

The Voice of Eastern Skagit County Concrete Herald

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February 2011

50 cents

\$17 million bond sought to repair Cascade Middle School

By Jason Miller

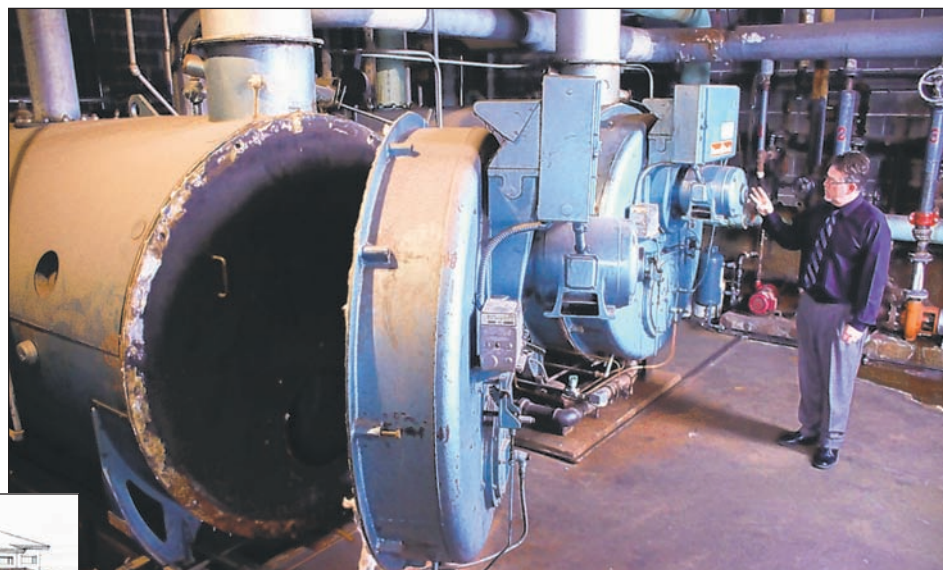
At first glance, Cascade Middle School in Sedro-Woolley looks like a perfectly serviceable facility. The bell rings, the kids learn, the buses come and take them home.

But look beneath the surface at the aging campus and you'll find retrofitted wiring, water infiltration at the roof and exterior walls, buried pipes that need frequent repair, and a boiler whose days are numbered.

Sedro-Woolley School District officials hope to address these and other problems with a \$17 million bond request. Ballots went out to Sedro-Woolley citizens Jan. 19, which must be returned or postmarked by Feb. 8.

Paired with \$6 million from state coffers, the new bond replaces a \$15 million, 1996 bond that expires December 2013 and actually cost residents more: \$.92 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The new bond would begin in 2014 and is estimated to cost \$.70 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

See **Bond**, p. 12



Above: Cascade Middle School Principal Scott McPhee gestures toward the school's only working boiler, noting that it has been re-lined three times—the limit for such repair.
Left: A rendering of the school's renovated facade. *Graphic by Harthorne Hagen Architects.*



Concrete Theatre marks first year

The Concrete Theatre celebrates its first anniversary this month and owners Valerie Stafford and Fred West are marking the occasion with true grit. The movie, that is.

True Grit, starring Jeff Bridges in a remake of the 1969 film starring John Wayne, is one of the many new movies planned for the theater's month-long celebration.

See **Theatre**, p. 31



After a long wait, Birdsvie gets a new fire hall

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Clear Lake has a winner!

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Into the forest deep

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Water, water everywhere ... flood photos inside



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Concrete Herald

The Voice of Eastern Skagit County

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Guest editorial
Made in China:
Was there a trade imbalance under your holiday tree?
By Eleanor Walters, 39th Legislative District Democratic Org.

First off, let me assure you this is not about being culturally insensitive. No, this is about our nation’s economy, lack of jobs, and about our local families who are continually “cutting back.”

Although I enjoy a holiday season as much as the next person, my spirits were dampened after turning over label after label, only to find that most items were “Made in China.” I noticed that specialty stores were popping up in malls and vacant retail space, full of ornaments and holiday decorations. Again, nearly every item was made in China. No exaggeration.

So why does it worry me to see so many “Made in China” labels when I know that our local merchants are making a profit on the sale of these items? Because there is a price to pay in the longer term. We will pay the price by having fewer manufacturing jobs, continued rates of higher unemployment, consumers’ dollars being invested outside the U.S., and unfair currency exchange rates.

While shopping at a Ben Franklin Store, I walked past a multitude of colorful tree ornaments, decorations, and gift packaging—all made in countries outside the U.S. One item, made in China and looking like a miniature silver platter, warned: “For decorative use only. Not suitable for direct food consumption. Not intended for children 14 and under.”

This had me wondering whether this was a U.S. FDA warning or a Chinese manufacturing warning. And what is it about being 14 years old that would prevent you from misusing this product? I wonder how many shoppers read the warning and had a second thought.

I was relieved when I finally found a stocking-stuffer table with a sign reading, “Made in the NW!” I picked up a couple apple scone mixes made and packaged in Washington State. Great. Now what to wrap them in? I found a couple of decorative bags, one dollar each. Okay, I give. They were so colorful and just the right size and ... made in China. I decided to strike a balance: I bought both the scone mixes and the bags.

As consumers, we cannot be expected to be experts on trade imbalances and how



See Editorial, p. 31

Opinion

Letters to the editor

Thanks, but no thanks to American Alps Legacy Project
This is regarding the article that ran in the January issue of our *Concrete Herald*, about the American Alps Legacy Project (AALP), the proposal to expand the North Cascades National Park.

The AALP wants to turn the Ross Lake National Recreation Area (RLNRA) into National Park land with the promise of more trails, roads, and things to do. Sound familiar?

If you will recall, when the land the NPS currently holds was given to them, we all were told the RLNRA would always be. As a matter of fact, that was the condition that had to be met before our then congressmen Henry Jackson and Warren Magnuson would sign off on the land gift. A public access road to Ross Lake and a tram to ride up Ruby Mountain were promised, as well as numerous roads and trails up to surrounding peaks.

None of this was ever built. As time goes by, you are limited more, and trails and historical landmarks are dwindling, thanks to the NPS. If this proposal passes, there will be no hunting, no snowmobile riding, no horseback riding, and very limited fishing within NPS land. And, as on most NPS-managed land, there will be a fee to enter the area.

Most of us would like the area to be enjoyed by our future generations as a recreation area. I strongly urge all of you to say no to the proposed land addition of the NPS that would remove the Ross Lake Recreation Area and some surrounding Forest Service land. Join together in telling Mr. Jim Davis, director of the AALP, thanks, but no thanks!

Bob Hopfield
Newhalem

Art Show, Chili Cook-off, Veterans Stand-down thanks
My gratitude goes to the Concrete American Legion for inviting me to host the Art Show and Chili Cook-off in conjunction with the Skagit Eagle Festival in January. It was a great success!

Many thanks to cooks Gladys and Peggy; and to prize donators Ed Rogge, Cascade Supply, Albert’s Red Apple, and the Concrete Theatre. The Art Show was unique in many ways and displayed several different kinds of art. It was very interesting and entertaining. Working together gets things done and it is a lot of fun. We were able to show off our talents and share our area and eagles with many new visitors. Thank you all!

Stand-down
Tulalip Resort and Casino, Cottontree Inn, Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Hi. Lo. Country Hotel & Cafe, Three Rivers Inn, and the Kott family of West Seattle: Thank you all for supporting our Veterans Stand-down in Concrete. Your very generous donations were greatly appreciated and helped make the Stand-down a true success. Needy veterans from throughout Skagit County were directly helped by your generosity. This event was organized and run by volunteers who understand how easy it is to say “no” when asked to help. We all applaud your decision to lend a hand!

Karen Ganion
Concrete

Letters policy
Letters of 200 words or fewer may be sent to Concrete Herald, P.O. Box 682, Concrete, WA 98237, or e-mailed to 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.

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During the Jan. 22 weekend, the Superior Building in Concrete underwent a third stage of clean-up efforts—another step toward restoration for the adaptive reuse project. Local contractor Don Payne was charged with removing the remains of a secondary roof that had been built over the flat primary roof (top photo) decades ago and had since collapsed and rotted. Payne enlisted the help of sons Don Jr. (below left, in plaid shirt) and Dale. The team worked into the weekend and filled a 30-yard refuse container with the debris. The photo below right shows Payne removing old tar paper from inside the parapet walls. By the end of the weekend, all signs of the old roof had been removed (bottom). The Superior Building project is an Imagine Concrete initiative.



Photo by Larry Johnson

Reilly and Maloney

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Envision Skagit 2060 Community Meeting planned

By Jason Miller

SKAGIT COUNTY — On Tue., Feb. 8 from 5 to 7 p.m., Envision Skagit 2060 will hold a community meeting in Concrete to gain public input on the future of Skagit County. The meeting will be held in the Commons room at Concrete High School.

Like other outreach efforts the group has held elsewhere in the county, the meeting is an opportunity for citizens to learn about Envision Skagit 2060, share their vision, ask questions, and get involved in shaping the future of Skagit Valley.

After a brief presentation on the Envision Skagit 2060 project and its progress by Envision Skagit Citizen Committee members and project staff, the meeting will open up for a comment period where community members can voice their vision for the future of Skagit Valley.

More community meetings will be scheduled and announced in the near future.

See **Envision Skagit**, p. 31

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Soil saturation closes Burpee Hill Road

By Jason Miller

Two slides along an in-town section of Burpee Hill Road prompted Concrete Mayor Judd Wilson to close the road to all traffic on Jan. 18. The closure affects the stretch of road between Superior Ave. North and the town limit line.

The smaller of the two slides is near the road's intersection with Superior Ave. North, where saturated soils have compromised the southern shoulder and the edge of the pavement, according to town engineer Jim Hobbs with Reichardt & Ebe Engineering.

The second slide is much worse, said Hobbs. It is located farther up the road and "appears to be a deeper-seated slide with saturated sand layers butting up against stiffer silt layers," said Hobbs.

The result is a 160-foot stretch of road that has subsided 4 to 6 inches, causing the pavement to fracture on either end.

See **Burpee Hill**, p. 31

FREE tax assistance

Free tax assistance and preparation for taxpayers with low and moderate income, with special attention to those age 60 and older, is available from AARP Tax-Aide from Feb. 1 through April 15.

You do not need to be a member of AARP or a retiree to use this service. AARP Tax-Aide volunteers, trained in cooperation with the Internal Revenue Service, will offer help with personal income tax returns in Concrete at the Concrete Senior Center on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"I really enjoy volunteering for AARP Tax-Aide. The taxpayer is always so appreciative of having this resource," said Katy Brady-Good, Concrete's local coordinator.

"Tax law can often be confusing. AARP Tax-Aide volunteers can make the process of filling out tax returns a whole lot easier," said Brady-Good.

Last year, AARP Tax-Aide volunteers helped more than 270,000 people file their federal, state, and local tax returns, 1,500 of which resided in Skagit and San Juan Counties.

To schedule an appointment, call 360.853.8400. AARP Tax-Aide is a program of the AARP Foundation, offered in conjunction with the IRS.



Concrete Public Works Director Alan Wilkins (left) and Assistant Public Works Director Rich Philips stand out of harm's way above a catch basin, and poke and prod a clogged culvert on Main Street in Concrete on Jan. 25. The culvert carries the flow from Lorenzen Creek underground and south to another basin near SR 20. Heavy January rains caused a slide on Burpee Hill, dumping silt into the creek, which backed up somewhere north of this catch basin and overflowed onto Main Street.

Concrete renews SCSO contract

By Jason Miller

During its Nov. 8, 2010, regular meeting, Concrete Town Council voted to renew its contract for services from the Skagit County Sheriff's Office through 2013.

The interlocal agreement between the town and the SCSO grants deputies additional authority to enforce two municipal codes:

- 9.24, which prohibits discharging of firearms or dangerous weapons
- 8.14, which sets forth regulations for use of the town's public parks, including hours of operation

According to the contract, the SCSO will provide base level services "at the same level, degree and type as is customarily provided by the county in the surrounding unincorporated Skagit County." In addition, however, Concrete will pay for deputies to "stick close" to town for a minimum of 80 staff hours per week, within an area that will allow a response time of 10 minutes from the time of dispatch. For this additional coverage, the annual fee will increase each year to the following:

- 2011: \$225,500
- 2012: \$231,138
- 2013: \$236,916

THIS AND THAT

By J. K. M.

Grandy Creek Grocery's **Teddy Bear Drive** was completed the weekend of Jan. 22, with approximately 120 bears going out into service, reports owner Dave Needham. They were picked up by a member of the Skagit County Sheriff's Office and will soon go into action. Dave passes along his thanks to everyone who dropped off bears.

Your help is needed for the **Give a Heart to Save a Heart** campaign.

This fundraiser is led by two WWU students: Stephanie Morgareidge of Concrete and Grace Bandolon of Ferndale. Their goal is to sell chocolate hearts for \$1 each and use the profits to support physical fitness programs in Skagit and Whatcom counties.

Concrete's Encore Fitness will receive funds, as well as United General Hospital and Girls on the Run, a nonprofit in Whatcom County.

Want to support Stephanie and her partner? Go to the Resource Center on Main Street in Concrete to purchase hearts. If you want to buy five or more, contact Stephanie via e-mail at morgareidge@frontier.com to arrange a delivery.



