

# The Voice of Eastern Skagit County Concrete Herald

**NEW!**  
**DAY CREEK**

See p. 15

Vol. 93, No. 2

February 2010

50 cents



Blaine Burghdoff and his 3-year-old neighbor, Landin Dodd, rode a decorated 4-wheeler in last year's Mardi Gras parade in downtown Concrete. This year's festivities on Feb. 20 begin with a parade at noon.

## MARDI GRAS!

**Concrete delivers a taste of  
New Orleans Feb. 20**

Who says Mardi Gras is only a Southern celebration? For a third year, Mardi Gras will arrive in Concrete on Feb. 20. The fun starts at noon with a colorful parade on Main Street.

Individuals, groups, and businesses are invited to be part of the parade, with check-in and line-up near the Post Office at 11 a.m. Parade entry forms are available at the Chamber office in the Skagit County Resource Center, and online at [www.concrete-wa.com](http://www.concrete-wa.com). A small entry fee is

required; parade participants of all kinds, ages, shapes, and sizes are welcome. The only rule is that each entry includes the official Mardi Gras colors of purple, green, and gold. The parade will be held regardless of weather.

Other activities include a New Orleans Cake Walk immediately following the parade at the Skagit County Resource Center, with proceeds going to the Concrete Heritage Museum, and a Recycled Art Contest, the winners of which will be on display at Matty's on Main.

The newly reopened Concrete Theatre will get in the Mardi Gras spirit by offering tours of the historic building from 1 to 3 p.m., and playing the New Orleans-based Disney film, "The Princess

See **Mardi Gras**, p. 19

## Sauk City playwright gets "carried" away Nicola Pearson's "Carried by the Current" flows to the Phillip Tarro Theatre at Skagit Valley College, Feb. 19–28.

By Jason Miller

In the late 1800s, in the small town of Belton, Texas, a group of women led by Martha McWhirter decided that they'd had enough of their abusive husbands.

The women, all from wealthy white families, professed "sanctification" as a way to stop sleeping with their husbands and to stop taking the men's money. The women sold eggs, butter, and cheese; chopped firewood; and did laundry to raise money for their Common Fund. They lived estranged from their husbands while still under the same roof, causing outrage and hostility in a town that was seething with shame.

Such is the backdrop for "Carried by the Current," the latest play from Sauk City playwright Nicola Pearson. "Current" will take the Phillip Tarro Theatre stage at Skagit Valley College in February.

"It's a wonderful and heartwarming story about women overcoming domestic violence," said Pearson from her home east of Concrete. "It makes your toes cold to hear how well these women did."

See **Current**, p. 9



Martha McWhirter (left, Carolyn Travis) convinces Susie (Stephanie Brisky) to be slow to anger during a rehearsal for Sauk City playwright Nicola Pearson's "Carried by the Current." The play will run at the Phillip Tarro Theatre at Skagit Valley College in February; see p. 9 for a schedule of show times.

## Brushed with beauty Sedro-Woolley painter colorizes her world

"Part of the reason I paint is to bring beauty into the world," says Sedro-Woolley artist Karin Silvernale. "There's so much harshness out there, so I choose

See **Painter**, p. 11

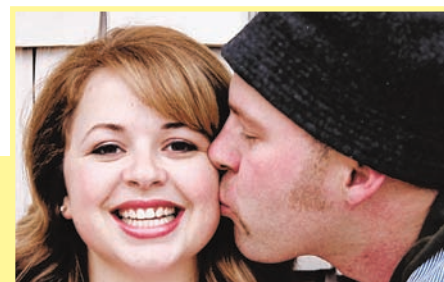


## Used, abused, and fighting back

**Lorenzen Creek just wants  
to flow, but will we let it?**

During the past few decades, Lorenzen Creek in Concrete has been diverted, pushed below ground and shoved into culverts too small to carry it adequately. Today, the cumulative effects of years of

See **Lorenzen**, p. 11



**What's so great about your Valentine?**  
Unbearably sweet love stories on p. 17 . . .

*Published the first  
Wednesday of each month*

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# Concrete Herald

The Voice of Eastern Skagit County

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## Editorial

Heard that snow is scarce up in Vancouver, B.C. Apparently, the Winter Olympics organizers are thinking about trucking in some of the white stuff for many of the skiing events. Remember when you were little and stored snowballs in your freezer so that you could have a snowball fight in July? Sound familiar?

This month has me musing on the nature of love. I'm a "quote-a-holic"; here are a few of my favorites on the subject:

- "Do we find love so often that we should turn it off the box when it happens to sit there?" —Mr. Emerson, "A Room with a View"
- "So, Marquis," she whispered. "what is your aim, what do you mean to do?" "To adore you and die of pain." —Jean-François de Bastide, *The Little House*
- "Thinking about a woman who doesn't know you're thinking about her and doesn't care you're thinking about her, makes you think about her even more." —Chris Stephens, "Northern Exposure"
- Ed Chigliak: "What do women want?" Chris Stephens: "The same things men want, only in pretty colors." —"Northern Exposure"
- "To know someone with whom you can feel there is understanding in spite of distances or thoughts unexpressed . . . that can make this life a garden." —Johan Wolfgang von Goethe
- "I didn't love her because it was right. I just loved her." —Robert Redford, "The Horse Whisperer"
- "Love looks not with the eyes but with the mind. And therefore is wing'd Cupid painted blind." —William Shakespeare, Helena's soliloquy from "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (I, i, 234)

I'll stop now, before I get all weepy on you. I'm out of room anyway.

—J.K.M.



**Become a member February 25th!**  
**6-8 pm at the future KSVU Main Street Studio**  
45964 Main Street, Concrete

Establish program advisory council, volunteer office staff, local hosts for music, talk, and news programs.  
Questions? 360-416-7711 or at [KSVR.ORG](http://KSVR.ORG)

# Opinion

## Letters to the editor

### To all Upper Skagit Valley voters

I am writing in support of the school levy on which we will vote Feb. 9.

State funding is for public education is not sufficient to support the basic educational programs offered by the Concrete School District. This replacement levy would become effective Jan. 1, 2011 and continue through Dec. 31, 2013.

Due to the current economy and continuous decrease in state funding, maintenance and operation levies are crucial to the operating revenues for all school districts. Our children are important and deserve to receive a quality education.

Please vote "YES" for kids.

*Lucille Claybo  
Concrete*

### Thank you for softball support

With sincere appreciation, my family and I would like to thank the companies and organizations that stepped forward and sponsored me for the 2010 season of Rising Stars Softball:

- Walker's Carpet One Bellingham
- Puget Sound Energy
- Grasmere Fire Department
- Concrete Fire Department
- Concrete Lion's Club
- Summit Bank
- Rightway Plumbing
- *Concrete Herald*

It is largely because of this support that I have developed the confidence and belief that through hard work, I can achieve a promising future.

I would also like to let these businesses and organizations know that without their support, this would not have been possible.

Thank you.

*Kristien L. Mann  
Concrete*

### Just As I Am closes, with thanks

2009 started off as a year of welcomed change. "Just As I Am" Early Learning Center incorporated and a lot of work was put forth toward sustaining the business.

Staff, parents, grandparents, and board and community members contributed to the wonderful vision of a great cause: children.

Thank you all for your time, effort, and willingness to assist as needed. You have many talents and gifts, and have been a valuable part of giving children a safe place to thrive in Concrete's community.

Since April 2007, Just As I Am accomplished many goals. Without your support and ideas, all of this could not have been possible. Together, we did this and more:

- We serviced infants for 6 months helping teenage moms to continue going to school
- We ran a successful toddler learning program that incorporated SPARC

See **Letters**, p. 3

### Letters policy

Letters of 150 words or fewer may be sent to Concrete Herald, P.O. Box 682, Concrete, WA 98237, or e-mailed to [letters@concrete-herald.com](mailto:letters@concrete-herald.com). Writers must include their name and town or community for publication, plus a daytime telephone number for confirmation purposes. *Concrete Herald* reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity, accuracy, spelling, grammar, and potentially libelous statements. So be nice.

### Corrections

The Rockport Christ the King story in the January issue misstated Martha Barndt's tenure with the church. Ms. Barndt has been sharing the pulpit as needed with Mike Dellinger since Dec. 2009.

Also, Sonja Dellinger has been a substitute bus driver with the Concrete School District for one year.

The Concrete date for Clothes on Wheels was incorrect. The group will give away free clothes at Community Bible Church in Concrete on Feb. 13, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Letters, cont. from p. 2

services for children in need and developmental consults from the Public Health Nurse

- We expanded our original preschool program to include an older pre-K program for kindergarten readiness
- We were able to network with Head Start to provide before and after school childcare services
- We were able to accommodate children with special needs and provide time and space for them to receive speech therapy through the school district specialists
- We followed through with IEP recommendations for overall consistency in learning
- We received a greenhouse grant from School's Out Washington and introduced an environmental science curriculum; we facilitated a learning experience in which the children participated from seed to harvest to table
- We opened a separate site for school-age children
- We networked with the National Parks Service to use their knowledge to teach the children, and received a grant to have the children attend and experience hands-on learning about native plants and animals
- We provided jobs for 15 people within the community
- We networked with Worksource to provide on-the-job skill-training opportunities
- We increased State and Federal subsidies within the Town of Concrete through the Department of Social and Health Services and the USDA Food Program
- We advocated in Olympia for Childcare Center employees' need for recognition as professionals, training opportunities, benefits, and pay increase
- We had monthly Family Nights with great food and activities for all ages

Most of all, we had fun. Although short-lived, Just As I Am was a success. May the new year bring you all that you wish for.

*Rose Weaver  
Concrete*

### Douglas Vose III donations

A few months ago, I placed donation boxes in a few Concrete businesses to build a memorial fund for Doug Vose, a Concrete native who died in Afghanistan protecting our freedom. Those businesses were Albert's Red Apple, Cascade Supply, Concrete Liquor Store, and Birdsview Brewing Co.

On behalf of the Vose family and myself, I thank the businesses and the community for all the love and support they have given to his sacrifice. The people of Concrete have given a lot of donations and are still giving. That makes me proud not only of being an American but also of growing up in Concrete, the home of an American hero.

*Jeff Haferkamp  
Burlington*

### Support for community members

Love and light is sent to Marblemount's Sahlin family as little Lukas, age 5, recovers from the rare Kawasaki Syndrome at Seattle Childrens' Hospital. Current information on his condition can be found on the CaringBridge web site.

Healing love is sent to Rockport's own forest faerie, Marlee Osterbauer, after her very serious bicycle accident near Marblegate on Jan.18.

Thanks so much for all you do for us.

*Christie Fairchild  
Rockport*

### "Our Upriver Home" lecture series to begin

Seeing the need to learn more about our upriver communities' past, present, and future, the Saukrates Café discussion group suggested offering a lecture series open to all.

Sponsored by the Upper Skagit Library and the Friends of the Library, the first evening program will be on Thurs., Feb. 11, at 7 p.m., at the library. Dr. Jon Riedel, PhD, of North Cascades National Park, will present his research on "The Glacial History of Climate Change in the Skagit Valley."

Future programs in this series will include an interactive "Climate Café" workshop, co-sponsored by Padilla Bay National Marine Estuary staff; a program on the history of the Skagit Hydroelectric Project (Seattle City Light) with Bill Newby; and exploring our wild, edible landscape with Dave Sansome.

## Writer(s) needed!

Concrete Herald needs one or more objective reporters to cover the Concrete Town Council.

For more information, contact:

Jason Miller  
360.853.8213  
[editor@concrete-herald.com](mailto:editor@concrete-herald.com)

# GRAND OPENING

FEBRUARY 12TH • 7:30PM

**Showing This Weekend**

Some Like It Hot  
February 12 & 14

Leap Year  
February 13

**Movie Schedule**

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Saturdays  
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**Molly Doran**  
Executive Director  
Skagit Land Trust  
Mount Vernon  
(pictured far right, with staff and volunteers)

Puget Sound Energy thanks Skagit Land Trust and its volunteers for conserving more than 5,500 acres of wildlife habitat, wetlands, farm and forest lands, scenic landscapes and shorelines in Skagit County. People and wildlife will benefit now and in the future from this stewardship. PSE is honored to contribute to these efforts. We encourage others to join in preserving Skagit County's natural heritage.

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Historic Byway signs to guide walking tour

Thanks to hard work by a Concrete Heritage Museum committee and dedicated follow-through by one Cheri Cook-Blodgett, the Town of Concrete is going to get a historic byway walking tour—complete with all manner of visual aids—just in time for the summer tourism season.

Funded by a 2009 grant from the Skagit County Lodging Tax, the walking tour includes directional and informational signs that knit together seven locations along the route, plus a color brochure and a 16-page brochure that provide additional information for each location.

Already, two signs are in place at Bear Square in Concrete’s Town Center. A third sign also will be installed at that site, replacing the old plywood one that was fastened to a post supporting the roof over the bear. Elsewhere in town, other old signs will be replaced with the new, more durable versions.

“It’s our hope that individual store owners will invest in replacing the signs that are on their buildings, too,” said Cook-Blodgett. “Those old signs were made of plywood and ... need to go.”



Concrete Heritage Museum Committee member Cheri Cook-Blodgett stands next to the first Concrete Historic Byway sign to be placed along the walking tour route. She holds a supplemental booklet containing more information for each stop along the route.

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“Holy Clothes on Wheels” to visit Concrete Feb. 13

The Sedro-Woolley free clothing outreach “Holy Clothes on Wheels” will give away free clothes at Community Bible Church in Concrete on Feb. 13, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Clothing will be distributed at the back door of the church.

In December 2009, the group held its first successful clothing giveaway at The Reach Church in Sedro-Woolley. January found it at Hamilton Baptist Church.

The Reach Church is the group’s “umbrella,” said group member Marcia Billman. “We are grateful to have local churches partner with us to provide space to do this,” she said.

For more information or to donate, contact Holy Clothes on Wheels at 360.610.7429 or via e-mail at holyclothesonwheels@gmail.com.

Anthropologist seeks focus group participants for mountains and glaciers

If you’re interested in mountains and glaciers and their importance in your life and our communities, Julie Brugger wants to talk to you.

Brugger, an anthropologist who recently finished her Ph.D. at the University of Washington, is researching the North

THIS AND THAT

By J.K.M.

Mark your calendars now for two **townwide clean-up weekends** in Concrete. During its Jan. 25 meeting, the Concrete Town Council chose April 10–11 and Sept. 11–12 for its annual clean-ups. This year, homeowners and renters will receive passes to drop off their junk, and Mayor Judd Wilson himself will drive a truck around town both days to help those without transportation to the drop-off site. Keep your eyes on *Concrete Herald* for more details as these dates approach.

**Russ and Sandy Wells** of Van Horn have started up **Fog Line Haunted**

[www.concrete-herald.com](http://www.concrete-herald.com)

**Adventures** and will formally launch their fright-filled tours in May (look for a full article in the May issue). Each basic package will include transportation, meal(s), and basic ghost hunting tips for a reasonable price. Extended adventures will include hotel accommodations.

My dear friends **Philip and Debbie Bovenkamp** welcomed **Jillian Grace Bovenkamp** to the world on Jan. 14. Jillian was born at 10:42 a.m., weighed 7 lbs. 12 oz., and measured 20-3/4 in. long. Congratulations to them both, especially Debbie!

Around the middle of February, watch for the **Concrete Lions Club** to begin a month-long food drive at the Red Apple, with donations going to the Concrete Food Bank. The event will culminate March 26 with “Lions Day,” which is meant to help raise awareness of the Lions Club in our community.

Romance in the reels

Concrete Theatre reopens Feb. 12 with “Some Like It Hot”

After months of waiting, the Concrete Theatre is back in business.

