was missing. Because of the condition of the residence, they could not determine accurately what, if anything, was missing. At the time, the victim did not know the identity of the suspects.

**Nov. 5**

Wildlife Officer Miller called and requested that the Sheriff's Office recover a stolen vehicle he had located on Burpee Hill Rd. Because of pending calls, he was unable to stay with the vehicle. The next day, Deputy Vincent located the vehicle about 150 feet over the hill. The vehicle was reported stolen by Renton Police Dept. Deputy Vincent contacted the owner and the vehicle was towed.

**Nov. 7**

Deputy Moore was advised of several vehicles stranded on Sauk Mountain. The owners of the vehicles had been on Sauk Mountain when the weather turned bad. Before they were able to drive down the mountain, the road had frozen over and one of the vehicles had driven into the ditch, blocking the roadway so no one could make it down the road. The drivers were very inexperienced driving in snowy or icy conditions. The 4 Rivers Search and Rescue group was called, and they were able to contact the stranded motorists. SAR was able to get the vehicle out of the ditch and instructed the drivers how to safely drive down the mountain. The

driver of the truck that had been stuck had injured himself and was unable to drive. His vehicle was left and he was transported down the mountain by SAR, where he got a ride to the hospital. It was later discovered that the driver had broken three of his ribs. The driver of the truck was going to contact a tow company later to retrieve his vehicle.

**Nov. 9**

Deputy Mullen was contacted by a victim of a theft that had occurred at her residence on Baker Dr. in Cedar Grove. The victim said that during the last several days, her roommate had had numerous people over to her house. When she returned today, she discovered her cell phone was missing. It had been on the top of her dresser in her room. She has suspicions of who took it, but didn't want to "throw anyone under the bus." She requested a case number so she could get her phone replaced. Deputy Mullen took the information and gave her the case number to the report.

A resident in the 600 block of Shiloh Lane called and reported that his next door neighbor's son was harassing him. He advised that the teenage boy would shine a laser into his house and onto him at different times of the day. Deputy Mullen contacted the boy, who at first was belligerent and seemed to think it was a joke. After Deputy Mullen advised him that it was actually a crime and he could be arrested, the boy took it seriously and told Deputy Mullen he wouldn't do it again.

**Nov. 11**

Sgt. Hagglund and Deputy Montgomery contacted a suspect who was trespassing and had stolen a cup of coffee at Loggers Landing in Concrete. Deputy Montgomery arrested the suspect for trespassing and theft. The suspect agreed to leave the area and go to Mount Vernon. He was transported to Mount Vernon by Deputy Montgomery.

A neighbor reported prowlers next door to him in the 46000 block of Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove. The owner of the residence lives in Seattle. Earlier the neighbor saw flashlights shining into the window of the next door residence. When he came outside, the flashlights disappeared. Sgt. Kading checked the residence, but was unable to find any suspects. He also checked the residence and found it secure.

While patrolling in the area of Lyman Hamilton Rd. and Cabin Creek Rd., Deputy Mullen contacted a female in a car. After identifying her, he discovered that she had a warrant for her arrest. He

arrested her and transported her to Skagit County Jail.

**Nov. 12**

Concrete School District Superintendent Barrett called Deputy Mullen and reported that sometime in the last couple of days, someone had broken into one of the portables and had stolen several electronic devices. He was currently looking through video to determine if he could locate any suspects. He advised he would call Deputy Mullen if he located any information.

Deputies responded to a report of a fight on California St. in Hamilton. Deputies arrived, talked to everyone involved, and they determined that the boyfriend had assaulted his girlfriend by knocking her down then kicking her when she was on the ground. The suspect was arrested and booked into jail for assault.

**Nov. 13**

Deputy Grant investigated a motor vehicle accident that occurred on Hamilton Cemetery Rd. near Medford Rd. The driver had been traveling at a high rate of speed east on Hamilton Cemetery Road when he attempted to turn onto Medford Rd. He left the roadway and struck a power pole. The driver had a suspended driver's license and no insurance. He was cited and released.

**Nov. 14**

A petitioner in an order called to report that the respondent in the order came over to her house and yelled at her, violating the order. When Deputy Rogers and Deputy Moses contacted the victim, she told them that she had a friend over to her house. The suspect, against whom she has an order, came over, saw the friend, and became upset. He started yelling at her through the window. The suspect left prior to the arrival of the deputies. Deputies checked the area, but could not locate the suspect. He will be referred for violation of a court order.

**Nov. 15**

A domestic was reported in the 45000 block of Benjamin St. in Concrete. The caller said that her granddaughter was drunk and out of control, and family members were holding her down, trying to control the suspect. Deputies Rogers and Devero responded. When Deputy Rogers arrived, he discovered that the situation was more calm. The witnesses said that the suspect had been very intoxicated and out of control. They had restrained her, but no one had been assaulted. They were able to convince the suspect to let them take her to a hotel in Sedro-Woolley, where she could stay for the night away from her family. The suspect's mother transported her to the hotel.

A victim reported to Deputy Passovoy that someone in a silver extended cab pickup had stolen his commercial ladder from his residence on Burpee Hill Rd. At this time he does not know who took the ladder.

Deputy Mullen was contacted by a person who lives on Limestone St. in Concrete, regarding someone driving over his basketball hoop that is next to the traveled portion of Limestone St. Deputy Mullen went to the scene and observed a basketball hoop next to the road. It appeared that someone traveling west on Limestone had struck the hoop, gotten high centered on the hoop, then burned out, leaving westbound on Limestone. There are no suspects at this time, but the victim said he was going to check his camera system to see if he could locate video of the suspect.

A suspicious vehicle was seen parked on Lake Shannon Rd. just above Concrete. The reporting party said that two people were in the vehicle and she believed that they might be intoxicated. Deputy Mullen contacted the subjects in the vehicle. Neither were intoxicated or appeared to be on drugs. They told Deputy Mullen that they were living in their car and had just parked there for the night. The male in the car had an arrest warrant out of the Department of Corrections. Deputy Mullen checked to see if DOC wanted him arrested, but DOC was not open. He advised the suspect to call DOC when they open to take care of the warrant.

**Nov. 18**

Deputy Dalton responded to a domestic disturbance at Silo Park in Concrete. The caller advised that his ex-girlfriend would not get out of his car. Deputy Dalton contacted both parties involved. The male said that his ex-girlfriend had some of his belongings he wanted back and she had agreed to return them if he agreed to drive her around on some errands. He now wanted her to get out of his car, but she refused to give him his belongings. Deputy Dalton was able to get them to agree that if the driver gave his ex-girlfriend a ride to her father's house in Hamilton, she would give him his stuff. They were both happy with the outcome and left, traveling toward Hamilton.

**Nov. 19**

A homeowner in the 51000 block of Steelhead Dr. in Rockport reported that a female came onto her gated property and was knocking on her door for about 20 minutes. Deputies were busy on a search-and-rescue, and when they were able to

See Sheriff's Blotter, p. 19

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## Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 19

respond, the female had left the area. They checked the area and told the homeowner to call if she returned.

Deputy Passovoy was flagged down by a citizen who reported that they had found something that looked like a pipe bomb on Sauk Mountain. Deputy Passovoy located the item, which looked like three pipe

bombs taped together. Washington State Patrol and Snohomish bomb squads were contacted and responded to the scene. They destroyed the item. Based on the flash of the explosion, the bomb squad said they believed the item was hairspray bottles taped together to look like a bomb.

—Compiled by Sgt. Greg Adams





**Above:** Jarrod Lee snapped this moonrise photo over Concrete Town Center during the Oct. 31 Haunted Town Tours in Concrete. The reimagined event this year was a fundraiser for Concrete Heritage Museum and Fire District 10 Association. Photo by Jarrod Lee



**Above left:** Members of Washington National Guard outfitted a storage box behind Concrete Food Bank on Nov. 20. The finished 8 x 20-foot box was insulated and included separate refrigeration/freezer and storage areas. The addition was funded through Helping Hands Food Bank.

**Far left:** Becky Luttrell hams it up as Bigfoot during the Oct. 24 Haunted Town Tours in Concrete.



**Left:** John Boggs was serious as death behind his mask during the Oct. 24 Haunted Town Tours in Concrete. Organized by Concrete Chamber President Val Stafford and Dist. 10 firefighter Becky Luttrell, the drive-through event pulled more than 170 cars to town and supported Concrete Heritage Museum and Fire District 10 Association, which each received \$1,791.

# November in pictures



**Above:** Members of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association (CVMA) hosted a Nov. 14 ramp-building project for veteran Jim Shira, who uses a wheelchair for mobility. CVMA members teamed with Trico Companies employees and members of the Berserkers Brotherhood to remove the degraded existing ramp and install the new aluminum ramp, complete with a concrete approach pad. On hand that day were Russ Celia, Pete Sill, John Roach, and Fred Wahlgren from CVMA; Brad Phillips, Carson Phillips, Brian Jones, and John Koenig from Trico; and Nick Verner, Bobby Rushin, Zebulon Austin, and James Sullivan from Berserkers Brotherhood. Ideal Rent-All donated the concrete and mixer.

**Left:** John Koenig and fellow Trico Companies employees raise a new U.S. flag in Shira's front yard during the ramp-building project on Nov. 14.



**Water and Wastewater Services** employees and others work to drain the sewer lagoon in Concrete on Nov. 6. The process includes draining the water, trucking the biosolids to the treatment plant in La Conner, removing the liner, then filling the cavity with construction-quality fill. Town of Concrete received funding for the project in excess of \$300,000 during the 2019 legislative session. The lagoon decommissioning project is a component of a larger town goal to build new Public Works shops on the site, demolish the existing shops north of Bear Square in Concrete Town Center, move that surface parking lot to the former lot sites, and activate Bear Square with "Sauk Village," a proposed small-scale cluster of sheds facing a grass square with an open-air stage at the north end.



**Trico Companies** workers poured a new concrete pad for ADA access at the south side of the new library building in Concrete Town Center on Nov. 20.



**Concrete Public Works Dir. Terry Coggins** (in lift) and volunteer Rebecca Miller work to decorate the town Christmas tree on Nov. 25. Miller and a crew of other volunteers collaborated with Town of Concrete and Concrete Chamber of Commerce to reimagine the Christmas tree decorations this year.





# Hamilton



# Rockport



## Draft master plan meeting available online

On Nov. 12, Forterra hosted a Zoom meeting to present the draft master plan for the expansion of Hamilton to the site north of SR 20.

The meeting was recorded and may be viewed on the Hamilton News page on the Forterra Web site: <https://forterra.org/hamiltonnews>.

The video is about 50 minutes long

and begins with a report from Forterra, continuing with an explanation of the architects' work to date.

Opinions and thoughts may be shared with Forterra. Contact Susan Melrose, Senior Project Manager for Community Development at Forterra, at 206.204.8064 or [smelrose@forterra.org](mailto:smelrose@forterra.org).

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## State Parks announces 2021 free days

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission will offer another calendar of free days in 2021. On these free days, day-use visitors will not need a Discover Pass for vehicle access.

Rasar State Park in Birdview and Rockport State Park will be free for day use during all scheduled free days.