Stephanie Morgareidge (left) of Concrete and fellow WWU student Grace Bandolon of Ferndale are selling chocolate hearts for \$1 each to support the Give a Heart to Save a Heart campaign. The pair brought their sweets to the Friends of the Upper Skagit Library Book & Bake Sale at the Concrete Senior Center on Jan. 22. *Photo by Amber Lee.*

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05 Chrysler PT GT
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\$12,551



06 Acura RSX
T6137A
AT, Alloys, Spoiler Very Sharp!

\$12,873



07 Dodge Caliber RT AWD
B6138
Sunroof, Leather, 47k

\$12,913



05 Honda Accord LX
4913B
4DR, AT, 76k, Very Nice

\$12,987



05 Jeep Liberty
5249A
4WD with Diesel, Only 68k

\$13,445



08 Dodge Charger SE
B6077A
48k, Tint, Alloys

\$13,873



05 Chrysler 300 Touring
B6091
Sunroof, Leather, Wing

\$13,960



08 Dodge Grand Caravan SE
B6103
Alloys, Only 33k

\$13,986



09 Honda Civic
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4DR, LX, AT, Only 14k, Great Buy

\$14,957



05 Chev 2500 X-CAB
B6102A
4X4, 89k, Great Buy!

\$15,897



08 Ford Mustang GT
B6145
Custom Alloys, Very Hot, 15k

\$19,879



10 Mazda3 Grand Touring
5365A
Sunroof, Leather, Only 13k

\$19,987



04 Ford F250 XCAB 4X4
5138A
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\$20,998



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5415A
Leather, Wow, Only 23k

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Sports

By Jason Miller

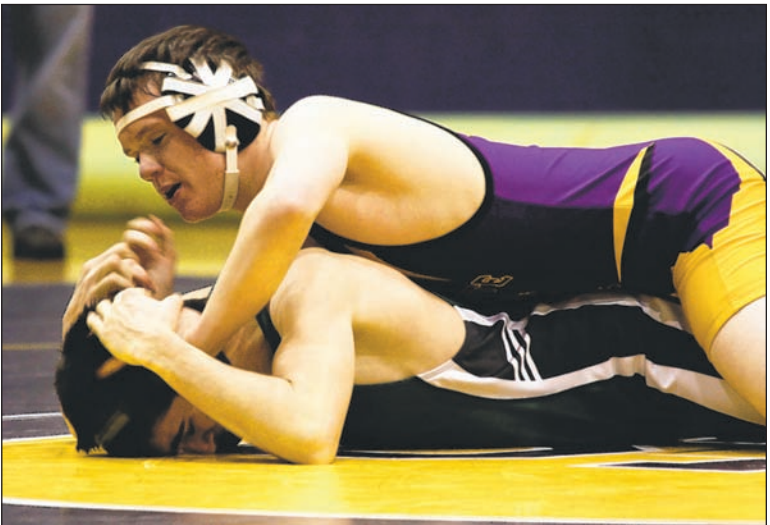
For the 8th time in as many years, the Concrete Lions wrestling squad has lived up to its name, clinching the Northwest/SeaTac 2B/1A League title at a tournament match in Darrington Jan. 27.

The Lions shared the mat that night with Darrington, Chief Leschi, and Tacoma Baptist, and came out on top. Concrete will host the Region 1, 2B District Tournament on Sat., Feb. 5, in an all-day series of matches that begins at 9 a.m.

“We’ve been very fortunate,” said Head Coach Dave Dellinger of the team’s eight-year streak, which not coincidentally began the year he took over as head coach. “It gives us something to push for.”

Dellinger and assistant coaches John Koenig and Jack Evans led the squad to placings in several league tournaments,

See **Wrestling**, p. 31



Junior Johnny Evans puts the hurt on his Darrington opponent on Jan. 13. The day, however, ended with a win for Darrington after the two teams tied: Concrete lost after nine tie-breaking criteria had been considered.



Junior Cody Corn gets some guidance from Assistant Coach Jack Evans during the team’s match against Darrington at home on Jan. 13.

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Lady Lions turn on end-of-season heat

By Kevik Rensink, head coach

The Concrete Girls’ Basketball team has continued its exciting style of play, coming up with some big wins in the process.

After losing their first four games of the season, the girls finished December with a spark, winning three of their last four. On Jan. 4 they set the bar even higher, knocking off Orcas Island at home 63–48.

They wouldn’t lose again until Jan. 14, beating Cedar Park Christian 51–31, then upsetting Mount Vernon Christian 35–32 in a great defensive battle on Jan. 11. Missed free throws proved costly in a tough 56–52 loss to La Conner, but Concrete once again bounced back with a win, this time over Shoreline Christian 43–27.

On Jan. 21 Concrete traveled to San Juan Island to play the defending league champions and suffered a loss 58–31.

Heading into the final two and a half weeks of the season, the coaching staff and players are very upbeat. This group of girls has improved so much from the

beginning of the season. It is fun to watch them play, and it should make for a very exciting run toward the end of league play.

Jessica Filtz, the team’s sophomore point guard, has done a great job of setting the tone for her teammates. She leads the team in scoring, steals, and assists, and was rewarded for her efforts by being named the female Athlete of the Month for January.

Filtz’s fellow sophomores Kylee Warner and Tamara Schoolland also have stepped up their games by putting up some big points and coming down with even bigger rebounds. Kylee and Tamara are ranked first and second on the team in rebounds-per-game.

Frankie Rohweder, our fourth sophomore, and Brooke Lee, a junior, shore up our defense. The two usually take each opponent’s top two players and play lock-down defense on them.

Sara Spaeth, a junior, has come on as a big-time shooting threat for us, hitting 3 of 4 from 3-point range at Friday Harbor, and leading us in scoring the last two games. Megan Rogge and Martha Schoolland, our senior captains, continue to lead by example with great attitude and effort. Both players are very active in

encouraging their teammates on and off the court.

Stay tuned or just come out and watch our Lady Lions as they continue to play hard and improve day to day. It is so much fun being a part of this program!



Sophomore Kylee Warner drives past a Shoreline Christian player on her way to the bucket during the Lady Lions’ game Jan. 18.

Varsity basketball team starts with a bang, looks for momentum

By Brooke Howell

The Concrete Lions men’s basketball team started the month out with a bang, earning their second win right off the bat against league foe Orcas in exciting fashion by a score of 76–73 in double overtime.

Since that game, the Lions have lost five straight to bring their record to 2–14 overall. The Lions hope to gain momentum in their last six games and pull out some wins. Six of the Lions’ losses have been by a mere nine points or less.

Keeping up a blistering scoring pace, Tyler Clark has averaged just under 30 points per game. Kyler Howell makes up most of the rest of the scoring, at 10 points per game. Senior DJ Mitchell has come on strong defensively, doing a great job in his first season out.

With only two seniors on the team, the Lions are very young. In addition to Clark, a junior, and seniors Howell and Mitchell, the Lions have juniors Aiden Walsh and Jake Massingale, sophomores Cody Jarmin and Hayden Holbrook, and



Freshman guard Dallas Newby winds up for a shot over a Shoreline Christian defender on Jan. 18.

freshmen Dallas Newby and Josh Rogge.

The Lions season will end on Feb. 8 with their last home game against La Conner.

Middle school girls basketball start strong

By Rob Thomas, assistant coach

The 2011 middle school girls basketball season began on Jan. 3, with 18 girls showing interest in playing for 8th grade coach Rob Thomas (8th year) and 7th grade coach Rachel Harris (5th year). By midway through the second week, both teams had seven players committed to finishing the season.

“Every year I tell the girls that they will work harder than they ever have and that they will be in the best shape of their lives by the end of the season,” said Coach Thomas. “The philosophy of the middle-school basketball program can be summed up in three words: Dedication, Desire, and Discipline.”

Through the team’s first three games (as of Jan. 24), that’s exactly what both coaches have witnessed.

The 8th grade team began its season with a dominating 64–38 win at Conway in which all seven players made significant contributions. Next on the schedule was rival La Conner in the girls’ first home game. After a slow start in which they were down by seven points at the end of the first quarter, the team rallied to

outscore the Braves 39–15 the rest of the game for a 47–30 victory. Against their next opponent, Orcas Island, the team led midway through the fourth quarter before running out of gas in the last 90 seconds

See **Girls hoops**, p. 31



Lydia Schoolland drives past a La Conner defender for the score on Jan. 20.

Athletes of the Month



Athletes of the Month are Jessica Filtz and Dalton Dellinger

Jessica Filtz, the Lady Lions’ sophomore point guard, leads the team in scoring, steals, and assists. “She’s done a great job of setting the tone for her teammates,” said Head Coach Kevik Rensink. Dalton Dellinger, a senior wrestler in the 119-lb. weight class, is ranked No. 1 in the state in his class, and is undefeated in league matches this year. “That pretty much explains why he’s an Athlete of the Month,” said Assistant Coach John Koenig. Filtz and Dellinger were selected by Concrete Lions Booster Club members based on their leadership, being team players, and demonstrating sportsmanship and character.



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Concrete PTO news

By Debbie Ross, president

Lots of fun and educational events are in store for the next few months.

On Feb. 25 a drama troupe from Seattle’s 5th Avenue Theater will present the play “**Rosie the Riveter**” in the gym at 1 p.m.

The play brings the can-do spirit of the 1940s to life. During World War II, manufacturing plants that produced munitions and war supplies were in desperate need of workers. As many men were off at war, women who typically worked in other trades or in the home were asked to join the factory workforce to help the U.S. with the increasing demand of supplies for the Allies. “Rosie the Riveter” became an icon of the ideal female worker: loyal, efficient, and patriotic.

The play is a fast, funny, and inspirational musical adventure that tells the story of the triumphant women who joined the workforce, drove the taxis, paved the highways, and riveted the airplanes when the men marched off to war.

We are having an **all-color yearbook** this year. Books are on sale now for \$15 till March 25, when the price increases to \$18.

This year’s **Science Fair** is slated for March 3. **Family Fitness Night** activities

will resume in March too. Also in March, don’t miss the 6th–12th grade band, which will present a **spring concert** March 10 at 7 p.m. in the high school gym.

The **Chinese Acrobats** will perform April 15 at 1 p.m. in the gym.

The next **PTO meeting** is Feb. 14.

For more information about Concrete PTO, send an e-mail to concretek6pto@yahoo.com.

YD back on track

By Kevik Rensink

Concrete Youth Dynamics is back on its regular schedule after taking a quick breather during Christmas and New Year’s. All of the guys got together on Jan. 10 and watched the College Football National Championship game, while the girls gathered at the Rensink home to play Cranium and make goodies.

During the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, 15 high school students from Concrete, along with three of our YD staff, went over to Leavenworth on a four-day snow retreat called “Hotdoggin 2011.” The retreat included many activities, such as sledding, snow-shoeing, cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, snow boarding, inner-tubing, sleigh rides, and more. High school

students came from all over the state, with approximately 90 kids representing eight different YD areas. It was a great chance to get away, meet new people, and dig deeper into the most important thing in life: relationships.

We are geared up for the next several Monday night meetings, including Minute-To-Win-It Night, Ultimate Frisbee, Sledding on Mount Baker, The Dating Game, and a lot more fun activities.

If you are in grades 9–12 or have a son or daughter in grades 9–12, and you would like to get them plugged into Concrete Youth Dynamics, please call 360.853.6815.

We would love to meet them.

2011–12 Kindergarten round-up

Concrete Elementary School is accepting kindergarten registrations for the 2011–2012 school year beginning Mon., Feb. 7. Students must be 5 years of age by August 31, 2011, to be eligible to attend kindergarten. Parents must provide complete copies of their child’s birth certificate and immunization records before the first day of school. For more information, call the elementary school at 360.853.8145.

Concrete writer to appear at forum

Concrete citizen Jack de Yonge will be one of two panelists at the fourth annual Writers’ Forum on Sat., Feb. 19, at 10 a.m., at the Anacortes Public Library, located at 1220 Tenth Street in Anacortes. This free public lecture is open to the public.

De Yonge, a former newspaper journalist, is the author of *Boom Town Boy: Coming of Age on Alaska’s Lost Frontier*. The other panelist will be Anacortes resident William Dietrich, author of both fiction and nonfiction books, and also a former journalist.

The 2011 Writers’ Forum is sponsored by the Anacortes Branch of the American Association of University Women, the Anacortes School District, the Anacortes Public Library, and Watermark Book Company of Anacortes.

WWU to host Winter Career Fair Feb. 10

BELLINGHAM — Job seekers looking for ways to connect directly with employers are invited to attend Western Washington University’s Winter Career Fair, which will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thur., Feb. 10, in the Mac Gym of the Wade King Student Recreation Center. Admission to the fair is free.

Sponsored by the WWU Career Services Center, the Winter Career Fair allows students and the general public to meet with hiring managers from a range of employers, including private-sector companies, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies.

To make the most of the Winter Career Fair, job seekers should research participating companies in advance, dress in professional business attire, and bring lots of resumes. A free career fair preparation workshop will be offered at 4 p.m. on Thur., Feb. 3, and again at noon on Mon., Feb. 7 in Old Main 280K.

For a complete listing of participating employers or more information go to www.careers.wwu.edu, stop by the Career Services Center offices in Old Main 280, or call 360.650.3240.

School Board meeting

The Concrete School Board will hold its next regular board meeting on Wed., Feb. 23, at 7 p.m. in the high school Commons. The board will hold a workshop on Feb. 22 at 6 p.m., also in the high school Commons.

Bad weather? Start here

When the weather turns sour, you can find school closure information on the AM/FM radio station list on p. 4 of the school newspaper.

You can also go to www.schoolreport.org or KOMO’s Web site.

If there is a school delay or closure, you may also call the main school district phone number at 360.853.8141 for up-to-date recorded information.

For more information, call forum chair Bunny Heiner at 360.293.4120 or e-mail her at bunnyheiner@gmail.com.

Homeless for five days

Concrete grad takes an “Urban Plunge”

Editor’s note: From Dec. 9–13, 2010, Beka Thomas, a 2008 Concrete High School graduate and a junior at Seattle Pacific University, experienced the life of a homeless person first-hand by roaming the streets of Seattle with only the clothes on her back. Thomas and three other students were given three bus passes and \$2.50 for five days, and expected to find food on their own. They slept in a church in downtown Seattle, and left each morning to live a homeless life. This “Urban Plunge” program is administered by Seattle Pacific University.

The following is selected excerpts from a report she wrote after her experience.

Day 1

The first day on the streets was more of an exploration and figuring out what we were getting ourselves into. Kendrick and I (the other two girls couldn’t come until later) took the bus to 3rd Ave. and walked down to University Place, down by the water and Pike’s Place, and back toward Compass Center, which was the first site visit of the five days. We were able to see the services available for the homeless. We met up with the rest of our group afterward and walked around downtown some more. We found some writing utensils and cardboard to make signs.

