

*The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley*

# Concrete Herald

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50 cents

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## IN THIS ISSUE

### Dog ordinance enforcement to increase

Concrete residents soon will be able to walk the streets undaunted. The town's revised dog ordinance, approved by the council Jan. 12, includes amendments that are designed to serve two purposes: send a strong warning to irresponsible dog owners and restore civilian safety. *Page 4.*

### Concrete American Legion mulls closure

Members of Arnold-Heskett American Legion Post 132 in Concrete gathered Jan. 27 to ask hard questions and try to come up with answers. *Page 4.*

### Mardi Gras returns to Concrete.

When the Concrete Chamber of Commerce rolls out the 9th annual Mardi Gras celebration in Concrete on Sat., Feb. 14, there will be more than just the New Orleans tradition to celebrate. *Page 6.*

### K-12: Expensive focus of legislative debates

Washington's lawmakers opened this year's legislative session Jan. 12 amid predictions of a long and contentious debate focused on budget and tax votes for the K-12 education system. *Page 13.*

### "Finish the Loop" a hot topic in Darrington

A Jan. 21 community meeting in Darrington drew residents to hear updates on an effort to pave the remainder of the Mountain Loop Highway, and the status of other projects. *Page 24.*



**The Quiltmaster**

Jo Ann Blade creates textured works of art in her Sedro-Woolley studio. *Page 11.*

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# Concrete Herald

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley



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

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

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## From the editor

## Good choices, bad choices

Sometimes I eavesdrop on Youth Dynamics gatherings in Concrete, and I've noticed a pattern to the message on which several of the evenings have ended. Coordinator Kevik Rensink and guest speakers often will visit the idea of good (responsible) choices versus bad or irresponsible choices, and how the consequences of each can play out.

I see this idea playing out on a daily basis. During the course of one day, I'll hear about the theft of our Veterans Memorial Park flag, then I'll be approached by high school students who want to volunteer in the community. I'll see photos of truly disturbing vandalism to private property, then learn about adults who are coming alongside young people to help steer them toward more productive pursuits.

Every decision we make causes ripples in our community. This is especially true in smaller communities, where good and bad actions are magnified. Choose wisely.

—J. K. M.

# Opinion

## Letters to the editor

### Thanks to Dale Angell

I am writing to first of all say a big thank you to Dale Angell, Jason Miller, and all of the folks who worked so hard to help deal with the flooding problem on Pine and Cedar Streets. We would have had a lot more water in our garage and possibly in our house without your efforts. Dani and Ronnie, we also thank you, neighbors! Amy, Bubba, Karen, and everyone else who called to check on us and offer help, thank you.

To the neighbors around us who are as fed up as we are with getting flooded over a small amount of rain, I invite you to reach out to me at mshambleton@hotmail.com or just come see me if you want to—we should talk about the efforts that are under way to implement a long-term solution to this ongoing problem. The manmade lake that forms every few rains needs to go away for good.

Sandra Hambleton  
Concrete

### Town can't remove animals it can't reach

This is in response to "Hamilton stray dog ordinance is a joke" (Letters, January 2015).

Renee Barley, if you wanted to comment about the stray dog enforcement at the December meeting, you were welcome to do so. You are familiar with our process; we don't prevent people from discussing any specific subject as long as they are respectful.

I am trying to compile all the animal ordinances to form a complete section of Municipal Code, which Hamilton does not have, and have a few months until that is due before the council, along with all the other ordinances that will need to be revised for the Comprehensive Plan

update and hopefully eventually compiled into a Municipal Code. The council does not review every ordinance for its effectiveness at every meeting.

I am aware that there is at least one pack of dogs using the riverbanks to travel. There is no access to the riverbank that is completely held by the town, so there isn't a place where the town can safely put traps. No one has alerted the Town when the dogs are on their property and allowed the town access to remove them. We can't remove animals that we can't reach. Personally, I carry a leash in my backpack so I can try to catch dogs that I see around town that are not on private property.

Joan Cromley, mayor  
Town of Hamilton

### Library is grateful

The Upper Skagit Library wishes to thank our 10th Anniversary Celebration party sponsors, The Friends of the Upper Skagit Library, 5b's Bakery, Annie's Pizza Station, and the Concrete Theatre. Special thanks to Albert's Red Apple for donating treats and beverages. We greatly appreciate your community support to celebrate such a milestone. The overwhelming show of attendance is extremely encouraging as we move

See Letters, p. 39

### Letters policy

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

### Inside

Opinion .....	2	Lyman .....	18	Obituaries .....	30
Sports .....	8	Day Creek .....	19	Sheriff's blotter .....	31
Academics .....	12	Hamilton .....	22	Local columns .....	32
Clear Lake .....	14	Rockport .....	23	Business Directory .....	33
Community Calendar .....	15	Darrington .....	24	Out & About .....	34
Community Meetings .....	15	Marblemount .....	26	Home & Garden .....	35
Sedro-Woolley .....	16	Newhalem .....	27	Smile .....	36
		Seniors .....	28	Classifieds .....	39
		Sunday School lesson .....	30		

## Message from the mayor

By Jason Miller

### The Fire and Life Safety Building

project continues to progress ahead of schedule. In January the metal roof went on, so the structure is now "dried in" for electrical, plumbing, and finish work. You'll see the exterior cladding go on next, plus some curb work down in the lower parking area. Even though schedules can fluctuate, right now we're eyeing a late March or early April completion, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in mid-April. We should be able to firm up the date for the ceremony this month.

I'm thrilled with outside and student volunteers who have helped and will help the town deal with the now-problematic portions of **Lorenzen Creek**. On Jan. 19, Americorps VISTA volunteers Rachel Sacco and Katie Griffith joined me along one stretch of the creek to remove reed canary grass and blackberry brambles,



which grow and die, then fall over into the creek channel and impede the flow. In addition, Concrete High School students James Suit, Brook Barnedt, and Dylan Clark have reached out to the town and adopted Lorenzen Creek as a leadership project; they'll be working on it regularly throughout this year.

The next **Imagine Concrete** **townwide workshop** will be held on Sat., March 14, from 9 a.m. to noon in the Commons room at Concrete High School. These workshops are held every other year; this year we plan to discuss Silo Park: its strengths, challenges, current projects, and potential for greatness. Join your fellow residents for hands-on fun! We'll give all the feedback from this workshop to Parks Committee Chair Marla Reed for further discussion and analysis.

I'm very happy to see an uptick in **attendance at council meetings** lately. This tells me that our residents and area locals care about Concrete's future!

Got a topic you'd like me to address in this column? Let me know.

Concrete Mayor Jason Miller can be reached at [goodwords@frontier.com](mailto:goodwords@frontier.com) or 360.853.8213.

## Lawmakers launch Olympia session introducing some unusual proposals

By Cooper Inveen

WNPA Olympia News Bureau

OLYMPIA — Would your legislator ever consider decriminalizing heroin possession? Or maybe turning the Supreme Court justices' elections partisan? What about allowing teenagers to taste alcohol?

As the 2015 legislative session got under way, some proposed bills were likely to turn a few heads.