Since they purchased the downtown Concrete landmark building in fall 2009, Valerie Stafford and Fred West have been methodically renovating the structure to enhance all visitors’ experiences, whether they’re catching a movie or watching a play.

Stafford launches into an impressive list of improvements whenever anyone asks her what she and Fred have been doing with the interior.

“We put in a SurroundSound system. We expanded the space between the seat rows. The lobby is being repainted. There’s new carpet in the center aisle. We’re adding drapes to the side walls. And cleaning, cleaning, cleaning,” she laughs.



Photo by Matt Brown

Beginning Feb. 12, movies will be shown on Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 5 and 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 4 p.m. Ticket prices are \$6 for general admission; moviegoers 65 and over or 12 and under pay only \$5. The Sunday matinees shave \$1 off those prices.

The February movie schedule is:

**Feb. 12 and 14:** “Some Like It Hot”  
**Feb. 13:** “Leap Year”  
**Feb. 19–21:** “The Princess and the Frog”  
**Feb. 26–28:** “Sherlock Holmes”

And yes, there will be concessions.

For updated announcements of what’s currently showing, call the MovieLine anytime at 360.941.0403.

Concrete Theatre is online at [www.concrete-theatre.com](http://www.concrete-theatre.com). You can find it on Facebook, too.

Lawsuit dangling after unresolved mediation

By Jason Miller

[www.concrete-herald.com](http://www.concrete-herald.com)

A threatened lawsuit against the Town of Concrete, served on Oct. 16, 2009, by its wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) contractor, BOSS Construction of Bellingham, is still a possibility after mediation attempts failed during a Dec. 12 meeting between the two parties.

The mediation, which took place in the offices of Zender Thurston in Bellingham, found the town facing a settlement figure far in excess of its means. “The Town was unable to settle, despite some valiant efforts on its part,” said Town of Concrete attorney David Day of Fairhaven Legal Associates, Inc., in Burlington.

The two Concrete Town Council members in attendance, Marla Reed and Jason Miller, felt that the amount of money still being discussed at the end of the day should be brought back to the other Council members. Concrete Mayor Judd Wilson, Deputy Clerk Andrea Fichter, Public Works Director Alan Wilkins, and Day also attended the mediation session.

Since the mediation day, the Town has decided to pursue another approach, asking its engineer for the project, HDR, for monetary support to help satisfy BOSS’ settlement demands. On Jan. 22, a letter was sent to HDR’s Regional Vice President David Peters, to that end.

The financial request of HDR should communicate the severity of the situation in which the Town finds itself, said Day, because “if the BOSS litigation continues, the town will be forced to bring HDR in as another party, primarily because most of the claims by BOSS relate to HDR’s management and design” before and during the project.

The chief claim by BOSS is that because of the way the project was managed by HDR, BOSS incurred additional, uncompensated expense. It is that expense, called “extended overhead” in the industry, that BOSS is trying to recoup.

BOSS can’t legally sue HDR for that extended overhead, because BOSS has no contract with HDR. HDR was employed by the town as an intermediary, strictly as a management and design entity, to

See **Lawsuit**, p. 26

Floyd LeBaron: A tribute

By Hal Williams

Floyd LeBaron, a Concrete High School teacher and coach from 1948 until 1953, passed away Nov. 11, 2009, in Longview, Washington. He was born March 1, 1923.

During his years at CHS, he assisted in football and was head coach in men’s basketball and baseball. He held winning records in all three sports.

Coach LeBaron was an expert in teaching fundamentals. He instilled pride, confidence, and competitiveness. As a result of his tutelage, his teams won with teamwork and a desire to excel.

Not only did he teach fundamentals, he taught the value of fair play and a strong work ethic, which often carried over into adult life for his players. He taught us how to be humble winners and gracious losers.

In 1990, Coach LeBaron, along with other outstanding coaches and the top 15 players from 1940–1990, were recognized for their contributions to CHS men’s basketball at a special ceremony.



Submitted photo

Floyd LeBaron taught and coached football, men’s basketball, and baseball at Concrete High School from 1948 till 1953. This photo was taken circa 1954.

All who were fortunate to know Coach LeBaron, and have his influence in their lives, benefitted greatly. What a wonderful career. What a life!

*Hal Williams graduated from Concrete High School in 1955. He lives in Tenino, Washington.*

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## In The Service

Concrete Town Councilman and Staff Sergeant Paul W. Rider was in Olympia Jan. 22 to document festivities during this year’s Legislative Day at the State Capitol.

Legislative Day recognizes the ongoing contributions made by members of Washington’s Army and Air National Guard, as well as the State Guard. SSgt Rider serves as an Air National Guard photojournalist with the 194th Regional Support Wing at Camp Murray.

*To share updates on loved ones’ service in the armed forces, e-mail Jason Miller, editor, at [editor@concrete-herald.com](mailto:editor@concrete-herald.com), or call 360.853.8213.*

Flanked by Governor Christine Gregoire and the state’s Adjutant General, Major General Timothy J. Lowenberg, Corporal Jeffrey L. Smith accepts a plaque for being named the Washington State Guard’s 2009 Soldier of the Year at the state capitol in Olympia on Jan. 22.

*Photo by Paul Rider.*

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# Sports

## Wrestlers notch more wins

By Jason Miller

The Concrete wrestling team continued its strong season during January, adding more wins to bring its record to 8-1 as of January 30.

January 5 found the team battling Granite Falls and winning 36-31. Our grapplers took on Friday Harbor on Jan. 7 and won 56-7.

At the Nooksack Invitational on Jan. 9, the Concrete team placed second overall.

A Jan. 14 doubleheader found the team on top once again, beating La Conner 45-21 and Darrington 48-15.

The wrestlers got stretched a bit in Lynden on Jan. 16, where they faced wrestlers from much larger schools for a great learning experience, said Head Coach Dave Dellinger.

“We held on to third place till the end, and ended up getting fifth,” he said of the tournament, which also saw wrestlers from Sedro-Woolley, Bellingham, and Franklin High in Tacoma.

Concrete defeated Chief Leschi at Friday Harbor on Jan. 21, rolling to a 71-0 victory, “because Chief Leschi had only three wrestlers,” Dellinger conceded.

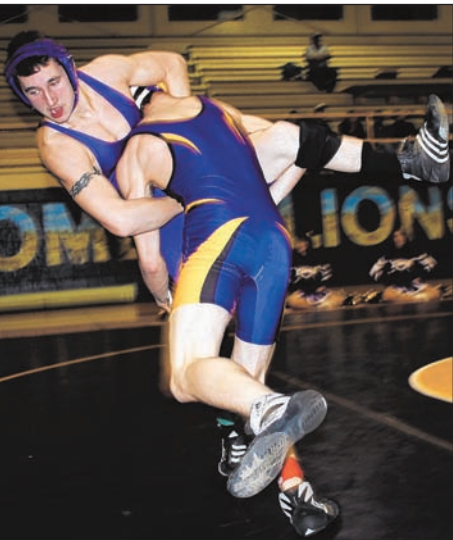
On Jan. 26, Nooksack came to town and beat the hometown team by only three points, 36-33. Two days later, Concrete

See **Wrestling**, p. 26

| Wrestling schedule |               |                |      |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------|------|
| Date               | Opponent      | Event location | Time |
| 2.6                | Sub-regionals | Concrete       | 11   |
| 2.13               | Regionals     | TBD            | 10   |
| 2.19-20            | State Playoff | Tacoma         | TBD  |



**Clockwise from top left:** Concrete senior Jacob White tries to break his opponent's hold during a Jan. 28 battle against Friday Harbor at home. Nooksack's Brandon DeBruin looks for a good place to land as Concrete sophomore Cody Corn upends him during the team's Jan. 26 match. Concrete junior Danny Brown puts the hurt on his Friday Harbor opponent during the team's Jan. 28 match.



## Attitude, effort for Middle School girls hoopsters

By Jason Miller

With one notch in their “wins” column and three in their “losses,” the 7th and 8th grade girls continue to excel in the primary categories of effort and attitude, reports Middle School Girls Basketball Head Coach Rob Thomas.

“Our philosophy is simple,” said Thomas. “First, we want to teach fundamentals. Second, we want to teach how to work together as a team. Third, if you’re not having fun, something is wrong. Fourth, we want to develop the habit of winning. We want to succeed, but we want to have fun, too.”

Thomas, who shares the coaching responsibilities with fourth-year coach Rachel Harris, said he takes a long-view approach with every game.

“If we’re showing improvement every game, if they’re doing the little things, working well on fundamentals and working together as a team, the score will take care of itself,” he said. “We had a second-game loss against Conway, and though I hate losing, I told the girls I wasn’t upset because they took such a huge step forward.”

Thomas and varsity women’s basketball coach Kevik Rensink tell their young charges that they have control over their attitude and their effort. So far, said

Thomas, he hasn’t been disappointed by either. “It’s a great group of girls,” he said. “Great character, great attitudes.”

Thomas also complimented Kathy, his wife, for keeping the books accurate and the refreshments flowing.



Lydia Schoolland, left, blocks a Mount Vernon Christian defender as teammate Taylor Warner sets up for a shot during the 7th grade girls basketball game Jan. 26. At the end of January, the girls had a 1-3 record.

## JV boys playing with “passion and fire”

By Jason Miller

Honing their skills with every game, the JV basketball team continues to be “a great building block for our program,” said Head Coach Chad Dinkins.

The team’s record so far is 3-4. Players are sophomore Andrew Black, freshmen James Luttrell and Hayden Holbrook, and eighth-graders Dallas Newby, Andy Freeman, Nathan Butler, Josh Rogge, Cody Jarmin, Joey Solomon, and Joseph DiLeo.

“Many of the players are inexperienced, but they play with lots of passion and fire,” said Dinkins.

“The eighth-graders have really helped out with the JV team and have brought a great deal of needed excitement into the program as a whole,” Dinkins added.



Concrete sophomore Andrew Black drives against an Orcas Island Vikings defender on Jan. 21. Concrete took a loss that day, as the Vikings went home with a 41-37 victory.

High School Track season starts March 1

High School Baseball season starts March 1

High School Softball season starts March 1

Middle School Track season starts April 5

## Lady Lions battle, show progress

By Chad Dinkins

The Lady Lions continued with their never-say-die attitude through the month of January and have seen great progress with many of the younger players.

The women traveled to La Conner to open the New Year on January 8 and struggled to score and stop the height of the Braves in a 57-22 defeat. The Concrete team was led by Taylor Lee’s seven points and Martha Schoolland’s eight rebounds.

On Jan. 12 the Lady Lions made their second trip to the new complex of Mount Vernon Christian to square off with another league game. The Lions fell short 46-30 as they saw Melanie Kuipers go to the line 12 times compared to 2 for the Lions. Ashley Johnson was the Lady Lions’ leading scorer with eight points and three steals.

Friday Harbor Wolverines came to Jack Bradley Court on Jan. 15 with a strong inside game, which turned out to be a tough match up for the Concrete women hoopsters as the Wolverines cruised to a 64-28 victory. Taylor Lee had a double-double with eleven points and eleven rebounds, and Sarah Spaeth came off the bench to score a career-high seven points.

The Lady Lions got a much-needed victory at Shoreline Christian on Jan. 19. Consuelo Castaneda found her shooting stroke again, cruising to 14 points and knocking down two triples. Martha Schoolland made two big free throws to seal the game and Jessica Filtz had eight rebounds and three steals in her return from injury.

After a short recovery time, the Lady Lions welcomed Orcas Island to our home court on Jan. 21 and almost sent the league favorites home with a loss, but couldn’t recover from an early deficit in the 59-48 loss to the Vikings as the duo of Lanie Padbury and Stephanie Shaw proved too much; the pair combined for 37 of the Vikings’ 59 points. Consuelo Castaneda didn’t lose her shooting stroke as she went 4-8 from behind the arc on her way to 15 points. The Lady Lions had a balanced attack with Ashley Johnson scoring 13, Taylor Lee with nine, and Jessica Filtz’s seven.

To end the month, the Lady Lions made the short trip to their archrival, Darrington. The Lady Loggers have climbed out of their midseason funk and

See **Women’s Basketball**, p. 26

| Women’s Basketball schedule |                        |                |             |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Date                        | Opponent               | Event location | Time (JV/V) |
| 2.5                         | Mount Vernon Christian | Concrete       | -- / 7:30   |
| 2.5                         | Grace Academy JV       | Concrete       | 4:30 / --   |
| 2.9                         | Friday Harbor          | Friday Harbor  | 5:30 / 4    |
| 2.12                        | Shoreline Christian    | Concrete       | -- / 5      |
| 2.13                        | Tie-breakers           | TBD            | TBD         |
| 2.16                        | “Pigtail” game         | TBD            | TBD         |
| TBD                         | Tri-District Playoff   | Chief Leschi   | TBD         |
| 3.4-7                       | State Playoff          | Spokane        | TBD         |



Concrete freshman Tamara Schoolland gets a hand on a rebound during the Lady Lions’ Jan. 21 matchup against Orcas Island. Orcas took home the win that day; the Concrete women’s team finished January with a 4-12 record.



## Athletes of the Month



**Athletes of the Month are Martha Schoolland and Dalton Dellinger**

Martha Schoolland is a junior point guard for the women’s basketball team, who “has stepped into a leadership role as our ‘floor general’ on the court,” said Head Coach Kevik Rensink. Dalton Dellinger, a junior wrestler in the 112-lb. weight class, had a 23-1 record as of Jan. 30. Schoolland and Dellinger were selected by Concrete Lions Booster Club members based on their leadership, being team players, and demonstrating sportsmanship and character.

## Men’s hoops season draws to a close

By Chad Dinkins, head coach

The Lions hoped to start the new year with a win, and they were not disappointed. The Mount Vernon Sophomores made the journey to Concrete for the nonleague match on Jan. 5. Tyler Clark scored a career-high 40 points in the 71-61 shoot-out victory. Greg McIntosh had 10 points and 6 assists in the victory for the Lions.

On Jan. 8, the Lions looked to extend their winning streak, but could not overcome a hot-shooting Braves team in La Conner and limped to a 67-41 defeat. Tyler Clark had 13 points, four assists, and two blocks to lead the Lions in this league match-up.

Hopes of getting on track were dashed on Jan. 12 when the Lions visited the Hurricanes. After building a 24-14 lead at half, the Lions saw Mount Vernon Christian outscore the Lions 33-18 on their way to a 47-42 victory. The Lions were led by Tyler Clark’s 23 points and 16 rebounds.

Kyler Howell had six rebounds and four assists in the loss.

An early game on Jan. 15 against Friday Harbor brought much more intensity than against the Hurricanes and saw the Lions lead by 3 points with 4:30 left in the game, only to see that lead evaporate to a 59-48 defeat at the hands of the Wolverines. The size of Parker Lawson proved too much as he scored six crucial points down the stretch to seal the Wolverine victory. The Lions’ Tyler Howell had 13 points and five rebounds. Tyler Clark had 23 points in the loss.

The Lions’ intensity didn’t waver as they made their journey on Jan. 19 to Shoreline Christian. The Lions started out with a 20-point first quarter, as Tyler Howell and Tyler Clark combined for 15 early points. This back-and-forth

See **Men’s Basketball**, p. 31

| Men’s Basketball schedule |                        |                        |             |
|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Date                      | Opponent               | Event location         | Time (JV/V) |
| 2.5                       | Mount Vernon Christian | Mount Vernon Christian | 4 / 7:15    |
| 2.9                       | Friday Harbor          | Friday Harbor          | 4 / 5:30    |
| 2.12                      | Shoreline Christian    | Concrete               | 5 / 7       |
| 2.13                      | Tie-breakers           | TBD                    | TBD         |
| 2.16                      | “Pigtail” game         | TBD                    | TBD         |
| TBD                       | Tri-District Playoff   | Chief Leschi           | TBD         |
| 3.4-7                     | State Playoff          | Spokane                | TBD         |

Concrete junior Tyler Clark goes up and over three defenders for the bucket during the Lions’ Jan. 21 game against Orcas Island.