At 2:30 p.m. we met up with everyone at New Horizons, which is a drop-in center and food shelter for homeless youth. It was cool to hear about the services they provide. After leaving New Horizons and completely starved, my group headed out for the 7-11 a man had told us about.

After finding a 76 with a phone book and getting some addresses for the church and Top Pot Donuts, we headed for Top Pot. We walked in the rain along Westlake, which was miserable, and we never found it. We finally decided to go down to Bread of Life and Union Gospel Mission. We went into UGM and there were about 75 men and two women, so we felt totally out of place. But they let us girls get dinner first, which was great! Spaghetti, salad, grapes, potstickers, and pastries.

After dinner we headed downtown to start spanging (spare-changing). We made about \$15 because some guy gave us a \$10 bill. It started pouring and we got kicked off our corner, so we headed out in search of the church we were going to be sleeping in. It was on Capitol Hill and we were early, so we found a coffee shop and made some hot chocolate someone had

given us. We were so wet and gross that we sat at a bus stop for over an hour.

We met up with the whole group at 9:30 p.m. at First Covenant Church and shared stories while waiting to go inside. We got settled in and were waiting to begin our debriefing when a group brought in a huge bag of Top Pot Donuts! So we ate smashed donuts, shared our stories, and talked about our reaction to the homeless people and what experiences we had.

I had a terrible headache the entire day. I think it was the lack of food and water. We also found a Thomas the Train umbrella somewhere along the way, which we kept and used later in the week. It was broken, but it helped!

Day 2

After leaving the church, my group went down to Freeway Park to sleep on the park benches. We then decided to spange on the street, and got four bus passes and some change. Afterward, we walked down to the McDonald’s and got some coffee and water. We then went up to near Pioneer Square and bought some cigarettes with our \$10, because we figured if homeless people saw we had cigarettes, they would come ask for one and then we could start a conversation. We sat down at a park and started talking to a guy named Jersey, who rapped for us while Kendrick played a bucket he found on the sidewalk, and told us how he was trying to get back to the East Coast.

Jersey left and Kali started smoking a cigarette and immediately an old man came over and asked for a light or a cigarette. We talked to him for a bit and gave him 50 cents because we wanted him to call his kid, who didn’t live with him. But he used that 50 cents to buy some tobacco and paper, and he rolled and smoked a cigarette. Great.

We got on Bus 7, which took us to the International District (Chinatown), and we walked around a lot up there. We took the bus back downtown and met with the rest of the group at the Gum Wall at Pike’s Place. My group then went to sit down by Westlake Center to do some spanging and also to observe the youth who hang out there. We sang (or tried to) some Christmas songs, while Kendrick drummed. A guy walked by us twice and had this tiny shirt on and talked to us about how his belly button was a black hole and tunnel of love—funny guy. Some kid also asked us if we wanted to buy some ecstasy.

We were getting hungry, so we caught a



Concrete grad Beka Thomas (second from right) posed with some of her fellow “homeless” friends during their Urban Plunge experience Dec. 9–13. *Submitted photo.*

bus up to Capitol Hill and got directions to the Safeway. We walked down there and bought some bread, half-price bologna, and bananas. There were also samples of a chocolate mint cake at the bakery.

After dinner at Safeway, we took the bus back down to Pioneer Square to the park. We talked with a guy named Jerry; he told us a lot about homelessness and the adults and youth, and how they act and view their situation.

Day 3

My group headed down to King Street Station to sleep this morning, but got kicked out. So we took the bus down to the park by Pike’s Place and the others tried to sleep while I journaled for about an hour. We then walked up the hill to the Seattle Public Library, where we stayed for awhile. We wanted to talk with some homeless youth, so we walked up to Westlake Center to the Starbucks (which they call “the stage”). Some street kids came over and talked with us for about an hour and a half.

TJ told us that all they do is party, day and night. That particular night there was going to be this huge rave, which was supposed to be pretty crazy. Someone was giving out free energy drinks, so the street kids were stocking up on them.

The street kids were pretty crazy and immature. It was like I was in high school again. But the funny thing was that I felt very accepted in their group of friends. They are definitely a family—and that is what they value most. We eventually got kicked off the corner by the cops.

We headed down to Bread of Life Mission for lunch. We were given bologna sandwiches. One guy, Cowboy Bill, was kind of a creep and gave us girls a hug and kiss on the cheek. So we left. Later we went back down to Bread of Life, where we toured the center and heard about its purpose and services.

After the tour, we set out to look for Top Pot Donuts. After finding it, we walked

down to Seattle Center and sat inside the food court to journal. We then walked back to the donut shop to wait for them to throw the donuts away. We waited for about 45 minutes to find out that they had dumped the donuts in the Dumpster and then poured coffee grounds on them.

It began pouring like a monsoon, but our Thomas the Train umbrella worked well, along with another umbrella we found on the sidewalk! We spanged at Westlake Center, which was a total fail, and we were soaking wet, so we headed back to Capitol Hill to the church.

Day 4
Church day! We decided to go to the University District for church, so we hopped on a bus in the transit tunnel. It was raining again, so we were soaking wet right away. Not fun. We ended up going to the 8:30 service at University Presbyterian Church with a lot of older people. We were so tired that we almost fell asleep during the sermon. We stayed after for breakfast and not one single person came up to talk to us. We then walked down the street to University Baptist Church for their 10:30 service. It was a very small congregation. Again, I almost fell asleep. Following the service, we were greeted by many of the members who wanted to welcome us and find out what we were up to. It was so wonderful! The people there were so amazing, and it was great to talk with them, and it was so nice to see the body of Christ so welcoming.

We left the church and walked to a Catholic Church that was serving lunch. We ate a feast, and Kali and I talked with a couple of Hispanic guys. Tried my Spanish, but ended up failing miserably. After leaving lunch, we met up with a couple who was also leaving lunch, and we ended up talking with them on the street corner for about an hour. They were really concerned for us to be out on the streets, so they tried to hook us up with shelters to stay the night at. It was really nice to see other homeless people so caring and wanting to help us. The homeless population looks out for one another.

We [ended up at] Dick’s [later that day], ate some burgers, and sat on the sidewalk for about two and a half hours, talking. We finally figured out how to be street kids: Sit around, do nothing, and look like you’re up to no good. Tattoo Todd came up to us and started talking to us about his life and how he was in jail and knifed people, and how he now “takes care” of the homeless crowd on Broadway. He was a crazy guy, but it was good to talk with him and hear his story.



Clear Lake



Clear Lake's Country Convenience Texaco store owner Terri Sue Sheehan (left) poses with ace employee Mary Vlasuk after learning that a Mega Millions lottery ticket sold at the store on Jan. 21 had netted Mount Vernon citizen Larry Jones a cool \$250,000. *Photo by Zachary Schmidt.*

We had a winner!

Terri Sue Sheehan of Country Convenience Texaco in Clear Lake had a bit of exciting news in January. Sometime between Jan. 19 and 21, her store sold a winning \$250,000 ticket for the Mega Millions lottery.

The winner's name was a mystery until the Jan. 26 issue of *Skagit Valley Herald* hit newsstands, reporting that Larry Jones, and unemployed Mount Vernon man, was the lucky recipient.

According to the *Herald* story, Jones, 54, had been unemployed for two years and, like many Skagit County citizens, had been scraping by for awhile.

Jones plans to spend the unexpected windfall wisely, according to the article. He'll make repairs to his home, get some dental work done, replace the top of his Cavalier convertible, and save some for a more comfortable retirement.

—J. K. M.



Left to right: Nina Molstad, guest speaker Cliff Matterand, and Kathy and Laurilee MacGregor visit before the Clear Lake Historical Association's first meeting of 2011. The three women are all first cousins once removed to Matterand.

CLHA holds first meeting of 2011

Story and photos by Sylvia Matterand

The Clear Lake Historical Association had its first quarterly meeting of 2011 on Jan. 25, with guest speaker Cliff Matterand describing growing up in Clear Lake. Cliff's son, John Matterand, showed old photos and scans of newspaper articles, bank records, and more from his grandfather's farm and records, dating back to 1921.

Memories of cattle drives, amphibious

vehicles, and lots of excitement on Hwy 9 were recalled, along with school, hard work, and fun! The audience asked questions and added their memories to events and items.

Relatives of Cliff Matterand made the trip from Stanwood and beyond to hear about the times and throw in their memories of events.

After the presentation, the association elected its 2011 officers and discussed the next building maintenance project for the hall, which is more than 100 years old.

The next meeting will be Tue., April 26 at 7 p.m. at the Clear Lake Historical Association Hall, 12655 Hwy 9. All are welcome to attend to learn more about our people and history of the area.



Audience members at the Clear Lake Historical Association meeting Jan. 25 chatted before digging into history.

Love Letters

Notes to the ones we adore

"Thanks for ... sticking with me ..."

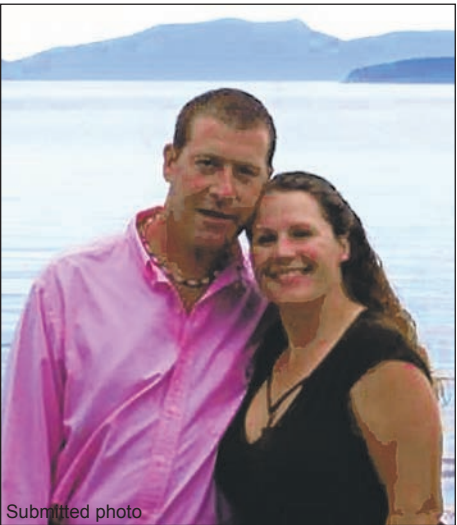
Greg,

We started our married years in Washington and **I can't wait for you to retire** so we can return to our real home! Thanks for all you do to keep our family safe, happy, and healthy.

Wish we could be together on our 16th Valentine's Day, but at least you'll get to read this note while dreaming of home.

Love you!

Rebecca



To my darling Johnny,

Several years ago, **you stole my heart away** and every day since then you remind me just how! You are my everything, heart and soul! S.H.M.I.L.Y.

Your Ever Loving Wife, Corrina

My Little Prince,
You have **tamed** me.

Your fox

My Fox,

"It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; **what is essential is invisible** to the eye."

Your Little Prince

Dear Richard,

You are the **love of my life**. I am so happy to be your wife! Happy Valentine's Day, Baby!

Love, Karie

To my cutie,

Our first date was 33 years ago today! Doug, thanks for asking me out—and **sticking with me** all these years.

All my love, Deb

Cam, thank you for being so wonderful. I love you **today and every day**, my darling wife. Happy Valentine's Day!

Rick

"I love everything about you."

Your loving wife, Stephanie



James,

I have always felt that you and I were made for one another. Our love has been tested so many times from our careers in the military, to starting new careers, to starting a family. Each new chapter brought its fair share of challenges, but **with you by my side I never felt alone**. I hope you know each day I love you even more and that I will always be by your side.

Lisa,

You are the love of my life, the sunrise in the morning and the full moon at night. You enchant me, captivate me, inspire me, and move me. You are radiant, magical and divine. **You complete me and propel me**. No one on earth compares to you. I love you.

Greg



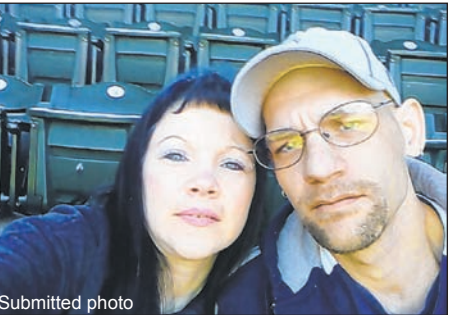
To Fred West:

There's no truer test of love than running a business together. **You are the butter on my popcorn**.

Valerie

... please dedicate a Valentine to my darlin' in Sedro-Woolley. His name is Edward Preston Whitney. I call him my darlin' and he calls me his, as well. We have kept in touch for a very long time. They say **God sends us someone in our life that was made for us alone**. I have tried for a very long time to find someone as kind, sweet, and gentle as Ed, and no one has come along that compares to him!

Deborah Cloer



Happy Valentine's Day to my husband, Brian Kemnow, and Happy 3-year Wedding Anniversary too. We married on Valentine's Day 2008. **I love you with all my heart**. I can't imagine my life without you; you're my everything!

Marie Kemnow



To my sweet Deborah Kay,

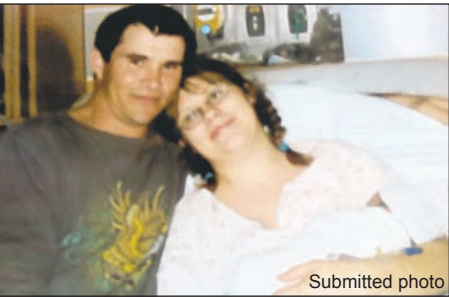
If only it were possible to convey to you how much I love you! So many times I have had to say I'm sorry for this or that. Sometimes I wonder why you keep me around. You have shown me what real, unconditional love is! I need you, I love you, and on top of all that **I really like you** too! Thank you for the wonderful life you share with me.

Love, Scott



Eric Archuleta, **you are the man I would marry all over again**. Wait! I just did that! Happy Valentine's Day!

Love, Cam



Love note for Scotty Selin,

The spark in my eyes, the love in my soul, the everlasting friendship that continues to grow. Early mornings, hectic nights, two beautiful little girls and you to call my life. An amazing father and my best friend, this love is enchanting and will never end. I love you and all that you do. **I have an angel—he is you**.

Love, Chelsea

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Sedro-Woolley



Bond, cont. from p. 1

The new bond aims to renovate and modernize the school, which was built in 1957 and designed to hold 500 students. Today the school houses 600 students; school district officials expect that number to rise during the next two decades.

“It needs to be upgraded to meet today’s standards and expanded to accommodate the students we have now and in the future,” said Mark Venn, Sedro-Woolley School District superintendent.

Originally built according to a “California campus” design, the school’s breezeways connecting the buildings are a flawed concept for the Pacific Northwest’s cool, wet climate. The breezeway roofs leak and their supports are rusting. Building roofs and sidewalls are leaking, and water seeps in at the seams of the single-pane windows, whose caulk is failing.



Eighth-grade teacher Loretta Boston did what it took to prevent water infiltration in her class, rolling up towels and holding them in place against the windows with bookends.