Sixteen Republicans and three Democrats have sponsored House Bill 1051, which would require Supreme Court justices—but no other judicial officer in the state—to declare a partisan affiliation when running for election. One sponsor, Rep. Hans Dunshee, D-Snohomish, has called the bill more of a poke at the Supreme Court than a genuine attempt to pass legislation.

The bill comes in response to the

Supreme Court's 2012 McCleary decision, which requires legislators to pass fundamental reforms to state education funding. The bill's sponsors believe the Supreme Court violated the separation of powers by telling legislators explicitly what to do, and therefore "should be considered partisan like the legislature," according to the bill's first section.

Sen. Jan Angel, R-Port Orchard, has sponsored Senate Bill 5008, which would amend the state definition of a "beverage" to exclude beer and other malt drinks. The proposal is all about the container, though not the liquid inside. The bill would allow business owners to sell beer in a new type of container with a recyclable lid. That type of bottle is prohibited under current law.

HB 1004, co-sponsored by Rep. Larry Springer, D-Kirkland, and nine others, would allow community colleges and universities to hold alcohol tastings for those over 18 years old. It would also allow people between the ages of 18 and 21 to taste alcohol in relevant courses, such as viticulture.

Rep. Sherry Appleton, D-Poulsbo, co-sponsored HB 1024, which would

See Lawmakers, p. 33

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## IMAGINE CONCRETE WORKSHOP: THE FUTURE OF SILO PARK

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Concrete High School commons room  
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Questions? Contact Jason Miller at [goodwords@frontier.com](mailto:goodwords@frontier.com) or 360.853.8213

# Dog ordinance enforcement to increase

By Haley McNealey

Edited by Katy Tomasulo

Concrete residents soon will be able to walk the streets undaunted.

The town's revised dog ordinance, approved by the council Jan. 12, includes amendments that are designed to serve two purposes: send a strong warning to irresponsible dog owners and restore civilian safety. A follow-up letter from the town to the Sheriff's Office gives authorization to deputies to help enforce guidelines pertaining to vicious, potentially dangerous, and dangerous dogs.

Mayor Jason Miller reports receiving dozens of written and verbal complaints from concerned Concrete residents who encountered loose dogs, the driving force for the changes being made.

"We reached our limit," he said. "Residents should not be afraid to walk down the sidewalk."

The town will now work more closely with deputies to provide consequences

for irresponsible behavior, especially infractions of the longstanding leash law.

One critical reform will be the introduction of a temporary holding facility located near the wastewater treatment plant. The kennel will enable authorities to hold detained dogs for up to 24 hours, a move that will save deputies time and increase efficiency because they won't have to make a special trip downriver.

Miller said that the kennel will hold a minimum of two dogs. In the case that more than one dog is in custody at any given time, they will be separated to avoid harm to either animal. In an emergency situation, an injured dog will be immediately transported to the Humane Society. Owners who wish to recover their animal will be charged a fee, expected to be \$60 per animal.

During the Jan. 12 meeting, council members also discussed flooding on Pine

St., which has occurred on three separate occasions since Thanksgiving. The worst incident occurred Jan. 5, and was reported to be the second worst case witnessed by current residents. The Jan. 5 flood resulted in a WDFW emergency approval to dig. Unfortunately, the costs are great for protecting the fish in the creek: \$2,500 per day to remove and relocate the fish.

Miller said the current plan is to maintain a clear state and that every attempt will be made to protect the residents and their homes from damage. In the long term, the town will dispose of the existing debris and hopes to eventually reroute Lorenzen Creek.

Sgt. Chris Kading reported receiving 51 calls in December, none of which were major felony offenses.

There is an ongoing investigation to find the culprit(s) who stole the flag from Veteran's Park. No arrests have been made, but some persons-of-interest have been identified by the local deputies.

The Liquor Control Board has targeted two local businesses. Their investigations are independent of the local sheriff's office.

Plans and funding for the Fire and Life

Safety Facility project were reviewed and approved.

During the Jan. 26 council meeting, concerns were raised relating to the swap meet field west of Loggers Landing. Litter has been reported around the tree line near Lorenzen Creek and between the field and Logger's Landing. It was requested that those who partake in the swap meets remember to collect and properly dispose of their garbage, remember to use the provided restroom facility, and respect the nearby residents by abiding by the 10 p.m. noise sanction.

If any person suspects malicious mischief—trespassing or vandalism of any kind—they are encouraged to call 9-1-1 and report the activity immediately.

There has been a proposal to pursue the addition of a dotted line to guide turns at the intersection of SR 20 and Superior Ave. Mayor Miller said he would like to see this happen, as he has had four calls concerning the issue in the past year alone.

*Writer Haley McNealey is a senior at Concrete High School. Editor Katy Tomasulo lives in Seattle.*

*Where are they now?*

## Cal and Kathy Ovenell Roy

By Jeanna Mae Squires

Cal and Kathy (Ovenell) Roy (CHS class of 1983 and '84, respectively) believe success is defined through their family, 21-year marriage, and their faith.

Kathy attended college at Washington State University and received her Bachelor's degree in Animal Science in 1988. She decided to attend Oklahoma State for two years and in 1990 received her Master's in Ruminant Nutrition to research cattle and sheep. She then decided she wanted to be an Extension Agent. Kathy returned to Washington, where she continued her education and received her PhD in Ruminant Nutrition in 1993.

After Kathy finished her nine years of college, she wanted to stay in the Northwest and find employment within her field of study. She began her employment in Caldwell, Idaho. Kathy worked for the University of Idaho Canyon County extension office for six years as an Animal Specialist.

After her second child was born, Kathy decided to stay at home for 13 years and raise her children.

She currently works part-time at Emmett Middle School as a teacher's aide in special education math. If Kathy stayed in her field of study, this would have taken too much of her time with travel and night meetings, and her family time was more important. Kathy wanted to stay home to care for and help her children be successful in school with sports and education.

"Life can take some twists and turns," said Kathy. "If something doesn't feel right, you don't have to stay on the same path. I don't feel like I have wasted my degree. I am not afraid to accept changes and to change for the better of my family. Realize what is important is people around you, especially your kids. I am here to raise the next generation. I still feel successful despite changing my career."

Cal Roy attended school at Skagit Valley College for two years and studied engineering; he graduated in 1985. He then applied and was accepted to the University of Washington, where he studied Oceanography and Fisheries. He graduated in 1988. He began his career as a Fisheries Biologist at a salmon hatchery in Sitka, Alaska.

In Sitka, Cal took care of 30 million



*Submitted photo.*

salmon fry, raising them from birth until the time of release. He treated them for disease, formulated fish feed, and worked in general maintenance for the hatcheries.

Cal worked in Sitka for five years until early summer 1993, when he moved to Boise, Idaho, and began a career with Consolidated Supply. He worked hard and was promoted in the underground water utility as an outside salesman who covered southern Idaho from 1996–2001. He moved up to branch manager for Boise underground utility division until 2008, when he was promoted to regional manager for Consolidated Supply.