The 2021 free days are planned as follows:

- Jan. 1 and 18
- March 19
- April 3
- April 22
- June 5
- June 12 and 13
- Aug. 25
- Sept. 25
- Nov. 11 and 26

The free days were first designated in 2011. Free days apply only to day-use access by vehicle, not overnight stays or rented facilities.

State Parks free days are in keeping with 2011 legislation that created the Discover Pass, which costs \$30 annually or \$10 for a one-day visit. The pass is required for vehicle access to state recreation lands managed by Washington State Parks, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The Discover Pass legislation directed State Parks to designate up to 12 free days when the pass would not be required to visit state parks.

The free days apply only at state parks; the Discover Pass is still required on WDFW and DNR lands.

Below: Artie Olson from Rockport is shown line-driving his new team in November. The black horse is Minnie; the buckskin mule is Chester. *Submitted photo.*

## Barnaby Reach project update

Phase 1 construction of the Barnaby Reach project along the Skagit River near Rockport will begin in 2021, according to communication from Cynthia Carlstad, principal of Northwest Hydraulic Consultants in Seattle.

The first phase will include removal of the old hatchery infrastructure at the former Barnaby Slough Hatchery in an effort to improve fish habitat in the

Barnaby Reach. Plans include removing three cross dikes and the enclosed rearing pond in Barnaby Slough. Water control structures, buildings, abandoned wells, and unnecessary road fill also will be removed or decommissioned.

The project is in its final design and permitting phase, with construction planned for summer 2021.

—J. K. M.



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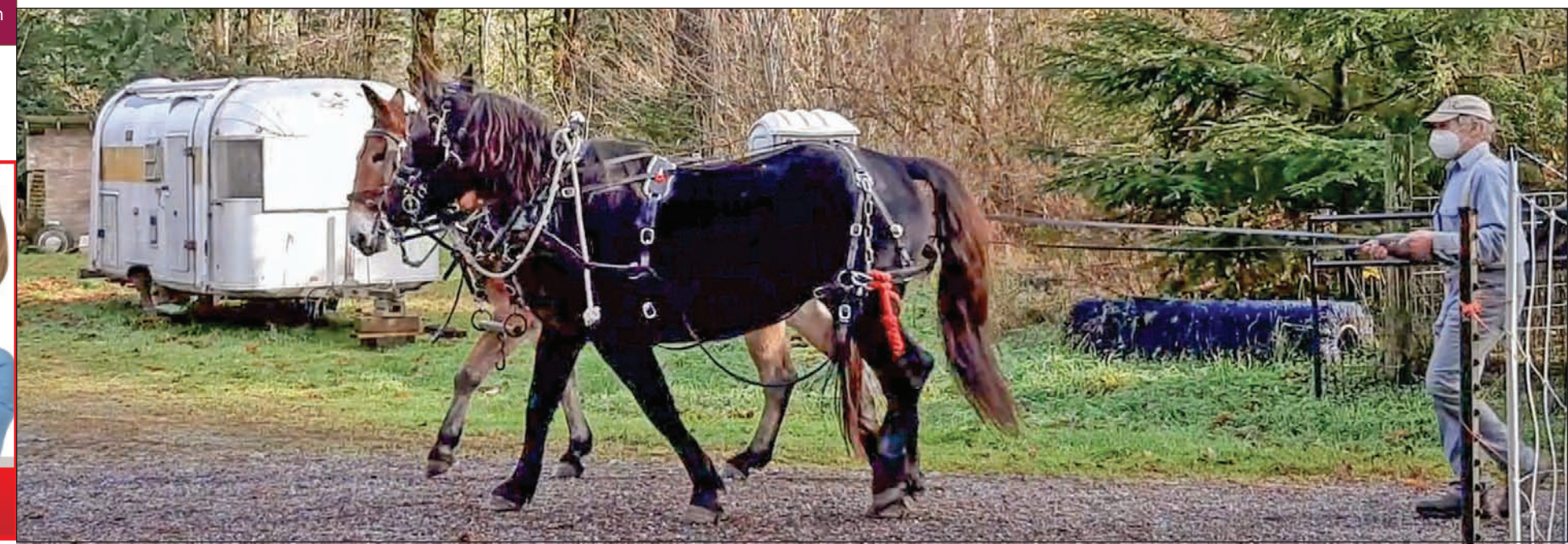
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# Darrington



## Snohomish County Sheriff's Report

Nov. 9

Around 3:45 p.m., the Sheriff's Office Collision Investigation Unit responded to a fatal collision in the 1600 block of North Machias Rd. in Lake Stevens.

A truck driving northbound struck the side of a passenger vehicle as it crossed over the travel lanes. The driver of the passenger vehicle, an 86-year-old Lake Stevens woman, died at the scene. The driver of the truck was not injured and remained at the scene.

CIU detectives believed the passenger vehicle was struck on its side as it was crossing over the lanes of travel to enter a driveway on the other side of the roadway. The road remained closed for several hours while detectives investigated the crash.

Positive identification of the decedent, as well as cause and manner of death, was to come from the Snohomish County Medical Examiner's Office.

Nov. 18

Around 7 a.m., a 34-year-old male inmate was sitting alone waiting to be escorted to video court when he collapsed inside the Snohomish County Jail in Everett.

The housing unit corrections deputy immediately called a medical emergency and staff began lifesaving efforts. Aid units responded to the jail and took over lifesaving efforts. The man was transported to Providence Regional Medical Center, where he later passed away.

There were no apparent signs or observations that indicated an obvious

cause of death.

The inmate, an Everett resident, had been booked into the jail on Nov. 15 by the Everett Police Department for three Everett Municipal Court warrants for reckless driving, violation of a domestic violence no contact order, and fourth-degree domestic violence assault, as well as one Marysville Municipal Court warrant for violation of a domestic violence no-contact order.

Following his death, a morbidity review was conducted. This is a review of the death from a clinical standpoint and is independent of the death investigation, which is being conducted by the Sheriff's Office Major Crimes Unit. Both are completed pursuant to operating protocol for all in custody deaths.

The identity of the inmate, as well as cause and manner of death, was to be released by the Snohomish County Medical Examiner's Office.

Nov. 21

Around 8:40 p.m., Sheriff's Office Collision Investigation Unit detectives responded to a single-vehicle fatal crash near Trombley Rd. and Meadow Lake Rd. in Snohomish.

A passenger vehicle lost control, left the roadway, and struck a tree. The driver, a 26-year-old Snohomish man, died at the scene.

The road remained closed for several hours Saturday night while Collision Investigation Unit detectives investigated the scene of the crash.

Positive identification of the decedent, as well as cause and manner of death, was to come from the Snohomish County Medical Examiner's Office.

—Compiled from SCSO releases

## Council summary

*Darrington Town Council met for regular meetings on Oct. 14 and Nov. 4, 2020. The following is summaries of those meetings. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are available at Darrington Town Hall and online at townofdarrington.com.*

### Oct. 14 regular meeting

- Council approved an agreement with Sound Internet Services to place Internet poles on right of way.
- Council approved the draft purchase loan from Forterra for the 94-acre Grandy Lake property and for Mayor Dan Rankin to proceed with negotiations.
- Council also approved an interlocal cooperation agreement between Town of Darrington and Snohomish County Conservation Futures, for grant funding for acquisition of a portion of the Grandy Lake property.
- After discussion and some dissension, council approved Resolution GR 320: an update to the personnel policies manual.

### Nov. 4 regular meeting

- The meeting began with a public hearing for the 2021 property tax levy. The public hearing was closed after one minute with no comments.
- The community center floor repair was discussed. ALS repaired the floor at a cost of \$8,000, which was less than expected. They leveled the old flooring and glued it on top of concrete.
- Council approved Ordinance 755, establishing the distribution of 2021 property tax revenue and an increase of 1 percent.
- Council approved Ordinance 757, Amending Chapter 17, related to accessory dwellings and simplifying the language.

—Compiled from staff minutes

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



## Christmas Parade planned

By Marla Skaglund

On Dec. 12, Darrington citizens will enjoy a Christmas Parade through town, sponsored by the Mansford Grange with assistance from Darrington Fire Department. The parade begins at 6 p.m.

Jan and April Kittelson will ride in the Darrington fire engine as Santa and Mrs. Claus.

This year Darrington residents are encouraged to decorate their vehicles with festive Christmas décor and be part of the parade. Participants will meet at the Glad Tidings church at 5:30 p.m. and be given directions. The parade will begin at 6 p.m. and the fire dept. will hand out candy canes. Containers for food donations will be at various business locations.

The aid units, service vehicles, city vehicles, and the residents-decorated vehicles will travel on most of the streets in Darrington. The main fire engine with Santa and Mrs. Claus will stay on the main streets. After the parade, Mayor Dan Rankin will throw the switch and light the town's Christmas tree, located at the library.

## Closed for repairs

Darrington Post Office patrons increasingly frustrated with extended closure after flooding

The U.S. Post Office building in Darrington sits lower than the road and the surrounding parking lots. In western Washington, that's a problem.

In late September the building flooded, causing damage to its lobby floors and walls, followed by mold. The post office closed its lobby doors in October, forcing patrons to collect their mail via an outdoor window between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays.

The post office rents the building, and the property owner—who the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) says is responsible for the repairs—isn't talking. There's no timeline in place for the repair work, and Darrington patrons' patience is wearing thin. Their irritation isn't directed at the local staff; rather, it's the absent building owner and a federal agency that seems unwilling or unable to speed the repair process.

Complicating the situation is the fact that the Darrington Post Office doesn't deliver; all patrons must pick up their mail in person.

"We should be able to pick our own mail up from our P.O. box," wrote one individual on the local Darrington Reader Board Facebook page. "There is no reason for this to go on like this. This situation is causing hardships for people and we

have a right to get our mail when we need it, not when it's convenient for the staff. If the floors are not flooded, there is no reason to prevent people from picking up their mail."

Since the post office is a federal agency, Darrington Mayor Dan Rankin reached out to Congresswoman Suzan DelBene for assistance.

In a Nov. 19 letter to Postmaster General Louis DeJoy, DelBene voiced her concern over the delay and urged action, calling attention to the stalemate between the USPS and the building owner.

"It is my understanding that the standard maintenance rider within USPS lease agreements states that if the landlord does not complete the required repairs within the USPS stated timeframe, then USPS has the right to complete the repairs and receive reimbursement from the landlord," wrote DelBene.

As of Nov. 29, DelBene's office had not received a reply to the letter.

—J. K. M.

**Above right:** A Darrington Post Office patron waits outside the building to collect his mail on Nov. 3. The federal building closed in October after flooding damaged the building, and USPS officials have offered no timeline for repair work to be completed.

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## Treasures of the night sky

By Stephen Somsen

### Great Conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn

Jupiter and Saturn will pass within one tenth of one degree on the Winter Solstice, Dec. 21. Some observers may view the two planets as one during the actual time of conjunction.

The "Great Conjunction" of these two planets occurs once every 20 years or so, with the most recent one in May 2000 and the next one in October 2040.

Bear in mind that as close as they will appear, the two planets will actually be about 400 million miles apart.

You may want to view these two

planets for several days in advance of the conjunction to be sure you'll know where to look. The best viewing will be shortly after sunset, looking low in the southwest.