# Academics



## Levies up for vote in Concrete, Sedro-Woolley

By Jason Miller

The Concrete and Sedro-Woolley School Districts are stepping up efforts to encourage citizens to vote yes when their respective levies go up for votes Feb. 9.

Concrete’s is a replacement maintenance and operations levy, designed to provide “a significant portion of the total operating revenues” for Concrete and other districts in Washington. Concrete receives 17 percent of its operating funds from its local maintenance and operations levy.

The present levy request is a “renewal,” coming as the current levy faces an expiration date of December 2010. The new levy dollars would become available Jan. 1, 2011, and continue through Dec. 31, 2013.

### Levy provisions

The replacement levy covers several budget components, including:

- Increasing educational choices, half-

time K-8 counselor, partial support for psychologist, special education staffing, and health services (22 percent)

- Programs for which state support is insufficient or nonexistent: K-12 music, community education, special education, and extracurricular activities (21 percent)

- Technology: Equipment repair/upgrade, technology personnel, software/licenses, training, network connectivity, media resources, maintenance agreements (15 percent)

- District-wide staff training and additional responsibilities (13 percent)

- Individual building needs: textbook replacement, supplies, field trips, furniture replacement, library supplies and audio-visual equipment,

staff training specific to individual buildings, and school improvement

—J.K.M.



## Concrete PTO news

By Debbie Ross, president

**Are you a Fred Meyer Rewards cardholder?** A promotion began Jan. 18 that runs through March 31. Register your Fred Meyer Rewards card at [www.rewardyourschool.com](http://www.rewardyourschool.com), select the school of your choice, and receive five bonus box tops for signing up. When you shop for selected products during these dates, the school will receive credit for additional box tops!

If you have questions, feel free to email the PTO at [concretek6pto@yahoo.com](mailto:concretek6pto@yahoo.com).

## School Board to meet

The Concrete School Board will hold its next regular board meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 24, at 7 p.m., in the high school commons room. A work session is planned for Feb. 22, at 6 p.m., in the commons room.

## Rood inducted into Hall of Fame

By Brooke Howell

Concrete High School football coach Ron Rood was inducted into the Washington High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame on Sat., Jan. 23. The prestigious group of coaches—whose numbers have grown to 129 during the last 32 years—were inducted for their years of service to Washington High School football.

The dinner was held at the Hilton Hotel in Bellevue, site of the WSFCA Winter Clinic. Rood was joined at the dinner by former assistant football coach John Peterson, formally from Concrete, who

introduced him. Rood’s former college coach, Tom Parry, and many friends also attended the event to honor him.

Rood grew up in Longview, Wash., and was a three-sport athlete at Mark Morris High School. He played four years of varsity football at Central Washington University, where he was an honorable mention NAIA All-American guard for coach Tom Parry in 1972. After a year as a graduate assistant at Central, he started teaching at Fife High School in 1974 where he was an assistant football and

head baseball coach for ten years.

Ron has spent the past 25 years coaching at Concrete High School. During that time, the Lions have enjoyed considerable success at the league and state level, including a state championship in 1985. His Concrete baseball team was also a state runner-up in 1988. Ron was privileged to coach in the WSCA East-West All-Star game twice and last year was named State Coach of the Year by the NFHS Coaches Association. He feels fortunate to have coached so many excellent young men and made so many great friends in the during the past 35 years.



Washington High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame inductee Ron Rood was joined by his former Central Washington University football coach Tom Parry during a Jan. 23 ceremony honoring Rood's 35 years of coaching. *Photo by Brooke Howell.*

## 2010 Republican caucus

The Skagit County Republican Party has selected Sat., Feb. 13, as the day it will hold its caucus for party members to elect a delegate to represent their precincts at the county convention in April.

The caucus for residents of Concrete and its surrounding precincts will be held at the Concrete High School Commons Room, with doors opening at 9 a.m. and officially convening at 9:30 a.m. The election of delegates will be held no earlier than 10:30 a.m. and no later than 11:30 a.m.

While the caucus is open to the general public, verification will be made that attendees intending to vote at the caucus are registered voters within their proper precincts and that they are either Republicans or hold to conservative values.

If you have further questions regarding this year’s caucus, please contact Republican party headquarters at 360.424.9792.

**Concrete Herald**  
The Voice of Eastern Skagit County

## Robotics program gains PSE support

The Concrete School District is preparing more students for state and national competition in robotics thanks to a \$5,000 grant from the Puget Sound Energy Foundation.

Concrete Superintendent Barbara Hawkings said the foundation’s grant is helping Concrete High School technology teacher Michael Criner continue his new robotics program. Students in the program cooperatively build and market a robot, and ultimately, they will showcase their skills and knowledge at one or more FIRST Robotics competitions held across the country.

“Mr. Criner’s program is not really about building robots,” Hawkings said. “It’s about building confidence and excitement in our students and, perhaps, building the next generation of groundbreaking scientists. It’s about inspiring

young people in the wonders of science, math, engineering and technology. We are extremely grateful to the Puget Sound Energy Foundation for recognizing the value of our efforts.”

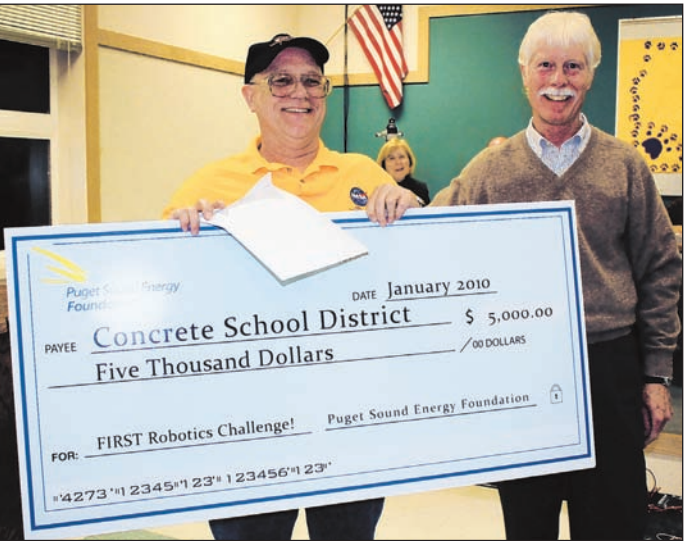
The Robotics program started last year in the high school with only a few students. This year, Mike Criner is offering a class for seventh and eighth graders. The high school team attended the FIRST Robotics competition in Seattle last year. From March 4–6, they will compete in Portland, Oregon. The First Robotics competitions involve thousands of students from around the world.

Ray Trzynka, Puget Sound Energy’s community relations manager for Skagit County, presented the \$5,000 grant to Superintendent Hawkings and the Concrete School Board during its regular meeting Jan. 27 on behalf of the

Puget Sound Energy Foundation.

“Our foundation’s charitable grants are all about trying to make a positive difference in the community,” Trzynka said. “It’s obvious that your robotics program is inspiring kids in the Concrete School District.”

Puget Energy, the parent company of PSE, created the foundation in 2006 to continue PSE’s legacy of leadership and support of worthy, community-based programs.



Concrete High School’s Robotics program advisor Mike Criner accepts the PSE Foundation grant for \$5,000 from PSE Community Relations Manager Ray Trzynka during the Concrete School District Board meeting Jan. 27.

### Current, cont. from p. 1

Pearson hit upon the idea for the play while reading the *Domestic Violence Sourcebook*, by Dawn Bradley Berry.

“There’s a chapter on the legality of beating your wife—there was a time when it was legal and socially acceptable. But at that time there were women who stood up to it; this group was mentioned. I read that and thought, oh, now there’s a subject for a play.”

Blending fact with fiction, “Current” considers what possible events might have encouraged Martha McWhirter to respond in such a drastic way, for the time. Her decision to push back against a complacent and complicit society eventually led to open abuse against her and her like-minded female companions. Court proceedings were started and McWhirter began “renting” rooms in her house to her “Sanctified Sisters,” though no money ever changed hands.

George McWhirter, Martha’s husband, moved out, leaving Martha to run what was, essentially, one of the first safe houses for women in the U.S.

The women’s financial independence and their husband’s frustration and humiliation grew in lock step. While the county court worked to pronounce the women insane and the local churches rallied hard to have them declared heretics, the men nursed their anger until it grew into a mob action on the night of Feb. 13, 1880.

Finding the balance between fact and fiction “has been the

most challenging part of writing this play,” said Pearson, who was fine-tuning her sixth draft even while rehearsals were under way.

“What SVC is giving to me is a gift, a chance to learn from this play and develop it further,” said Pearson, speaking of the edits she’s made during rehearsals. The first draft of the play, however, was good enough to win the Jane Chambers Playwriting Award and the Northwest Playwrights Competition. “Currents” is the Essex, England-born playwright’s sixth full-length play, joining previous efforts that have been produced worldwide.

“Amazing and exhilarating”

Director Heather Dyer first learned of the play when Skagit Valley College



Sauk City playwright Nicola Pearson

Instructor and Drama Department Chair Andy Friedlander put a copy of it in her

hands and suggested she consider it for her next directing project. “Only do it if you’re inspired by it,” he said.

“I thought it was a very well-constructed play, the characters were great, and the history was interesting. I’d never heard of this group of women and what they’d done, so I was very excited to get a chance to direct this play,” said Dyer. “It’s been an amazing and

exhilarating project.”

The play’s producers are following the spirit of the play, too, by offering a “pay what you can” preview performance on Feb. 18 at 7:30 p.m. Proceeds for that performance will be donated in support of domestic violence services.

## Carried by the Current

**Writer:**  
Nicola Pearson

**Director:**  
Heather Dyer

**Where:**  
Phillip Tarro Theatre,  
Skagit Valley College

**When:**  
Feb. 19, 20, 26, 27 at 7:30 p.m.  
Feb. 28 at 2 p.m.

**Reservations:**  
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## “Dictionary Day” in eastern Skagit County

Every third-grader in the Concrete and Sedro-Woolley school districts got a special gift from the Sedro-Woolley Rotary Club on Jan. 11.

Rotarians delivered 368 pictorial dictionaries to as many kids, including some 4th-graders who didn’t get one last year, when the event began.

Sedro-Woolley Rotary Club President John Hinton said the dictionary idea grew from knowledge that Rotary International President John Kenny is a strong proponent of literacy. “Then, the dictionary publisher recommended third-graders as the best age for this type of gift, and we took it from there,” said Hinton.

Rotary District 5050 offered a “simplified grant” this year, which covered about half of the cost of the dictionaries. The Sedro-Woolley club

See **Dictionaries**, p. 29

## Cascade Middle School contributes to food drive

By Brooke Howell

Cascade Middle School joined efforts with the Sedro-Woolley School District Transportation Department to raise money for their annual food drive by holding a penny drive this winter.

Students brought in 1,057 pounds of food and added an additional \$405 to that amount with coins brought in during the three-week drive. The penny drive was one of three projects that will be held this year to supplement the NAVIGATION 101 program of which every student is a part at Cascade Middle School.

Each year, every 7th grader is responsible for earning five hours of service, while 8th graders must



Sedro-Woolley Rotary Club President John Hinton (left), teamed with fellow Rotary member Doug Gran on Jan. 11 to hand out dictionaries to third-graders at Concrete Elementary. Rotary Club members were at every Sedro-Woolley School District school that day. **Inset:** Moments later, an almost eerie hush fell over the room, as students opened the illustrated dictionaries.

earn 10 volunteer hours as part of the NAVIGATION 101 goal to create CCR (college- and career- ready) students. So far this year, students have accumulated more than 1,400 hours of volunteer service to their school and community in a variety of venues. Part of the penny drive project includes volunteers making posters and counting pennies.

The \$405 dollars raised by CMS students helped to provide many items from food to toys for the food drive this year. Terri Hamilton, leader of the food drive, was on hand to be presented with the check from Cascade Middle School and expressed many thanks to the students for all they did.



Cascade Middle School ASB members posed with Sedro-Woolley School District Transportation Department members in celebration of the student body’s contributions to this year’s food drive. From left: Karlie Lodjic, Abby Cybula, Amy Schols, Terri Hamilton, Perri Ashbaugh, Kyle Hickman, Colton Taxdahl. *Photo by Rachel Olson.*

## Kudos to Nicki Voigt

Nicolette Voigt, a 2000 Sedro-Woolley High School graduate, has been named HR Manager for the first Nordstrom Rack in Manhattan/Union Square.

Voigt started with the company in 2004 as an intern in the Lingerie Department in the Bellevue store and quickly became assistant manager in the same department.

In 2006 she moved to the Factoria Rack as the Men’s Manager. During this time she also served as interim manager in the Women’s Department. Before returning to Bellevue, Nicolette managed the Lingerie Department at the Alderwood store. She then went on to manage TBD at the Bellevue store, where she won the Anniversary Cup.

In 2008 Voigt moved across the country to open up the second store in the Boston market, Burlington, where she was the HR assistant and was awarded Customer Service All-Star. Her most recent role was the HR Area Manager for the Danvers, Towson, and King of Prussia Racks.

Nicolette brings with her a wealth of knowledge both from the merchant side and from the support side. She is known for her enthusiasm and passion for the business and people.

Congratulations Nicki!

## From the Mayor’s desk

By Mayor Mike Anderson

The City works closely with the Sedro-Woolley School District (SWSD) on projects important to our community. Recent efforts include long-term planning for growth, addition of sidewalks for walking routes to schools, and cooperation on significant road projects.

Next to public safety, nothing is more important to the health of our community than educating our kids. My mayor’s column this month is dedicated to encouraging my fellow citizens to vote “yes” for the SWSD levy.

As mayor and a businessman, I am fiscally conservative. The less the government spends, the less it reaches into our pockets. I am persuaded that this school levy is a no-brainer for three key reasons:

1. The strength of our town and our economic prosperity depends on a solid educational foundation—something that is threatened if the levy fails.
2. The SWSD is seeking a reasonable amount of money, based on fiscally conservative principals.
3. By approving a levy, we property owners are able to leverage our local tax funding with levy equalization money from the state: almost a million dollars. This money is only available to districts that pass a levy and if not spent in Sedro-Woolley, it will be spent in other school districts.

The city did not raise your property taxes this year or last year. Indeed, now is not the time to raise taxes. Sedro-Woolley School District’s levy request is not an increase in taxes. If approved, it will keep in place the same levy as we are paying today. I, for one, appreciate the district’s fiscal responsibility, especially when so many are hurting because of lost jobs or other economic stresses.

As we continue our mission at City Hall of delivering basic services in the most cost-effective manner and growing our community’s economy, I ask you to partner in the effort by keeping our schools strong. Without strong schools, our local economy will not grow and the prosperity for all Sedro-Woolley families we seek will remain only a goal. Good schools equal a good community.

## Concrete Heritage Museum News

The Concrete Heritage Museum is closed for the season, but will be open from noon till 4 p.m. during the Mardi Gras celebration on Feb. 20.

Until next Memorial Day weekend, you can make an appointment to visit the museum or do research in our library by calling Robin Wood at 360.826.3075 or e-mailing us at [concreteheritagemuseum@stumpranchonline.com](mailto:concreteheritagemuseum@stumpranchonline.com). Monthly meetings are held year-round at the museum, on the second Thursday of each month, at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

The Board of the Concrete Heritage Museum wishes everyone a great New Year in 2010.