As a regional manager, Cal is in charge of outside salesmen, estimators, and project managers in underground utilities in Consolidated Supply for all of Idaho, Eastern Oregon, and Eastern Washington. After 21 years and many promotions, Cal is still employed with Consolidated Supply.

"One of the keys to being successful is to be persistent, work hard, be patient, and have a good attitude. Opportunities will come your way; your dreams are going to happen," said Cal.

*Know someone who should appear in "Where are they now?" Send their name and contact information to editor@concrete-herald.com.*

## How February is Looking for North Cascades Vintage Aircraft Museum

NCVAM is thrilled for the year ahead and for all the new changes and growth of the museum.



A new Self-Guided tour that allow visitors explore more of the museum's unique aircraft collection is now available for all visitors who are interested in touring the museum.

\*Please keep in mind that the museum is on winter hours and we welcome visitors by appointment until the month of May.

The frame-up restoration of NCVAM's iconic 1929 Stinson, Jr. is in well on the way and is housed in



the museum's restoration shop.

The museum is actively looking for student volunteers who are interested in exploring the world of aircraft restoration. For more information please email:

[info@vintageaircraftmuseum.org](mailto:info@vintageaircraftmuseum.org)

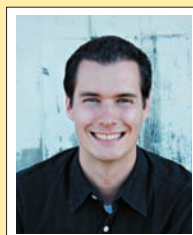
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## Concrete American Legion mulls closure

Members of Arnold-Heskett American Legion Post 132 in Concrete gathered Jan. 27 to ask hard questions and try to come up with answers.

At issue is the post's dwindling revenues and ongoing expenses, which are squeezing the organization so much that it has considered closing its doors.

On Jan. 22, Commander Adolph Nieshe and Auxiliary President Marietta Hendrickson sent a letter to all members, informing them of the situation and encouraging them to attend the Jan. 27 meeting to discuss solutions. Only eight members attended that meeting, due in part to the fact that approximately three-quarters of the post's members live out of the area.

According to the letter, the post's trustees and participating members decided to close the doors of the post

except for meetings and special events, and to stop serving alcohol effective Feb. 1. Costs associated with serving alcohol are the post's largest financial obligation; it has to maintain its state liquor license and related insurance.

The post has a history of service to the community and support for local veterans. It has been responsible for youth scholarships, toy drives, and many other local activities. American Legion members front virtually every parade in Concrete.

The post dates back to 1920; its current building was constructed in 1948. It opens to members and signed-in guests on Fridays and Saturdays from 4 to 8 p.m. Its future is unclear; it may become a rental hall for special events, such as bands and dinner dances.

The clock continues to tick. "Unless something happens pretty quick, the window of opportunity is closing and the doors will close," said member John Boggs during the Jan. 27 meeting.

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# Mardi Gras returns with plenty to celebrate

When the Concrete Chamber of Commerce rolls out the 9th annual Mardi Gras celebration in Concrete on Sat., Feb. 14, there will be more than just the New Orleans tradition to celebrate. It's also Valentine's Day and the birthday of the town's mayor, Jason Miller, who will reign as Mardi Gras King even as he turns 48 years old.

"I'm looking forward to enjoying one of Concrete's silliest—and therefore most fun—events," said Miller, adding that he'd already bought his robe, crown, and scepter.

This year the parade will start at 2 p.m. on East Main St. and end in Town Center, where music will be provided by Jumbled Pie of Marblemount.

Mardi Gras in Concrete began in February 2006. The first parade was held during a decent snowfall. Ever since, the event has drawn a crowd regardless of the weather. The town's version of Mardi

Gras includes all the noise, frivolity, and beads of New Orleans, without the sometimes seamy undertone.

Everyone is invited to join the fun. There is no cost to enter the parade. Each entry should include the official Mardi Gras colors of purple, green, and gold, with red added this year in honor of Valentine's Day.

Prizes for parade entries will be awarded in several categories, including Best Krewe and Best-Dressed Adult, Child, and Pet.

Parade entry forms are available at the Chamber office in the Skagit County Resource Center and will also be available at line-up near the Concrete Post Office at 1 p.m.

For more information, contact the Concrete Chamber of Commerce at 360.853.8784 or send an e-mail to [chamber@concrete-wa.com](mailto:chamber@concrete-wa.com).

—Valerie Stafford



## Upper Skagit Library welcomes Nancy Pearl

The Friends of the Upper Skagit Library will welcome a special guest at the annual meeting on Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. at Concrete Theatre. Nancy Pearl, an award-winning librarian regularly featured on National Public Radio's Morning Edition and 94.9 KUOW in Seattle, will present "The Pleasures and Perils of a Life of Reading."

Pearl, whom the *New York Times* calls, "the talk of librarian circles," is the former executive director of the Washington Center for the Book, star of her own TV show, and the only librarian in history with an action figure modeled in her likeness.

likeness.

She credits books and libraries with helping her through a difficult childhood while growing up in a lower-middle-class family in Detroit.

"We are thrilled to have Nancy join us as we kick off a capital campaign for a new library building in Concrete," said Barb Trask, president of the Friends of the Upper Skagit Library.

The event is free and open to the public. In addition to Nancy's presentation, the evening will include announcements, a brief business meeting, and complimentary refreshments.

For more information, e-mail [traskb@me.com](mailto:traskb@me.com) or [bpederson@upperskagit.lib.wa.us](mailto:bpederson@upperskagit.lib.wa.us).



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## THIS AND THAT

By J. K. M.

Get to know our county district's new commissioner, **Lisa Janicki**, at a casual "Coffee with a Commissioner" event on Fri., Feb. 6, at 1 p.m. Janicki will be at the Concrete Center, 45821 Railroad Ave., Concrete, and wants to talk about whatever's on your mind. Plus, you can snack on goodies from 5b's Bakery. What's not to love?

A **Winter Fundraiser** to benefit the Sedro-Woolley Boys & Girls Club is on tap that same day, Feb. 6, from 5 to 8 p.m. Head to the Sedro-Woolley Community Center, 703 Pacific St., Sedro-Woolley, to help the club make its largest fundraiser a success. Admission is \$20 or you can sponsor a table for eight for \$200. Tickets can be purchased at [www.skagitclubs.org](http://www.skagitclubs.org) or at the Sedro-Woolley building, 915 McGarigle Rd.

On the evening's agenda is a gourmet pasta dinner and a silent auction and raffle. Rumor has it that club Director John Garman might lose his beard again.

For more information, call 360.856.1830 or e-mail [jgarman@skagitclubs.org](mailto:jgarman@skagitclubs.org).

After a few weeks of on-again-off-again broadcasting, our local community radio station, **KSVU 90.1 FM**, is back up and running. Apparently, the problem lay with the cell tower on Burpee Hill to which the station is connected. Puget Sound Energy replaced some power poles from Jan. 22–23 with very short notice, so the station was unable to warn listeners in advance of the shutdown. But it's fixed now and hopefully "the show will go on." To contact the station, call 360.853.8588.

Save the date for the fourth **Imagine Concrete townwide workshop** on March 14. This year the workshop will focus on Silo Park in Concrete. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to noon in the Commons room at Concrete High School. Childcare will be provided. For more information, contact Jason Miller at [goodwords@frontier.com](mailto:goodwords@frontier.com) or 360.853.8213.