This might require some local travel to find a viewing location not obstructed by mountains or trees.

The Winter Solstice itself on Dec. 21 is worthy of note. For us here in the Northern Hemisphere, it marks the day when the direct rays of the sun fall farthest south, with a short day and a long night. Then, earth continues on its journey around the sun, with each day offering just a bit more sunlight for the next six months.

*Amateur astronomer Stephen Somsen can be reached at [ssomsen@aol.com](mailto:ssomsen@aol.com).*

### December calendar

### Darrington Christmas Art Show

A Christmas Art Show in Darrington is planned for Dec. 1–12 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Attendance is by appointment.

The show features new artwork by local

artists Gordy Beil, Ron Wolff, and Holly Cannell.

For an appointment, send an e-mail to [btwo.gtoo@gmail.com](mailto:btwo.gtoo@gmail.com) or call 360.436.0711.

Masks will be provided for anyone who forgets to bring one.

## Registration open for online home horticulture training

Learn to be a better home gardener and steward of the environment this winter through online Home Horticulture Training now being offered by Washington State University – Snohomish County Extension.

Training focuses on a range of horticulture topics taught online by WSU faculty and other experts on Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon starting Jan. 9 and continuing weekly through Apr. 24.

Training also includes access to WSU

Extension's online Master Gardener Training Modules and the Master Gardener Manual.

Anyone who wants to earn a Home Horticulture Certificate of Completion will need to participate in weekly online quizzes, a final, and attend most classes. Homework is planned to average three to five hours per week. All training is open book and no memorization is required.

Registration is limited and will close when the class is full or Dec. 18, whichever comes first.

Tuition for the program is \$300 and requires a computer with Internet access, an e-mail account, and a Zoom account.

For more information and to register, go to [mastergardener.wsu.edu](http://mastergardener.wsu.edu).

## Nehring: 2021 budget is "belt-tightening"

During a public hearing for the proposed 2021 county budget, Snohomish County Council Chair Nate Nehring referred to the 2021 budget as a "belt-tightening budget."

Calling it "a team effort," Nehring said the budget "reflects the priorities of our community" and will provide the funding necessary to "provide excellent service while maintaining fiscal restraint."

The budget does not increase the general property tax levy, marking the fourth consecutive year the county council has not raised the general levy.

"I believe this demonstrates our

commitment to fiscal restraint, living within our means, and being responsible with taxpayer funds," said Nehring.

The budget also maintains a focus on public safety, in spite of "a few" demands to defund the police by 50 percent and eliminate ties to municipal law enforcement agencies.

"I believe very strongly that public safety is a core responsibility of local government; I would say the primary responsibility," said Nehring, adding that "Public safety and social services are in no way mutually exclusive, and I believe this budget is evidence of that."

The 2021 budget was adopted after the Nov. 10 public hearing.

—J. K. M.

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# Marblemount



# Newhalem



## Marblemount enjoys Trunk or Treat

Marblemount welcomed a "Trunk or Treat" event to its community hall parking lot on Oct. 31.

Local residents decorated their cars and trucks for Halloween, then opened their trunks to share special treats with those who came out dressed for Halloween. Eleven vehicles provided treats for 50-plus trick or treaters.

Along with the decorated vehicles, the costumes were amazing. A couple of cars ran out of candy, some represented two households, and it was fun for all.

## Community Thanksgiving Dinner

On Nov. 21, Marblemount provided a take-out Thanksgiving dinner. This has been an annual dinner for many years, but this year it had to change to take-out only. The meal was a year in the making, and organizers expressed their gratitude to everyone who donated to the cause. Most of the donors have chosen to remain anonymous.

The dinner was a community tribute to Sandy DuVarney. Thanksgiving dinner began with her years ago, when she hosted a dinner in her home for those who needed a meal. Throughout the years and with the passing of Sandy, others continued the tradition. Health department rules have changed as well, such as a regulation that all food must be prepared at the hall.

Several volunteers helped this reporter prepare the meal, including Mina Wilson, Judy Carroll, Kathleen Dexter, and Marie

Poupart. The five women prepared and served 120 community residents in 2-1/2 hours. The meal consisted of turkey, ham (or both), mashed potatoes, yams, green beans, corn, and rolls. Residents also had a choice of pecan pie, apple pie, or pumpkin pie for dessert. An empty chair and table setting was dedicated for all those who could not join the dinner, with a special memorial for those who passed in 2020.

## Closing out the year

Marblemount Community Hall does not have any more events or board meetings planned for the rest of the year.

The board wishes all community members a happy holiday season.

—Syvella Kalil

## Travel restricted over Marblemount bridge

Skagit County on Nov. 1 implemented travel restrictions on the Marblemount Bridge over the Skagit River at Cascade River Rd.

A recent load rating analysis found truck weight limits would have to be implemented because of the reduced sufficiency rating of the 90-year-old bridge.

In order to allow all legally weighted trucks continued use of the bridge, Skagit County has restricted the bridge to a single lane of travel on the center of the bridge. This will allow for safe travel by all legal vehicles, including service vehicles such as propane delivery, garbage pickup, and school buses, while extending the life of the bridge.

This traffic change will be in place until the bridge can be repaired. Skagit County will continue to look for funding sources to improve the structural strength of the bridge and/or possible replacement in the future.

"Until funding is secured, this is a viable option to allow the use of the bridge by all vehicles and avoid an extended detour route of over 20 miles," said a press release from the county.

For more information, contact Skagit County Public Works at 360.416.1400.



Above and below: Halloween revelers enjoyed Trunk or Treat at the Marblemount Community Hall on Halloween. Eleven vehicles provided treats for more than 50 trick-or-treaters. Photos by Syvella Kalil.

Right: Syvella Kalil prepares Thanksgiving Dinner at the hall on Thanksgiving day. Five volunteers fed 120 locals in less than three hours. Photo by Judy Carroll.



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## AREA FOOD BANKS

### Clear Lake

#### Community Covenant Food Bank

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

### Concrete

#### Concrete Food Bank

45942 Main St., Concrete  
Second and fourth Tue. each month,  
Noon—3 p.m.  
360.853.8505

### Darrington

#### Darrington Food Bank

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

### Hamilton

#### Hamilton Community Food Bank

951 Petit St., Hamilton

Every Tue., 11—noon and 1—3 p.m.  
360.826.4090

### Marblemount

#### Bread of Life Food Bank

59850 State Route 20, Marblemount  
First and third Wed. each month  
11 a.m.—2 p.m. (temporary hours)  
360.873.2504

### Sedro-Woolley

#### Helping Hands Solution Center

Pick-up only, at Food Pavilion parking lot  
530 Crossroads Sq., Sedro-Woolley  
Mon.: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
3 to 6 p.m.  
Thur.: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
3 to 6 p.m.  
360.856.2211

Days and hours will be updated as needs change.

\*Changes? Call 360.853.8213.

## SR 20 closes for season east of Newhalem

A snowy forecast closed State Route 20 North Cascades Highway for the season on Nov. 16.

The closure points start at milepost 134/ Ross Dam Trailhead on the west side and at milepost 171/Silver Star Gate to the east. When significant snow begins to fall, WSDOT crews will move the western closure point back to milepost 130/Colonial Creek Campground and the eastern closure point to milepost 178/Early Winters Campground. These weather-dependent changes usually happen in January. Signs along SR 20 are posted in advance of the closure point and updates on the WSDOT Web site will

reflect where the road is closed.

Washington State Department of Transportation crews close this stretch of SR 20 every year once snow fills the avalanche chutes that line the highway, which poses a safety risk to travelers and road crews.

Hikers, skiers, snowmobilers, and other recreationalists can access the closed portion of highway during the winter season. Users should park in designated parking areas to allow plow drivers the space they need to clear snow around the closed stretch's access gates.

—WSDOT

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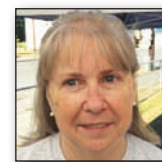
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# Seniors



## Verna's Kitchen

By Verna McClure

### Easy Does It Fruitcake



#### Ingredients

- 1 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 1¼ cups brown sugar
- 4 eggs
- 3 cups flour, divided
- 1 pound candied fruit
- 2 packages, 8 ounces each, pitted dates, chopped
- 1 package (15 oz.) raisins
- 1 cup chopped walnuts
- 1 cup chopped pecans or almonds
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground cloves
- ¼ cup orange juice

#### Glaze:

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 2 Tablespoons milk

1. Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs one at a time and beat.
2. In a large bowl, combine ¼ cup of the flour, candied fruit, dates, raisins, and nuts. Toss until well coated. Set aside.
3. In another bowl, mix the baking soda and the rest of the flour, spices, and salt. Gradually add to the creamed mixture, alternating with the orange juice. Stir in the fruit and nuts. Mix well.
4. Spoon into five well-greased 5¼ x 3 x 2-inch baking pans.
5. Bake in a 325-degree oven for 1 hour. Cover with foil and bake 10 to 15 minutes longer or until a pick comes out clean.
6. Let stand 10 minutes before removing from pans and place on cooling racks. Brush each warm loaf with the glaze, then allow to cool. Yield: 5 loaves

## Way Back When

### 90 years ago

Dec. 25, 1930: Superior Judge George A. Joiner passed out sentences Monday to three men who were convicted at the recent jury term. Guy Benston, who was convicted of 1st degree murder

for the killing of George Tinney, Burlington pool room proprietor, was sentenced to life imprisonment and was given an additional sentence of from 5 to 10 years imprisonment for robbery.

Joe Pinkster, who was found guilty of 1st degree assault for shooting Dan Dunning, federal prohibition officer during a raid on a still near McMurray, was sentenced to serve from two to five years in the state prison.

George Davis was given a sentence of not fewer than five years and not more than 10 years in the state penitentiary on his conviction of 1st degree assault for the shooting of Mrs. Jack Perry near Darrington.

### 80 years ago

Dec. 12, 1940: With unexpected suddenness, the influenza epidemic

See **Way Back**, p. 29

**Way Back**, cont. from p. 28

that has been sweeping the state, hit the Concrete School District over the weekend, with the result that between the high school and grade school, an average of 38 percent of the students were absent from their classes Monday. W. V. King, health officer, visited here and upon his recommendation, the schools were closed until Dec. 16. At this time, another check will be made to determine whether or not classes will resume.

Mount Vernon schools were

first to be hit by the epidemic and closed last Friday. Schools at Edison and Conway closed Monday, and Burlington and Sedro-Woolley were closed during the past few days.

Although the flu sickness is of a mild form, the school and health authorities are seeking to halt the epidemic before it becomes widespread.

Parents are urged to cooperate by impressing upon the children the necessity of avoiding public gatherings of all kinds.

### 70 years ago

Dec. 28, 1950: Perhaps the biggest earth slide in the Upper Valley in many years occurred Christmas night in the hills north of Concrete. The slide, about a half mile in length and covering an estimated 15 to 20 acres, brought residents of Limestone St. district out of their beds around midnight as the noise of trees cracking and earth rumbling gave warning of the danger.

No property damage was done as the slide occurred on the back side of the ridge behind the Limestone St. homes and paralleled the street. The Superior power line from Bear Creek was caught at the beginning of the slide, the power being cut off when three or four poles dropped some 50 to 60 feet from the right-of-way.