**Quilt blocks calendar**

Della Payne, first-place winner of the Cascade Days Historic Quilt Block Contest, is taking orders for the 2010 calendar based on the quilts that were entered in the contest. Cost is \$10 per calendar, which can be purchased at Albert’s Red Apple Market in Concrete. Thank you to Della Payne for the donation to the museum from the calendar sales, the majority of which have been sold.

Julie Bruger met in January with several museum members on her project “**Communities in Mountains.**” More details will follow regarding her project.

Our library has a new acquisition: ***The Genealogy & History of the Ascendants & Descendant of Trued & Sissa Olson family.*** by Frank W. Olson and William

R. Olson. The book includes detailed information about Frank G. and Selma Olson, an early Skagit County pioneer family that settled in the La Conner, Sauk, Rockport, and Avon/Fredonia areas of the valley from around the time of their marriage in 1887.

Grandson’s Frank & Bill Olson, both graduates of Concrete High School, devote the bulk of the book to the family genealogy from their native country of Sweden to Kansas, then life in Skagit County, with wonderful photos of the early areas farmed by the family.

Frank Olson sent the book to Lois Theodoratus of Birdsvew; Frank let me reproduce the book so copies could be given to the Concrete Heritage Museum. The book can be viewed or checked out from the museum library.

The Centennial reprint of ***So They Called the Town Concrete*** is still available. The new edition features enhanced photographs and a more readable font. New cover graphics were done by Philip Johnson. Copies are available at Albert’s Red Apple (at the lottery counter; remember to pay for it separately at that counter) and the museum; an order form also can be printed at our Web site at [www.stumpranchonline.com/concreteheritagemuseum](http://www.stumpranchonline.com/concreteheritagemuseum).

—Dan Royal

## Upper Skagit Library news

By Aimee Hirschel

On Sat., Jan. 23, the library **celebrated its 5th birthday.** It was also a community thank you for all the support the past few years. Dan the Magic Man entertained a crowd of 50+ at the Senior Center and more than 100 people enjoyed cupcakes and cider at the library. The library continues to grow and expand, meeting new challenges in the best way possible. Thanks again to all of you.

We’re starting a new series of talks aptly named “**Our Upriver Home.**” Christie Fairchild and Nancy Johnson (who are on our planning committee) came up with that title. Another article in this issue mentions the topic of the first presentation on Feb. 11, as well as future programs.

These programs would be helpful to newcomers who want to learn about the area and others who enjoy learning for its own sake.

Have you heard of **Motheread Fatheread**? It’s a national program using quality children’s literature to help parents read effectively with their children, initiate discussions of the books, improve their parenting and literacy skills, and increase family communication. Through a grant to the Education Support District in Anacortes, we are able to offer this opportunity to you.

We need 10 mothers or fathers, with children from newborn to 5 years old, who are willing to participate in a 10-week learning experience. If you are interested, please contact the library at 360.853.7939.

**FYI:** during 2009, 465 DVDs were checked out each month!

The **Board of Trustees** meets next on Feb. 11, at 5 p.m., in the Resource Center.

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**FEBRUARY**

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 5  | Concrete Community Childcare Open House, portable classroom at Concrete Elementary School, 3 to 6 p.m.; info at 360.661.5095 or <a href="mailto:tom.burton6@verizon.net">tom.burton6@verizon.net</a> |
| 10 | Imagine Concrete steering committee and task forces meeting, Mears Field Pilots Lounge, 6 p.m.; info at 360.853.8213   |
| 11 | Concrete Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting at Pregnancy Choices, 45080 Fir St., Concrete, 6 p.m.; info at <a href="http://www.concrete-wa.com">www.concrete-wa.com</a>                             |
| 12 | Concrete Theatre opens, showing “Some Like It Hot”; info at <a href="http://www.concrete-theatre.com">www.concrete-theatre.com</a>   |
| 13 | Marblemount and Rockport Volunteer Fire Departments Valentine’s potluck dinner and dance, Marblemount Community Hall, 7 p.m.; info at 360.333.2511 or 360.853.7699                                   |
| 13 | “Holy Clothes on Wheels” free clothing giveaway, Community Bible Church, 45672 Limestone, Concrete, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  |
| 13 | Comedian J. L. Green comedy show at Marblemount Chapel, FREE, 6 p.m.   |
| 15 | Concrete Lions Food Drive begins (exact starting date TBD) at Albert’s Red Apple Market  |
| 20 | Mardi Gras, Concrete: Parade at noon, details at <a href="http://www.concrete-wa.com">www.concrete-wa.com</a>  |
| 25 | KSVU meeting, Main Street Studio, 45964 Main St., Concrete, 6–8 p.m.; info at 360.416.7711 or <a href="mailto:ksvr.org">ksvr.org</a>   |

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





# Lyman



## Annual Townwide Yard Sale slated for June 25–26

By Tammie Werner and Patty Cook

Plan ahead!

Lyman's Annual Townwide Yard Sale will be Friday and Saturday, June 25–26, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A donation of \$5 will get you on the map, free classified advertising, and more. This is a popular event, so plan to participate. We are looking for food vendors, as well as craft/business participants. Watch for more information as the event date nears.

We welcome community input regarding what to purchase with money raised. We'd love to hear your ideas. Possible suggestions include making a donation to the Town Library for needed books/supplies, 2010 Angel Tree, flower baskets for Minkler Mansion, or your best suggestion! Send your thoughts to Tammie at oney\_brat@yahoo.com.



## Lyman Library tales

By Elaine Kohler

The other day a friend told me she found daffodils coming up in her garden. I was sure she was teasing me so I checked in my yard and found hyacinths, garlic, and delphiniums peeking through the ground. I can at last believe that spring will really come back to Washington.

Another real sign is the dozen seed catalogs on my coffee table. Speaking of which, we are getting a nice collection of gardening books on our shelves. I am going to add some gardening magazines. They all cover a wide range of subjects, including information for both flower and vegetable gardens, so feel free to browse the garden section.

There is a lot of help available. If you are interested in worm composting, stop in on Tuesday and talk to Richard. He knows all about it and is always glad to pass on the information. He helped me start my bin last year.

This month I would like to acknowledge the people who volunteer to keep our library open. They each spend three hours a week at the library to make it available to all of you. They sort books, restock shelves, find books and puzzles at yard sales and thrift stores, and let

friends and neighbors know we can always use donations. The regulars who cover Tuesday and Saturday are Richard Cerie, Lynn Jonasson, and Jan Watts. The substitutes who jump in when needed are Pat Blunt, Linda Nasin, Maria Santa Cruz, Marge Conard, and Anne Leopard—and you can find me there on Thursdays. The next time you stop in for a book, say thanks to these folks, because without them the library would not be what it is.

We still have a lot of hardbacks in storage and are getting a supply of paperback romance novels. In the summer when we have the Car Show in Lyman, we plan to have a book sale the same day. Last year it was quite successful and many people who stopped by thought it was pretty neat having a book sale at the same time. With the proceeds from last year we were able to purchase two needed bookshelves, so we are always taking donations of books. You can drop them off anytime during open hours.

Our new volunteer, Anne, has organized the Western section and there is quite a collection now. So if you like the Old West, stop by and pick up a few.

Until next month, get out the seed catalogs and start planning your new garden.

## Skagit County now GMA-compliant for first time in 19 years

SKAGIT COUNTY — The Skagit County Commissioners are pleased to announce that the county has obtained GMA-compliance for the first time since the passage of the Growth Management Act in 1990, making the county eligible for additional state grant and funding opportunities.

In an order issued this past Christmas Eve, the Western Washington Growth Management Hearings Board dismissed Skagit County's last remaining GMA compliance issue and the long-running Abenroth case, which was initially filed in 1997. Skagit County reached settlement with the remaining parties in the case in early December 2009, and all parties jointly moved for dismissal.

The settlement commits the county to a community-based public participation program for creation of Planned Unit

Development regulations and low-impact development techniques for the Bayview Ridge Urban Growth Area. More information is available at [www.skagitcounty.net/planning](http://www.skagitcounty.net/planning).

"Growth Management Act compliance is a noteworthy accomplishment and signifies that the county is working toward sustainable and well-planned growth while meeting community goals and policies under the requirements of state laws and community plans," Skagit County Planning and Development Services Director Gary Christensen said.

"Skagit County residents should be proud," Commissioner Ron Wesen said. "We are planning for responsible growth while protecting property rights."

**Concrete Herald**



# Day Creek



## The 2010 Census: Making a Difference in Your Community

When the 2010 Census form arrives for your household in March, you may wonder why the U.S. Census Bureau counts the number of people in our nation every decade.

First, the Constitution of the United States mandates that every person living in the United States must be counted every 10 years. This includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups—citizens and noncitizens. The purpose of the census is primarily to reapportion the U.S. House of Representatives based on population, but census data also are used to determine the locations for schools, housing, child-care and senior centers, shopping centers, businesses, roads, and more.

Did you know that every year, the federal government distributes more than \$400 billion to state, local and tribal governments based on census data? That means **an accurate count of the population can result in significant improvements in the quality of life in communities** all across the country.

Completing the census form is easy, important, and safe, and everyone's participation is vital. **By law, the Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.** All Census Bureau employees take an oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data. The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to five years, or both.

For more information about the 2010 Census, visit [2010census.gov](http://2010census.gov). To contact your Regional Census Center, visit <http://2010.census.gov/partners/pdf/censusRegionMap.pdf>.

### Did you know?

- This is the easiest census in history: 10 questions, 10 minutes
- Every person not counted could cost \$1,400 of Federal money not coming back to Washington and Skagit County during a 10-year period; e.g., if 1,000 people are uncounted, we lose \$1.4 million

## From Alaska, with love

By Stacy Stone

Greetings from the Stones in Alaska!

As I write this letter, I am looking outside, where we have a foot and a half of new snow since yesterday and it is still coming down. On the stereo I hear the song, "White Christmas." I just smile...

I will backtrack to how we ended up in Anchorage, Alaska. Just over a year ago, the Lord moved us to "let go" of all we knew as normal and wait with expectation for what He had in store for us. He had been working in us to truly let go of "me" and "stuff." We had to be willing to let go of our home and be willing to go where He directed. To be honest, this took a few months of prayer and the Lord's nudgings.

We both got to the point when we could say, "Okay, Lord, whatever you ask, we wait with great expectation and excitement for this adventure with you. We are yours; use us."

In my mind I was still thinking Washington—funny, huh? For months, nothing happened and I remember saying to Bill, "Maybe God just wants us to be willing."

We had our superintendent as a guest speaker during Pastor Rick's sabbatical, and we were talking about people we knew and how they were doing, including the pastors in Alaska. We didn't know until that moment that they were transferring back to Washington. (This is where God let us know He was a little more serious than us just being "willing." I love "God-cidents," don't you?)

We agreed to pray about Alaska, desiring it, but not wanting to go just because we had always desired to visit.

### Volunteer correspondents are needed for Day Creek!

Want to write short updates, or simply provide news tips about Day Creek for *Concrete Herald*? Contact Jason Miller:

360.853.8213  
[editor@concrete-herald.com](mailto:editor@concrete-herald.com)



Bill and Stacy Stone, with one of their "grand-perfects," Xander, age 1. *Submitted photo.*

Then God got really serious: I did you not, everywhere we looked we saw Alaska licenses plates and articles about Alaska; we even met a few couples from Alaska. We had three different people say, "You should go to Alaska." Did I mention we had told no one of this prayer process? God is so inventive!

We flew to Alaska last March to check it out, in a blizzard. It was my second flight ever, and such a rough landing that the pilot announced upon arrival, "Wicked landing! Welcome to Alaska!"

We rented our car, got out the Mapquest directions, and saw that all the street signs were completely white with snow. We finally made it to the parsonage and church, and knew we were home. Everyone was so kind and welcoming; God had been very serious about stepping out and going with Him.

We put our house up for sale and it sold in a very depressed market. We paid off everything and started packing. Our beautiful church family at Day Creek, along with friends and family, helped us load our 2,000-sq.-ft. house into a 27-ft. barge trailer at the end of June. The moving company also loaded our trucks onto a trailer. Watching it all drive away, we found ourselves thinking (spiritually, of course) man, oh, man, what are we doing? As we hugged our Day Creek family goodbye with tears and smiles, I remember thinking, Oh, Lord, this is so hard, but we can do this with you.

A week or so later, as we stood at the airport hugging our kids and our newest "grandperfect," Evie, only three weeks old, I remember thinking with panic, oh,

God, I don't know if I can do this! As I looked back at our daughter, I felt the Lord say, "Face forward with me; I love them also; they know me."

Since we've been in Anchorage, we've felt very much at home, honored and loved. We are learning and stretching daily, but loving the Lord more deeply each day.

We pray that you are at a point in your walk with the Lord that you can say, "God, whatever you ask, I will do."

We tell you from experience He is waiting for willing hearts and humble spirits. May He bless you as you walk with Him, mindful of his gentle nudging in the direction He has for you. May you have ears to listen to His voice, eyes searching for His face, and a willing heart.

*Bill and Stacy Stone are lead and associate pastors, respectively, at Anchorage Free Methodist Church in Anchorage, Alaska. They are former staff pastors at Day Creek Chapel.*

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# January in pictures



The Sardis Raptor Center live bird show came to Howard Miller Steelhead Park in Rockport on Jan. 30. to help raise funds for the Skagit River Bald Eagle Center. *Photo by Kelly Regan.*



Work continued on the Baker Hotel in Concrete's Town Center. Major additions in January included a gable roof and the beginnings of a covered balcony and deck on the west side of the building.



When life hands you rain, splash in it. That's what this little Cape Horn citizen did in the middle of January, when persistent rain wore everyone else's nerves a little thin. *Photo by Amber Lee.*



**Right:** Tami Cox (left), daughter Grace Clemons ("almost 9"), and Jewel the yellow lab check out the new fence partially enclosing the Silo Park playground. The fence is yet another Imagine Concrete idea, realized.



Is ... is that who you think it is? Yes! It's John Denver tribute artist Ted Vigil, who dropped in at Annie's Pizza Station in Concrete on Jan. 30 to sing a few songs with Montgomery Gentry keyboardist Eddie Kilgallon.



**Above:** Eagle-watchers flocked to the Upper Skagit, eager to catch a glimpse of our annual guests. These raptor fans were at Milepost 100.

**Below:** The Upper Skagit Library celebrated its 5th birthday in style with a magic show at the Concrete Senior Center. Dan the Magic Man took center stage and was a big hit with the kids. *Photo by Chris Jansen.*



# Why do you love your sweetie?

## Let us count the ways . . .

"I love my Jeff because **he loves me as I am**; he has seen me at my worst and didn't run away! He has never tried to change me. It's been 12 years now and it just keeps getting better!"  
*Wendi Rimstad-Cook, Concrete*

"Mikel is my partner in crime, my in-house comedian, my personal chef, my playmate, my nurse, and my therapist all rolled into one intelligent, cute, affectionate, handsome package. Most of all, **he's my love** and he loves me just the same."  
*Nicola Fawcett, Birdsvie native*

"He loves me as only he was meant to."