Mark your calendar also for this year's **Cement City Trail Run**, hosted by Concrete Lions Booster Club on Sat., April 18, at 8:30 a.m. For more information and a link to register, find the event on Facebook.

## Council summary

*Concrete Town Council met for regular meetings on Jan. 12 and 26. The following is a summary of those two meetings. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are posted on the town's Web site at [www.townofconcrete.com/cminutes.php](http://www.townofconcrete.com/cminutes.php).*

### Jan. 12 regular meeting

- Concrete resident Sandra Hambleton stated that Lorenzen Creek near Pine Street has flooded three times since Thanksgiving. She thanked the town for its most recent efforts. She stated the work that was completed is working and the creek is flowing as it should be and she would like to see that continue. She asked what the plan for future maintenance and flooding prevention is. She also asked about the plan for the cleanup of debris that was removed from the creek and also had questions about the possible project to re-route this creek.

Mayor Jason Miller distributed pictures of the area from the Jan. 5 flood. He stated that he called

WDFW that morning and was given emergency verbal approval to work in the creek because of the state of emergency and the threat to private property.

Alan Wilkins reported on the background for cleaning this creek and the complications with being allowed to dig in the creek. He stated the town was allowed years ago to clean the creek out during certain months of the year, but now there is a more complicated process that includes fish removal and is much harder to get permitted, as well as being more costly and time-consuming.

Mayor Miller reported that with the regulations currently in place, it would cost the town tens of thousands

See Council, p. 33

### Keep track of your council

To have Concrete Town Council agendas and meeting minutes e-mailed to you automatically, e-mail your request to [andrea@concretewa.gov](mailto:andrea@concretewa.gov) or call 360.853.8401. Concrete Town Council meets the second and fourth Mondays of each month, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

## Open for business: Your Relaxation Station

Need to relax? Head to the newly opened Your Relaxation Station in Concrete.

Run by licensed masseuse Anita Russo, Your Relaxation Station lets you spend \$1 per minute creating your own treatment program, whether it's a massage by hand or by chair, a head massager, an oxygen machine, or other technique.

"I want to keep acquiring things that will bring relief to people," says Russo. "It's all about comfort."

Stop in during February for Russo's "Sweetheart Special": a 90-minute massage for \$60.

—J. K. M.



Licensed masseuse Anita Russo has opened Your Relaxation Station at 7460 S. Dillard Ave., Ste. C, in Concrete (the old Sauk View Gallery space). Her flexible approach allows customers to develop their own plan for treatment, whether it be a hands-on massage, a reclining massage chair, or more.

### At a glance:

#### Your Relaxation Station

**Where:** 7460 S. Dillard Ave., Ste. C, Concrete

**Phone:** 360.333.5546

**Hours:** By appointment, flexible times

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# Sports

## Wrestlers eye state run

By Jason Miller

Concrete Lion wrestlers roared through January, with the men notching win after win and the women fighting for victories while battling injuries.

January men's matches began in Darrington on Jan. 7, with a controversial tie at 35 that is currently in protest. The Lions beat La Conner 54-12 at the same outing, largely because of forfeits from La Conner.

The team traveled to Sultan Jan. 10. Out of 15 teams, Concrete captured second place.

On Jan. 13 the Lions handed Friday Harbor a 54-14 defeat on the Wolverine mats.

Fourteen teams converged at Darrington on Jan. 17; all of them fell to the Concrete wrestlers, who took first place.

Concrete again took on Darrington at La Conner on Jan. 21, beating them 46-27.

At the Jan. 24 Dream Dual in Spokane, the Lions lost close matches with Okanogan (43-36) and Warden (58-24), which is ranked No. 1 in the state.

"There were a lot of good matches in there; we hung in with them," said Coach David Dellinger of the Warden score. The day ended with a clash against Mary Walker; Concrete bested them 48-9.

Jan. 30 brought Friday Harbor and Darrington to town again; Concrete beat the Wolverines 66-12 and stomped the Loggers 41-27 because of several forfeits for Darrington near the end of the match.

Dellinger likes several wrestlers as subregionals and regionals approach in February, including Louie Ketchum, Donovan Dellinger, Riley Fichter, Donnie Olmstead, Brayden Olmstead, Gibson Fichter, and Robert Nevin.

"I'm proud of the team," he said. "They've come a long way this year."

### Women grapplers

As the season winds down, three women remain standing for the team: Anjelika Koenig, Madeline Corn, and Becky Azure.

Only Corn was healthy enough to wrestle the Woolley Women's tournament on Jan. 3, but she was unable to place.

"Maddie's been working hard all season and has improved a ton," said Coach John Koenig. "She works just as hard—if not harder—than every boy in the room."

At a four-team meet in Darrington on Jan. 7, Corn and Azure performed well, said Koenig.

The Jan. 17 Burlington-Edison Invite saw AJ Koenig back in business, but none of the women placed.



Azure took a loss at a Jan. 21 four-team meet in La Conner.

Corn and Azure wrestled, but couldn't snag wins, at a Jan. 30 four-team meet on the home mats.

At the huge Lady Wolfpack meet at Henry Jackson High School in Mill Creek on Jan. 31, Koenig fought her way to 5th place and Azure got her first pin. Corn lost her first match, won her second, and lost her third in its heartbreaking final seconds.



Donnie Olmstead wrestles Darrington's Oliver Rankin during a three-school meet at La Conner Jan. 21. Olmstead won the match with a pin.

Lady Lion Becky Azure struggles to turn the tables on Friday Harbor's Haley Pyle during a home match on Jan. 30. Azure lost this match, but the Lions handed the Wolverines a 66-12 loss.

## Playoffs still a possibility

By Paul Bianchini, head coach

With the Concrete Lions Men's Basketball season 75 percent complete, the Lions find themselves still in the playoff picture. A win at Orcas Island on Jan. 30 would almost assure the Lions a spot in the 2B district competition.

Basketball, like every other sport, is predicated on the execution of fundamentals. The Lions are gaining more confidence in their skills and although it doesn't always show up on the scoreboard, their confidence in competing is beginning to display itself.

The Lions are led by Dylan Clark, one of the top scorers (16.4 points per game) in the county. Clark's play in the post has kept the team playing together, giving the Lions an opportunity to beat teams with more experienced players.

Freshman James Schoolland has been a huge addition to the varsity this season. With his timely shooting and ability to rebound, James will be a fixture for the Lions in the years to come.

Sophomore Grayson Luttrell is another player who is finding out he too can compete with any team or player in the league. Luttrell's defense and his 3-point shooting have kept the Lions in many games this season.

Sophomore Tyler Labrousse has battled several injuries this season. Labrousse uses his previous varsity experience and has no physical limits to become one of the top players in the league.

Junior Josh Gentry was put into the point guard position at the start of the season and has displayed marked improvement. Playing against players with much more experience, Gentry has held his own and can use his experience to help the Lions down the stretch.

A huge asset and surprise for the Lions this season has been the competitive nature and play of junior Tucker Scollard. In his first season of high school ball, Scollard has guarded and held his own against some of the best players in the league.