The slide started at the peak of the hill back of the Cunningham place and ended in the little valley above the old Sandy Davidson place. Tons of earth were broken into a mass of tangled trees and rubble as the deep section of land moved westward. At the west end of the movement, the main section of earth slipped almost 100 feet. The old Lorenz ranch, on the flat below the power line, was cracked and shaken into furrows as the land broke away from the clay subsoil.

### 60 years ago

Dec. 8, 1960: Saturday is the big day in Marblemount, for after many years of effort, they will be opening their new Community Club building for use. The official dedication has been set for the evening, with a program of entertainment and dancing open to everyone in the valley, but there will also be an open house in the afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m. At that time Art Enthrop will show people

through the building.

The idea of securing a hall for community use was advanced several years ago, along with the need for a volunteer fire dept. and other civic requirements for the small upriver town. The fire dept. took up the first year or so, and when it was equipped and operating, the Community Club began working for their hall.

—Compiled from archives

## East County

### Dec. 2020 activities

#### Concrete Community Center Meal Program

Mon.-Fri., 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Take-out only.

Must be present to pick up a meal.

Seniors curbside pickup.

Closed Dec. 24 and 25

#### East County Resource Center

Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

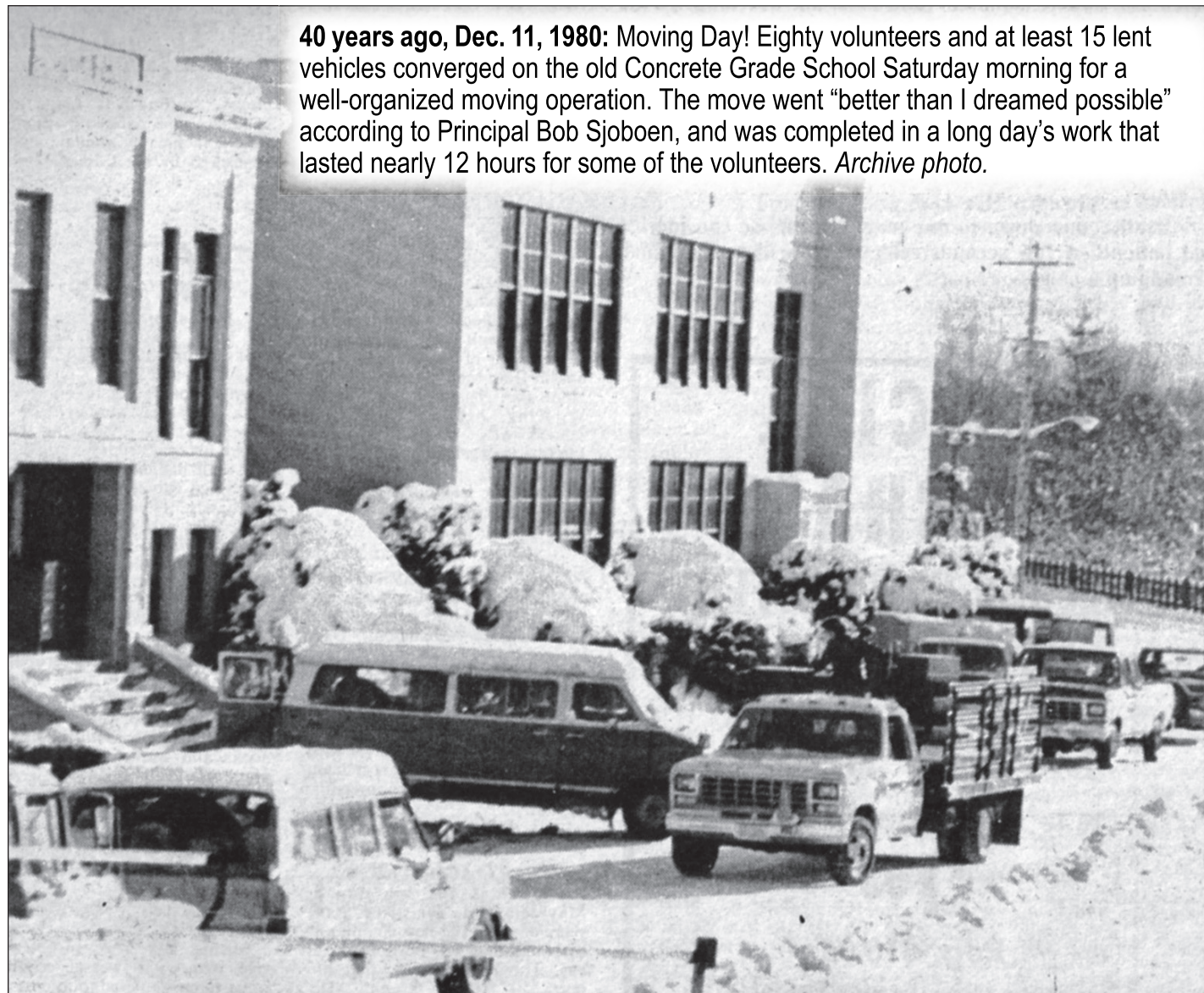
360.416.1733

Closed Dec. 24 and 25

We are open and providing critical need services, information, and referrals to individuals, one person at a time.

For more information, please visit the Community Action Web site link, "COVID-19 Response," or call 360-416-1733.

Your financial support makes a difference in the community. Thank you.



**40 years ago, Dec. 11, 1980:** Moving Day! Eighty volunteers and at least 15 lent vehicles converged on the old Concrete Grade School Saturday morning for a well-organized moving operation. The move went "better than I dreamed possible" according to Principal Bob Sjoboen, and was completed in a long day's work that lasted nearly 12 hours for some of the volunteers. *Archive photo.*



**40 years ago, Dec. 18, 1980:** Concrete volunteer firefighters and other citizens brought a holiday air to Main Street during the weekend, erecting the traditional tree at the east end of the street and stringing garlands overhead. The street decorations were purchased by the retail merchants committee of the Concrete Chamber of Commerce. *Archive photo.*



# Sunday School lesson

## The quiet listener

By Bruce Martin

Simeon is one of the silent players in the Christmas story. Like the shepherds, he represents the quiet and faithful minority. We are not given any detail about his position in life or his family, only his name.

We are told his name was Simeon, which means "hearing," and given a description of his character and how it pertained to God's wondrous plan of Salvation for all of us.

The Bible tells us Simeon was a righteous and devout man, living in right relationship to God, pure in heart and motive. He was committed and faithful, having a firm grip on the promises of God in Scripture. Simeon was living in expectation of seeing those promises fulfilled. Hebrews 11:1 tells us that "Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." He was one of the faithful minority of believers, "the quiet listeners" who were waiting expectantly for God's promised Messiah to come.

We are also told that the Holy Spirit was upon Simeon. The Holy Spirit is the One who works in the hearts and lives of God's people to lead, guide, and to reveal his truth. Simeon was a listener. That day, led by the Holy Spirit, Simeon went into the temple. The Lord had revealed to Simeon

that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Jesus and his parents were there that day to present Jesus to the Lord as the customs of the Jewish Law required. Simeon took baby Jesus in his arms and began to worship and praise God.

"Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace, as you have promised. I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all people. He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!" (Luke 2:29-32 NLT).

Jesus' parents marveled over what was said about Jesus. The words from Simeon and another "quiet listener," a prophetess named Anna, confirmed to their hearts the many promises spoken to them about Jesus. It helped them to understand who he was and what God would accomplish through him.

Joseph had been told by an angel, "Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her is conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:20-22 NLT).

These things occurred in fulfillment of the prophecies of Isaiah "Look! The virgin will conceive a child. She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us'" (Isaiah 7:14).

Another promise of hope was being fulfilled: "The people who walk in darkness will see a great light ... For a child is born to us, a son is given

to us. The government will rest upon his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and peace will never end" (Isaiah 9:26-7 NLT). Joseph and Mary marveled at what was said about their baby son Jesus.

We are surrounded by noise on every side. So many things compete for our attention. We are hearing lots of voices, but are we listening carefully to the still small voice of the Holy Spirit to know what is true?

An event which took place in 2008 helps to illustrate this thought. On a cold January morning a man sat at the metro station in Washington, D.C., and started to play his violin. He played six Bach pieces for about 45 minutes as people passed by. During this time, since it was rush hour, it was calculated that thousands of people went through the station, most of them on their way to work. In the 45 minutes the musician played, only six people stopped for a while. About 20 gave money, but continued to walk their normal pace. He collected \$32. When he finished playing and silence took over, no one noticed it. No one applauded, nor did anyone recognize the violinist, who was Joshua Bell, one of the best musicians in the world. He played one of the most intricate pieces ever written with a violin worth \$3.5 million. Many heard, but very few stopped to truly listen.

As this Christmas season approaches, we find ourselves experiencing things we have never seen before. It is surely a

time we need to ask the Lord to help us be "quiet listeners" in a noisy and confusing world. May we cultivate an ear to hear what the Lord is saying to his people in these difficult days. God's desire is to speak to us by his Spirit and through his Word, the Bible. May the still small voice of the Spirit be clear and strong in our hearts. Let us quiet our hearts and listen.

The Lord has promised to never forsake us and to lead us and guide us in the way we should go. He is faithful and always keeps his promises!

*Bruce Martin is pastor for Concrete Assembly of God Church in Concrete.*

## Obituaries published in Concrete Herald

from May 2009 to present are posted online at: [www.concrete-herald.com/obituaries](http://www.concrete-herald.com/obituaries)

For more information, contact Concrete Herald at 360.853.8213 or [editor@concrete-herald.com](mailto:editor@concrete-herald.com)

"Shut your eyes to estrangement, then fix your gaze upon unity. Cleave tenaciously unto that which will lead to the wellbeing and tranquillity of all mankind. This span of earth is but one homeland and one habitation."

*Bahá'u'lláh  
from Tablets of Bahá'u'lláh*

# Skagit County Sheriff's Office Blotter

## Oct. 27

A caller from Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove called to report a fight at her neighbor's house. Deputies Devero and Wolfe contacted the caller, who told them that two neighbors had gotten into a fight and one of them had injured his hand. She then showed them a video of the incident. It showed two males in a heated argument. There was no assault recorded on the video. When deputies contacted the two men involved, both said that it was only an argument over money owed to one of them. The person with the cut on his hand said that he believed he had cut his hand earlier on a hand rail. There was no assault and no action taken by deputies.

Cascades Towing called to advise that there was an upset customer at the business attempting to make entry into a

## 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.

### Bigbie, Richard Conrad

Age: 36  
Race: White  
Sex: M  
Height: 5' 9"  
Weight: 170  
Hair: Brown  
Eyes: Green  
Address: 6xx Cook Rd., Sedro-Woolley



Bigbie was convicted of attempted 2nd degree child molestation and communication with a minor in March 2018, in Skagit County.

Bigbie 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

vehicle. When Deputy Devero arrived, he discovered that the customer, who had driven into Lake Shannon earlier in the week, had arrived at the business without proof of ownership of the vehicle. The owner of the business explained that without proof of ownership, he couldn't let the customer into the vehicle. Deputy Devero was able to provide proof of ownership to the business. The customer calmed down and was cooperative. The customer advised the business that he would return for his vehicle when he had the money to pay.