"I love Larry because **he was my best friend first**. He still can read my mind and knows me better than I know myself. We bring out the best in each other. We have known each other for 30 years. My life is so much better with him in it. When I think of Larry Johnson, I smile."  
*Beth Elmina Irons, Newhalem native*

"I love my sweetie Sandy because of all the things that she has done for me. There are none better than my wonderful wife, my best friend, mother, and grandmother. After 30 years, I can't get away with anything; she can read my mind! She has always been there through the bad times and good times, and **no matter what, she always makes me smile**."  
*Russ Wells, Van Horn*

"I love my sweetie because after 22 years, I come first, and he lets me know daily. After all has been said and done, I am it. **He loves me as only he was meant to**. I am so very lucky."  
*Shelle Ramm Timmer, Concrete*

"I love his little grin when he looks at me when nobody else is looking. He has a little twinkle in his eye just for me that sends butterflies through my stomach. **He makes me feel secure in our future, even when times are tough**. He is my best friend. We enjoy each other's interests and hobbies; he is my favorite travel buddy. I know he loves me and that is what is most important. I love him unconditionally."  
*Malane Russell, Sedro-Woolley*



Submitted photo  
"Our house is a mess. Dinner is still a frozen chunk of meat. The paperwork for my latest volunteer project is spread over the table. The kids are fighting. Enter Michael. 'I love you. Do you want to watch TV and veg tonight?' **I married a great man**."  
*Millissa Macomber, Sedro-Woolley*

"Because he adores me. He loves God. He is a good person with strong morals and values. He is funny. He is as beautiful on the inside as he is on the outside. He respects women. And did I mention he adores me?"  
*Marta Rensink, Concrete*

"I love my sweetie—although I NEVER call him that—because he brings me coffee every morning at 5:00."  
*Valerie Stafford, Concrete*

"I love his little grin when he looks at me when nobody else is looking."

"When love comes along later in life, patience and commonality are the priorities. Rick is endlessly patient with me. **Maturity doesn't lessen the struggles we face in life, but it does change how we approach them**. When you meet someone who can face those struggles and "pull the yoke" in the same direction as you are pulling, that's love. Rick is my teammate, my partner and my best friend.  
*Cam Steigleder, Arlington*

"Because every time I give her cause to leave, she stays!"  
*Dale McIntyre, Grand Marais, Minn.*

"I love my husband because he puts up with me when I get into my not-so-nice moods. Additionally, he is a wonderful

father to all of his children and always does what he can to better our family. He sacrifices a lot of things in order to provide for us and I love him more than he knows!"  
*Jina Williams, Sedro-Woolley*

"I can remember the first moment I met him, it was almost like I loved him already. It was a scary feeling, but right away God said, 'This is the one I have for you.' It has been an enduring love over 25 years, tumultuous at times, never perfect, but longsuffering. I like that word because it implies that love is work and not just a feeling. **I love him because I am called to do so**, and because his love for God makes it easy to love him."  
*Vicki Johnston, Marysville*

"She loves me unconditionally. She does so much and asks so little. She does everything for me; I will forever owe her. She understands my wacky personality. She shares my interests. She's patient, caring, a cuddler and hugger, a keeper of



Submitted photo  
"I love Kelly Icem Howell because he is the father I admire, my best friend for the last 28 years, and partner for life. **No matter the situation, his family always comes first**. The quiet but strong man he is allows him to perform admirably at a very difficult job protecting the public. Coaching kids in the community comes second only to his family. His love for his children, Britt, Kyler and Treyton, is unmeasured as he is always their number one fan. Kelly is without a doubt the man I want to spend the rest of my life with. He's one of the good guys, and I love who he is, what he stands for, and the man he will always be."  
*Brooke Howell, Concrete*

secrets, a holder of souls, a friend. **She's the other half of me**.  
*Douglas Dunn, Coquitlam, B.C.*

"...because there is something reassuring in having known someone for so long that I can be guaranteed of the goodness of his soul. Because said soul understands my own in a way that doesn't need words. And because **these two souls were, quite possibly, created for each other by The Creator**."  
*Kirsta Berg, Kelso*

"She's ... a keeper of secrets, a holder of souls ..."

"My wife and I met 19 years ago when I was finishing a tour of Europe and she was working in a hotel I was staying at. We met in Raleigh, N.C., though we are both from Washington state. **She treats me much better than I deserve** and she makes me laugh. She stayed with me when I was not right and showed me there are more important things in life besides me, even though she treats me like I am king."  
*Mark Dufur, Smithfield, N.C.*

"How can I not love Lisa? She always wants to be around me (even when I am no fun to be around). She knows what I am thinking often before I do. **She knows who I am and invites me to know who she is**. She is as in love with me after 16 years as she was when we were first married and yet wants us to be more in love. She shares the joys and pains of life in a way that brings us closer together. It would be impossible for me not to love her."  
*Greg Loper, Columbia Heights, Minn.*

"...there is something reassuring in having known someone for so long that I can be guaranteed of the goodness of his soul."





# Hamilton



## From the mayor’s desk

By Mayor Tim Bates

Spring is just around the corner and Hamilton is almost clear of any flood threats for another year. The Census is coming out this April and I encourage everyone to fill out the form. It’s simple and easy, and it’s very important that everyone in Hamilton is included in the census count. The number of representatives for each state is based on the census count, along with funding to each state. A Census Bureau representative will be at the next Town Council meeting, Feb. 9, at 7 p.m., to give the town more information. The Fire Department is still collecting numbers for a grant on a new fire truck. I would like to welcome our two new Council members, Andy Jensen and Jennifer Benjamin. Our Council does a great job of helping make Hamilton a good place to live and raise a family. I thank them for their time and the great

job they do. I am glad everyone wants to be a part of their town. We need everyone to take an interest in making Hamilton a place we’re all proud to live in.

## Birdsview buzz

By Kris Voigt

Happy Valentine’s Day, everyone, especially to *my* Valentine of 34-plus years. January was a quiet month in Birdsview. No major storms, weather happenings, or community events, just the normal everyday goings on. Guess that’s a good thing! Barefeet rocked the brewery on Jan. 23 and will do so again on the Feb. 20. Open Jam on Feb. 12 should be fun, too, as should our Super Bowl party (go Saints!). Our daughter, Nicki, got a promotion and will move to New York. Lots of our regulars are off on their usual winter get-aways to warmer places, sending back pictures on Facebook of their nice tans

and big fish they are catching, leaving the rest of us in the rain, but that’s *way* better than the snow we were sitting in last year at this time. A couple birthdays I forgot last month: Jeanne Rataj and Raymond Hambleton (from Barefeet). So sorry! February birthdays include: Jolene Beltian, Feb. 2 Pam Giecek, Feb. 3 Deanna Ray Ensley, Feb. 4 Samantha Jepperson, Feb. 8 Swede Ray, Feb. 10 Jason Miller, Feb. 14 Uncle Floyd Hintz, Feb. 18 Big Rudy Giecek, Feb. 23 Natalie Lahr, Feb. 26 Steve Monrad, Feb. 26 Christina Jepperson, Feb. 27 Randi DeVries, Feb. 28 Have a sweet month, everyone. Spring is just around the corner. And make sure to stop by the brewery to give me some news for the Buzz...

## Just As I Am ELC closes its doors

By Jason Miller

After almost three years of service to the Concrete community, Just As I Am Early Learning Center closed late last year after serving upwards of 53 children at the height of its enrollment. It didn’t go without a fight, said former co-director Rose Weaver, who managed the business with co-director Shelle Timmer. “We had to close the Early Learning Center Aug. 31, 2009, because enrollment was down. It had become a mission for us to support, and neither Shelle nor I had the money to do it at that capacity.” State cutbacks took their toll, especially when funding for early learning efforts was axed from the budget. “Since 85 percent of our clientele was low-income, those cutbacks effectively eliminated the children the state had been subsidizing,” said Weaver. The pair held on to their site for school-age children—Mount Baker Presbyterian Church in Concrete—but after flooding made their basement space uninhabitable, they closed it, too, on Oct. 31 of last year. “When the water came through the church, that, for me, was a sign,” said Weaver.

Weaver was quick to point out the positive things that came from the childcare venture (see her letter to the editor beginning on p. 2). “We had a great group of parents and grandparents,” she said. “They were involved and willing to be a part of the children’s lives and to make it a better place for them. When we had our monthly family nights, they asked, ‘What can we do?’ When we participated in townwide events and the hangar dance...well, if it wasn’t for them, we wouldn’t have hung on for as long as we did.” **New childcare option** Filling a portion of the need left by the Just As I Am closure, Concrete Community Childcare (CCC) will open Feb. 15, caring for children from 11 months to kindergarten. The privately owned childcare will work closely with the Concrete School District, starting with its location: the same portable classroom that housed Just As I Am. Owned and managed by Allison Burton, a Concrete citizen with 20-plus years’ experience in childcare, CCC will kick off

See **Just As I Am**, p. 29

## Council summary

The Hamilton Town Council held a regular monthly meeting on Dec. 8. Major topics included:

- Resolution 05-2009 for a flood tax levy was discussed. The resolution was to be submitted to the County Auditor. After a 45-day waiting period, it was to go on the Feb. 9. The tax will not be effective until 2011. A motion was made by Council McGrady to approve Resolution 05-2009; motion passed.
- Bids for new radios for the fire department were presented. Wiztronics was the low bid. A motion was made by Council Pitts to approve the low bid; motion passed.
- Andrew Jensen was given the Oath of Office for Council seat No. 4.
- The letter sent to Mark Stewart, State Hazard Mitigation Program manager with Washington Military Department Emergency Management Division, was discussed. Mayor Bates and Mr. Stewart have since discussed what The Town of Hamilton could do to clear up the issue with the Shangri-la property. It was agreed that Mr. Stewart would visit on Dec. 15. At that time, the Town of Hamilton would have the necessary equipment there and ready to dig up and haul all the concrete required by Mr. Stewart to a certified disposal place. Pitts and Sons would pay for the disposal. Mayor Bates stated the Town of Hamilton would do what is necessary to finalize this project.
- Council Pitts’ request regarding raises at the Nov. 11, 2009, Council meeting was again discussed. Mayor Bates suggested the Council wait until it was known what the Town would receive in taxes in 2010.
- Margaret Fleek was working on the Capital Improvement Plan for the next 5 years and had requested via e-mail what expenses were expected. Mayor Bates stated the Town had a fire truck coming in, which would cost approximately \$10,000, and some new water lines. He stated that through the County the Distressed Timber Tax would be disbursed and could be used for more repairs on the streets, paving and water lines.

## Business Spotlight: Matty’s On Main

By Cora Thomas

You’ll find a variety of colorful items when perusing Matty’s on Main in downtown Concrete—and that’s not just a figure of speech. As soon as you walk in the door, the items on the shelves arch a rainbow of color that immediately catches your interest. As proprietor Sherrill Coville, puts it, “There’s truly something for everyone here, we have interesting stuff that doesn’t blow your pocketbook.” Located in the building that previously housed M Gallery, Matty’s on Main opened its doors in April 2009, across the street from Cascade Supply. The shop almost has everything from A to Z. Fine jewelry and collectables, art glass, antiques, local artwork, handcrafted items, photography, candles, purses for all age groups, scarves, mittens, hats, gloves, Southwest pottery, garden items, outdoor art, decorative glass crystals, handmade pottery oil lamps...the list goes on almost endlessly! Sherrill says she gets bored easily; that’s part of the reason



Matty’s on Main owner Sherrill Coville has a rather unique co-owner in Sadie, her undeniably cute—if somewhat demanding—dachsund.



why her shop is filled with such eclectic merchandise. “You won’t find rows and rows of duplicate items here,” Sherrill remarks. When she first opened the merchandise was sparse, but her inventory grew quickly. Today, Sherrill continues to search for interesting pieces at estate sales, and also purchases online from around the world. She has items from Germany, Japan, and Czechoslovakia. She even has personal connections with a few items; a handsome wooden shelf proudly displays antiques that her parents once owned. “I have gone out of my way to find truly one-of-a-kind items that you won’t find in your typical big-box stores,” she says. She’s a bargain shopper herself, but she seeks out items with class, saying, “I bring nice things into the store with extremely reasonable prices.” Sherrill selects

things she believes her customers will enjoy, but every item must also have a function. Matty’s on Main is Sherrill’s first retail business and it’s been a learning experience, she says. “I thought this type of shop would be useful for people of Concrete and the Upper Skagit Valley, one that wouldn’t interfere with other businesses.” Sherrill’s been in sales her whole life and considers herself a natural. “You have to know what you’re selling and learn the inventory. Is it rare or not? When was it made? What is its value, price, and quality?” Sherrill also is a Farmers Insurance agent, operating that business out of her Matty’s office. You won’t find that in the big city shopping centers, either. Unsure about what you’re looking for, but want to shop locally? Matty’s on Main may be the perfect spot for you. You never know what you might find. This shop is a true treasure hunt of uncommon and diverse items that may lead you to just the thing you’ve been searching for.



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**Mardi Gras, cont. from p. 1**

and the Frog,” at 5 and 7:30 p.m. General admission is \$6, with a \$1 discount for seniors and kids age 12 and under. In addition to the zaniness, the Mardi Gras celebration also focuses on those in need. In the past, donations have been collected for cancer patients at United General Hospital. This year we will conduct a shoe drive for the earthquake victims in Haiti. The drive was begun in honor of Mollie Hightower, a Port Orchard missionary killed during the earthquake, and is being coordinated by Q13 Fox News in Seattle. Up to and during the Mardi Gras event, we will collect new or gently used shoes, sandals, and flip-flops. Please bring your donations to the Skagit County Resource Center on Main Street or call Vicki Dinkins at 360.853.8767 for details. Mardi Gras 2010 is sponsored by the Concrete Chamber of Commerce. For more information, call 360.853.8767 or e-mail chamber@concrete-wa.com.



Feeling celebratory? Come to Concrete Feb. 20 and get your freak on in the Mardi Gras parade!

Concrete dentist Sharon Feller donned a colorful wig and a tri-colored feather boa during last year’s event.



**Mardi Gras in Concrete**

**Where:** Concrete Town Center

**When:** Sat., Feb. 20, Noon to after dark

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# Rockport



## “Deep Forest Experience” a “home run” for all visitors

Organizers report more than 600 attendees in January.

By Jason Miller

At the end of January, Rockport State Park Ranger Al Nickerson was a happy camper. “We had more than 600 people through here,” he said of the “Deep Forest Experience” event held during the last four Saturdays of January.

Managed by Washington State Parks and Recreation staff, the event included 30-minute or 1-hour guided or self-guided walks, craft activities for kids, and more, all designed to give visitors a glimpse into what the region’s forests looked like centuries ago.

“It was a home run,” said State Parks Resource Stewardship Manager Steve Starlund.

He wasn’t overstating. In eastern Skagit County, tourism dollars have been even

harder to come by after the overnight camping area in Rockport State Park was closed because of safety concerns. The Bald Eagle Festival cancellation didn’t help. Any successful event that draws tourists eastward is more than welcome.

Concrete Chamber of Commerce pitched in with coffee and snacks to help sweeten the pot in the “Deep Forest” event headquarters at Rockport State Park.

During its four-weekend run, “Deep Forest” included something for every family member. Kids got to build bald eagles from yarn balls, pipe cleaners, and googly eyes. Slices of wood made for unique, homemade name tags. And, outdoor bingo cards helped young and old alike see the natural world with new eyes.



Naturalists in the making, these youngsters made bald eagle figures on Jan. 30 with a little help from National Parks Interpretive Specialist Tina Dinzi-Pederson from Cama Beach. From front to back, that’s Krish Wasson, 3, of Mount Vernon; Naomi Sweet, 7, and Thomas Sweet, 10, from Dayton, Ore.; and Dhriti Wasson, 10. The kids and their parents were enjoying the last Saturday of “A Deep Forest Experience,” presented by Washington State Parks and Recreation.

### Skagit County nabs top score in statewide contest

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board recognized Skagit County at a special presentation Jan. 12 for an outstanding project to conserve farmland.

Skagit County took the top score in a statewide competition for grant funding in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program’s Farmland Preservation category, a grant program designed to conserve the state’s most valuable farmland for future generations.

Skagit County was awarded a \$319,000 grant to conserve 264 acres of the Smith farm on Fir Island. The land has been farmed for more than a century and is designated as farmland of long-term commercial significance and prime farmland by the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service and Skagit County. The farm will be protected by a permanent agricultural conservation easement.

The county contributed \$319,000 in conservation futures to match the state funding.

### Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center February speakers and activities

|      |           |  |
|------|-----------|--|
| 2.6  | 11 a.m.   | Guided walk with Kelly                           |
| 2.7  | 11 a.m.   | John Riedel, geologist, North Cascade Natl. Park |
|      | 1:30 p.m. | Guided walk with Kelly                           |
| 2.13 | 11 a.m.   | Guided walk with Kelly                           |
| 2.14 | 11 a.m.   | Guided walk with Kelly                           |
|      | 2 p.m.    | Marlee Mountain: Edible wild native plants       |
|      | 5 p.m.    | Thank-you potluck for eagle-watching volunteers  |



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Concrete Herald

## SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars  
for March 11.

The Parks and Recreation Commission will meet in Tacoma to vote on the preliminary recommendation for Rockport State Park.

The public is encouraged to testify or provide written comments prior to the meeting. Comments may be sent to:

Derek Gustafson, CAMP project lead  
Washington State Parks & Rec Comm.  
220 N. Walnut St.  
Burlington, WA 98233  
360.755.9231

[rockport.planning@parks.wa.gov](mailto:rockport.planning@parks.wa.gov)  
Rockport State Park’s status may be followed online at:

[www.parks.wa.gov/plans/rockport](http://www.parks.wa.gov/plans/rockport)

### Can’t attend?

E-mail your comments to Concrete Herald Publisher Jason Miller and he’ll read them in person during the meeting:

[editor@concrete-herald.com](mailto:editor@concrete-herald.com)



# Home & Garden



## Puget Sound Energy adds seven new residential energy-efficiency rebates

More equipment types now qualify for utility incentives

BELLEVUE — Western Washington homeowners can now get new utility rebates on energy efficient water and space-heating equipment and home improvements, increasing the number of ways residents can save energy and money, and benefit the environment.

Puget Sound Energy will offer seven new rebates for both electric and natural gas customers who upgrade starting Jan. 1, 2010.

The utility offers a wide array of rebates and incentives for home improvements and equipment that reduce energy use and lower bills, and many of these same measures could also qualify for as much as \$1,500 in federal tax credits and \$100 from Washington state’s appliance rebate program for energy efficient clothes washers.

In addition to saving money through rebates, lower bills and tax credits, customers can lower their carbon footprint by using less energy and support the local jobs that service energy conservation programs like these.

The added rebates in 2010 for PSE customers include:

- Electric ENERGY STAR®-qualified geothermal heat pump: \$1,500
- Conversion from electric forced-air-furnace to high-efficiency heat pump: \$1,000
- Natural gas ENERGY STAR-qualified boiler: \$350
- Electric ENERGY STAR-qualified heat pump water heater: \$250
- Electric waste water heat recovery: \$250
- Natural gas ENERGY STAR-qualified tankless water heaters: \$150-200
- High-efficiency electric storage water heater: \$50

Also in 2010, PSE will continue to offer residential customers numerous other rebates on energy-efficient appliances, equipment and upgrades, including discounts on compact fluorescent lighting, free duct sealing, up to \$3,950 to convert from PSE electric heat to natural gas, up to \$1,600 for insulation installation, \$800

for ductless heat pumps, up to \$500 for qualifying windows, \$250 for natural gas furnaces, and rebates for efficient water heaters, boilers and heat pumps, and many other offers. The utility hopes to add to their growing list of options for customers in spring 2010, as well.

In 2008–09, PSE conservation programs saved customers enough energy to supply 23,000 local homes with electricity and 4,000 with natural gas for a year. The environmental benefit of their energy savings is the same as taking 38,000 cars off the road for a year and the programs also supported 450 new jobs for contractors and utility employees, among others, in Western Washington.

For more information about PSE’s rebates, residential energy efficiency programs and ways to take control of home energy use, call a PSE Energy Advisor at 1.800.562.1482, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or go to [PSE.com](http://PSE.com).

### Master Gardener Program Coordinator hired

MOUNT VERNON — The WSU Skagit County Master Gardener Program announced Jan. 21 it had named a new program coordinator.

The incoming coordinator for Skagit County is Kari Russom, who began work in January 2010 to continue the leadership of Britt Shellenberger, exiting coordinator. Kari will manage the public education for the sustainable gardening program and be a resource for Master Gardener volunteers.

Trained and certified members of the Master Gardener volunteer program sponsored by WSU Extension, Master Gardeners provide information to home gardeners about sound and sustainable gardening practices. This includes integrated pest management, efficient watering technologies, recycling of garden wastes and cultural methods for preventing and treating plant disease.

For more information on the Master Gardener Program go to [www.skagit.wsu.edu](http://www.skagit.wsu.edu) or call Kari Russom at 360.428.4270, ext. 227.

## Be nice to mason bees

February is a great month to build a nest for these diminutive, hardworking pollinators

Before your weekends get gobbled up by warm-weather yardwork, why not take on a quick project that will pay long-term dividends in your garden? Build a mason bee nest!

The orchard mason bee (*Osmia lignaria*) is a gentle, beneficial insect that can be an effective pollinator of tree fruits, flowers and vegetables. It is found throughout most of North America, particularly in wooded areas, but often around homes in towns and cities.

Slightly smaller than a honeybee and a shiny dark blue in color, the orchard mason bee is docile and will not sting unless it is handled roughly or trapped under clothing. A short-lived bee, they work hard to do what must be done before the clock runs out. Fortunately, their to-do list is only two items long: 1. Gather pollen and nectar. 2. Make babies.

You can help them achieve their dreams by building them a nest. It’s a relatively quick and easy project, so get the kids involved. Here’s how:



Before you begin, get a Drake.

**1.** Choose a 4x4 or 4x6 block of pine or fir (not treated wood). Cut a slight downward angle on one end to give the roof a little slope. Draw a grid of lines ¾-inch apart on the “downward slope” side of the block (the shorter side).



**2.** Drill out the intersections of the lines with a 5/16” drill bit, to a depth of about 3 inches. Do not drill all the way through the block.



See Mason Bees, p. 31





# Marblemount



## Seattle comedian brings show to Marblemount

Head to Marblemount Feb. 13 for a night of love and laughter at Marblemount Chapel, as Seattle comedian J. L. Green brings his bags of gags to the church for a special Valentine’s weekend show.

Everyone is invited to this free event, which begins at 6 p.m. on Sat., Feb. 13. Marblemount Chapel’s Pastor Mike Crane said that Green’s humor is family-friendly and all ages are welcome.

“We wanted to provide a night of fun and enjoyment for the whole family and bring in some quality entertainment for Valentine’s weekend,” he said.

Since seating is limited, Crane encourages folks to come early for a good spot. Marblemount Chapel is located on the south side of SR 20 in Marblemount.



Seattle comedian J. L. Green brings his all-ages, family-friendly humor to Marblemount Chapel on Feb. 13. *Submitted photo.*

## Valentine’s Dinner and Dance

The Marblemount and Rockport Volunteer Fire Departments will sponsor a Valentine’s potluck dinner and dance on Saturday, Feb. 13, at 7 p.m., at the Marblemount Community Hall.

Dancing will be from 8 p.m. to midnight with music by Out Of The Ashes. Raffle prizes and auctions will take place throughout the event.

Suggested donations: \$15 per individual

or \$25 per couple in advance, \$20 per individual or \$30 per couple at the door. Proceeds will fund a scholarship for a Concrete High School graduate. For tickets or questions, call 360.333.2511 or 360.853.7699. Businesses wishing to contribute to the fund may send donations to Marblemount Firemen’s Assn, c/o Larry Schroder, P.O. Box 45, Marblemount, WA 98267.



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## Thank God he’s a country boy!

John Denver fans got a special treat on Jan. 30, when tribute artist Ted Vigil dropped by the Marblemount Community Hall to sing a few songs that are familiar to anyone who hasn’t lived under a rock for the past several decades.

The benefit concert was designed to raise funds to help maintain and operate the Marblemount Community Hall.

Vigil brought with him Eddie Kilgallon, keyboardist for Montgomery Gentry, and bantered easily with him between songs.

The songs, after all, were what drew a crowd to the hall to hear such favorites as “Calypso,” Country Roads,” and “Thank God I’m a Country Boy.” Vigil’s spot-on vocals and easygoing manner were a hit with attendees, elevating him above a simple imitation act.

Audience members sang along with every song, some with tears in their eyes, happy to be in the same room with a favorite musician—if only for a moment.

## Outdoor Skagit

By Bob DiLeo

February in the outdoors. Winter has you deep in its grip, hoping that the woodchuck won’t see his shadow so that spring will be right around the corner. To the northwest we have the Winter Olympics starting this month, which should be an amazing thing to see for any outdoors person.

I use February as a planning month; I encourage you to use it in much the same way. Late winter and early spring are good times to make plans for the coming year’s outdoor activities. Order maps, make reservations at campgrounds, plan vacations, look up places to go in books and on the Internet, and put your name

in the hat for out-of-state and Canadian hunting and fishing licenses. Or, simply order brochures.

You also can make reservations with outfitters for many activities. No matter what the activity you plan, it’s good to get started, even if it’s just a list of things and places you want to go or things you want to do. If you start now, you stand a better chance at accomplishing your dreams.

I invite the readers of *Concrete Herald* to let me know what topics you’d like me to write about. Just drop an e-mail to *Herald* publisher Jason Miller at editor@concrete-herald.com.

As always, be safe and follow the rules. Remember, your head is the most important safety equipment you have.



# Newhalem



## Seattle City Light awarded \$40,000 grant for salmon habitat restoration

Seattle City Light announced Jan. 7 it has been awarded a \$40,000 grant from the Salmon Recovery Funding Board to support salmon and steelhead habitat restoration along the lower Tolt River near Carnation, Washington.

City Light is working on the project in partnership with the Stilly Snohomish Fisheries Enhancement Task Force. City Light is providing \$27,600 in matching funds and the fisheries task force is contributing \$6,150.

Restoration work will include the removal of invasive plant species and replanting of native trees on three acres of City Light-owned land that includes an important spawning area for Chinook and winter steelhead. Both fish are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species

Act. Work is expected to begin in March.

The invasive plants are mostly Himalayan blackberries. They will be replanted with a mix of native trees and shrubs that provide salmon habitat, shade and insects that salmon eat.

Fisheries Enhancement Task Force members will conduct community outreach, including volunteer plantings, and events with local schools. Involving the community is designed to raise awareness of how neighbors along the river can make their landscaping more salmon-friendly.

Seattle City Light’s hydroelectric dam on the Tolt River can produce nearly 17 megawatts of electricity. That’s about 1 percent of the power City Light generates and enough to serve about 9,700 homes.

## The pass is closed

Washington Pass is closed for the season at milepost 134 near Diablo to milepost 171 at the Silver Star Gate. Crews will go up for the reopening assessment in late February or early March 2010.

## A little humor...

“**Mr. Clark**, I have reviewed this case very carefully,” the divorce court judge said. “And I’ve decided to give your wife \$775 a week.”

“That’s very fair, your Honor,” the husband replied. “And every now and then I’ll try to send her a few bucks myself.”

A doctor examining a woman who had been rushed to the Emergency Room, took the husband aside, and said, “I don’t like the looks of your wife at all.”

“Me neither, doc,” said the husband. “But she’s a great cook and really good with the kids.”

The graveside service had just barely finished when there was a massive clap of thunder, followed by a tremendous bolt of lightning, accompanied by even more thunder rumbling in the distance. The little old man looked at the pastor and calmly said, “Well, she’s there.”

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Alan & Lori Goerd, owners  
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# Seniors



## Coffee Break

A new decade  
By Patrick Kennedy

Last month you celebrated the beginning of a New Year as seniors.

There were a lot of changes this past decade, but you made it through the Y2K fiasco that threatened to stop the world in its tracks, and reached the end of a single-digit, century-turning event. Nine years older, and not a one of you looks it. You’re wiser, healthier, and more aware of a world that is moving faster than a hare passing a turtle.

How do these changes affect seniors? New technology has transformed easy living into lifestyles that are more complicated, but sometimes easier.

You’ve seen mail and photos pass between friends, families and grandparents, thousands of miles apart, and at the speed of light. To some your money became electronic bytes that appear in your checking account every month.

There is a whole new vocabulary to learn, such as “apps,” the shortened word for applications, or software that lives on some handheld devices. “Blogs,” essentially interactive electronic journals, took the place of gossiping over the back fence. Blackberries that are inedible and don’t grow on bushes are actually smart phones, that do more that make phone calls.

Using Twitter, you can send 140-character messages to the world. GPS, a global positioning system run by satellites, is like AAA in the sky, sending you from point A to point B. Facebook is another way to stay in touch with friends and meet new ones. Google, Wikipedia, YouTube . . . The best way to describe this decade is “information overload.”

If that weren’t enough, consider the gadgets living on from the last decade, such as electronic books that can store hundreds of downloaded tomes.

Other events affected seniors this past decade. Congress passed a bill that made prescriptions cheaper for a while, then expensive, then cheaper again. An economic crash threatened everyone’s financial well-being, hitting seniors especially hard, since many had their retirement funds invested in an IRA.

There were a lot of changes for seniors to deal with this last decade, but we have a lot more to come. “And in the end it’s not the years in your life that count. It’s the life in your years,” said Abraham Lincoln.

There is no time to lose. It’s time to get living. “Lost time is never found again.” Benjamin Franklin said that.

*Patrick M. Kennedy is the author of How to Have Fun with Retirement, a sneak peek for which is available online at [www.funwithretirement.com](http://www.funwithretirement.com).*

## Way Back When

### 80 years ago

Feb. 13, 1930: The staff of the *Concrete Herald* was increased last week by the arrival of a 7-1/2-lb. boy born Thursday afternoon at the Anacortes hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Dwelley. Both the mother and baby are getting along nicely, and hope to be home soon. The newcomer has been named Arthur Gilbert.

Feb. 27, 1930: For an excellent example of community spirit—and its results—cast an eye on the village of Birdsview.

There is not an unincorporated community in the county that can show a gain in population in the past six months that equals that of Birdsview. Many sales of property have been made, and a number of new homes have been built and more are under construction.

Birdsview has a commercial club that includes in its membership almost every adult person in the community, and when meetings are held monthly, every member who can possibly get away from home is there. A club with this spirit gets results. Just imagine what could be done in Concrete if the commercial club had a membership that represented almost every home in the city, and that every member would turn out for the meetings.

It would only be a very short time before everyone would be so busy that there would be no time

to talk about “quiet conditions” or “hard times.”

### 70 years ago

Feb. 22, 1940: Marblemount is exceptionally proud of the school basketball team this year, which, under the guidance of Mr. Balch, has won the Upriver Championship this past season. The team played Concrete, Hamilton, and Lyman, and lost only one game, by a 2-point margin.

The personnel of the team is Theo Denny, center; Sandy Miller, Kent Johnson, and James Lyle, forwards; Claude Leavitt, Raymond Moses, and Arnold Cheer, guards. Dan Morgan and Robert Stafford were reserves.

### 60 years ago

Feb. 9, 1950: Final exploratory survey work on the Dalles site for a Skagit River bridge here will be under way this week, with diamond drilling for pier sites on each side of the river.

An agreement was made by county commissioners and Lynch Bros., diamond drill contractors, of Seattle, for the drilling of six holes to sound the foundation for the structure.

The drilling will be under the direction of Cecil Arnold, structural engineer, who is designing the new bridge. The geologist retained by Mr. Arnold has examined the pier sites and will make further studies of the drill cores to determine the foundation requirements.

### 50 years ago

Feb. 11, 1960: Miss June Stone, R. N., daughter of Mr. and Mrs.