James Suit and Solomon Holman have contributed off the bench this season. Their roles on the team have given others a break during games, as well as making the rest of the team more competitive.

Teams that never concede defeat can accomplish incredible victories. The Lions are close to gaining some incredible victories.



Dylan Clark drives past Darrington's Trent Green during a home-court game on Jan. 20.



Concrete freshman James Schoolland sinks yet another 3-pt. shot during the Lions' Jan. 20 game against the Darrington Loggers. Concrete got the win, 65-48.

## Athletes of the Month



### Athletes of the Month are Muriel Troka and Grayson Luttrell

Muriel Troka is a senior captain on the Concrete High School Women's Basketball team. She is second in scoring for the team and leads the Lady Lions in rebounding. "Muriel leads in every way," said Head Coach Kevik Rensink. "Her attention to detail, her willingness to learn, and her love for her team are just three of the qualities Muriel brings every day. Muriel has been a steady force for us all season and deserves any credit she receives."

"Grayson Luttrell is the type of person every coach wants to have on their team," said Men's Basketball team Head Coach Paul Bianchini. The sophomore wing is on his way to becoming one of the team's best spot-up shooters. "Grayson has worked very hard to improve his basketball skills," said Bianchini. "He has shown a maturity level and leadership skills that our team can use as we continue to improve and move forward. His positive attitude and responsible behavior have earned him this award."

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

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## Women improving at quick pace

By Kevik Rensink, head coach

Unless you were with this group of young women last year and were an internal part of our program, you could not truly appreciate how far they have climbed in one year's time. It is almost unbelievable.

Last year we struggled. We struggled to score, we struggled to put a "W" in the win column, and we struggled to gain respect. But although it is almost unbelievable how far they have come since that time, it always has been believable. I have never coached a team that has worked this hard with this great of an attitude. It is infectious. They don't

keep their heads down, they pick each other up, and they get better—together. Although we still struggle at times, the girls are improving at a pace that demands the respect of the rest of the league.

On Jan. 30 we came close to pulling off an upset at Orcas Island, against a team that beat us by almost 30 at home in December. Kelse Cargile led us with 10 points, including back-to-back 3-pointers during the 4th quarter comeback, and six steals. Muriel Troka had 11 rebounds, and Chloe Stidman had nine points and nine steals in the 54–44 loss.

Earlier that week we hosted Cedar Park Christian and really clamped down on defense with a 43–24 win. Troka led us with 14 points and 14 rebounds, while her low-post counterpart Rebecca Torheim had a solid game of her own with nine points and 10 rebounds.

We played Shoreline Christian and Darrington extremely tough the week before, but came away with losses.

At times, points have been tough to come by this season, but the girls are now beating and competing with teams they were struggling to breathe against last year.

I am so proud of these girls. They inspire me daily. If you haven't been around our program, you are missing out.

We still have two home games remaining: We host La Conner on Tue., Feb. 3, and Mount Vernon Christian on Thur., Feb. 5 for Senior Night. We have four seniors: Kelse Cargile, Lydia Schoolland, Rebecca Torheim, and Muriel Troka. They have put a lot into this program and deserve our praise and recognition.

We hope to see you there.



**Above:** Rebecca Torheim puts a jump shot up and over Darrington defenders as the Lady Lions hosted the Lady Loggers on Jan. 20.



**Right:** Cassidy Cargile struggles to get the ball away from Darrington's Railynn Ford during the Jan. 20 matchup in Concrete. The Lady Loggers took home the win that day, 40–25.

## Girls basketball team working hard, staying positive

Seven 6th grade players have swelled this year's middle school girls basketball team's ranks to 19, giving new Head Coach Carrie Newby and Assistant Coach Crissie Wilson a deep bench. The pair take over for Rob Thomas, who coached the team for 11 years.

Newby said the 6th graders have adjusted well, crediting early play with the elementary program run by high school women's basketball coach Kevik Rensink.

The team's first three games, against La Conner, Mount Vernon Christian, and Conway, have all been losses, but Newby said she likes her players' attitudes on the court.

"We have a really positive group of girls who don't look at the score; they look at trying to improve themselves. Even if it's a lopsided game, they're still going out and working hard from buzzer to buzzer."

Newby and Wilson have focused on teaching basic skills to the young players,



**New Head Middle School Girls Basketball Coach Carrie Newby** (right) is joined this year by Assistant Coach Crissie Wilson. The pair are taking over for former coach Rob Thomas, who coached the team for 11 years.

including understanding the game itself and the need to think on one's feet during the heat of competition.

"Zone defense is new to these girls, and we're teaching them different defenses, helping them learn to adjust to what the other team does."

"I can't say enough good about these girls," said Newby. "They work hard. Anything I tell them to do, they're right there doing it. They make it really fun."



**Raylee Ward** pushes through taller Mount Vernon Christian defenders on her way to the basket as the middle school Lady Lions hosted the Hurricanes Jan. 26.



**Mackenzie Wilson** drives around a Mount Vernon Christian defender during a Jan. 26 home-court match.

## The Quiltmaster

By Tahlia Honea

Making quilts might be one of humanity's most traditional crafts, but a Sedro-Woolley woman has found a way to make it cutting edge.

Jo Ann Blade is capturing national attention and awards with her colorful and intricate designs more fit for a museum than a bed. Blade uses a form of computerized quilting with a giant room-length machine called a longarm to create her intricate tapestries. She recently partnered with a well-known quilt designer to create numerous award-winning quilts, each more complex and detailed than the next.

"Their work is just unusual, knock-your-socks-off cool," said Valerie Schlanke, of Richmond, Va. Schlanke runs a national longarm convention each year. Quilts made by Blade and her quilting partner Kim Diamond will be featured at this year's event. "We call them the dynamic duo," Schlanke said. "No matter where you see one of their quilts, you just stop. It's just different. Their pieces are breathtaking. They're so stunning."

The quilts are set apart by technique, design, and color. While a computer program is used to do the stitching, each knot (where a thread is cut) is tucked into the fabric by hand, hidden from view. One quilt depicting a mother giraffe and its baby was especially laborious.

"I sat down on that island for a week burying threads," Blade said during a recent interview at her home north of Sedro-Woolley. She has a large room in her house dedicated to her craft, which she has turned into a full-time job. Two large longarm machines span the space. One wall is covered in ribbons from quilt shows. A variety of sewing projects hang around the room, including a truck cover made entirely out of purple Crown Royal whiskey bags, commissioned by an out-of-state client.

While many of the details of her quilts could seem tedious, she has come to love the entire process of making something beautiful, with every detail to her liking. That involves hours of detailed cutting with a tiny scissors. She is very particular

about her fabrics, many of which she picks out from a woman in Bow who hand-dyes a variety of colors.

However, when Blade can't find what she's looking for, she dyes it herself.

Last winter, working on a quilt, she needed a perfect gray. It happened to have snowed in her backyard that day, so Blade experimented with a type of snow dyeing, a process in which dye is poured over snow on a screen laid atop the fabric. The color slowly seeps into the fabric, creating a marbled effect.