“It’s not keeping the water out,” said Principal Scott McPhee during a January media tour of the facility.

The barrel-roofed gymnasium is one more problem spot for water infiltration. “We’ve had a rain-out at a basketball game,” said McPhee.

Because of the school’s age, its wiring was insufficient for today’s high-tech learning tools. Today, retrofitted wiring runs bulge from classroom walls.

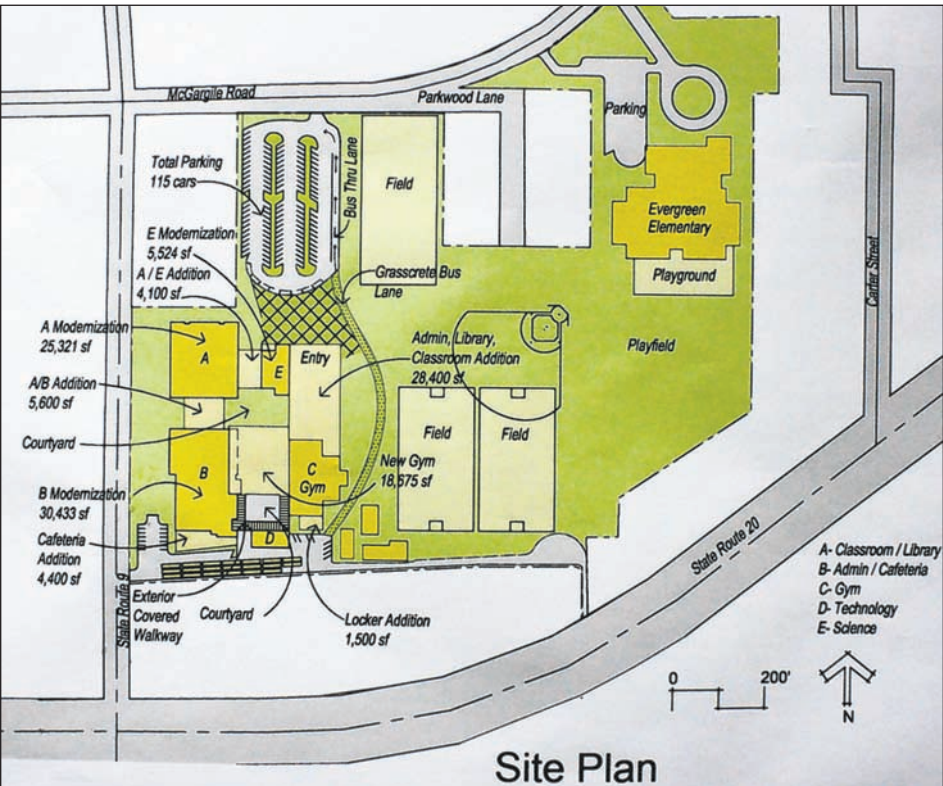
Over the years, rooms have been knocked out and reconfigured to create storage and classroom space. Underground pipes are failing almost like clockwork. The kitchen daily feeds about 1,500 kids from other schools in the district. Only one of the school’s two boilers is functioning. One space, referred to as the “cafegymatorium,” is used so much that the new plan calls for a second gym.

“We try to use every space available, but she’s an old building,” said McPhee.

“She’s tired. She needs some help.”

That help will come if voters approve the bond, which responds to concerns raised after a \$46 million bond measure in 2007 failed to reach the 60 percent of votes needed to pass.

A task force formed to analyze that bond’s failure “felt we needed to focus on one thing,” said Venn. “This is the biggest need in the district. This is our No. 1



This floor plan shows the areas of Cascade Middle School that will be renovated or built new if the bond passes on Feb. 8. *Graphic by Harthorne Hagen Architects.*

priority. Let’s take care of it,” he said.

Ballots for the bond measure were mailed to Sedro-Woolley citizens on Jan. 19, and must be submitted or postmarked by Feb. 8. Ballots may be dropped off at the Sedro-Woolley Post Office or the Skagit County Courthouse.

For more information on the bond, go to www.swsd.k12.wa.us or call 360.855.3500.

At a glance

What: SWSD bond request

Why: Renovation/modernization of Cascade Middle School

How much: \$17 million + \$6 million state funds
\$70 per \$1,000 assessed value

When: Ballots must be submitted or postmarked on or before Feb. 8

Help for small business start-ups

Debra Peterson of the Sedro-Woolley Public Library announces a grant that will be used to help start-up small businesses.

The grant funds will provide books, DVDs, and other materials on subjects beneficial to businesses, and provide classes on subjects such as social media.

Peterson plans a series of 12 classes, working with EDASC. She hopes to begin classes toward the end of February.

For class schedules, locations, and topics, call the library at 360.855.1166 or go to www.youseemore.com/sedro-woolley.

—*Sylvia Matterand*

CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

The Concrete Heritage Museum is closed for the season. Until next Memorial Day weekend, you can **make an appointment** to visit the museum or do research in our library. Just call Robin at 360.826.3075 or e-mail us at concreteheritagemuseum@stumpranchonline.com. History and research requests also can be sent to that same e-mail address.

Monthly meetings are held year-round at the museum on the second Thursday of each month, at 7 p.m. All meetings are open to the public.

If you aren’t already, please **consider**

becoming a member of the museum. Local support is extremely helpful to the upkeep of the museum building and artifacts that help give weight to the history of eastern Skagit County.

We also request you continue to **turn in your receipts** from Albert’s Red Apple to the collection boxes at Upriver Services, the Liquor Store, or museum members. Thanks to your efforts and the generosity of the Frank family, this remains our biggest source of income.

The current project we are trying to complete is the installation of a bathroom.

—*Dan Royal*

At the Upper Skagit Library

The Friends of the Upper Skagit Library will host an open house from 1 to 3 p.m. on Sat., Feb. 26, at the Concrete Senior Center, located at 45821 Railroad Avenue in Concrete. The public is invited to come talk about books.

The Friends want to introduce the writing talent here in the upper Skagit Valley and to give readers and book clubs a chance to share their latest favorites. Writers who would like to read from their works, such as a poem, a paragraph, or a brief synopsis, are asked to call Nancy at 360.873.2210 or e-mail her at nbj@ponderroses.com. If you are a member of

a book club and would like to participate, please let us know, or just come and join in the conversation.

Following the open house, an annual meeting of the Friends of the Upper Skagit Library will be held from 3 to 4 p.m.; the public is encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served during the event. The Friends are always looking for new members, so this is an excellent time for you to join us and help support the Upper Skagit Library. Annual dues are only \$1. If you have any questions, please call Carol at 360.853.7564.

—*Carol Fabrick*



Members of Friends of the Upper Skagit Library welcomed guests to their Book & Bake Sale at the Concrete Senior Center Jan. 22. Facing camera, right to left: Michelle Coda, Allen and Carol Fabrick. Kathy Huntley from SRBEAT staffed the neighboring table. Funds raised from FOUSL sales directly support the library. *Photo by Amber Lee.*

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- FEBRUARY**
- 2 “Vigil for Hope” candlelight vigil for Patti Krieger, Fred Meyer parking lot, Burlington, 7 to 9 p.m.; info at schassaniol@hotmail.com
 - 3 Saukrates Cafe meeting, Annie’s Pizza Station, 6 p.m.; conversation topic posted at Upper Skagit Library and <http://saukratescafe.wordpress.com>
 - 3 Public meeting to discuss Skagit County Parks comprehensive plan, Howard Miller Steelhead Park Community Center, Rockport, 6:30 p.m.
 - 7 Day Creek knitting club kick-off meeting, Cascade Christian Church, Township and Wicker, Sedro-Woolley, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.; info at 360.540.3978
 - 8 Envision Skagit 2060 Community Meeting, Concrete High School Commons room, 5 to 7 p.m.; see article, p. 4; info at 360.419.7667 or e-mail emmaw@co.skagit.wa.us
 - 8 Ballots for Sedro-Woolley School District bond proposal must be submitted by or before today; see article, p. 1, for details
 - 9 Imagine Concrete meeting, Mears Field Pilots’ Lounge, 6 p.m.; info at goodwords@frontier.com or 360.853.8213
 - 10 Concrete Chamber of Commerce meeting, Hi. Lo. Country Bar & Grill, 8 a.m.; info at 360.466.8754 or www.concrete-wa.com
 - 11 Day Creek Chapel Sweetheart Dinner, Day Creek Chapel, 6:30 p.m.; \$10 per plate; nursery provided
 - 11–13 Concrete Theatre celebrates its one-year anniversary; info at www.concrete-theatre.com
 - 12 Valentine’s Dance/Scholarship Fundraiser, hosted by Marblemount/Rockport Fire Dept., Marblemount Community Hall, 7 p.m. to 12 a.m.; see ad, p. 22
 - 14 Skagit County offices and departments closed
 - 14 Skagit County Fire District #16 (Day Creek) meeting, Day Creek Fire Hall, 7 p.m.
 - 15 “Honey, I Shrunk the Lots,” Lincoln Theatre, see article, p. 21
 - 17 American Combat Flag Presentation Ceremony, Concrete Elementary School gym, 1 p.m., reception following
 - 17 Public meeting to discuss Skagit County Parks comprehensive plan, Clear Lake Lodge (former IOOF Hall), Clear Lake, 6:30 p.m.
 - 18 George Strait tribute artist Bill White at Hi. Lo. Country Bar & Grill, Concrete Town Center, 7 to 10 p.m.; call 360.853.8000 for reservations
 - 19 Writers’ Forum, with Concrete writer Jack de Yonge, Anacortes Public Library, 10 a.m.; see article, p. 8; info at bunnyheiner@gmail.com or 360.293.4120
 - 19 Cathaleen Stewart Fundraiser Dinner and Silent Auction, Marblemount Community Hall, 5 to 7:30 p.m.; see article, p. 22; info at 360.873.4507 or americanalpsranch@gmail.com
 - 25 Fifth Ave. Theater presents “Rosie the Riveter,” Concrete Elementary School gym, 1 p.m.
 - 26 Friends of the Upper Skagit Library Open House, Concrete Senior Center, 1 to 3 p.m.; info at 360.853.7564

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



Happy Valentine’s Day to “Dan the Man,” who continues to **make my heart happy** after 22 years of marriage.

With love from your wife, Maureen



Lyman



Lyman Library tales

By Elaine Kohler

Welcome all to 2011, and I hope the new year brings better times to us all.

Thanks to all our patrons for signing the info sheets when checking out books or puzzles. This will help Town Hall to allot electricity and heat to the building on the days we are open.

A big thank-you also to all the volunteers who so faithfully give their time to the library. The next time you are picking up a book or puzzle, please give the person there a thank-you and let them know how much you appreciate their efforts.

Still trying to get a work day scheduled, but holidays, hall rentals, and nasty weather has gotten in the way. Hopefully next month will be our time.

Currently the library is rented on Feb. 5, so no library that day. Keep an eye on the post office bulletin board and any notices on the community hall (library) door for dates.

Seed catalogs are arriving; I will put some of them on the table. I usually get about 10 of them.

There are plenty of garden books available for flowers and vegetables. If anyone has books on backyard chicken care they would like to donate, please just leave them on the table by the window to the kitchen. More and more of the locals are keeping chickens or planning on it—including me! Just be sure and check the town regulations about them.

Till next month, keep having dreams of spring.

Concrete Herald

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Safety class offered for Washington boaters

OLYMPIA — The Washington State Parks and Rec. Commission urges boaters to take a boating safety course and get their card this winter.

Boater safety education is required by law in Washington state. In 2011, all boaters under age 35 are required to take a boating safety course and get their boater safety card. By 2014, the safety course and card will be required for everyone born after 1954.

Boaters can take the boater education course in a classroom, online, hands-on, or through a home-study booklet. There also is an equivalency exam for experienced boaters. After completing either, boaters need to complete an application and pay \$10 for a Boater Safety Card, which is good for a lifetime.

To apply for the boater card or for more information on safety classes, go to www.boatered.org or call 360.902.8555.

Volunteers sought for Traveling Tribute

The American Veterans Traveling Tribute is coming to Sedro-Woolley in August. American Veterans Traveling Tribute (AVTT) travels the U.S. to provide a forum for the members of the community to come together to honor and remember defenders of the U.S.

If you'd like to help with this event in any way, contact event coordinator Shelley Prentice at 360.647.8268 or shelleyhd43@msn.com.



Lyman got a little unwanted excitement Jan. 18 when a Concrete School District bus rear-ended a Skagit Transit bus at the intersection of SR 20 and Pipeline Road. The transit bus was westbound on SR 20 and had stopped to turn left onto Pipeline Road when the Concrete bus hit it and ended up in the ditch along the north side of SR 20. No children were in the Concrete bus at the time, but the transit bus had five passengers, one of whom was Concrete Postmaster Karla Chaparro. Those passengers were taken to local hospitals for head and neck pain. A Washington State Patrol investigation into the accident is ongoing. The stretch of SR 20 through Lyman is posted at 55 mph and is known by Lyman citizens as a problem spot, with accidents not uncommon.



An Army flight crew holds an American flag flown in honor of Sedro-Woolley Community Troop Support during a 2010 nighttime combat operation over Afghanistan. A certificate signed by the flight crew of the Chinook helicopter behind the soldiers will be presented to SWCTS representatives during a Ceremony of Formal Presentation on Feb. 17. See article, p. 19, for details. *Submitted photo.*



Day Creek



News bits from Day Creek

Skagit County Fire District #16 will meet next on Mon., Feb. 14, at 7 p.m. at the Day Creek Fire Hall.

Knitters, come one and come all! On Mon., Feb. 7, a knitting club will start. The group plans to read Debbie Macomber's book, *Shop on Blossom Street*, and learn to knit the baby blanket in the book.

The group will meet at Cascade Christian Church, located at Township and Wicker in Sedro-Woolley, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. For more information, call Hilary Bonnette at 360.540.3978.

Day Creek Chapel's Sweetheart Dinner is planned for Feb. 11 at 6:30 p.m. Catered by Johnny Carino's, the dinner is offered for \$10 per plate. Look for door prizes, games, and lots of laughter. Nursery service will be provided.