Deputy Eichman responded to a request for a welfare check in the 7600 block of Campbell Place in Concrete. A husband was worried because his wife had not called him like she normally does before he goes to work. Deputy Eichman checked the residence and talked to the wife. She advised that there was no problem, that she had accidentally left her phone at work and had been unable to call as she normally would. The husband was advised.

## Oct. 28

Dispatch received a report of a man sleeping in a running car in the 46000 block of Baker Loop Rd. in Cedar Grove. Deputy Wolfe located the vehicle and contacted the man. The man explained to Deputy Wolfe that he was currently living in his car and had stopped to visit a friend. He had fallen asleep while waiting for his friend because he had stayed up late the previous night. There was no indication of any other issues.

The neighbor of a man who lives in the 45000 block of Division St. in Concrete called to advise that the neighbor's mentally ill brother was at the brother's house rummaging through things. The mentally ill brother had been trespassed several times from the house. Deputy Devero arrived and checked the house, but did not locate the suspect. He was advised the suspect had left, walking toward town. Deputy Devero checked the area near the house and in town, but could not locate the suspect.

Later that night, Deputy Struiksma was dispatched to Loggers Landing in Concrete, in reference to the mentally ill suspect from Deputy Devero's earlier call. The man was causing issues at Loggers Landing. The suspect had been trespassed earlier from Loggers Landing and was now back on the property. Employees from Loggers Landing called back shortly after to advise that the suspect had left. Later that evening, Deputy Struiksma located the suspect in town. He contacted

the suspect and questioned him about being at Loggers Landing after being trespassed. The suspect told him that he had just been trespassed earlier in the day but had not been back after being trespassed. Deputy Struiksma advised the suspect that he was officially trespassed and if he returned to the business, he would be arrested.

Sierra Pacific called to advise that two people were illegally camping on their property on Baker Lake Rd. The two had been told by employees of Sierra Pacific that they could not camp on the property, but the two had failed to leave. Deputy Passovoy contacted the two suspects approximately 3.5 miles up Baker Lake Rd. She advised the two that they had to put out their fire and leave. She was able to call someone to pick them up since their car would not start. When their ride arrived, Deputy Passovoy advised them they needed to remove their car by the morning or it would be towed.

A male on Main St. in Concrete flagged down Deputy Passovoy and wanted to turn over a camouflaged vest and a bottle of tranquilizers which he said he found. He advised her that he had taken some of the pills, but does not want them now because he knows he has not been acting like himself. There was no label on the prescription bottle. The subject did not say where he got the pills, but said that he believed people were using his tent and leaving items inside. The vest was taken and entered into evidence for safekeeping and the pills were taken to be destroyed.

An employee for the Concrete Liquor store called to report a male walking back and forth yelling and screaming. Deputy O'Reilly arrived and checked the area, but could not locate anyone.

## Oct. 29

Sgt. Morgan located a driver of a vehicle that has been reported numerous times for traffic violations and safety issues. The driver is known to have mental issues. He was able to have Mental Health Professional Wise, who is assigned to the Sheriff's Office, respond to speak with the driver. After speaking with the driver, MHP Wise was able to assist the driver with resources for mental health and medical assistance.

Deputy Devero and MHP Wise were dispatched to a distraught female who said she was fearful of her fiancé. After arriving it became apparent that the female was having a mental health crisis. MPH Wise spoke to the female for about an hour. MPH Wise was able to provide information to the female and provided

her with contacts to help her through her crisis and to keep her safe.

## Oct. 30

A fraud call was reported to the Sheriff's Office. The reporting party said that someone with a heavy East Indian accent called and told her that someone was using her debit card. He advised the reporting party that someone had downloaded some apps from the apps store on her phone. She told Deputy Moore that she did not have any other information on the caller. Deputy Moore told her to contact her phone provider to determine if anyone had illegally used her card and to re-contact him if she received any information.

An elderly person called Deputy Dalton for information on having someone do a welfare check on her. Deputy Dalton and MHP Wise contacted the person at her residence. The person told them that she was getting old and was afraid of living alone. She wanted to know if there was any way someone could check on her regularly. MHP Wise gave the person information on services for the elderly. The person thanked Deputy Dalton and MHP Wise for their assistance.

A domestic disturbance was reported on Littlefield Rd. in Rockport. Deputies Vincent and Moore were advised that one of the two people involved had a felony warrant for his arrest. When deputies contacted the suspect, they arrested him for the warrant. Deputies determined that there had been an argument over phones and the victim had received a cut. Neither party wanted to pursue charges for an assault. Deputy Vincent then transported the suspect to jail for the warrant. After Deputy Vincent left, Deputy Moore determined that the suspect and victim had been roommates since February, so that the incident would be classified as a domestic assault. This meant that the deputies had to make an arrest if they determined an assault occurred. After contacting the victim again, Deputy Moore determined that the victim had been assaulted by the suspect. He advised Deputy Vincent, who also charged the suspect with assault.

Deputies Slack and Dalton responded to a verbal domestic disturbance in the 45000 block of Concrete Sauk Valley Rd. When they arrived, they contacted the parties involved. Both of the parties said that it was only a verbal argument and no assault had occurred. Both said that they'd had a lot of stress during the last

See Sheriff's Blotter, p. 32

# 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.

**Inspire Church North Cascades campus**  
59850 SR 20, Marblemount  
360.856.0871  
Sunday service: 10:30 a.m.  
[www.icskagitvalley.org](http://www.icskagitvalley.org)  
E-mail: [pastorrik@icskagitvalley.org](mailto:pastorrik@icskagitvalley.org)

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.svcc.us/scm)

## Covenant

**Community Covenant Church**  
12605 Highway 9, Clear Lake  
360.856.1023 // [covenant@wavecable.com](mailto:covenant@wavecable.com)  
[www.clearlakecov.org](http://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 / 360.853.8814  
[www.uprivergrace.com](http://www.uprivergrace.com)  
Sun. worship: 10 a.m.

## Methodist

**Central United Methodist Church**  
1013 Polke Rd., Sedro-Woolley

360.856.6412 / [centralumcsw@yahoo.com](mailto:centralumcsw@yahoo.com)  
<http://centralumcsw.org>  
Adult Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
Sun. worship: 11 a.m.

## Mormon

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
Concrete Group Meeting  
7879 S. Superior Ave., Concrete (Pilots Lounge at Mears Field), 360.853.5417  
Meeting Every Sunday, 1:30-4 p.m.  
Potluck after services

## 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](mailto:cbcofconcrete@earthlink.net)  
Sun. School: 9 a.m.; Worship Svc: 10 a.m.  
Childcare/Children's Ministries at both  
YouTube: Concrete Community Bible Church  
Contact church for other ministries

## The RIVER Gathering

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

## Presbyterian

**Mount Baker Presbyterian Church**  
45705 Main St., P.O. Box 246, Concrete  
Church 360.853.8585; office 360.826.3849  
Pastor: 360.901.4520  
<https://mountbakerpres.wordpress.com/>  
Sun. worship: 9 a.m.



## At the Upper Skagit Library

The Upper Skagit Library continues to offer curbside service on Tuesday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and on Wednesday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. You can place holds online (<https://upperskagitlibrary.org/>), by e-mailing ([info@upperskagitlibrary.org](mailto:info@upperskagitlibrary.org)), or by calling 360.853.7939. You can also submit general requests by writing a letter and placing it in the drop box. Please note that all materials left in the drop box are subject to a 24-hour quarantine.

We continue to offer new books and DVDs, as well as many other nontraditional items. In November, hotspots became available for checkout. If you would like to join us for virtual programming, you can find our calendar of events on our Web site. We have programming for all ages, both live and

prerecorded, so you can attend when convenient for you.

Our next Board of Trustees meeting is Dec. 10 at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend; information about attending the Zoom meeting can be found on our Web site.

Things are moving along with the new library. Updates and pictures can be found on our Web site at <https://upperskagitlibrary.org/web/new-building-project-progress/>.

If you have comments or questions about our collection or programs, or if you would like to make a public comment at our monthly Board of Trustees meetings, you can e-mail, call us, or send us a letter to P.O. Box 99, Concrete WA 98237.

—Amanda Perez, director  
Upper Skagit Library

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## CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

### Gifts from the past, gifts for today

As winter approaches and holiday season is upon us, I find myself yearning for “the good old days” that, curiously, I never experienced. But the gems preserved by our wonderful museum allow me to imagine what those days were like. Exhibits and artifacts, photos donated and photos rescued (some from the dump), memoirs written and place-based novels published, and much, much more await the history buff, from curious elementary students to old-timers seeking connections with the past.

Here is a piece of our upriver past, taken from Will Jenkins’ *Last Frontier in the North Cascades – Tales of the Wild Upper Skagit* to whet your appetite:

### Chapter 3: A Winter to Remember

“Pilchuck Julia’s prediction of snow “two squaws deep” was prophetic. The winter of 1915–16 saw more snow dumped over the Skagit hills than any other seen in more than 20 years. Down valley there were a lot of collapsed dairy barns and other buildings unable to stand up to the great burden of snow and there was much misery in the cities and towns. But my brother and I, wintering up in my mother’s claim, knew nothing of all this because we were snowbound for a stretch of 28 days. We finally got out and made our way down to Rockport on the 29th of January only to learn we were “missing.”

“Old timers on the Upper Skagit still remember the time as the Winter of the Big Snow. I remember it as a period of seemingly endless days of heavy silence in a snowbound wilderness; a time of misgivings as our grub boxes became empty and the drifts piled deeper. I also remember it as a parade of short days of meager daylight in the deep timber of winter-mantled hills, and long nights of extreme cold when cabin rafters sagged and creaked under the growing weight of snow. And there were outbreaks of cabin fever that flared between a couple of

brothers, a disease of wilderness boredom that is senseless but contagious and as old as the hills, prompting bitter arguments over matters of trifling importance. For a time, we really had it bad.”

Jenkins’ memoir goes on to describe trapping skunks under the cabin, fashioning snowshoes of vine maple and baling wire, surviving on sourdough pancakes for days on end, and finally on day 28 awakening to a warm Chinook wind “whipping great clods of snow from the trees” and melting the snowdrifts into a compacted world of soggy white. The heavy wet snowpack then froze after the two-day thaw, allowing the brothers to walk on top of the crust the four-plus miles to the river, hail the native ferryman to paddle and pole his cedar canoe across the frozen Skagit River, and fetch the exhausted boys to Rockport, where they stayed, dried out, and ate heartily until conditions improved and their mother returned from her journey “outside.”

This book is one of many written about our neck o’ the woods, and is highly recommended. You can check it out from our Upper Skagit Library or buy a copy from the Skagit County Museum’s gift shop in La Conner.

Here in Concrete, a number of books (and cards, t-shirts, etc.) are available from our own Concrete Heritage Museum. Log on to our Web site, [www.concreteheritagemuseum.org](http://www.concreteheritagemuseum.org), for titles, prices, and an order form. Be sure to click on Gift Shop and hover over Publications to also see the list of nine fiction novels written by our dearly departed member, Robin Wood. In addition, consider becoming a museum member or gifting a membership to another. We need your ideas, support, and enthusiasm.