It was Blade's sense of color that first caught her partner's eye several years ago. "I had the computer skills and design skills, and she had the technical skills and sense of color," Diamond said. "I knew together we could be a force to be reckoned with."

At that point, Blade thought of Diamond as somewhat of a quilting celebrity. Now the two use every opportunity possible to work together on their quilts.

"She flies here. I fly there. We'll go anywhere there's a machine and we can get together and quilt. We feed off of each other," Diamond said. "With each quilt we try to push those boundaries a little more."

The two have pushed boundaries, and it shows in the awards they keep winning.

"They win first places everywhere they go," Schlanke said.

Blade's work varies from a depiction of the Montezuma's Castle National Monument cliff dwellings with stitching mimicking pictographs, wood, stone, brick, and stucco (pictured on front page), to a seahorse with iridescent bubbles and Austrian Swarovski crystals. Most of the quilts she will never sell, though they are worth thousands of dollars. She quilts because she loves it. Though she's won many awards, she has her eyes on the annual International Quilt Show in Houston.

"This year I'm going to get brave," she said, "and enter Houston."

Tahlia Honea can be reached at [tahlia.ann@gmail.com](mailto:tahlia.ann@gmail.com).



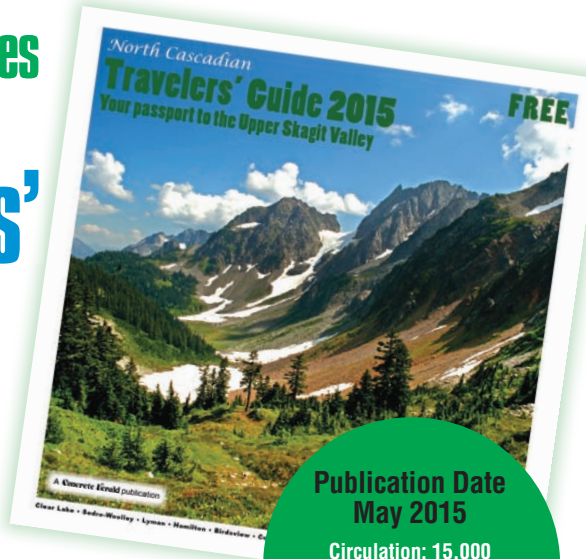
**Above:** Sedro-Woolley quilt artist Jo Ann Blade works on a new quilt in her home studio. Blade uses a form of computerized quilting with a large, room-length machine called a longarm to create intricate tapestries. Her quilts are worth thousands of dollars, but she's not in for the money, she says. She quilts because she loves it.



**Right:** A wall of ribbons in Blade's studio tells dozens of stories of her award-winning work.

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# Academics



**Concrete Elementary students** were honored Jan. 28 at a "Character Assembly," during which children from each grade level were recognized for their interpretations of what the concept of "tolerance" means to them. Front row, from left: Kyler Whorten, Courtney Hastings, Nehida Siqueiros, Abigail Evans, Kaylee Neishe, Morgan Markley. Back row, from left: Landon Norris, Leah-Marie Tiemens, Tiffany Hendry-Conrad, Jade McAdam, Anna Spangler, Tasha Brink. Not pictured: Alexa Dalton.

## PTO update

Concrete PTO has plenty of interesting plans for February.

Our regular monthly meeting will be held on Feb. 11 at 5 p.m.

The fun kicks in on Feb. 19, when the Seattle Science Center Space Odyssey exhibition will be at Concrete Elementary School all day. A special assembly is included on that day's agenda.

On Feb. 20 from 6 to 8 p.m., we'll host a

Father-Daughter Dance at the elementary school. This is the first event of its kind that we've hosted. Fathers, grandpas, uncles, or big brothers are invited to bring your special elementary-age young lady for a fun night out dancing, with music, refreshments, desserts, and photos included.

Tickets are only \$10 per couple. Please pre-order your tickets so we can have an idea how many will be there!

—Sheena Daniels

## Come to the Career Fair

**Feb. 10  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**CHS Commons**

Representatives from the military, Skills Center, community colleges, universities, and local businesses will have display tables set up and will answer your questions.

Parents are welcome to attend!

—Kevik Rensink

## YD update

A friend of mine sends me a scripture verse every day. His most recent "inspiration" comes from Psalm 25:16–17, to which he adds, "Loneliness and separation are brutal things. What to do when the pit of your stomach feels endless and sorrow looms without an answer as to why? Direct your thoughts back to God and forge a way through the lows of life."

There is real hope in those words. The same hope we try to bring to the youth of Concrete. We kicked off the year with our Winter Olympic Games, and "The Brunettes and John" took home the gold. It was a fun evening of crazy games, too many powdered doughnuts, and people being duct-taped to the wall. We finished the evening talking to the students about fear, defining it, overcoming it, and truly living without it.

The next weekend we went sledding on Sauk Mountain and had a blast. We found some snow and the kids had a great time. It's all fun and games until you get a snowball in the eye (yep, that was me).

On Jan. 26 we had Jeopardy Night and "The Turtles and John" took it down in Final Jeopardy.

Three of our staff took 12 of our high school students to Leavenworth during Martin Luther King Jr. weekend for a snow retreat called "Hotdoggin' 2015." They had an amazing time playing in the snow, sledding, sleigh rides, rafting down a huge hill, and touring the town. The students got to meet other students from other schools, develop relationships with one another, and discover or rediscover their relationship with God. We had one student who in her own words "has huge trust issues with anyone" take a huge step toward learning to trust God more. Please pray for her and our other students as we continue through this school year trying to help our youth in this journey called life. We have several great events coming up, including Ultimate Frisbee Championships and the Ultimate Dating Game.

If your son or daughter is of high school age and is "bored out of their mind" on a Monday evening, send them our way! We would love to see them there.



**Robert Rushin, 10**, loads flattened cardboard boxes from the Concrete High School kitchen for a January trip to Albert's Red Apple Market, where the cardboard is baled and recycled. Rushin's recycling efforts are shared with his brother, Jonathan Akers. The two of them also are on hand when cans from the kitchen need to go to the recycling receptacles at the Sauk Transfer Station. Keeping tabs on these eager recyclers is the boys' mom, Marla Reed, who is the school district's food service manager and driver of the recycling vehicle. *Submitted photo.*

## Robotics team offers big prize for raffle fundraiser

The Concrete High School Robotics team is raising operating capital with a raffle through Feb. 13, and giving new meaning to the phrase, "Go big or go home."

The raffle prize is a one-night, deluxe guest room for two at the Silver Reef Hotel and Casino in Ferndale, plus dinner at the Steak House. The package is worth

\$300.

Raffle tickets are \$1 each and may be purchased from any Robotics team member: Tanner Wilson, Colvin Swanberg, Jasara Temple, Isaac Tiemens, Cameron Herauf, and Muriel Troka.

The prize-winning ticket will be drawn on Fri., Feb. 13, at 3 p.m.

### Town of Concrete seeks applicants for AWC Center for Quality Communities Scholarship Fund

Town of Concrete is accepting applications for the AWC Center for Quality Communities Scholarship Fund. The scholarship is available through a statewide competitive process for students who are actively engaged in their city government and/or community and/or school government and plan to attend post-secondary school in fall 2015.