If you have information to be

passed along to the community, contact Kathy Henderson via e-mail at winningcircularanch@gmail.com.
—Kathy Henderson

Holocaust survivor Noemi Ban to speak at WWU Feb. 15

BELLINGHAM — Noemi Ban, a local resident and Holocaust survivor of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp, will share her story at 6 p.m. on Tue., Feb. 15, in Arntzen Hall 100 at Western Washington University.

Because space is limited, reservations for Ban's hour-long talk are mandatory, although the talk is free and open to the public. To make your reservation go to www.wce.wvu.edu/NWCHE/.

Ban will follow her talk with a question-and-answer period and then a book signing.



Mt. Baker let off a little steam Jan. 9, as seen in this photo taken near the intersection of Concrete-Sauk Valley Rd. and Cedargrove Ave. near Concrete. Although it is an active volcano, the potential threat from Mount Baker is not an explosive eruption like Mount St. Helens, according to Dave Tucker, a geology research associate at Western Washington University. Instead, acidic fluids and gases inside the mountain, resulting from the mixture of water and gases rising off the magma beneath the volcano, can dissolve volcanic rock, turning it into very slippery clay. The mixture of this clay and water can create volcanic mudslides called lahars, which could threaten communities in the Nooksack drainage, including Deming, Everson, Lynden, and Ferndale. *Photo by Frank Knight.*

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619352 Sale ends 2/28/11 February



Above: Brandon Moore and Danielle Letellier tied the knot at Birdsvie Brewing Co. Dec. 28. Ordained minister (yes, you read that correctly) "Uncle" Floyd Hintz officiated for the happy couple. This was Hintz's sixth marriage ceremony, which he performs "mostly for family and friends." A small crowd was on hand for the occasion, which lasted about 2 minutes and 44 seconds.



Left: Members of the Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Concrete gathered Dec. 5 to decorate the sanctuary and other areas of the refurbished mansion.



Above: Red Cabin Creek did it again Jan. 17, plugging its culvert under SR 20 and flowing over the roadway near Healy Road between Lyman and Hamilton. Traffic slowed to crawl through the water, which was 8 inches deep in places. WSDOT plans to replace the culvert with a bridge this spring or summer. *Photo by Lisa Swanberg.*

Left: The Space Needle put on quite the show to welcome in the new year at midnight Jan. 1.

Photo by David Rosen.

Right: Anne Bussiere poses with her first-prize-winning entry in the Recycled Art Contest, a sanctioned event of January's Skagit Eagle Festival. Bussiere created the picture by cutting up potato chip and snack bags, plus miscellaneous plastic packages, and stitching them to an old advertising banner.

January and December in pictures



Above: After heavy December rains, two 8-ft. sinkholes opened up in Silo Park, at the east end of the silos in Concrete.

Right: After Public Works staff had filled in the holes, more rains softened the soil and they redeveloped. Public Works plans next to fill the holes with chunks of concrete left over from the Main Street sidewalk project. Sinkhole potential and covenants with former cement companies prohibit digging, preventing Silo Park from ever becoming anything more than a vast field. No permanent structures may be built on it.



Above: The Unangax Dance Troupe, Swil Kanim, and Peter Ali brought Native American dancing and music to Concrete Theatre Jan. 15. The event was one of many held in the area to celebrate the return of the Skagit Eagle Festival. *Photo by Amber Lee.*



Below left: Saturated soils on Burpee Hill slid into Lorenzen Creek in Concrete, plugging the waterway's culvert under Main Street and overflowing onto the road. It found its way east and crossed the road at the post office, losing steam with every storm drain it passed.

Right: Smiles and hayrides were plentiful at Ovenell's Heritage Inn Jan. 15. The popular lodging establishment offered a taste of country living for Eagle Festival visitors each weekend of the festival. *Photo by Cindy Kleinhuizen.*



Left: Tim Carter and son Jonathan sing during the Carter Family Band concert at Concrete Theatre Jan. 8. The group brought its Gospel bluegrass sound to the free event, and included additional band members Susan, Hannah, Adam, and Kayla Carter.

Right: Dave Button of Pacific NW Float Trips pilots a raft full of Seattle school kids on the Skagit River near Marblemount Dec. 4. The trip was one of several that day for which Button had earmarked proceeds to benefit Sedro-Woolley Community Troop Support.



Right: Lacy Lahr and daughter Natalie, 4, smile for the camera at Concrete Theatre Dec. 4. Professional photographer Matt Brown was in town that day to take free family photos for the Christmas season.



Below: Gladys Silrus (in red) visits with a fellow chili-maker at the Chili Cook-off and Art Show at the American Legion in Concrete Jan. 22-23, organized by Karen and Jana Ganion. Look for results and more on this event in the March issue of *Concrete Herald*. *Photo by Amber Lee.*

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Above: Ashley Johnson, Chris Archuleta, and Greg Macintosh wave in customers from SR 20 during the Grasmere Fire Dept. Pancake Breakfast fundraiser Jan. 15. The annual event raises money for college scholarships, with all proceeds going toward the 2011 school year.

Right: Concrete Mayor Judd Wilson deftly flips pancakes under the watchful and hungry eyes of his son, Tanner. *Photos by Becky Luttrell.*





Hamilton



Council summary

The Hamilton Town Council held a regular meeting on Dec. 14. The following is a summary of the minutes from that meeting.

- The town’s 2011 budget was adopted unanimously.
- Councilmember McGrady questioned if Mark Stewart with FEMA had responded regarding the money submitted for reimbursement. Mr. Stewart had e-mailed the town that he had not completed his review. He also indicated that there was some doubt in collection of funds because of the ICC payments already received and limits on the amount allowed.
- Councilmember Bonner asked about the amounts still owed on the two SCOG loans. The original loan being paid at \$1,666.67 per month will end in 2012. The street-paving loan being paid at \$810.00 per month was just

incurred and has approximately eight years remaining.

- Water and Wastewater workers were still monitoring the well. They had performed weekly manganese tests this month. Tom Selin questioned who authorized the weekly testing and noted that they were testing the manganese during the usual spike period. It was suggested they were possibly doing this to delay the termination of their services. The council felt the town had conducted manganese testing for more than a year, and were satisfied with the results. Nancy Feagin from the Department of Health had approved the results of the testing and the removal of the sand filters. Tom Selin was scheduled to meet Ryan from Water and Wastewater at the well on Dec. 15.
- Mayor Bates reported the consumption rates were much better this month, but felt there may be some

small leaks still to be found. Possible sources would be in some of the older homes that were demolished and the lines capped off might be leaking. Tom Selin would follow the main lines and see if they are leaking.

- Fire Chief Bates reported a smooth evacuation when the siren sounded at the threat of flooding. Trailers were hauled to the Baptist church lot on the north side of Highway 20. The Red Cross was called by some residents and the town declined giving motel rooms to those residents. Mayor Bates explained to the Red Cross that the residents requesting motel rooms lived in trailers and were not supposed to be in them from November to March. Fire Chief Nick Bates told the Red Cross that everyone would be back on their property by Wed., Dec. 15. Mayor Bates reported that there was no major flooding and no damage.

Birdsview buzz

By Kris Voigt

Happy Valentine’s Day!
Hope everyone is over the holidays and ready to move on toward spring! It’s just around the corner.

Starting out with the birthdays this month:

3	Pam Giecek (my good friend)
4	Deanna Ray
6	Former east county resident Cathy Rose
14	Jason Miller (the best newspaper guy in the world)
18	Uncle Floyd Hintz
21	Great DJ Mike in the Morning
23	Big Rudy Giecek
26	Natalie Lahr Super guy Steve Monrad
27	Christina Jepperson
28	Dan Royal Randi Devries

To Betty and Grady Taylor, a happy 50th anniversary on Feb. 24.

News from around the brewery
We started our first-ever BBC mug club. All the memberships quickly got filled up. We have a beautiful custom mug rack (thanks to master woodworker Bob Lahr). If you weren’t able to get in on the mug club, you can still purchase your own mug for use at home.

We continue to have open jam the second Friday of every month, and every Wednesday we have open mic.

But the really BIG NEWS this month is that Brewmaster Bill has to go in Feb. 22 for a hip replacement. So we will be closed that day, and he will be out of action for a little while. But we have a back-up helper (thanks, Scott), who will fill in while Bill is recovering, so there should be no shortage of beer! Stop by and wish him luck as he is a little apprehensive—okay, a LOT apprehensive.

Thanks for continuing to support local businesses. Did you know that 68 percent of the money spent in a local business goes right back into the local community? Have a great month, everyone. Remember to stop by and give me news, gossip, etc.

**Please recycle
this newspaper!**

Business Spotlight: Clear Lake Heavy Equipment Repair

By Cora Thomas

Karen and Jeff Jansma opened their second business, Clear Lake Heavy Equipment Repair, in August 2007 on State Route 9 in Clear Lake.

The idea grew from their construction business, Jansma Construction, which they’ve operated since 2002. They needed a shop to keep their vehicles, so they decided to repair other people’s heavy equipment also. Although the repair business is their second business venture, Jansma Construction is not planning to go anywhere.

At a glance:
**Clear Lake
Heavy Equipment
Repair**

Where: 12785 SR 9, Clear Lake
Phone: 360.856.9004
Hours: Mon. – Fri., 7 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
E-mail: jansmakaren@yahoo.com



“This is our home,” Karen says. Jeff grew up in Clear Lake and Karen was raised in Anacortes.

Clear Lake Heavy Equipment Repair is a small business, employing four people. Its service area includes Skagit, Whatcom, Snohomish, and Island counties. Their services include light automotive to heavy equipment and industrial repair, fleet maintenance, oil changes, full services, brakes, WSDOT inspections, insurance inspections, on-road service (they’ll come

out and help if you break down), and excavator repair.

“Excavators are expensive to bring in, so we can go to them,” Karen explains.

Business is up and down right now. “It’s hit and miss,” Karen says. “One week it’s slammed and the next it’s slow.” Their business philosophy is noteworthy and almost rare these days: Honesty. Jansma relayed a recent customer’s sentiments, who called the business and said, “They appreciated our work and said it’s hard to

Karen Jansma (right) and her daughter, Stacy, pose with some heavy equipment on the Clear Lake Heavy Equipment Repair property. Not pictured: Jeff Jansma, who fled before the *Concrete Herald* photographer arrived.

find somebody as honest and trustworthy. If anything went wrong, they knew it would be taken care of,” Karen says.

If you work with heavy equipment and ever need help on the go or in the shop, Clear Lake Heavy Equipment Repair will be there when you need them.

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Birdsview has a new fire hall! Located at 8391 Russell Road in Birdsview, the new fire hall took years to move from dream to reality. The brainchild of then-firefighter Gerhard Meyer in the 1990s, the fire hall got a kick start from Bill and Kris Voigt, and was guided into existence by former fire commissioners Larry Bates, Larry Don, and Jim Johnson, and current fire commissioners Mike Williams, Larry Haight, and Ray Ensley. The new facility boasts two bays for engines, a kitchen, and office and meeting spaces on the upper floor.

Right: Santa (a.k.a. firefighter Eric Warner) was a special guest during the Birdsview Fire Hall open house Dec. 11. Shown with Santa are Gracyn Smith (left), 4, and Callie Smith, 7, of Concrete.



American Combat Flag Presentation Ceremony to be held Feb. 17

Submitted by Sedro-Woolley Community Troop Support

Sedro-Woolley Community Troop Support will host an American Combat Flag Presentation Ceremony at 1 p.m. Feb. 17, in the Concrete Elementary School gym. The public is invited to attend.

The U.S. flag to be presented was flown in a nighttime combat operation over Afghanistan on Dec. 9, 2010, in honor of SWCTS. It will be presented in thanks and appreciation for the support and encouragement sent in the form of generous care packages to overseas troops during the 2010 Christmas season.

Arrangements for this flag to be flown during the operation were made by Sgt. Charlie Ross, a 1981 graduate of Concrete High School. The certificate that will accompany the flag is signed by Sgt. Ross and the rest of his Chinook aircraft unit. The certificate states: “This flag was flown during a Deliberate Operation in Tera Zayi District, Khowst Province in support

of TF 310 on Dec. 9, 2010, in a CH-47D Chinook aircraft, #237 ‘War Machine.’ The flag flew in the face of the enemy bearing witness to the unshakeable resolve to eliminate terrorist forces threatening the freedom of the United States and the world.”

In addition to the flag presentation, SWCTS will acknowledge the Concrete Leadership Club for its commendable act of creating a special thank-you banner that was displayed to the Concrete community as club members marched with it in the 2010 Veteran’s Day Parade in Concrete. The banner was then mailed to Sgt. Ross and his flight unit in Afghanistan.

The banner, along with the Christmas care packages that were made possible through the generosity of our local communities, compelled Sgt. Ross and his unit to respond by presenting the Combat Flag back to us.



Members of the Concrete Leadership Club marched with a banner dedicated to U.S. military members during the Veterans Day parade in Concrete Nov. 10, 2010. The club will be acknowledged during an American Combat Flag Presentation Ceremony Feb. 17.

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Rockport



Into the forest deep

Rockport State Park hosted craft projects for kids and wooded tours during the Skagit Eagle Festival.



Several kids tried their hand at making plushy eagles at the ranger station in Rockport State Park on Jan. 8. Left to right: Avery Wagner, 8, of Sedro-Woolley; Zoe Slabodnik, 9, of Sedro-Woolley, Helena Brase, 9, of Rockport; and Chloe Brase, 6, of Rockport. Overseeing the crafty creators are Ranger Debbie Wyman (left) and Interpretive Specialist Tina Dinzi-Peterson.

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Public meetings to discuss Skagit County Parks and Recreation comp plan

SKAGIT COUNTY — Skagit County Parks and Recreation has announced public meetings to discuss its six-year comprehensive plan.

Two public meetings already have been held in Anacortes and Mount Vernon. Two more meetings are scheduled:

- Feb. 3 at 6:30 p.m.: Howard Miller Steelhead Park Community Center, 52804 Rockport Park Rd., Rockport
- Feb. 17 at 6:30 p.m.: The Clear Lake Lodge (former IOOF Hall), 12655 Highway 9, Clear Lake

The focus of the comprehensive plan update is to plan and provide for needed Skagit County park facilities. The public is encouraged to attend and provide input.