For great gift ideas for friends and family this holiday season, join us! Enjoy learning about our colorful history and support the all-volunteer efforts of the Concrete Heritage Museum today.

—Christie Fairchild

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winking in the dark.\***

**\*You’re the only one who knows what you’re doing.**



## Concrete Chamber of Commerce News

By Valerie Stafford

In December 1960, the home of Lowell Peterson won first place in the town’s Holiday Lane decorating contest. Other winners included Edgar Monrad, Jack Hoover, Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, and Albert’s Serve-U. Sixty years later, we’re wondering who will win the newly reborn contest. Have you entered?

Holiday Lane 2020 is a drive-through celebration that includes the decorating contest and festive sights and sounds in Town Center. The event’s theme is “The Year We All Stayed Gnome.”

Plan to join us on Sat., Dec. 12, from 6 to 8 p.m. for free holiday fun from the safety of your car. Start by driving through Concrete Town Center to see Santa and Mrs. Claus at the town tree. You can deliver your letter to Santa and each family will receive a souvenir gift in return, while supplies last.

Holiday music will be provided by KSVU Radio 90.1 FM, and members of

the Concrete Chorus who will perform in front of the Concrete Theatre. Volunteers from Imagine Concrete Foundation will be on hand with holiday treats for each car.

Gnomes will distribute the maps of lighted homes and businesses in the area who have entered the decorating contest. We hope you’ll go see them—and vote for your favorite! The People’s Choice winner receives a pizza-a-month for a year from Annie’s Pizza Station. For more information and to enter the decorating contest, please go to [www.concrete-wa.com](http://www.concrete-wa.com). Download the entry form and return it by e-mail: [chamber@concrete-wa.com](mailto:chamber@concrete-wa.com).

Holiday Lane is a free event sponsored by the Concrete Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Concrete, with funding from Skagit County. Masks and social distancing are required of all participants; you are asked to stay inside your vehicle and travel at a safe, slow speed while visiting Town Center.

Looking ahead to 2021, we are sorry to report that previously planned activities

for the Skagit Eagle Festival have been canceled. While the eagles will still return to the area and can be viewed along the Skagit River, we are unable to offer our regular workshops, films, and raptor demonstrations because of the pandemic.

The next Concrete Chamber meeting is scheduled for Thur., Dec. 10, at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom. For more information, please e-mail [chamber@concrete-wa.com](mailto:chamber@concrete-wa.com) or call/text Valerie Stafford, president, at 360.466.8754.

Valerie Stafford is president of Concrete Chamber of Commerce.

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### Liquor stores

**Concrete Liquor Store & Convenience Store**  
45895 Main Street, Concrete // 360.853.7149  
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### Pawn shops

**Gold Nugget Jewelry & Loan**  
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360.436.1029 [www.goldnuggetpawnshop.com](http://www.goldnuggetpawnshop.com)

### Ranches

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### Restaurants

**Cascade Burgers**  
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### Septic services

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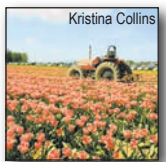
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# Out & About



## Mt. Vernon

### COVID testing site moves

The COVID-19 test site moved from Skagit Valley College to Skagit County Fairgrounds on Nov. 18.

Skagit's drive-through test site continues to be open to anyone who lives or works in Skagit County who feels they need to be tested for COVID-19.

Residents coming to the new test site at the fairgrounds should enter through the South Gate. The address is 501 Taylor St., Mount Vernon.

Beginning Nov. 18 the test site hours changed to the following:

- Mon., Wed., and Fri. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Tue. and Thur. from noon to 7 p.m.

"Washington winter isn't going to get any easier, and making this move allowed us to continue providing this important service for the Skagit Community," said Public Health Director Jennifer Johnson. "A huge thanks to all of our partners for making this possible and to the residents of Mount Vernon for accommodating us during this time."

More information on COVID-19 and the test site changes is available at [www.skagitcounty.net/coronavirus](http://www.skagitcounty.net/coronavirus).

### UTC staff recommend rate decrease for Cascade customers

Staff of the Utilities and Transportation Commission last month recommended a rate decrease for Cascade Natural Gas customers.

The Kennewick-based corporation serves almost 220,000 residential and business customers in 68 communities throughout the state, including Bellingham and Mount Vernon.

In testimony filed on Nov. 19, UTC staff found that Cascade's 5.5 percent requested revenue increase is not necessary to cover company costs, and is not in the best interest of customers, including those facing significant pandemic-related financial hardships.

Under staff's proposal, the average residential customer using 56 therms a month would see a bill of \$56.61, which is a decrease of \$0.11 or -0.19 percent.

The UTC will hold a virtual public comment hearing at 6 p.m. on Jan. 26 for customers who want to comment on the rate proposal.

Customers can also submit comments:

- Online at [utc.wa.gov/comments](http://utc.wa.gov/comments)
- Via e-mail to [comment@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comment@utc.wa.gov)
- By mail to P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA, 98504
- Toll-free at 888.333.9882

The three-member commission, which is not bound by the company's request or staff's testimony, will make a final decision on the utility's rate hike request in spring 2021. New rates would go into effect on May 21, 2021.

In its request, Cascade cited a \$14.3 million revenue deficit. UTC staff found fault with the company's submitted costs, and instead calculated a revenue surplus of \$508,968. To avoid a future surplus, staff recommend the company reduce rates by the surplus amount.

A significant part of the company's request was \$66 million in projected plant investments for 2020. UTC staff verified that Cascade completed only four projects totaling \$6.9 million.

UTC staff objected to Cascade's request to increase its rate of return to 7.54 percent, recommending the commission instead set the company's rate of return to 6.93 percent.

Cascade also requested \$1 million to increase employee salaries by 3 percent. UTC staff recommended that the commission deny this request.

## World

### Jehovah's Witnesses initiate global campaign

In response to health protocols initiated during the global COVID-19 pandemic, Jehovah's Witnesses worldwide continue to distribute the organization's issue of the *Watchtower* magazine titled "What Is God's Kingdom?" to the general public, business owners, and local and national government officials, as well as court officials. Magazine distribution and the faith group's practice of personal visits may now be accomplished "via electronic means," according to a press release from the organization.

An electronic copy of the *Watchtower* in more than 300 languages is available on the official Web site of Jehovah's Witnesses, [jw.org](http://jw.org). Look under LIBRARY > MAGAZINES.

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### Sheriff's Blotter, cont. from p. 31

year with deaths in the family, and had started consuming alcohol for the first time. Both of them agreed that the alcohol had probably been part of the issue and was not a good way to deal with the stress. They had emptied out all the alcohol prior to deputies arriving and told the deputies that they were done consuming alcohol. The Mental Health Professional who is assigned to the Sheriff's Office was able to provide information to them on how to deal with stress.

A caller who lives on Medford Rd. near Hamilton called to report numerous vehicles going up the road toward the gravel pit. Deputy Slack drove up to the pit, where he located a fire with several people. He contacted the group who apologized for their friend's driving. They put out the fire and left. No other issues were observed.

#### Oct. 31

A woman called to report that her brother and his adult son were arguing. Deputies Mullen and Beisler contacted the two on California St. in Hamilton and determined it was only an argument. The two said that they had some issues they were trying to work out and the conversation had gotten heated. Deputies told the two that they would have someone contact them later in the day to assist them in working out the problem.

Deputy Moore responded to a report of a male who was screaming and yelling near the Sheriff's East Detachment office. The reporting party said the suspect was kicking the door to the office. When Deputy Moore arrived, the suspect had already left. He checked the area, but was unable to find the suspect.

The victim of a burglary called to report that his house in the 45000 block of Baker Lake Rd. had been burglarized sometime in the past. He told Deputy Wiggins that a friend had told him that someone had broken into his house and removed some paneling. He was unsure if anything else was taken. He told Deputy Wiggins that he was contacting some people to see if they had any information on the break-in. Deputy Wiggins told him to make a list of missing items and to call back if he got more information. Deputy Wiggins will investigate the burglary.

Around 8 p.m., Deputy Wiggins investigated a motor vehicle accident on Concrete Sauk Valley Rd. and the Dalles Bridge. When he arrived he located the driver, who said that he had swerved to miss a deer. Deputy Wiggins was able to observe the vehicle's tracks and

determined that it was very unlikely that the vehicle had taken evasive action such as that required to miss an object in the roadway. It appeared that the vehicle had merely drifted off the roadway, coming to rest in the ditch. As Deputy Wiggins talked to the driver, he noticed an odor of intoxicants on the driver's breath. After failing three sobriety tests, the driver was arrested for driving under the influence.

While Deputy Wiggins was investigating the DUI, the driver's family arrived and demanded that the driver be released to seek medical attention. Deputy Wiggins advised them that the aid crew had already examined the driver and determined that there were no apparent injuries. The driver also had refused to be transported to the hospital. Deputy Wiggins explained to the driver that he could transport him to the hospital to be examined and could be given a blood draw for alcohol, or he could take him to the East Detachment office, where he would be provided the opportunity to take a breath test for alcohol. The driver requested the breath test. The driver was then taken to the office in Concrete, where he was given a breath test. The results of the test showed that that driver's blood alcohol level was over the legal limit. He was cited for DUI and released to his family.

A caller reported a possible violation of a court order at the Eagles Nest Hotel in Concrete. Deputy Mueller contacted the two suspects and determined that there were multiple orders with both parties, but none between the two parties. Since there was no crime, he cleared the scene.

Dispatch advised Deputy Mueller that they had received a report of cars doing burnouts in front of the Hamilton Fire Department on Petit St. in Hamilton. Deputy Mueller contacted several people who had witnessed the incident. They advised that it was a Ford Explorer that had been doing the burnouts. The vehicle left westbound on SR 20.

#### Nov. 1

A resident at an apartment on Shield's Court in Concrete called to advise that his brother was there trying to break into his apartment. Deputies Wiggins and Mueller responded and contacted the suspect, who they knew had mental health issues and a history of drug abuse. The suspect was across the street, yelling. He contacted Deputy Wiggins and told him that he only wanted his brother to look at his arms. He advised Deputy Wiggins that he had worms crawling out of his arms. Deputy Wiggins told him that there were no worms crawling out of his arms,

at which time he told Deputy Wiggins to go have sexual relations with himself and walked away. The caller advised that the suspect had tried to push his way into the apartment but was unable. He did not want to press charges, but asked that his brother be taken into the hospital for evaluation. Med 7 was called to assess the suspect. After being told by Med 7 personnel that there were no worms or bugs crawling out of his arms, the suspect yelled at them and refused to go to the hospital. He attempted to go to Silo Park, but was advised by Deputy Wiggins that it was closed and if he didn't leave the park, he would be arrested for trespassing. Eventually the suspect left the area.

Later that morning, Sgt. Dills and Deputy Mullen contacted the same suspect for disorderly conduct on Main St. in Concrete. After talking to the suspect, Deputy Mullen and Sgt. Dills were able to convince the suspect to go to the hospital if they bought him a cup of coffee. Sgt. Dills transported the suspect to Skagit Valley Hospital, where he was dropped off. Later, Deputy Mueller advised Sgt. Dills that the suspect was now in the back parking lot of the Sheriff's Office screaming and acting disorderly. Sgt. Dills contacted the suspect again. The suspect told Sgt. Dills that he had gone into the hospital to get examined and became very upset when they told him he didn't have "hookworm foot," so he left the hospital. Sgt. Dills was able to convince the suspect to talk with the Mental Health Professional assigned to the Sheriff's Office. After talking with the MPH and Deputy Dalton, a pick-up order was obtained to have the suspect evaluated.