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Charles Stone of Concrete, left Wednesday afternoon of last week from Everett by train for New York City. She will stop off en route at Cleveland, Oh., at the Baptist Mid-Mission home office, then will sail today for Paris, France. She will study the French language

for a year, then will go to French Equatorial Africa as a missionary nurse.

### 40 years ago

Feb. 4, 1970: Six persons, including a couple of small boys, 6 and 8, narrowly escaped drowning in the Skagit River last Tuesday

## Concrete Senior Center February 2010 Activities

Lunch is served Monday through Thursday, 12:30 p.m.

### Mondays

|        |                           |
|--------|---------------------------|
| 9 a.m. | Gray Ladies Hoop Quilting |
| 1 p.m. | Skip Bo                   |
| 1 p.m. | Mexican Train Dominos     |

### Tuesdays

|            |               |
|------------|---------------|
| 11:30 a.m. | Jigsaw Puzzle |
| 1 p.m.     | Skip Bo       |

### Wednesdays

|                    |                                      |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Quilting                             |
| 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.    | Income tax assistance by appointment |
| 11:30 a.m.         | Jigsaw puzzle                        |
| 1 p.m.             | Skip Bo                              |

### Thursdays

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Wii Sports play |
| 11:30 a.m.       | Jigsaw puzzle   |

### Fridays

|                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Quilting              |
| 10:30 a.m.         | Men’s Group           |
| 11:30 a.m.         | Jigsaw puzzle         |
| Noon               | Mexican Train Dominos |

### Special Events

|      |            |                          |
|------|------------|--------------------------|
| 2/9  | 1 p.m.     | Rebekah’s Meeting        |
| 2/10 | 11 a.m.    | Advisory Board meeting   |
| 2/10 | 1 p.m.     | Bingo                    |
| 2/23 | 12:45 p.m. | Leap of Faith            |
| 2/24 | 12:30 p.m. | Birthday lunch           |
| 2/24 | 1 p.m.     | Bingo                    |
| 2/25 | 8 a.m.     | Foot care by appointment |

### Holiday Closures

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 2/12 | Furlough Day: all Skagit County offices closed |
| 2/15 | Presidents Day                                 |

when their steelhead boat broke up near the Rockport bridge.

If their cries for help had not been heard by Robin Adair, 16, of Rockport, the only person in the area who could swim, they all would have perished in the swift, icy waters of the Skagit.

The fishing boat of Ted Erickson, guide from the Hamilton area, carrying a party from Seattle, two men and three boys, went out of control and crashed into one of the concrete supports of the bridge shortly after noon.

Erickson was able to make it to shore. The rest were carried down river by the swift current. The men and a couple of the boys were lodged against the logjam almost opposite the Rockport Tavern, unable to pull themselves out.

Young Adair, who was near the

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bridge at the time, heard the shouts, ran down the bank and dived into the river, ripping off his corduroy jacket as he swam. He reached the log jam just as the smallest boy was being pulled under by the current. Adair hauled the boy onto the logs and together they pulled out the others.

### 30 years ago

Feb. 21, 1980: Chuck (Bobo) Brayton, head baseball coach at Washington State University, has been named “Coach of the Decade” by the Skagit Valley Chapter of the WSU Cougar Club.

To honor Brayton, a native of Birdsview and Hamilton High School graduate, the Cougar Club is planning a Feb. 29 banquet at the Sedro-Woolley Community Center.

Guest speakers will include Dan Dornink of the Seattle Seahawks.



### Long time coming . . .

This postcard, postmarked Jan. 15, 1948, in Crescent City, Calif., was delivered to the Concrete Post Office on January 2, 2010. (The stamp, incidentally, is one cent.)

The caption on the front reads, “Fallen Monarch at Richardson Grove, Redwood Highway, California.” It is addressed to Mr. F. H. Barker, Rte. 1, Concrete.

The message on the back says, “Dear Folks, Haven’t found a job yet but expect to soon. Am fine and this place sure is pretty. Will write as soon as I get to work, which is soon, I hope, as our finances are low.”

The signature is difficult to read, but it appears to be a name beginning with the letter “L.”

If you have any ideas who should receive this decades-old postcard, contact Concrete Herald at 360.853.8213 or [editor@concrete-herald.com](mailto:editor@concrete-herald.com).



# Sunday School lesson

## God’s eternal perspective

By Dan Johnson

Would you really want to know the future if it were in your power? James 4:14 asks, “Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.”

There are many things about my past that I am glad God had withheld from my knowledge; had I known what tomorrow held, I would have dug my feet into the ground with a defiant, “No!”

Somehow we always have the capacity to imagine the best when we think about ourselves; however, life simply is not like that. What’s more, Jesus said: “He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.” Believing in Jesus Christ does not exempt us from pain, suffering, or bad decisions, nor has He guaranteed our lives as His followers to be completely successful, fruitful or overflowing with



abundance at every turn of the road. His greatest interest is in His glory, in and through, His people.

With an eternal perspective always in mind, He charts our courses to that end. It is often only when we are looking back over our shoulders that we can see His incredible and far-reaching wisdom in using all of the “negatives” in life to extend His kingdom, and give us deep, resounding *joy* through it all.

In starting this new year, (a brand-new decade) it is a wonderful time to cultivate hope, dream dreams, plan projects and anticipate His goodness (which is constant in the life of the believer).

But it seems to me that the context of our world, our country, our ‘crisis’ calls for a bit of caution:

1. **Get out of debt:** Pay heed to the prophetic Dave Ramseys of our day: Make 2010 the year to get out (and

stay out) of debt, escaping from the tyranny of indebtedness.

2. **Renew the commitment to your family:** Make it a year to draw closer as a family; if it has been awhile (or never) since you’ve had a family reunion, return to that wonderful tradition of gathering the clan simply to enjoy each other’s presence — maybe even reaching out to that one (or those) who has either drifted or never really been part of family affairs.
3. **Understand the times:** Become like the sons of Issachar (1 Chron. 12:32) who “understood the times and knew what Israel should do...”

Joel Rosenberg, a messianic Jewish best-selling author, (www.joelrosenberg.com) shakes us up in *Epicenter*: “. . . The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever” (Rev. 11:15).

Here we come, 2010!

*Dan Johnson is part of a multinational church-planting team in Granada, Spain. He served as the first pastor of Concrete Assembly of God from 1985–86.*

### Lawsuit, cont. from p. 5

manage the WWTP project as engineers. The Town has separate contracts with HDR and BOSS for the WWTP construction.

Town officials and Council members now find themselves squeezed between a settlement figure that it’s hard-pressed to finance and the threat of litigation that likely would cost the town significantly more.

For now, the Town waits for HDR to respond to its letter, while hoping that BOSS won’t restart its litigation process.

*Jason Miller holds Position No. 5 on the Concrete Town Council.*

### Wrestling, cont. from p. 6

found itself in familiar territory once again, defeating Friday Harbor 49-12.

An All Comers Tournament at Washington High School in Tacoma, on Jan. 30, hosted 23 teams wrestling on five mats in two gyms. “There were so

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## Obituaries

**Mylard “Mike” S. Morley** of Freeland, Wash., passed away peacefully early Monday, Jan. 18, 2010, at the age of 82 years. Papa was born in 1927 in Snohomish, Washington.

Papa enjoyed being with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren as much as possible. He loved his horses, playing the slot machines, and corresponding with Publishers Clearing House.

Papa is survived by a very large family consisting of his brother, ten children, many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and extended family members. He will be greatly missed, but is now reunited with the love of his life, his wife, “his Peggy,” of 47 years.

There will be a family memorial service held to celebrate his life at Visser’s Funeral Home in Langley, Washington.

many kids, they had to create more than one bracket for each weight class,” said Dellinger.

At that tournament, Dalton Dellinger took first place in the 112-lb. weight class, Jacob Fallis took first in the 189-lb. class, and Jacob White took first at 215. Heavyweight Scott Rice took second in an overtime nail-biter.

Third-place wrestlers were Danny Brown at 135 and Frank Grey at 215. Fourth place finishers were Chris Fields at 125, Colton Maloney at 145, and Tyler Kales and Raymond Benfit at 152. James Martin placed sixth in the 160-lb. class.

“I was very pleased about this tournament,” said Dellinger. “There was a lot of stiff competition from Bothell, White River, Tumwater, and Vashon Island, for example, but some of the kids who lost, lost very close matches.”

Next up for the wrestling team: District matches at home on Sat., Feb. 6, starting at 11 a.m. See the schedule on p. 6 for the rest of the February match-ups.

### Women’s Basketball, cont. from p. 7

didn’t stop with the Lady Lions as Hailey Wales scored 22 points on the way to a Lady Loggers 76-33 victory. Jessica Filtz scored 10 points in the second half to lead the Lady Lions in scoring and Taylor Lee had six rebounds to lead the Concrete women.

The Lady Lions finished January with a 4-12 record overall. The Lady Lions are a young group of ladies who show great intensity for 32 minutes.

www.concrete-herald.com

## Sheriff’s blotter

### January 18

A Cedar Grove caller said he had been cooped up in his house because of an injury, and had not been out on the “back 40” for about two weeks. Today, he went out and discovered a hasp on his shed had been pried, and a Craftsman rototiller, Coleman generator, and a power washer and compressor were missing. No suspects at this time.

### January 18

A Sedro-Woolley caller reported a person knocking on his door at 1 a.m. Caller said the man mumbled something about a burglary, then left. Caller asked for a deputy to check out the knocking man; deputy was able to ID the man from prior contact.

### January 17

A Grasmere caller reported a brown-and-white, round-type dog lying on the side of the road. The dog appeared to be injured from being struck by a car. The caller stood by with the dog until another person stopped. The second person knew who owned the dog and offered to transport the dog to its owner. No need for deputy response.

### January 16

A Day Creek caller said someone had been shooting orange paintballs at gates, buildings, etc., in the area. Nothing was damaged yet, but caller wanted deputy to know.

### January 15

A Clear Lake caller wanted to report a house in the neighborhood with lots of traffic coming and going all the time. Caller suspects drug dealing. Deputy will keep an eye on the place; the drug task force has been advised.

### January 14

A Cape Horn caller reported a car having been broken into during the previous 24 hours. The car was at home. A stereo is missing; also, someone took a knife and made cuts in the dashboard. Deputy has a suspect and the case is continuing.

### January 13

In Sedro-Woolley, a deputy made a traffic stop on a 22-year-old Sedro-Woolley man. The man was driving with no insurance and a suspended license. The deputy also found that the man was a respondent in a “no contact” order with his ex-girlfriend, who was also in the car. The man was booked into jail for violation of the order and cited for other infractions.

### January 13

A Concrete caller who works at a store reported a female subject had been coming in and harassing him, accusing

him of being a thief and trying to get him fired. The caller did not know the woman. The suspect was gone when the deputy arrived; caller was advised to call back if the problem persists.

### January 11

A Grasmere caller reported her ex-husband was harassing her via text messages. She wants him to stop. Deputy advised her about how to obtain an anti-harassment order, and will talk to her ex-husband and warn him of the consequences if his behavior continues.

### January 10

A Cape Horn caller reported a dog charging out and biting him on his leg as he walked by a neighbor’s house. Caller is unsure if the dog has had its shots and wants an animal control officer to check into it. A deputy was unable to confirm who owned the dog; case is pending.

### January 9

People caused a traffic hazard on State Route 20 near Marblemount because they were standing in the road, taking pictures of eagles. (That’s right: *in* the road.) A deputy checked the area and also notified Washington State Patrol and Darwin Awards officials.

### January 9

A Sedro-Woolley caller reported a yellow sedan hitting mailboxes in the Cook Road area. The car had taken out at least three mailboxes. A deputy followed up on the vehicle information; Sedro-Woolley Police Dept. also was notified to watch for the car.

### January 8

A Lyman caller reported getting harassing text messages via phone and did not know who was sending the messages. If they continue, a deputy will apply for a phone records search warrant to identify the sender.

### January 8

A Clear Lake caller reported someone had pulled a travel trailer onto their property and thought it might be a meth lab. A deputy checked, determined the trailer was being occupied by someone, and it is not a meth lab. Deputy advised the property owner.

### January 7

A Cape Horn caller reported cables missing from a gate used to block access to her property. Someone had then driven onto her property and dumped household garbage. No suspects at this time.

### January 5

A Concrete caller reported being physically assaulted by her boyfriend. She said he slapped her face and pushed her around. She had a bloody lip. A deputy arrived and found the fight stemmed from an argument over marital fidelity. A 31-year-old Concrete man was arrested for

4th-degree domestic assault and booked into jail.

### January 5

A Hamilton caller reported two young men in the neighborhood had threatened to burn his barn down. He said they were accusing him of shooting their dogs. He said he didn’t shoot the dogs. Deputy questioned the suspects, a 21-year-old and a 16-year-old Hamilton residents. Both are referred to court for threats and harassment.

### January 5

A Sedro-Woolley caller reported she was concerned for the welfare of her 20-year-old daughter. The daughter was staying with her boyfriend. Daughter said she is okay, but the mother was worried, saying her daughter has a mild learning disorder. Deputy checked on the daughter, who appeared to be fine.

### January 4

A Grasmere caller reported she was selling her house. Her Realtor went to the house and discovered the seller’s ex-husband is living there. He is not supposed to be there, according to the divorce settlement. This is a civil issue for now; parties will try to resolve it in court.

### January 4

A Sedro-Woolley caller reported someone had broken into her garage

overnight and prowled her boyfriend’s car, taking the in-dash CD player. A deputy will follow-up on some leads; no arrests as of Jan. 13.

### January 3

A Sedro-Woolley caller reported that her vehicle was taken from her house and found abandoned at Raser State Park. Sedro-Woolley police called her about the car. The woman suspects her 17-year-old son took the vehicle. Nothing further.

### January 2

A Hamilton caller reported that around 8 p.m., someone drove by his house and blasted his mailbox with a shotgun. The vehicle sounded older. No other suspect info.

### January 1

The first case of the year came in three minutes after midnight. A Hamilton caller reported hearing fireworks or gunshots. Can anyone say Happy New Year?

### December 29

A Hamilton caller reported a 29-year-old Hamilton man acting out. Caller believed the man had mental issues, because the man believed the Hell’s Angels were after him. Deputy arrived to find the man has an arrest warrant, but the jail is too crowded to take him. The man was instead taken to a hospital for a mental exam.

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**5,000 copies** circulate throughout Whatcom, Skagit, and Snohomish Counties (and beyond) every month, reaching a largely untapped market of readers, many of whom say they read only Concrete Herald. If you’re not advertising in “The Voice of Eastern Skagit County,” you’re missing thousands of potential customers.

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**Valerie Stafford**  
communications director  
United General Hospital

## Concrete Herald

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### Worth repeating...

“It is important for me to realize how limited, imperfect, and weak my understanding of love has been. Not my theoretical understanding, but my understanding as it reveals itself in my emotional responses to concrete situations. My idea of love proves to be exclusive . . . possessive . . . and manipulative. This idea of love easily leads to vanity . . . jealousy . . . and anger. But love is ‘always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offense, and is not resentful.’ It is this understanding of love that I must slowly learn. But how? ‘. . . You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind.’”

—Henri Nouwen, *The Genesee Diary*





# Health



## Fountain of youth for your heart

By Valerie Stafford

The American Heart Association has discovered a fountain of youth and we can all drink from it. In a recently published article in the journal, “Circulation,” the association has identified seven simple measures that can help us live longer.

**Stay away from cigarettes.** If you have never smoked, or if you quit more than a year ago, you have a better chance of living longer. In fact, cigarette smoking is the most important preventable cause of premature death in the United States. It accounts for nearly 440,000 deaths each year. Cigarette smokers are two to three times more likely to die from coronary heart disease than nonsmokers.