For more information, contact Brian Adams at briana@co.skagit.wa.us or 360.336.9415.

In memoriam

Longtime Rockport resident Warnie L. Johnson, 70, passed away Jan. 15 at St. Joseph Hospital in Bellingham. He will be missed.



Above left: Regional Resource Stewart Steven Starlund stands next to a massive root ball during a Deep Forest Tour at Rockport State Park Jan. 8. He discussed the relative shallow layer of humus from which the tree had been ripped during a recent windstorm and explained the history of the tree based on an examination of its roots and the soil in which it had lived. "A whole story plays out in the root ball," he said, "from the exposed soil strata to fire, to flood and earthquakes, to this recent wind event."



Above right: Starlund points to a patch of white fruiting structures from laminated root rot, a likely contributing factor for a weakened tree that succumbed to the November windstorm.



Flood waters from the Skagit River crept into Howard Miller Steelhead Park Jan. 17. Photo by Chuck Bussiere.



Home & Garden



"Honey, I Shrunk the Lots" coming to Lincoln Theatre

"Honey I Shrunk the Lots," an engaging presentation by noted Seattle architect Bill Kreager, FAIA, will be shown at the Lincoln Theatre in downtown Mount Vernon on Tues., Feb. 15, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The presentation demonstrates how innovative site planning and high-quality, small-lot development can contribute to highly livable and sustainable communities.

Kreager first performed "Honey, I Shrunk the Lots" for a Lincoln Theatre audience in 2005. The upcoming presentation has been updated and will include examples from Skagit communities, including Concrete and Sedro-Woolley.

A local panel will follow Kreager's presentation, identifying opportunities and obstacles for "shrinking the lots" in Skagit communities. The panel is composed of:

- Brian Gentry, Landed Gentry Dev.
- John Doyle, Town of La Conner
- Ellen Gray, Washington Sustainable Food & Farming Network

A reception will follow, from approximately 8–8:30 p.m., allowing audience members to ask questions of the presenters, talk with each other, and share their thoughts with Envision Skagit 2060 citizen committee members and staff.

This event is free and open to the public. No ticket is required; seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Cold-weather projects for the home

(ARA) — Although spring and summer are typically the seasons to focus on home improvement projects, there's no reason to put off projects or planning throughout colder months.

Audit your energy

When the seasons change, one of the best things a homeowner can do is an energy audit. Though it's nice to keep the windows open all summer, drafty doors and windows can amount to hundreds of dollars wasted on home-heating costs during winter. An energy audit will help you find and fix problem areas, letting you save money for other projects.

During an energy audit, a contractor may use blower-door tests to measure the air tightness of your home, infrared scanners to pinpoint heat leaks, or even a simple walk-through to find places to improve your home's efficiency. Once problem spots have been identified, installing plastic sheeting, caulking gaps, and further insulating areas will translate to big savings on home heating costs.

Think small

While auditing the heat efficiency of each room of your house, keep an eye out for the quick fixes and small projects often put aside during the summer months. Though it is great to get outside and build a deck or retaining wall, big projects often overshadow simple tasks such as fixing outlets and sealing cracks. Use winter as time to knock the little things off the list.

For those who can't wait to get started, there are plenty of projects that can completely change your home without removing walls or installing an addition.

Color your world

Introducing new color to a space will help fine-tune an interior's design or even completely reinvent a room. Winter is the perfect time to modernize your home's feel with new paint, window treatments, lighting, or flooring.

Plan ahead

Because winter may limit a homeowner's ability to complete some projects, it's a great time to plan for spring and summer home improvement projects. Look for online tools that allow you to easily pull together your dream home.

After all your projects are completed, use the colder months to set a schedule for spring cleaning and home improvement.

Skagit Conservation District Native Plant Sale begins March 25

Got plants? The Skagit Conservation District will hold its 2011 Native Plant Sale March 25–26, and April 9, at the WACD Lynn Brown Plant Materials Center, 16564 Bradley Rd., in Bow.

The sale is offered on a first-come, first-served basis, with all proceeds used to support the District's education programs. For more information on this year's sale, see the box below.

Skagit Conservation District 2011 Native Plant Sale

OPEN SALE:

When: Fri., March 25, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sat., March 26, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Sat., April 9, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: Lynn Brown Plant Materials Ctr.
16564 Bradley Rd., Bow

PRE-ORDERS (minimum \$100):

Deadline: Mon., Feb. 28
Pick-up: Thur., March 24, 1 to 5 p.m.
Where: Lynn Brown Plant Materials Ctr.
16564 Bradley Rd., Bow

Pre-order forms available at www.skagitcd.org or at the office at 2021 E. College Way, Ste. 203, Mount Vernon.

For more information, call 360.428.4313, e-mail skagitcd@skagitcd.org, or go to www.skagitcd.org.

Community garden seeks donations, opens rental bed reservations

By Jason Miller

With its first round of rental beds and water infrastructure funded, the Angele Cupples Community Garden in Concrete has turned its fundraising efforts toward construction of a shed, a memory garden, and an entry sign for the garden.

Individuals and businesses are encouraged to donate toward the garden's success. All donors' names will be included on the entry sign.

Rental bed reservations are open

Twenty more raised beds will be installed in February and March, and will occupy the northwest quarter of the garden. Water lines and yard hydrants will be installed in March.

Three bed sizes will be offered, based on responses to a survey developed and administered last year. All beds will be approximately 1 foot deep.

Garden administrators are now accepting reservations for all three raised-bed sizes:

- 4x8 \$25 per year
- 4x10 \$35 per year
- 4x12 \$45 per year

All renters will be asked to sign an agreement, as well as provide their own gardening tools. All questions and reservation requests should be directed to Jason Miller at 360.853.8213 or goodwords@frontier.com; or Marla Reed at marla.mr@frontier.com or 360.391.2589.

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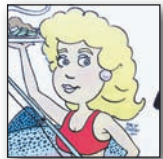
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Marblemount



Fundraiser for Cathaleen

A fundraising dinner and silent auction is planned for Cathaleen Stewart, the Marblemount woman who is battling Large B Cell Lymphoma.

The event is scheduled for Sat., Feb. 19, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Marblemount Community Hall, 60055 SR 20, in Marblemount.

The Mexican Fiesta Dinner is \$5 per plate for a single diner, or \$15 for a family. Silent auction items can be accepted before or on the day of the event.

Proceeds from the event will be used to help cover the expenses Stewart has incurred during her cancer treatments. See the box at right for more event details.



Cathaleen Stewart FUNDRAISER

What: Dinner and silent auction; proceeds go toward funding Cathaleen Stewart's expenses while fighting cancer.

When: Sat., Feb. 19., 5 - 7 p.m.

Where: Marblemount Community Hall

Menu: Mexican Fiesta

Price: \$5 single; \$15 family

For more information, contact Brenda Palmer at americanalpsranch@gmail.com or 360.873.4507.

Scenes from Skagit Eagle Festival events in Marblemount

Photos by Amber Lee

Right: Hungry diners tuck into a pancake breakfast at the Marblemount Community Hall Jan. 22. The event included a craft show.



Above, left, and below left: Budding flute-makers learn how to build their own wood flute during a flute-making class taught by Native American flute-maker William Moses at Marblemount Community Hall Jan. 22.



Above: Eagle-watchers Darcy Evans and Keven Shepherd of Lake Stevens rode to the Skagit River on a golf cart provided by Clark's Skagit River Resort on Jan. 15. *Photo by Judi Brooks.*



Newhalem



Skagit Valley College Center for Nonprofit Excellence continues workshop series

The Skagit Valley College Center for Nonprofit Excellence is continuing its workshop series, sessions designed to assist those interested in starting or improving the operation of a nonprofit business or social service agency.

For Winter Quarter, the center will offer "Strategic Planning" on Wed., Feb. 23, from 6 to 9 p.m. "Effective Fundraising" will be taught on Wed., March 9, from 6 to 9 p.m. Both workshops will take place in Nelson Hall, room 121, which is located on SVC's Mount Vernon Campus.

These two workshops are part of a six-part series. A certificate in Nonprofit Management is awarded upon completion of the workshop series.

The cost to attend is \$49 per workshop. To register for either workshop and for more information, call 360.416.7638.

Skagit General Store winter hours

The Skagit General Store in Newhalem is open weekdays only during the winter, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 206.386.4489.

Pass closed for season

WENATCHEE — The North Cascades Highway (SR 20) is officially closed for the season after a December storm dumped two feet of new snow and significantly increased avalanche danger.

The highway is closed between milepost 134, seven miles east of Diablo Dam on the west side of Rainy Pass, and milepost 171 on the east side of Washington Pass.

For more information, go to www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/passes/northcascades.

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Who: Skagit and Whatcom County 9th-11th grade students (no experience necessary)

What: Monthly spring and fall day trips, 12-day summer canoeing and backpacking trips and 3-day Youth Leadership Conference

Where: Local parks and forests around Skagit County and North Cascades Environmental Learning Center Ross Lake in North Cascades National Park or Baker Lake in Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

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For more information or an application contact:
Amy Brown, North Cascades Wild Program Coordinator
360-854-2582, abrown@ncascades.org

Application available online at:
http://www.ncascades.org/programs/youth/north_cascades_wild/





Seniors



Coffee Break

Our drive-in theaters

By Patrick Kennedy

I remember going to the drive-in theater in my younger years. They started to take hold of America’s heart in the ’40s, slowed down during the war, but started to boom again in the ’50s during my high school years. By 1958 there were more than 4,000 drive-in stations in the U.S., and thousands more worldwide.

Many theaters would open the gates three hours before show-time. This allowed customers to bring the kids early. It also allowed us teens to get there early and party longer; sometimes we’d stash our buddies in the trunk for free admission.

Many theaters began to serve dinner too, such as fried chicken, sandwiches, hamburgers, pizza, and lots of sodas and colas. A few theater owners even let customers order from their cars; a carhop delivered the food.

As the size and number of drive-ins increased, many added mini-ature trains, pony rides, boat

rides, talent shows, and more for kids. During the ’60s and ’70s, the theaters started to grow smaller, more dedicated to teen movies.

They began to fade away too. In the ’80s and ’90s, drive-ins started to be replaced by cable TV and VCRs—not nearly as much fun as sneaking a bottle of beer or wine in to watch a movie and make out.

The number of drive-in theaters operating today is about a tenth of that of their peak in 1958. But there is hope: In the ’90s the downward trend leveled off and began to turn around. New drive-in theaters were built; some former drive-in theaters re-opened.

The upswing of drive-in theaters continues. Senior citizens’ nostalgia for drive-in theaters is driving a resurgence in their venues across the U.S. Drive-in theaters are operating in nearly every U.S. state and Puerto Rico. In many communities, outdoor theaters are becoming popular. By projecting movies onto walls, screens, and even bed sheets, people can gather on warm summer evenings and enjoy movies.

Sure, it’s not the same thing as a bottle of wine, your babe, and a back seat for necking, but what the heck. It doesn’t hurt to pretend.

Patrick M. Kennedy is the author of How to Have Fun with Retirement, a sneak peek of which is available online at www.funwithretirement.com.

How to Have Fun with Retirement

Order your copy of Patrick M. Kennedy's Book www.funwithretirement.com

Way Back When

80 years ago

Feb. 5, 1931: Luke Hendrickson, a resident of the upper Skagit valley for the past 30 years, is believed to have drowned in the Skagit River near Hamilton Tuesday. The Hamilton resident was last seen around noon on Tuesday, fishing from a boat near the old ferry landing. Late in the afternoon, Hendrickson’s overturned boat was found some distance below the landing by R. A. Shannon and D. Shannon of Hamilton. It is believed that the boat accidentally overturned, and that Hendrickson, unable to swim in the swift current, lost his life while trying to reach shore.

Feb. 26, 1931: The town of Hamilton had two destructive fires within 12 hours last week, with the result that the brick bank building is now the only business structure left on the north side of the main street.

Early Saturday afternoon, the old Hamilton Hotel building, occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Rasmussen, caught fire and burned to the ground. Other nearby buildings were threatened, but through hard fighting the fire was confined to the hotel building.

The second fire broke out about 3 a.m. Sunday, starting in the Luke Wall pool room. It spread to the Ellenberger garage and the Swettenam grocery; all three of the buildings were wiped out.

Assistance was called from Sedro-Woolley, Lyman, and Mount Vernon; their firefighters helped to keep the fire from spreading to the row of business houses on the south side of the street. Several of those buildings caught fire and all the windows were broken by the heat, but the row was saved.

70 years ago

Feb. 15, 1941: P. O. Black, past master of the Red Cabin Grange of Lyman, told Skagit County grangers of this district’s needs for mine-to-market roads last Wednesday evening at the February gavel meeting.

Black pointed out that Skagit County was rich in mineral resources, but that development of this untold mineral wealth would only come when mining properties were made accessible.

Black listed a vast number of metals that could be found in this county, including gold, silver, lead, zinc, tungsten, tin, iron, nickel, titanium, and graphite.

60 years ago

Feb. 1, 1951: Wheels started turning in Olympia Tuesday for the acquisition of a park site at the south end of the Dalles bridge. The proposed site is a sparsely timbered peninsula of rock that juts into the river.

A committee composed of Charles M. Dwelley, Lowell Peterson, Howard Boulton, and Brown Wiseman contacted Assistant Land Commissioner Frank Yates. A bill will be introduced in the legislature to give the land commission

See **Way back**, p. 25

Concrete Senior Center February 2011

Activities

Lunch served
Mon. – Fri., 12:30 p.m.

Mondays

9 a.m. Gray Ladies
Hoop Quilting
Skip Bo

1 p.m.

Tuesdays

10 a.m. Dominoes
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
1 p.m. Skip Bo

Fridays

10 a.m. – Noon Open studio water-
color painting
11:30 a.m. Jigsaw puzzle
Noon Mexican Train
Dominoes

Special Events

2/1 -- Foot care by appt.
2/9 11 a.m. Advisory Board mtg.
2/9 1 p.m. Bingo
2/18 12:30 p.m. Salmon BBQ
2/22 12:45 p.m. Leap of Faith
2/23 1 p.m. Bingo
2/25 12:30 p.m. Birthday Lunch

Holiday Closures

2/14 Furlough Day:
All Skagit County offices closed
2/21 Presidents’ Day holiday

Way back, cont. from p. 24

permission to sell only the area desired.