Deputy Moore investigated a theft of a river boat from the 60000 block of the Rockport Cascade Rd. The victim said the boat had been taken in the previous 24 hours. The victim said that he was told that someone had seen the boat being towed toward Concrete. Deputy Moore determined that the title to the boat had not been transferred to the victim's name. He was advised that the victim would need to contact the registered owner to change the title over into his name so he could officially report the boat stolen.

At approximately 6:45 p.m. Deputy Wiggins was advised of a missing person. A customer at the Mount Baker Hotel in Concrete called and said that her daughter had left earlier in the day to take her car to a dealership in Bellevue to get it fixed, and now they were unable to find her. A friend went to the missing person's apartment but she was not there. Deputy Wiggins put out an "attempt to locate" for

Western Washington to check the welfare of the missing person. The next morning, Deputy Devero received information from the mother that they had located her daughter and there was no issue.

A husband called to report that his ex-wife had assaulted him. Deputies responded to the residence on Pipeline Rd. and contacted the victim. He was not cooperative and said he didn't want to get the suspect into trouble. Deputy Wiggins contacted the wife, who was extremely intoxicated and argumentative. After not getting any real information, Deputy Wiggins called Dispatch and had them pull the tape of the call. Dispatch said that the victim had called in and said that his ex-wife had hit him. Dispatch also advised that they heard the female in the background yelling and getting louder as if she was getting closer to the victim. They then heard the victim say "ouch, don't hit me." With this information, deputies arrested the female for assault and took her to jail.

#### Nov. 3

A Town of Concrete employee contacted Deputy Wolfe to report that he had been threatened in October by a local transient who had mental issues. The suspect had contacted the employee outside of Loggers Landing in Concrete. The suspect told the employee that he had heard he had been looking for him. The employee told him he had not and did not know the suspect. The suspect then made some vague threats to the employee. Now whenever the suspect sees the employee, he yells obscenities at him or makes obscene gestures. The employee said that he would like it documented in case the situation escalated. The suspect had been picked up on Nov. 1 for a mental evaluation in Mount Vernon. Deputy Wolfe advised that he would create a report and document the problem.

Just after midnight a motor vehicle accident was reported in the 600 block of Hamilton Ave. in Hamilton. The vehicle involved had struck a pole just outside of the reporting party's house. When he went outside to check, he saw the driver lying on the ground and appeared to be crying. Several others were attempting to pick the driver up and told the reporting party that they were friends and were going to give the driver a ride home. They then loaded the driver into a vehicle and left. When Deputy Clark arrived, he talked to the reporting party and ran the plate on the vehicle. He was able to determine the identity of the driver. Deputy Passovoy

See Sheriff's Blotter, p. 19

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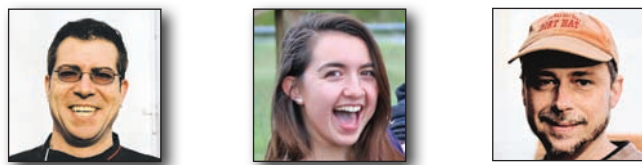
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Solar Curious, Concrete

Dear Solar:

Your question threw me for a loop at first, but then I realized the answer is quite simple. You just need duct tape, small goggles, a hat with a propeller, and a remote to control the hat. Then you find a rabbit or a small child, or something of that nature. Strap the goggles onto the furry creature, tape the hat on it, turn on the remote, point it at the moon, and commence take off. Count the squeals they let out as to propel them toward the moon. Then do the same for the sun. Finally, count how many squeals they let out as you bring them back down to earth. So far with this method I've counted 26 short squeals and one very long one. On a side note: Remember to make certain the remote is fully charged before you start this experiment.

**I'm considering moving upriver and I was wondering what you think. Is it a good place to settle down and raise a family?**

Eugene, Sedro-Woolley

Dear Eugene:

You know, I would love to tell you it's terrible up here. I want to tell you about the rabid werewolves running loose and that the air is thick with mining dust. Don't even get me started on the zombies popping up on main street at night singing "Thriller." Those are things I would say if I were being selfish, because the truth is, upriver is a hidden gem. It's gorgeous and there's always somewhere to hike or explore. Small towns in general are nice because each time you go to the store there's someone to chat with. You will know all of your kids' friends and their friends' entire family history dating back to great-grandpa hubbaloo, who mined this valley with his bare hands and built log houses out of toothpicks in his spare time. You get to feel like a pageant queen on a float every time you drive through town with how often you get to wave at people you know. It really is a wonderful place to live, just make sure to wear your crown and sash any time you go out in order to get the full experience.

**What would your advice be to someone wanting to return a bike after stealing it?**

Stolen, Marblemount

Dear Stolen:

First, let me say the real way to fix this problem is not to steal bikes. I mean come on. If you're gonna steal, make it the Declaration of Independence or something equally as epic and hilarious, like hugs from your kids when they're in a bad mood. If by chance you have already taken a bike that doesn't belong to you, you feel ashamed—as you

should—and would like to return it, then here is some random advice on how to do so. Make sure the tires and chain are better than when you picked it up; buy new ones for it if you have to. Then write an apology letter for your acts, making sure to tell them about the aliens that must have done tests on your brains to make you do such a thing. Then tell them how their bike missed them and leave a nice review on your experience with their two-wheeled friend.

**Yolanda, do you have any tips for dealing with anxiety naturally?**

Anxious, Rockport

Dear Anxious:

As a matter of fact, I do. To bring back some joy that anxiety can take, hip bump that sucker as hard as you can, and keep bumping until you start dancing. It sounds crazy, but dancing can release wonderful endorphins to combat anxiety. So remember: When in doubt, wiggle-jiggle-and-funky-groove it all out.

*'Ask Yolanda' comes from the mind of Yolanda Allard, an international bestselling author of numerous fantasy novels. A mermaid who seeks adventure wherever she goes, she likes to drag her family along for all of her crazy shenanigans. E-mail questions to her at yolandaallard@yahoo.com.*



## Collin's realm of truly awful jokes

How do the elves clean Santa's sleigh after Christmas?  
With Santa-tizer!

## Dwelleysms:

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

"We were surprised at the amount of energy and enthusiasm engendered by a few sunny weekends. At our place we happily report all yard work caught up to October—of last year."

"It may not be true that we evolved from monkeys, but every once in a while, someone substantiates the theory by making an issue of it."

"The cost of living has dropped again for the second month in a row. Don't panic yet; maybe somebody in Washington, D.C., has goofed again."

—March 3, 1960

"You gotta give the fellows in Olympia credit. Be it floating bridges, flying spans, or pie-in-the-sky—they'll try anything once, even if the taxpayer has to pay for it twice."

—March 17, 1960

## Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10
11				12				13		14	
15				16					17		
18			19			20					
			21	22	23				24	25	26
27	28	29						30			31
32							33				
34						35					
	36				37						
				38	39				40	41	42
44	45	46					47	48		49	
50					51					52	
53						54				55	

### Across

- Victoria Secret offering
- Mint
- Pronoun
- Tiny particle
- Not sawn
- Your and my
- Kicks
- Honey farmer
- Lawyers' charges
- Green vegetable
- In the lead
- "\_\_\_ lost!"
- Putting on
- 60s songwriter
- Crumbled
- Actor Robert
- Fundamental principle
- Temporary
- Southern general in the Civil War
- Dish
- Good shot
- Stir up
- Timely
- High card
- Magical
- Ruhr River city
- "Help!"
- Kind of number
- Evergreens with red berries
- Cable station

### Down

- Punch
- Gigolo
- Green Gables girl
- Chicago bear?
- Together
- First-aid item
- Microwave
- Uncooked french toast
- Shade
- Do wrong
- Ice \_\_\_
- Mechanical and design expert
- West Coast city
- Goes quickly
- Close
- Islamic potentate
- Actress, Spelling
- Girl coming into womanhood
- Examination type
- Barely beat, with "out"
- Badger's tunnel
- \_\_\_ de plume (pen name)
- Evidence piece
- Treat unjustly (2 words)
- Fall guy
- Exploration target
- Hop dryer
- Desktop object
- For fear
- Out of sync
- Green color
- Eucharist vessel
- Novel
- Coast Guard officer, abbr.

## 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.

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

\*Solutions to both puzzles are on p. 39

## Funny as Facebook

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

- "Let the drinking begin. Or continue. Or accelerate."
- "Gonna be a lot of hangovers tomorrow ... that's all I can say."
- "'Four Seasons Total Landscaping' is the latest on my somewhat-long list of band names."
- "While I knew there would be some gross elements to owning a dog, I didn't anticipate digging a slug out of her mouth at 1 a.m. to be one of them! So. Gross."
- "When you clean the kitchen do you wash the spices or are you mentally stable?"
- "In a way, aren't we all stuck between a sex shop and a crematorium?"
- "I'm not an interior designer by trade, but I just figured out you can make a room look 30% larger by putting away the 14 loads of laundry on the floor. Follow me for more life hacks and tips."
- "I have something controversial to say. I'm thinking of making carrot cake instead of pumpkin pie for Thanksgiving."
- "It's always fun telling my daughter, 'OK, I have to head to work.' Then I walk a few steps over to my computer."
- "Waffle House is making bacon beer now. Ball's in your court, Denny's."
- "I feel sorry for the verbal assault an FBI agent, lawyer, or IRS member will receive if they ever legitimately try to contact me by phone. Robo-calls and scammers are to blame for this. I officially apologize for, and deny responsibility for, the years of therapy you will require."
- "Someone left a big steaming pile of Monday in my yard."
- "The world has always been this messed up, it's just that we can watch it on the Internet now."
- "Tinyhuman tried to burn the house down by putting day-old bacon and pancakes in the toaster oven without a pan—but she is making up for it by shoveling the front steps (without being asked) and building a snowman before school. So, winning?"

## Public Service Announcement

By Stig Kristensen





# A history of the Upper Skagit Valley

By Paul C. Pitzer  
Retyped by Gail Boggs; edited for style  
*Republished from Concrete Herald archives, 1966–197*

## Chapter 2 THE HOMESTEADERS AND THE FOREST SERVICE

The then-defunct Ruby Mines held little attraction for a sincere prospector and in 1897, Babcock was excited by news about the gold rush in the Klondike.

In Iowa, Babcock had grown up with Hamlin Garland, who subsequently attained literary fame. Garland sought experiences that he could use in his novels and poems. Babcock could not afford a trip to Alaska, so he wrote Garland and suggested a plan of benefit to both. Garland was interested and accepted.

The two men met in British Columbia and from there started north toward the gold fields. Babcock served as guide and did camp chores, while Garland financed the trip and kept a diary. The journey is recorded in Garland's book, *Trail of the Goldseekers* (1899), or more briefly in *Daughter of the Middle Border* (1921).