To be eligible, a student must be graduating from high school or home school, or receiving a GED in spring/summer 2015; live within the Concrete School District; plan to continue their education at an accredited post-secondary institution in the 2015–16 academic year on a half-time or more basis; and have been involved with a city or town government or with a community/school leadership activity.

Information and application materials can be obtained at [www.townofconcrete.com](http://www.townofconcrete.com) or [cfqc.org](http://cfqc.org), as well as by contacting the Concrete High School office. Completed applications are due no later than Feb. 27, 2015.

Submit completed materials to: Town of Concrete, ATTN: Andrea Fichter, P.O. Box 39, Concrete, WA 98237.

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



**Concrete artist Natalie Lahr, 8**, poses with her winning artwork that graces bottles of this year's Skagit Eagle Festival wine from Challenger Ridge Vineyard near Concrete. For the past few years the winery has held a drawing contest during January; the winning entry graces the following year's bottles. Lahr's scene includes a vineyard, eagles, and a salmon. She'll autograph bottles at the winery on Sat., Feb. 7, from 2 to 4 p.m.

## K-12: Expensive focus of 2015 legislative debates

By Cooper Inveen  
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

OLYMPIA — Washington's lawmakers opened this year's legislative session Jan. 12 amid predictions of a long and contentious debate focused on budget and tax votes for the K-12 education system.

Lawmakers are confronted with a mountain of expensive problems to solve, ranging from transportation to mental health. But education funding is pivotal.

The Washington Supreme Court held the Legislature in contempt last year for engaging in "an ongoing violation of its constitutional duty to K-12 children," by not adequately funding public education. Combined with the responsibility to fund a class-size initiative passed in the recent election, education will likely take a large chunk out of the budget, creating a deficit that may not be filled without spending cuts and tax increases.

Meeting the requirements of the Supreme Court's decision is estimated to cost around \$2 billion, with the class-size initiative expected to tack on another \$2 billion.

Gov. Jay Inslee is pushing a budget proposal that relies on establishing a 7 percent capital-gains tax, a carbon-emissions tax, an excise tax on vaporizers,

a 50-cent-per-pack increase on cigarettes, and various tax break repeals.

But the governor's proposals are under fire as Republican lawmakers question whether tax increases are necessary to fill the spending gap. At an Associated Press pre-session leadership forum Jan. 8, Inslee rejected a charge from Senate budget Chairman Andy Hill, R-Redmond, that the increases were included in his proposed budget as a first rather than last resort. Hill has also denied that the state faces a true budget deficit.

"When you do the math, you have to generate additional revenue," Inslee said, claiming the new taxes will help progressivize Washington's tax system more than traditional "fallback" increases on sales and B&O taxes.

"If we can tax pollution, which we don't like, instead of business growth, which we do, that's a good decision," he said. "If we can tax higher income folks through a capital-gains tax instead of lower income folks when they buy a pair of shoes, that's a good decision."

Hill disagrees, however, claiming that talk of a regressive tax system is code for thinking an income tax is needed.

"When we raise taxes, we're taking money out of your pockets, and when we do that, we better be sure that we have exhausted all other ways of spending the existing money we've taken out of your pocket," Hill said.



# Clear Lake



Isabelle Smiley (left) and Abby Ormsby, both 8, show off their cars during the annual Girl Scouts Powderpuff Pinewood Derby at Clear Lake Elementary School, held on Jan. 17. The girls had just won awards in the "Looks" category, which was judged by their fellow Girl Scouts.

## Little ladies, start your engines!

OK, there weren't any engines roaring during the annual Girl Scouts Powderpuff Pinewood Derby on Jan. 17, but the action was fast and furious, and the cars were engineering marvels—marvels with bling. Held at Clear Lake Elementary School, the event boasted a new track with new electronics and software that guaranteed all racers got a fair shot at the title. Here's who took home awards:

### Best Gas Mileage

- Daisy: Callie Dennison
- Brownie: Nicole Hall
- Junior: Kjersten Larm

### Grand Champs, Speed

- First place: Isabelle Smiley, Brownie
- Second place: Marley Cronk, Daisy
- Third place: Autumn Hutchison, Junior

### Daisies, Speed

- First place: Marley Cronk
- Second place: Maddie Johnson
- Third place: Madilyn Parks

### Brownies, Speed

- First place: Isabelle Smiley

- Second place: Ella Griffith
  - Third place: Gracie Cronk
- Juniors+ (Cadettes), Speed**
- First place: Autumn Hutchison
  - Second place: Zoie Grenier
  - Third place: Megan Bawden

### Open Class, Speed

- First place: Paul Grenier
- Second place: Gina Grenier
- Third place: Gage Johnson

### Open Class, Best Mileage

- Alex Ortiz

### Guest Racers, Speed

- First place: Sedro-Woolley School District Superintendent Phil Brockman
- Second place: Concrete Mayor Jason Miller
- Third place: Hamilton Mayor Joan Cromley

### Guest Racers, Best Mileage

- Mount Vernon Mayor Jill Boudreau

### Guest Racers, Looks

- First place: Mount Vernon Mayor Jill Boudreau
- Second place: Hamilton Mayor Joan Cromley
- Third place: Concrete Mayor Jason Miller



## HISTORY CORNER

"Cattle-o" was a cross between a cow and a buffalo, owned by a farmer on Swan Rd. In the photo below, outside Smiley's Garage in 1927, Margarite (Peggy) Shipp is sitting on Cattle-o. Barbara Darsch, Bob Smiley, and Mr. and Mrs. Rogers also are in the photo. The Rogerses lived in a house behind the Congregational

Church. Photo courtesy of Clear Lake Historical Association.