Concrete Lions Club will bid on the property and then turn the deed over to the city or county for public ownership of the park land. The club also plans to improve the property by building trails and installing benches or picnic facilities.

The area desired is approximately five acres.

50 years ago

Feb. 2, 1961: Despite constant lookout along the Skagit River by searchers and fishermen, no trace has been found of missing 8-year-old Mary Martin, who apparently went into the icy waters last week at the Dalles. Discolored water in the river has hampered the search, making it impossible to see beneath the surface.

40 years ago

Feb. 18, 1971: A military floating bridge for the U.S. Army will undergo its first field tests near Lyman in April. The “ribbon bridge,” so called because it is a continuous floating strip, is being built in Renton by Pacific Car & Foundry Company for approximately \$1 million. It is made up of 22-foot segments, which are connected to form a bridge capable of carrying 60-ton loads.

Perks Espresso & Deli

44886 SR 20 Concrete 360.853.9006



30 years ago: This pair of photos appeared in the Jan. 29, 1981, issue of *Concrete Herald*. *Left photo:* Viewing the 10-mile section of the Skagit River that would become a reservoir if Seattle proceeded with plans for a Copper Creek Dam, Seattle Mayor Charles Royer (second from right in the raft handled by Dave Button, standing) remained seemingly unimpressed. As an eagle soared overhead, the mayor quipped, “Look at that crow with white paint on his head.” *Right photo:* Congressman Al Swift took over the oars along a slow-moving section of the river in an attempt to warm up after being drenched by waves when the raft careened down rapids. Behind him are *Concrete Herald* publisher Robert Fader and river guide Shane Turnbull. *Archive photo.*

Senior driver refresher sessions announced

SKAGIT COUNTY — The next scheduled sessions of “Getting There Safely,” a senior driver refresher course, will occur through April 2011 on the following dates:

- Thurs., Feb. 10, and Fri., Feb. 11
 - Thurs., March 10, and Fri., March 11
 - Thurs., April 7, and Fri., April 8
- The classes will be held at the Mount Vernon Senior Center, 1401 Cleveland Avenue, Mount Vernon. The eight-hour class, divided

into two four-hour sessions, is specifically designed for the senior driver. The sessions will run from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. both days. People 55 years of age and older who complete the program will qualify for a modest reduction in their automobile insurance.

There is a \$10.00 fee per person for this class.

For more information or to enroll, contact Kathryn Bowen at 360.336.9333, ext. 13140#, or through the Skagit County Public Works Department at 360.336.9400, ext. 3140. All participants must pre-register.

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Sunday School lesson

To believe or not to believe?

By Bill Mueller

When the first moon rocket took off from Cape Canaveral, two U.S. scientists stood watching it. One was a Christian, the other an atheist. The believer said, “Isn’t it wonderful that our rocket is going to hit the moon by chance?”

The atheist objected, “What do you mean, chance? We put millions of man-hours of design into that rocket.”

“Oh, you don’t think chance is a good explanation for the rocket?” asked the believer. “Then why do you think it’s a good explanation for the universe? There’s much more design in a universe than in a rocket. We can design a rocket, but we couldn’t design a whole universe. I wonder who can?”

Later that day the two were strolling down a street and passed an antique store. The atheist admired a picture in the window and asked, “I wonder who painted that picture?” “No one,” joked the believer. “It just happened by chance.”

This story illustrates a debate that’s as old as history: To believe or not to believe? That is the question.

From my vantage point, it seems that God has sought to make Himself known



in many ways, yet He has done so while seeking to preserve our freedom to choose. He doesn’t want robots who are predetermined to respond at the flick of a switch, but children who respond to Him in love.

For example, in the life of Jesus we see many such encounters. One of my favorites is found in Luke 24. At this point in the Gospel, Jesus has risen from the dead and has appeared several times to His disciples. In verses 37–43, we find an interesting interaction between Jesus and His men. He appears and they are frightened, but He says, “Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see, a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”

Jesus wants to leave no doubt in their minds that he is truly there and not some ghostlike, mass hallucination. Then something happens that to me is the icing on the cake, the ultimate argument for the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. Luke records it this way: “And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, He asked them, ‘Do you have anything to eat?’”

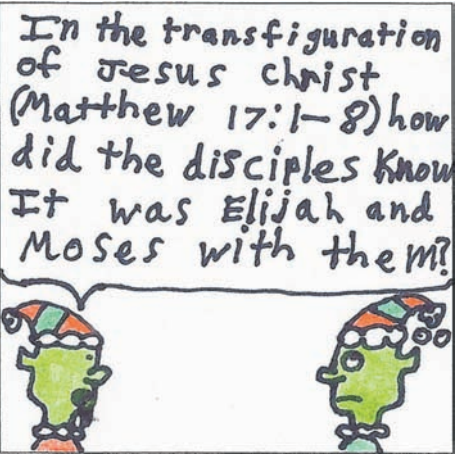
What? Eating, not pontificating? Does going through the experience of being resurrected create a big appetite? What kind of question is this? Stop and think about it: do ghosts eat? Jesus is driving home His point, that He is truly resurrected. Luke goes on: “They gave Him a piece of broiled fish and He took it and ate it in their presence.” The author here makes the point that it was “in their presence.” This simple act validates the astonishing reality that Jesus is alive; He has walked out of the grasp of death. By doing this, He authenticates everything He has said and done.

So God preserves our freedom to choose. Do we believe or not? What about the men who were there when Jesus first returned after his resurrection; what happened to them? All except one died a violent death because of their faith. They turned the world upside down with the message that Jesus is alive. They were executed because of their message.

What impact does this message have on your life? God in His great love for us gives you the freedom to choose.

Pastor Bill Mueller has been involved in ministry for the past 30 years, serving several churches on the West Coast as a senior and teaching pastor.

An Elf’s Life



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By Jonathan Carter

“Screwtape Letters” coming to Seattle

“The Screwtape Letters,” a theatrical adaptation of the C.S. Lewis novel about spiritual warfare from a demon’s point of view, will be presented at the Moore Theatre, 1932 Second Ave. in Seattle, in a limited engagement on Sat., Feb. 26, at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.

In this morally inverted universe set in an office in hell, God is called the “Enemy” and the devil is referred to as “Our Father below.”

The play follows His Abysmal Sublimity Screwtape, Satan’s top psychiatrist, and his creature-demon secretary Toadpipe, as they train an apprentice demon, Wormwood, on the fine art of seducing an unsuspecting human “patient” down the “soft, gentle path to hell.”

Tickets range from \$29 to \$89. To purchase tickets or for more information, call 877.784.4849) or go to www.ScrewtapeonStage.com. For groups of 10 or more, call 866.476.8707.

Concrete Herald

Sheriff’s blotter

January 1

A Sedro-Woolley caller had lost her credit card a few days prior, and had fraudulent charges since in Mount Vernon and Anacortes. Deputy investigated and advised her how to proceed with her bank.

January 2

There was a one-car rollover accident in Concrete. Sheriff’s Office and Washington State Patrol investigated.

January 4

A Sedro-Woolley caller reported her landlord was pounding on her door trying to evict her. Deputy stood by and advised both sides of landlord and tenant laws.

A Clear Lake caller reported a male subject trying to get into a car with a coat hanger. Deputy determined it was the owner who had locked his keys inside.

January 5

A Clear Lake caller reported that his 28-year-old grandson was drunk and out of control. Grandson had been arrested for DUI earlier, and left the residence prior to deputy arrival.

A Marblemount caller said that rabbits were appearing on his property and were rapidly growing in number.

A Sedro-Woolley caller reported hearing a woman calling for help outside. Deputy contacted a woman who was looking for her dog and calling its name.

January 7

A Clear Lake caller reported a customer having a mental breakdown. Deputy and aid crew provided assistance.

A Concrete caller reported that someone had filled his Dumpster. Deputy determined that it was his son.

January 8

A Marblemount caller reported subjects looking in his mailbox. Subjects were gone when a deputy arrived.

A report of an unconscious teenager in Concrete led to an investigation that resulted in criminal charges for a minor in possession of alcohol, and furnishing alcohol to minors.

January 9

A Sedro-Woolley caller reported that someone had spray painted his dog. The dog was not injured.

A Marblemount caller reported that someone had dumped a stripped-out vehicle on his property. The vehicle had been stripped to the frame; no identification was possible.

A Sedro-Woolley caller reported fraudulent use of her credit card online.

January 11

A Sedro-Woolley caller reported that people in the area had been spreading lies about him stealing a tractor.

A Day Creek caller reported that her cat had been shot. No suspects.

January 12

A Concrete caller provided information on drug activity in the area.

January 13

A Rockport caller reported a physical dispute. The suspect left prior to a deputy’s arrival.

January 14

A Sedro-Woolley newspaper carrier reported that numerous mailboxes appeared to have been gone through.

An administrator at Concrete Elementary School called to report students found with marijuana. An investigation is ongoing.

January 18

A Marblemount caller reported a tenant had not been seen for several days. Lights and TV were on, but tenant would not answer door. A deputy investigated and found the tenant deceased inside.

January 20

A Concrete caller reported that his dog had been shot. Animal control officer currently is investigating.

Level 2 Sex Offender NOTIFICATION

The Skagit County Sheriff has released the following information pursuant to RCW 4.24.550 and the Washington State Supreme Court decision in State v. Ward, which authorizes law enforcement agencies to inform the public of a sex or kidnap offender’s presence when, in the discretion of the agency, the release of information will enhance public safety and protection.

Talley, Chad Allen

Age: 34
Race: W
Sex: M
Height: 6’ 0”
Weight: 360
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Blue
Address: 75xx



Rainbow Ct., Concrete

Talley was convicted in 2002 of two counts of first degree rape of a child in Skagit County. His victims were young females ages 4–5 who were known to him.

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

Source: Skagit County Sheriff

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Wednesday: Adult Bible study, 6 p.m.
Thursday: Women’s Bible study, 6:30 p.m.
Bruce Martin, pastor

Catholic

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45603 Limestone St., Concrete
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Office: 360.855.0077
Weekday hours: 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
Father Martin Bourke, pastor

Lutheran

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
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360.853.8814
Sunday worship: 10 a.m.
Marcus Stroud, pastor

Presbyterian

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Church 360.853.8585; office 360.595.0446
www.mtbakerpresbyterian.synodnw.org
Tom Ross, pastor

Nondenominational

Community Bible Church
45672 Limestone, Concrete; 360.853.8511
E-mail: cbcofconcrete@earthlink.net
Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m.
Office: 360.855.0077
Weekday hours: 9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
Father Martin Bourke, pastor

Rockport Christ the King Community Church
11982 Martin Rd., Rockport, WA 98283
Pre-service fellowship: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday service: 10 a.m.
Sunday eve. Bible study: 5 p.m.
Church office contact: 360.853.8746

Worth repeating

A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord,
A wonderful Savior to me;
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock,
Where rivers of pleasure I see.
A wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord,
He taketh my burden away,
He holdeth me up and I shall not be moved,
He giveth me strength as my day.
With numberless blessings each moment
He crowns,
And filled with His fullness divine,
I sing in my rapture, oh, glory to God!
For such a Redeemer as mine.
When clothed with His brightness transported I rise
To meet Him in clouds of the sky,
His perfect salvation, His wonderful love,
I’ll shout with the millions on high.
He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock,
That shadows a dry, thirsty land;
He hideth my life in the depths of His love,
And covers me there with His hand,
And covers me there with His hand.

— Frances J. Crosby



Health

Some thoughts on health care

By Nicola Pearson

I'm from England originally, one of those countries that has what many in the U.S. call "socialized medicine." In England, we never call it socialized medicine; we call it the National Health Service, or NHS. And, since the idea of having anything like the NHS in this country seems to terrify certain Americans, I thought I'd take a moment to describe its better features.

Let me start by admitting that it's not perfect. Although having lived in England, France, and, for the last 27 years, the U.S., I have to say I'm not familiar with any system that is perfect. The waiting rooms in doctors' offices in England are usually full, everyone gets triaged in an emergency room, and some people have to wait for a hospital bed if their condition is not immediately life-threatening.

But the one thing you don't ever have to do in England is worry about how you're going to pay the bill—or worse, worry about whether you can afford to go to the doctor in the first place. The NHS covers all doctor visits, all hospital stays, every procedure, test, follow-up, in-patient, and out-patient, and you can even get your eyes tested and a pair of spectacles under the NHS. The spectacles aren't the prettiest pair, but I suspect if you can't see very well and you don't have any money, NHS specs are a great solution.

Dental coverage also is provided for

anyone under 18. All this for the low price of ... wait for it, wait for it ... 3 percent of one's annual income. Three percent. How can that be terrifying?

U.S. approach a head-scratcher

In this country, my current health insurance premium is about 10 percent of our income. We have a deductible that's greater than our annual premium and, once that's met, the health insurance company will pay just 50 percent of any medical bill. We pay the rest. I scratch my head, looking at the bill, wondering why bother? I wonder why my health insurance company can't see that we've never made a claim since joining them? Why don't we get a "good health" discount? Why don't they notice that we're self-employed and, consequently, never have time to get sick?

The fact is, they do notice; they just don't prefer people like us, people who require Individual and Family policies. They want us to join a group. But, hang on a minute, isn't a group a collective of people? Kind of like a social set? Wouldn't that mean that the health insurance companies are proponents of—dare I say it—"socialized medicine"?

Of course they are. Why? Because there's more in it for them.

Can you trust the system?

Which brings me to my final question: Why does it cost so much to get so little in the U.S. when it only costs the English 3 percent to get everything? Well, no one in England is trying to make money off people's health. The NHS, by its very name, is in the "service" of people's health, whereas the word "insurance" suggests big business. Right? Trusting that

a health insurance company is in business for your health is like trusting that casinos want to see you walk out their doors with a big wad of cash in your pocket.