**Stay slim.** Obesity is now recognized as a major risk factor for coronary heart disease, which can lead to heart attack. Some reasons for this higher risk are known, but others are not. It is known that even moderate weight excess (10 to

20 pounds for a person of average height) increases the risk of death, especially among adults ages 30 to 64.

**Get some exercise.** Physical inactivity is a major risk factor for heart disease, and most people are not active enough to gain any health benefits. All healthy adults ages 18–65 should be getting at least 30 minutes of moderately intense activity five days of the week.

**Eat a healthy diet.** You may be eating plenty of food, but your body may not be getting the nutrients it needs to be healthy. Nutrient-rich foods have vitamins, minerals, fiber and other nutrients, but are lower in calories. To get the nutrients you need, choose foods like vegetables, fruits, whole-grain products, and fat-free or low-fat dairy products most often.

**Keep your cholesterol in line.** Cholesterol is a soft, waxy substance found in the bloodstream and cells. It is an

important part of a healthy body because it is used for producing cell membranes and some hormones. But too much cholesterol is a major risk for heart disease, and can lead to heart attack and stroke.

**Know your blood pressure.** High blood pressure is the single most significant risk factor for heart disease. Uncontrolled high blood pressure can injure or kill you and is sometimes called, “the silent killer,” because it has no symptoms. One in three adults has high blood pressure.

**Reduce blood sugar.** Adults with diabetes are two to four times more likely to have heart disease or a stroke than adults without diabetes. Diabetes is treatable, but even when glucose levels are under control, it greatly increases the risk of heart disease and stroke.

Each of these seven factors is within your control. Even better, there are many local resources to help. For information on everything from smoking cessation, exercise instruction, cholesterol checks, diabetes education, and more, contact the

Wellness 360 program at United General Hospital: 360.856.7245, or [wellness360@unitedgeneral.org](mailto:wellness360@unitedgeneral.org).

*Valerie Stafford is the director of communications and community education at United General Hospital and the owner of Encore Fitness in the Concrete Theatre.*

### Health screenings/events

- **Cholesterol and diabetes screenings** are offered at United General Hospital every Friday from 8 a.m. till noon, for \$15. No appointment necessary; check in at main lobby of United General Hospital.
- **Men’s Cancer Club** meets the second Thursday of every month from 6 to 8 p.m. in Room 503 at United General Hospital. Info at 360.856.7245.

## Open for Business: Young’s Market

By Jason Miller

A new convenience store/smoke shop opened in Grassmere Village on Feb. 1. Young’s Market is managed by co-owners Jackie Hoon, Yong Chang, and D. Chang, and is next in a line-up of 67 similar stores owned by the trio, in Mount Vernon and other Washington locations.

The store is next door to Perks Espresso and carries everything you might expect from a convenience store, such as pop, snack foods, beer, tobacco products, and coffee. A dairy fridge holds the kind of items you’ll realize you need at 10 p.m.

“We plan to add a teriyaki chicken bar in a month or so, too,” said Yong Chang.

But Young’s also offers a variety of uncommon merchandise. On its shelves you’ll find neon, branded clocks; NFL lamps, radio-controlled helicopters and trucks, clothing items, pipes, hip flasks, necklaces, and, yes, even samurai swords. Happy shopping!

Yong Chang moved to Concrete about four months ago with immediate and extended family members who will help him keep the Market open seven days a week, from 4 a.m. to 11 p.m.



Left: Young’s Market is managed by co-owners (l to r) Jackie Hoon, Yong Chang, and D. Chang.

At a glance:

## Young’s Market

**Where:** Grassmere Village, Grasmere

**Hours:** 7 days a week, 4 a.m. to 11 p.m.

**Phone:** 360.753.7200



# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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2010 North Cascades scenic calendar in  
production. Look for it locally in mid-November.  
Find images at [www.pdbphotos.net](http://www.pdbphotos.net)  
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## Concrete Herald

The Voice of Eastern Skagit County

\*Canadian orders \$38 per year; see [www.concrete-herald.com](http://www.concrete-herald.com) for other rates.

**Dictionaries, cont. from p. 12**

picked up the other half via donations and chose a literacy-friendly strategy in order to prequalify for the grant.

The children’s responses have been encouraging, said Hinton.

“We’ve gotten a bunch of thank-you notes from the kids. It’s been great,” he said.

**Just As I Am, cont. from p. 18**

with an Open House scheduled for Fri., Feb. 5, from 3 to 6 p.m., at its portable

location on the Concrete Elementary School property.

For more information on CCC, contact Allison Burton at 360.661.5095 or tom.burton6@verizon.net.

### Become a Concrete Herald Facebook friend!

It’s easy:

1. Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com).
2. Create an account
3. Search on “Concrete Herald” and send a friend request!

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# Smile

## Dwelleysms

Wit from the Herald's former editor

“The heat isn’t so bad, it’s just the fact that it generally comes in summer, when you don’t need it.”

“Students of human behavior agree that man was made to have many women. They also agree that women were made with opposite views on the subject.”

—July 28, 1960

“That cigarette company hailed into court by the widow of a chain-smoker

for causing his cancer, was exonerated by the jury. After all, we can’t be suing rope manufacturers if someone chooses to hang himself.”

—Aug. 11, 1960

“It must be realized that in politics, a candidate must depend on fiction to get him elected. Then he has a period of facing facts. He has to die before history cloaks him with a kind combination of both.”

“How dreary must be the life of a pretty girl who arrives of age without ever being princess or queen of anything?”

—Aug. 18, 1960

a building project unless you have plenty of money or plenty of energy. It takes twice as much money as you plan, and four times the energy.”

“The same type Dad who used to be plagued by worn-out shoes, now moans of worn-out tires.”

“The only catch to a \$1.25 minimum wage law is that if things get tough, employers may demand that the worker be worth it.”

—Aug. 25, 1960

“It was said of the old pioneers of the West that they liked their liquor strong and their women pure. History points out that those who did the best used a reverse formula.”

—Sept. 8, 1960

### Out of the mouths of babes

**A little girl** was diligently pounding away on her grandfather’s computer. She told him she was writing a short story. “What’s it about?” he asked. “I don’t know,” she replied. “I can’t read.”

**When my grandson** asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, “I’m not sure.” “Look in your underwear, Grandpa,” he advised. “Mine says I’m 4 to 6.”

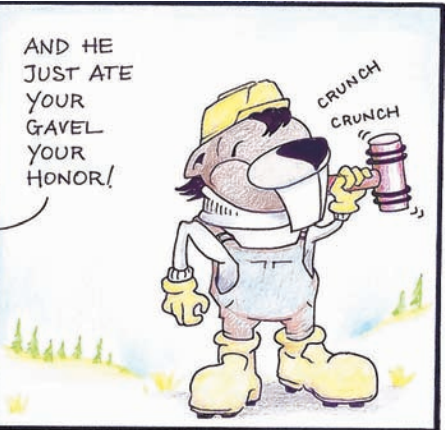
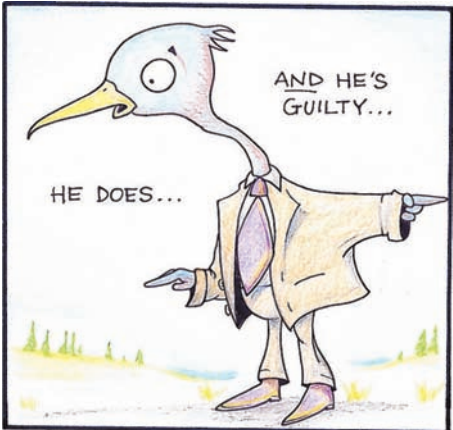
**My granddaughter** called the other day to wish me a happy birthday. She asked me how old I was, and I told her, 62. She was quiet for a moment, and then she asked, “Did you start at 1?”

## Concrete Harold



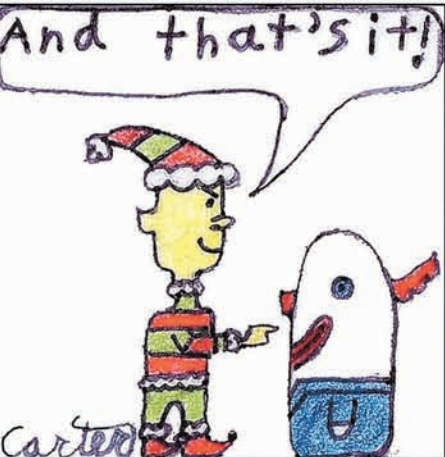
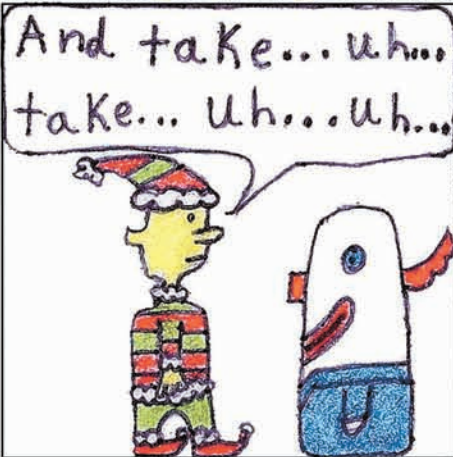
By Joyce Harris

## Up Yonder



By P. W. Rider

## An Elf’s Life



By Jonathan Carter

## Men’s Basketball, cont. from p. 7

marathon took an extra period to name a winner, as the Lions saw yet another fourth-quarter lead evaporate. The Lions’ fatigue showed in the extra period as they were outscored 11-2 in overtime, losing 69-60. Tyler Clark had 27 points and 11 rebounds, Kyler Howell had 11 points and 11 rebounds, and Senior Greg McIntosh had eight points and four assists.

After three games where the Lions saw fourth-quarter leads go the other way, the Lions welcomed the Orcas Island Vikings to Jack Bradley Court on Jan. 2 with a shooting barrage. The Lions scored 24 first-quarter points and jumped to a 34-17 first-half lead. The Vikings made a comeback and got the lead down to seven, but ran out of gas to see the Lions keep plugging away en route to a 63-43 victory, keeping the Lions in the playoff hunt. The Lions once again had balanced scoring led by Tyler Clarks 21, Kyler Howell’s 14 points and nine assists, and Greg McIntosh’s eight points and seven rebounds. The Lions also got much-needed help from Jake Massingale and Aiden Walsh, who combined for eight points as the Lions faced an assortment of junk defenses.

The Lions made the dreaded journey to Darrington on Jan. 26 where victory is always tough to come by. The Lions battled back from a 28-point deficit, carving it down to six points with 34 seconds left, but they couldn’t get any closer in the 77-67 defeat in league play. The Lions were led by Tyler Clark’s 33 points. Kyler Howell had 18 points and four assists, and Senior Greg McIntosh had 10 points and four rebounds to lead the Lions.

The Lions are 5-11 and have achieved their most wins since the 2002–03 season. There is a lot of youth in the Lions program; each player shows progress every day.



Speaking of things Valentine, here’s Don and Della Payne, high on top of Don’s backhoe, caught in the act of winning the 2008 “Best Place to Kiss in Concrete” contest. Now we know what it takes for Don to take off his cowboy hat. *Submitted photo.*

## Mason Bees, cont. from p. 21

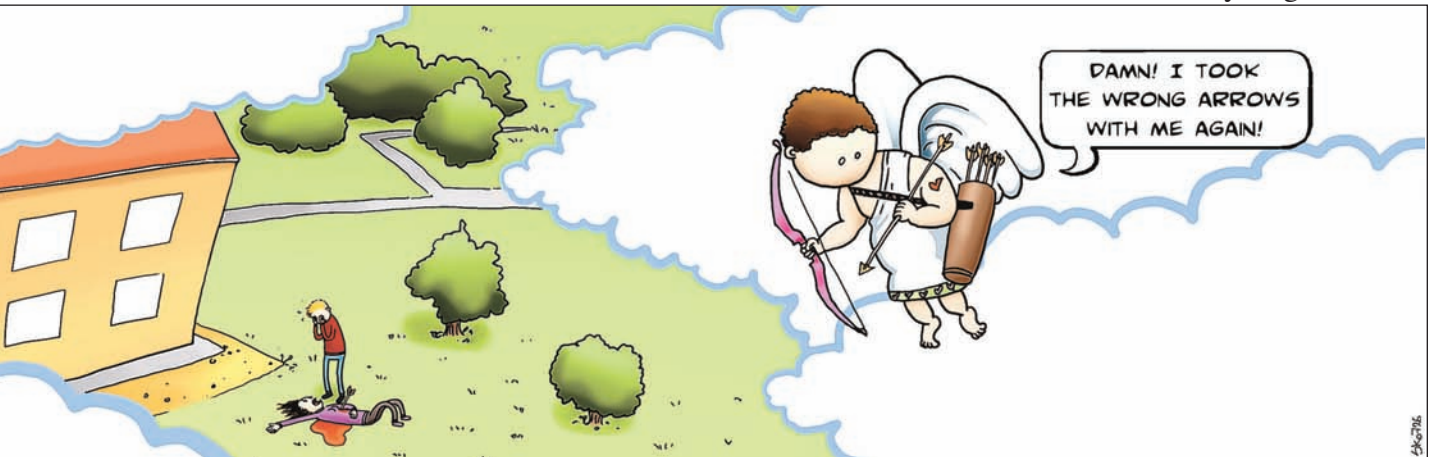


**3.** Add a roof that overlaps an inch on either side, and several inches in front. You can paint or stain the roof and exterior surfaces, but do not apply wood preservatives. Screw metal straps or an additional piece of wood to the back of the nest, for hanging.



**4.** Hang the nest at least 3 feet above the ground, facing southeast and within 100 yards of the plants or trees that need pollination. Mount the nest firmly; these little bees do not like to “swing.” Try to provide a mud source close by, for nest-building.

## Public Service Announcement



By Stig Andersen

# Classifieds

### FOR SALE

**Grumman 16-foot aluminum canoe and paddles.** \$500. Great for trout fishing and river running. Send e-mail to [jackdeyonge@gmail.com](mailto:jackdeyonge@gmail.com) for pictures, directions.

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**Concrete:** Large 2,700 sq. ft., 3-bed apt. with laundry room, on Main St. \$750/mo. includes water, sewer and garbage. Small pets negotiable. First month’s rent, \$1,000.00 security deposit, and references required. Available approximately Feb. 15. Call Ken or Pat, days: 360.853.7149; eves: 853.8253.

### SERVICES

**Bobbin lace class.** Learn beginning lacemaking with Linda. **360.853.8037.**

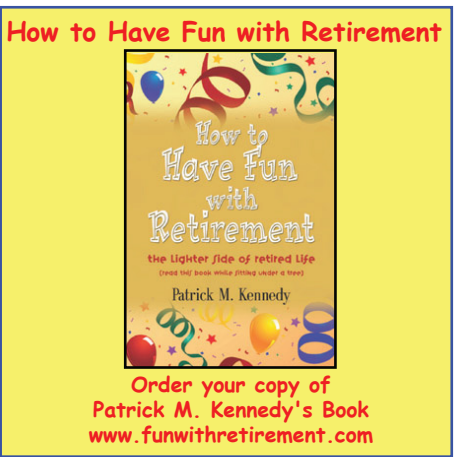
**Gladys’ Upholstery Shop.** Quality work, reasonable prices. **360.826.4848.**

**Rick’s Tree Service.** 30 years experience. Reasonable. **360.770.4456.**

**Stained Glass classes and supplies.** 7460 S. Dillard, Concrete. **360.708.3279.**

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# Falling can be prevented.

If you or someone you care about is at risk of falling, this class can help. Learn how muscular weakness, vision problems and dizziness from medications can cause serious falls. Find out what to do to reduce the risk of injury.

## **FREE!** **Fall Prevention Class**

**Tuesday, February 23**

**1:00 – 2:30 p.m.**

**(360) 707-4454**