At the Stikine River, Garland was forced to return home, but Babcock continued on into the north. It was not until 1904 that he returned to his claim on the Skagit River. During his absence the land had been included in the Washington Forest Reserve. In 1906 Babcock learned of the Forest Homestead Act; he had to make application for his claim. His trip to Alaska had interrupted his period of residence and he could not prove five continuous years residence prior to 1906.

Early in 1908 Babcock applied for a homestead of 120 acres, on which he had built a 12x14-foot cabin. Validity of the claim was immediately challenged by the Forest Service. Babcock realized the difficulty and wrote to Hamlin Garland. Garland's letter to Babcock expressed concern, but no guarantee that he could help Babcock secure his claim. Nevertheless, Garland wrote to Gifford Pinchot, Chief Forester, whom he had met some years before through his association with Theodore Roosevelt:

"Oct. 10  
Dear Mr. Pinchot:

I think I wrote to you some time ago about my friend and trailmate, Burton Babcock, who has a timber claim near

Marblemount, Washington. If any question of his right comes up, I hope you will give him the benefit of a liberal interpretation of the law.

I don't know that there is any question in the mind of the department, and as I say I do not know that he is in any way athwart the Forest plans, but I can vouch for him. He is just what he claims to be, a settler and without other resources than his land."

The Forest Service decided to follow the law without exception, despite the appeal from one as well known as Hamlin Garland. Over Pinchot's signature a letter was returned to Garland. It explained the legal problem, which made realization of Babcock's claim impossible, but a counter proposal was made. The letter to Garland concluded: "It is regretted that Mr. Babcock's compliance with the homestead law seems not to have been sufficient to entitle him to make entry on the land at the proper time after Government survey, and acquire title, but in case he desires to continue residence on the place, a special use permit for that purpose would be gladly granted to him by the Forest Service."

Garland answered Pinchot's letter:

"Dear Mr. Pinchot:

Thank you for your letter. The merciful thing for Babcock would be to let him know at once that his case is hopeless. He is getting to be an old man and I hate to think of him toiling there uselessly. He is forced to go off the claim to cook for a living or to cut or dig for somebody else. He hasn't a dollar except what he pounds out of the ends of his fingers and he has worked 10 years of his life on that accursed claim. He would make a good forest guard. Why can't you do something for him? I wish you would. He is one of the best men in the west I ever knew and absolutely reliable. I have not seen him for 10 years, but he is still active. If he could have residence on his claim and be made a patent it might be of comfort to him—I don't know —."

Forest officers thanked Garland for his cooperation, but added that Forest Guard

positions were issued only through civil service appointments, which eliminated Babcock from consideration unless he fulfilled civil service requirements. A special use permit would be offered, solving the difficulty. A copy of Garland's letter was shown to Babcock and the status of his claim was explained. Burton Babcock did not want the special permit. He insisted on owning the claim free and clear. He again wrote to Hamlin Garland and gave more details, which strengthened his case. He appealed to Garland for any possible help.

Garland again wrote to Pinchot. His third letter included the new information:

"Dear Mr. Pinchot:

Mr. Babcock has just written me, giving fuller information on his case. It seems he has lived 10 years on this land. Five years before going with me to the Klondike and five years since. Of course, he could not live on it continuously for he is a bachelor and very poor. He was obliged to go away to earn money to live on—but he had built on the claim and had been holding it five years when I hired him to go with me to the Northwest. His leaving the claim so long was a mistake, but the whole country as I understand it was unsurveyed, and no filing possible. Since then he has lived on the claim five years more. It seems to me wanton cruelty to take so much out of a man's life and give nothing in return. I may be lacking in information for he is not a fluent correspondent, but his case seems more and more pitiful as I contemplate it. I hope he can be given the use of the claim with the rights—under your direction—to cut and sell timber. He is one of the most singular men I ever knew—absolutely sober, clean hearted and a thinker. He was at one time a Unitarian preacher but a curious shyness, a kind of stage fright, made speaking so painful that he gave it up. He is as simple as a child in some ways, but a lion in courage. He comes of a good strain of New England blood, but living alone so much has increased his queerness. He is a shy mystic, wordless when most deeply moved, and to think of him packing salmon with siwashes or cooking for a gang of railway heads gives me a pain. If

he can be assured of his claims in some way and permitted to harvest it—under careful direction—he would be saved much mental as well as physical misery. If executive action can help, I would like President Roosevelt to read this letter."

A ranger in Bellingham answered Garland. He restated the impossibility of Babcock's claim. The letter was sympathetic, firm, and explained the legalities involved. In conclusion it stated that the Forest Service could not alter the situation; only the land office had final control over the matter. It was doubted that executive action would help.

Babcock again refused the permit and insisted on a hearing, which was held in Sedro-Woolley on Feb. 27, 1909, during which Babcock's claim was denied. This was followed by appeals in June and July, the last being before the Land Office. On Dec. 28, 1910, the Assistant Commissioner of the General Land Office declared Babcock's claim invalid. Among those who testified for Babcock were August Dohne and William R. McAllister. Burton Babcock was allowed 90 days to evacuate the claim or be charged with trespassing. He was hired by the Skagit Power Company as a watchman at their construction site on Reflector Bar near the Diablo Canyon. He worked there until early November 1911, when he was released. A few days later he became sick and was taken to Seattle, where he died on Nov. 26 at the home of his sister, Mrs. Wright. Babcock was buried in Lake View Cemetery on Seattle's Capitol Hill. Babcock Creek, which empties into the Skagit near the disputed claim, is named for him.

On the surface, Babcock appears to have been harshly treated. Despite the evidence, however, it would be unfair to judge the Forest Service on the basis of Babcock's or Dohne's or Davis's claim. The records indicate the possibility of unnecessary harassment between Forest Service Officers and the homesteaders. If Dohne's claim had been granted and then a legitimate Dakota claim or altered boundaries been discovered, a difficult situation would have existed. Babcock was obviously outside the limits of the homestead act and unreasonable in his demands. It is possible that Glee Davis could have monopolized access to trails into the Upper Skagit and Stettall Creek Valleys. During the period of the silver excitement when the claim was pending, this was an important factor.

See History, p. 39

History, cont. from p. 38

Consideration of future logging or power developments in the area made extensive deliberation of all claims extremely important.

The conflict between the homesteader and the Forest Service was the result of a basic disagreement among the two groups. The Forest Service administered the Washington Reserve with the thought that the best use should be made of the land by or for the largest number of people. As conservationists, they hesitated to yield any land that was not suitable for agriculture, and the thought of any single individual gaining a monopoly on any resource in the Reserve was in direct opposition to their basic philosophy.

The homesteaders, on the other hand, wanted to settle along the Skagit and make the most profitable living possible from the resources available. They came initially as miners or to serve the miners, and had the mines proved valuable, there would have been no conflict. The roadhouses and other developments would clearly have been an asset to the mining population. Then the mines failed and the permanent settlers were left behind. Some appeared to hold land that seemingly could be used more productively for other purposes.

To be continued next month.

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

To place a Classified ad, call 360.853.8213 or e-mail ads@concrete-herald.com. Cost is \$5 per every 10 words, rounded up to the nearest 10. Deadline for the January 2021 issue is Dec. 28.

## Crossword solution

1	B	2	R	3	A	4	C	5	O	6	I	7	N	8	S	9	H	10	E
11	I	O	N			12	U	N	C	U	13	T		14	O	U	R		
15	F	U	N			16	B	E	E	K	E	17	P	E	R				
18	F	E	E	19	S					20	B	E	A	N					
21	A	22	H	23	E	A	D			24	G	25	E	T					
27	D	28	O	29	N	I	N	G		30	S	I	M	O	31	N			
32	E	R	O	D	E	D				33	D	E	N	I	R	O			
34	B	A	S	I	S					35	I	N	T	E	R	I	M		
36	L	E	E			37	P	L	A	T	E								
38	G	39	O	A	L					40	R	O	I	41	L				
44	O	45	P	46	P	O	R	T	47	U	N	E		48	A	C	E		
50	F	E	Y			51	E	S	S	E	N			52	S	O	S		
53	F	A	X			54	Y	E	W	S				55	T	N	T		

# Classifieds

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## EMPLOYMENT

**Freelance Reporter.** *Concrete Herald* seeks a freelance reporter to cover the Town of Concrete government.

Qualified candidates must demonstrate their facility with the English language; attend Concrete Town Council meetings on the second and fourth Mondays of every month, at 6 p.m., at Concrete Town Hall; and hit their deadlines (reporter will usually have at least one week to produce a story from start to finish). Candidate also must provide his/her own reliable transportation.

This is a freelance position; reporter will be paid per article, minimum one article per month, sometimes two. Other articles assigned as the need arises.

Interested? Send your resume or a letter that explains your qualifications, plus two of your best writing samples, to [editor@concrete-herald.com](mailto:editor@concrete-herald.com) or via U.S. mail to:

Concrete Herald  
P.O. Box 682  
Concrete, WA 98237

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## Sudoku solution

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

## NOTICES

### TOWN OF CONCRETE

#### NOTICE OF 2021 BUDGET PUBLIC HEARINGS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that public hearings will be held by the Town Council of the Town of Concrete at its regular Council Meeting in the Town Hall at 45672 Main Street, Concrete, Washington, on Tuesday, November 23, 2020 and Monday, December 14, 2020 at 6:00 PM.

The purpose of the public hearing is to review the proposed 2021 Budget. Action may be taken at these meetings.

The public is encouraged to attend and give written or oral testimony.

The Concrete Town Council chambers are handicap accessible. Arrangements to reasonably accommodate the needs of special classes of citizens, including handicap accessibility or interpreter, will be made upon receiving twenty-four (24) hours advance notice. Contact Andrea Fichter at the Concrete Town Hall (360) 853-8401.

TOWN OF CONCRETE  
Andrea Fichter, Clerk-Treasurer

Published in the November and December 2020 editions of *Concrete Herald*.

## CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ELK-RELATED ISSUES:

Report elk-related issues to private property, damages, intrusions, and safety issues at home: WDFW Mill Creek office 425-775-1311. Director: Brendan Brokes. Conflict specialist: 360-466-4345, ext. 247.

Report Collisions with elk including near misses, school bus, and emergency vehicle safety issues with elk in or crossing roadways: WSDOT Habitat Connectivity Biologist, (360) 705-6963 Glen Kalisz.

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## NOTICE OF TOWN COUNCIL VACANCY


Notice is hereby given that the Town of Concrete Town Council will accept letters of interest and applications from any interested, qualified resident to serve on the Town Council. Applicants must be registered voters within the Town of Concrete town limits.

Applications and letters of interest must be submitted to the Town of Concrete Clerk-Treasurer at [andrea@concretewa.gov](mailto:andrea@concretewa.gov), hand-delivered to 45672 Main Street, Concrete, WA 98237, or by mail to P.O. Box 39, Concrete, WA 98237 no later than Thursday, December 31, 2020, by 4:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Andrea Fichter at (360) 853-8401.

Applicants may be requested to attend a Council meeting to give oral testimony as to why they wish to serve on the council, and answer questions from the mayor and council. This meeting will take place on Monday, January 11, 2021, at 6 p.m., and an appointment decision may be made during this meeting.

Published in the *Concrete Herald* December 2020 edition.





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