It's not and they don't. Health insurance companies are in business to make money, and, given the rising costs of health care and the growing number of uninsured in the U.S., that means there is only one direction for premiums to go: up. Health care costs are rising in England too, but that doesn't scare anyone. Because, the fact of the matter is, not having to see the bill when you go to the doctor and not having to worry about losing your home because of illness is really quite liberating.

A dozen years ago, my son broke his arm while we were in England visiting relatives. He went through the emergency room (speedily, because he was 8), had X-rays, spent the night in the hospital, and was given a general anesthetic so that a surgeon could manipulate his bones back into place (closed reduction). The total bill was \$1,200 and our insurance company in the U.S. resisted paying it. When I asked why, they told me that they wanted to know how much of that was the ER fee, because, according to my policy, that was my responsibility. So I called the hospital in England and inquired. "Oh, no," said the gentleman politely on the other end of the line. "We don't charge for the emergency room."

What a concept.

Nicola Pearson is an award-winning playwright from Sauk City. This is the first in a three-part commentary.

The new face of vitamin D

By Karl Mincin

With a recent report from the Institute of Medicine, the new face of vitamin D is not looking so sunny. The recent explosion in research on vitamin D, ever since the findings of the Human Genome Project in 2007, has sparked a virtual debate on dosages of vitamin D. Until we know more, however, here's what I'm (still) recommending.

Food

Know the limited sources and eat for them. Try my Personal D Calculator to help determine your intake and point you toward the best food sources.

Sun

Don't be afraid of it, but do be sun savvy. A minimum of 30 minutes per day of outdoor daylight, even under gray Northwest skies, is recommended.

Supplemental dosage

My previous recommendations of 3–4 in summer and 4–5 in winter still stand for most people. I often go outside these levels for some individuals. Take vitamin D with a high-fat meal since this fat-soluble vitamin is better absorbed in the presence of other dietary fat.

Supplemental form

The most common form is D-3 in a soft gel. A liquid form is the same thing without the gel cap. If you have or suspect malabsorption problems, or stubbornly low blood levels not responding to typical supplementation therapy, use a professional specialty form such as a powdered isotonic or a micronized spray for enhanced absorption. Consider supplementing also Vitamin D-2 along with D-3.

One thing is for certain: Just as one size doesn't fit all, neither does one dose of vitamin D. When it comes to our nutritional needs, we are as different as our fingerprints. So, until this particular nutrient puzzle becomes more clear, read as much of the leading literature on vitamin D as you can wade through, monitor your diet, health, and labs closely, get more than a few opinions, then decide.

Karl Mincin is a clinical nutritionist in practice locally for 25 years. He specializes in nutrition assessment testing and may be reached at 360.336.2616 or online at www.Nutrition-Testing.com.

Plunge, cont. from p. 9

Day 5

Last day! Owen and Elissa (Plunge leaders) brought breakfast! Homemade bread, apple crisp, bananas, oranges, homemade muffins, juice, and coffee.

After breakfast, we packed our stuff and headed to Mary's Place, a drop-in shelter for women and children. Once again we were able to sit down with the women and

hear their stories and what Mary's Place had to offer them. It was the first shelter we saw that provided for women and children, which was great. It was really cool to talk with the women and hear how they had turned their lives around or how God had been working in their lives through the staff at Mary's Place.

The takeaway

I could write for hours about what I learned on the Plunge. But if I could

pick one thing that I learned and that really stood out to me from those five days, it is this: Every single person who is homeless is different. There isn't one stereotypical "type" of homeless person or personality they have. I believe that mainstream culture puts homelessness in a box and oversimplifies it, so that when we hear the word "homeless," we think of characteristics such as dirty, grungy, lazy, having some sort of an addiction,

etc. But not all homeless people can be categorized. They are all different, and they all have their own story.

I've decided that I don't want to judge a homeless person after simply looking at them. I don't want to make assumptions of them, because we met plenty of homeless people on the Plunge who didn't fit my stereotypical description of the homeless population I had before going on the Plunge.

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Smile



Dwelleysms

Wit from the Herald's former editor

“We are happy to note that the state legislature still has its finger on the pulse of the times. Almost their first act was toward raising their own pay.”
“The first step in disarmament to end war should be putting a few mouths in mothballs.”

—Jan. 12, 1961

“One heartening thing about unemployment with compensation is that there are always a few found to be working at it.”

—Jan. 19, 1961

“Sunday liquor is just what we need to kill off the last desire for those old-time Sunday afternoon drives. The gawking ‘Sunday driver’ was hazard enough without filling him with joy-juice.”

—Jan. 26, 1961

“Companies may come and companies may go, but it’s the vice presidents who end up in jail.”

“Rule-of-thumb statesmanship: If you can define it, tax it; if you can’t tax it, regulate it; if you can’t regulate it, abolish it; if you can’t abolish it, pass a resolution.”

—Feb. 9, 1961

“A tax on savings accounts would be the ultimate. To demand a split of what a person can accumulate in spite of all taxes now levied is the closest thing to outright robbery we can imagine.”

“Can we say integration was enhanced when the death of a man with black skin threatens the world’s peace?”

“Cure for lack of jobs is urged with higher wages and more unemployment compensation. If you can’t lick ‘em, join ‘em.”

“Personal heroism did not die with pioneers who crossed the plains. Same is required in today’s traffic.”

—Feb. 16, 1961

“Nearly everything that is fun, invigorating, or uplifting is an immediate target for promoters. So if you discover something that is pleasant, keep it a secret. One word and the next day there will be

a man at your door, trying to sell it to you wholesale, on easy terms.”

“After you reach a certain age, everyone not on a diet is viewed with suspicion. Either they are about to die of a secret disease or their income doesn’t permit rich food.”

—March 2, 1961

“If you can’t buy it, rent it! This is the

modern way to get along, and it appears to be much cheaper in many ways. No upkeep between moments when you wish to impress people.”

“Unheard praise builds no egos. We often wonder how thrilled some fish would be at the description of their size and power by the angler who just lost one.”

—March 9, 1961

“After crowding all happenings and things about to happen into this paper, we wonder just where you find the small town where there is nothing going on.”

—March 16, 1961

“Blessed are our vices, for they shall serve as an unending source of tax revenue.”

—March 23, 1961

Public Service Announcement



By Stig Kristensen

The weather report

By Dave Needham, Grandy Creek Grocery

Looks like the snow missed us again. So when it says snow, that means no snow, and when they say snow will just miss us, then that means snow. But when they call for rain, that means rain. Sun probably means rain. Unless it is partly cloudy, then it means snow in the winter and rain in the summer, except in a leap year. Then that depends on if the groundhog sees his shadow. Go figure.



Seth Smith of Valley's Buzz in Concrete posted this sign on his property in December.

Concrete Harold

By Joyce Harris



www.concrete-herald.com

Editorial, cont. from p. 2

it is influenced by foreign exchange rates, but we can use our common sense when purchasing. We can balance our purchasing and strike a trade balance of our own.

Let’s keep trade balance in mind as we continue public discussion around economic development and sustaining our communities. Should Wal-Mart, for example, decide to move in down the street, as it has in Monroe, we can at least be smarter about what we purchase. Wal-Mart is noted for bringing thousands of products to our shores that are made in Asia and Indonesia, mimicking products made in the U.S. and using cheap labor where workers’ health and safety is many times sadly overlooked, only to return its freighter to China empty.

It’s a new year. Let’s stay informed and make the most of it!

Theatre, cont. from p. 1

“We think it’s appropriate because it’s taken true grit to get this far,” said Stafford.

Among the activities planned for the month are weekly Facebook coupons, (www.facebook.com/ConcreteTheatre), a Rooster Cogburn look-alike contest, and drawings for door prizes. Lucky tickets will be drawn from the year’s collection of ticket stubs, and other specials will be posted on the theater’s Web site: www.concrete-theatre.com.

In addition to True Grit, other movies slated for the month include The Fighter and Country Strong. The theater’s regular movie times are Fridays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 5 and 7:30 p.m., and Sundays at 4:00 p.m., but look for special matinees and additional show times as part of the celebration, too.

“There could be some surprises, so the best way to stay updated is to check the Web site or call the 24-hour movie line at 360.941.0403,” Stafford said.

Stafford and West purchased the theater in October 2009 and reopened it in February 2010 after refurbishing the interior with fresh paint and carpeting, installing a surround-sound system, and upgrading the heating, lighting, and seating. Built in 1923, the theater is the oldest in Skagit County. Over the years it has hosted everything from boxing matches on its stage to the earliest silent films on its screen.

The new owners are maximizing the use

of the historic building, offering group exercise classes (Encore Fitness), seasonal music concerts, live theatre, photography workshops, community meetings and presentations, children’s dance classes, ghost tours, and of course, movies that have delighted audiences of all ages.

“Since our opening night in 2010, we’ve run 2,340,000 feet of film through the projector,” said Stafford. “And we’ve served about 2,400 tubs of popcorn with 215 pounds of butter!

“It’s been a privilege to bring Concrete Theatre back to life,” said Stafford.

Girls hoops, cont. from p. 7

and losing a hard-fought battle 47–40. In the last two games, the Lady Lions suited up only six players (one missing because of illness). But that did not change their baseline-to-baseline approach of pushing the ball the entire game.

“I could and should have done a better job in trying to get my players some rest during the game,” said Thomas. “But I could not have been more proud of their effort. All six players scored. They played with great heart and intensity for 32 minutes. They left it all on the court, and there was nothing more I could have asked for as their coach.”

The 7th grade team seemed somewhat overwhelmed in their first game. Playing in a smaller gym before a boisterous crowd at Conway, the girls played a tentative first half. With Coach Harris making some halftime adjustments, the Lady Lions outscored Conway in the third quarter before eventually losing the game.

Against La Conner, the girls came out with an intensity that surprised the home crowd. Although they just couldn’t get the ball to drop in the basket enough, the difference in their defense between the first and second games was evident. Finally, with only six players suited up (one missing due to injury), the 7th graders just couldn’t keep up with all that Orcas Island threw at them in their third game.

“What impresses me most about the 7th graders is that they have a great attitude and that they continue to improve each game. That’s what Rachel and I are looking for at this point of their basketball careers,” said Thomas.

The basketball season will continue through Feb. 17, with both teams at home on Feb. 3 and 17 (4 and 5 p.m.). Come out and cheer on the Lady Lions who will be your high school basketball stars of the future!

Envision Skagit, cont. from p. 4

Envision Skagit 2060 is a cooperative community effort designed to help shape Skagit Valley for the next 50 years. The project’s Citizen Committee will develop and recommend a broadly-supported, 50-year plan for Skagit Valley by drawing on community input and public recommendations. For more information on the Envision Skagit 2060 project, go to www.skagitcounty.net/envisionskagit.

For more information on the meetings, contact Emma Whitfield at emmaw@co.skagit.wa.us or 360.419.7667.

Burpee Hill, cont. from p. 4

Fixing the smaller slide is relatively simple, said Hobbs, but dealing with the larger slide “could be cheap or could be expensive and painful,” he said.

By Jan. 27, workers from Bellingham-based GeoEngineers had finished drilling core samples at the site of the large slide. Hobbs said he would wait for the analysis of those cores and the company’s recommendations before coming to the town to present its options.

Slides are all too common in the Concrete area. Two more slides have occurred at Baker River Road within the past month, one inside town limits. The slide that occurred outside town limits was approximately 920 feet long; county workers currently are working to repair its damage.

“About half the road went down the hill,” said Hobbs of the catastrophic Baker River Road slide.

Wrestling, cont. from p. 6

and wins in all one-on-one matches but one this season. In December and January, the team traveled to Omak, Bellevue Christian, Wahkiakum, ACH, Auburn Mountainview, and Lynden Christian for tournaments. In single matches, they lost only two: a 34–34 tie with Darrington that eventually went to their Snohomish County rival after nine tie-breaker criteria had been consulted, and one to Nooksack Valley 48–30. After clinching the league title, the team’s record stood at 11–2.

Where things get separated

At the subregional tournament Feb. 5, Lion wrestlers will have their work cut out for them, said Dellinger. Missing wrestlers in the 103-lb., 112-lb., 215-lb., and heavyweight classes, Concrete also will face teams that have more JV wrestlers, who, in the Feb. 5 competition, will be able to score points for the Varsity

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squad—something that isn’t allowed during regular-season matches.

“So now the teams with more wrestlers can bring more to the table,” said Dellinger. That gives some teams, such as Darrington, “more chances to score more points. We’ll see. Anything can happen,” he said.

Looking ahead

The Lions coaching staff is excited about the future of Lions wrestling. Assistant Coach John Koenig pointed to two groups that show encouraging signs of growth: middle school wrestlers and girl wrestlers.

“We had a big middle-school sign-up this year, with about 23 kids,” said Koenig.

As for the girls, they’re not listening to anyone who says wrestling is a man’s sport. Currently, four girls are strapping on head gear: junior Bailey Dellinger, freshmen Emily Fenly and Aimee Adkinson, and sophomore Melissa Clontz. With just seven girls needed to field a girls team and separate coach, the Lady Lions are just a whisker away from realizing something big.

“Girls wrestling is getting huge,” said Koenig. “Colleges are now recruiting for female wrestlers; it’s one of the easiest scholarships to get right now. And it just became an Olympic sport.”

Heart Health by the Numbers

IN CELEBRATION OF HEART HEALTH MONTH



February is a great time to check up on your heart health. We'll make it quick, affordable and convenient for you. Just stop by United General on any of our three screening days to check your cholesterol, blood pressure and resting heart rate. In addition to valuable screenings, you'll receive a free pedometer and information on starting a walking program.

3 SCREENING DAYS

\$10 per person, includes cholesterol, blood pressure and resting heart rate screenings.

12-hour fast is required for accurate results. Results are mailed to you and your physician, if desired. No appointment necessary; simply come in to the main lobby.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14

8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

8 a.m. – 10 a.m.



**LDL ("BAD")
CHOLESTEROL:**
Less than 100

**HDL ("GOOD")
CHOLESTEROL:**
Greater than 50

BLOOD PRESSURE:
Less than
120/80

**RESTING HEART
RATE:** Beats per
min. 60-100

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION:**
(360) 856-7245

HeartHealth@unitedgeneral.org