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

—Deanna Ammons, historian  
Clear Lake and Day Creek



## Community Calendar



### FEBRUARY

- 6 Coffee with Commissioner Lisa Janicki, Concrete Center, 45821 Railroad Ave., Concrete, 1 p.m.; see notice, this page
- 6 Winter Fundraiser for Sedro-Woolley Boys & Girls Club, Sedro-Woolley Community Center, 703 Pacific St., Sedro-Woolley; 5 to 8 p.m.; \$20 admission or \$200 for table of eight; see notice, p. 6; info at 360.856.1830 or jgarman@skagitclubs.org
- 7 Stillaguamish Eagle Festival events in Darrington, various locations, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; see article, p. 24
- 7 Darrington Community Dance, Mansford Grange, 1265 Railroad Ave., Darrington; dance instruction at 6:30 p.m., dance at 7 p.m.; admission is \$7 donation; info at 206.402.8646
- 8 Model Train Open House at Sedro-Woolley Museum, 725 Murdock St., Sedro-Woolley, 1 to 3 p.m.; info at 360.855.2390
- 9 "Tales from the Coop: Inspiration and advice for raising backyard poultry" presentation, Mount Vernon Library reference room, 6:30 p.m.; free admission; see notice, p. 34; info at 360.336.6209 or www.mountvernonwa.gov
- 9 Concrete Town Council regular meeting, Town Hall, 7 p.m.; info at 360.853.8401
- 10 Career Fair, Concrete High School Commons, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; see ad, p. 12
- 11 Heart to Heart Charity KIDS Club meets at Hamilton Town Hall, 4 to 5 p.m.; free admission for children 4 years and older, younger with caregiver; info at hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 14 WOMEN HAND in hand Valentine's Breakfast fundraiser, Burlington Applebee's, 8 to 10 a.m.; \$10 per person; info at 360.826.3067
- 14 Mardi Gras Parade, Concrete Town Center, 2 p.m.; see article, p. 6
- 14 Mardi Gras Dinner Dance hosted by Immaculate Conception church in Mount Vernon, St. Joseph Center, 215 N. 15th St., Mount Vernon; 6 to 10 p.m.; advance tickets \$20 per adult; see notice, p. 34; tickets available at the Immaculate Conception parish office or 360.848.8707
- 18 Librarian Nancy Pearl speaks at Concrete Theatre, 7 p.m.; free admission; see p. 6; info at traskb@me.com or bpederson@upperskagit.lib.wa.us
- 20 Father-Daughter Dance sponsored by Concrete PTO, Concrete Elementary School, 6 to 8 p.m.; \$10 per couple; see notice, p. 12
- 21 Grand Celebration at The Woolley Market, 829 Metcalf St., Sedro-Woolley, 3 to 8 p.m.; see ad, p. 2
- 23 Concrete Town Council regular meeting, Town Hall, 7 p.m.; info at 360.853.8401
- 25 Heart to Heart Charity KIDS Club meets at Hamilton Town Hall, 4 to 5 p.m.; free admission for children 4 years and older, younger with caregiver; see notice, p. 22; info at hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com
- 26 "An Evening with Heart" women's heart health event sponsored by PeaceHealth, Skagit Valley Lodge & Casino, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.; \$15 admission, registration required: 360.856.7245; see ad, p. 7

### MARCH

- 14 Imagine Concrete townwide workshop: The future of Silo Park, Concrete High School Commons room, 9 a.m. to noon; childcare provided; see ad, p. 3; info at 360.853.8213 or goodwords@frontier.com
- 16 Salmon Dinner Auction fundraiser for Cascade Middle School students' trip to the East Coast in April; CMS, 5 to 8 p.m.; \$10 admission, includes silent auction

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

## Community meetings

**Community Chat**, an informal conversation about projects in Darrington, meets the second Fri. of each month at 8 a.m., at Mountain Loop Books and Coffee, 1085 Darrington St., Darrington. 360.436.2167

**Concrete American Legion Post and Auxiliary** meet the second Tue. of each month, Sept. through May, at 5:30 p.m. in the American Legion Building. 360.853.8940.

**Concrete Chamber of Commerce** meets the second Thur. of each month at 8 a.m. Meetings usually are held at Concrete Center in Concrete. 360.466.8754 or concretechamber@mac.com.

**Concrete Heritage Museum Board** meets the third Wed. of each month, at 7 p.m. at the museum. Meetings are open to the public. 360.826.3075 or concreteheritagemuseum@gmail.com

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

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

**Concrete School Board** will hold a workshop on Feb. 23, at 6 p.m. in the high school Commons. The board will hold its regular monthly meeting on Feb. 26, at 6 p.m., in the Commons. 360.853.8141.

**Concrete Town Council** meets the second and fourth Monday of each month at Town Hall, 45672 Main St., Concrete, at 7 p.m. 360.853.8401 or andrea@concretewa.gov.

**Darrington Area Business Assn (DABA)** meets the third Wed. of each month, 7 p.m., at Cascade Senior Center, 1115 Darrington St., Darrington. 360.436.2167.

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

**Forest Park Cemetery District No. 5** meets the second Wed. of each month at the cemetery office on Compton Lane in Concrete, at 8 a.m.

360.708.3656.

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

**Imagine Concrete** meets the third Tue. of each month in the Pilots' Lounge at Mears Field in Concrete, at 6 p.m. Open to the public. 360.853.8213 or goodwords@frontier.com.

**KSVU** station info and host training, second Wed. of each month at Portable B behind Concrete K-8 School, 1 to 4 p.m. Call 360.416.7001 to confirm appointment.

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

**Marblemount Community Hall board and staff** meet the second Tue. of each month at the hall, at 6:30 p.m. 360.873.2048 or 360.853.8388.

**Paranormal Discussion Group** meets the last Wed. of each month at Birdview Brewing Co., at 2 p.m. This month's meeting, however, will be Feb. 21. 360.630.5143.

**Saukrates Cafe** meets the last Wed. of each month at Annie's Pizza Station in Concrete, at 5 p.m. Conversation topics are posted at Upper Skagit Library and <http://saukratescafe.wordpress.com>.

**Sedro-Woolley High School Alumni Association** meets the third Wed. of each month, at 1 p.m., at the Sedro-Woolley Senior Center. 360.424.7243

**Sedro-Woolley Town Council** meets the second and fourth Wed. of each month, at 7 p.m., in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 325 Metcalf St. 360.855.1661.

**Sedro-Woolley School District Board** will meet for regular meetings on Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. Sedro-Woolley High School, and Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. at Big Lake Elementary. 360.855.3500 or kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us.

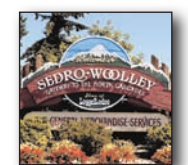
**Upper Skagit Library District (USLD) Board** meets the second Thurs. of each month at 5 p.m., at the library in Concrete. Public is welcome. 360.853.7939 or info@upperskagit.lib.wa.us.

## Coffee with a commissioner

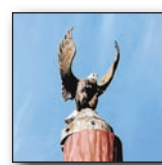
Meet new Skagit County Commissioner Lisa Janicki for a casual conversation about whatever's on your mind.

**Fri., Feb. 6, at 1 p.m.**  
**Concrete Center**  
**45821 Railroad Ave., Concrete**

Refreshments provided by 5h's Bakery



# Sedro-Woolley



## Chamber celebrates new digs

More than 125 business professionals from around Skagit County converged on Sedro-Woolley for an All County After Hours event on Jan. 15 to celebrate the grand opening of the new office of the Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce.

"It's been a long year, but it was worth it," said chamber Executive Director Pola Kelley of the moving process. The chamber's new location is 810 Metcalf St. in downtown Sedro-Woolley, just a few doors south of their old offices.

The Jan. 15 celebration included a gourmet food assortment by the culinary arts school of Cascade Job Corps, Coffee Service by Marjorie and Joseph Plewinski, and wine tasting by Eagle Haven Winery. The night was capped by a champagne toast to the success of the new office with champagne donated by Eldred

and Associates.

Music was provided by Matney Cook from the band Mudflat Walkers.

Many businesses and organizations donated door prizes for the business card drawings that were held throughout the evening. A special Blessing Plaque was provided to the Chamber by Arts Council of Sedro-Woolley President Tamara Brockman. Mayor Mike Anderson and City Council members also were in attendance to host the official ribbon-cutting.

"Thank you to all of the volunteers, workers, and staff who made the move and this night possible," said Kelley. "It was truly an event to remember."

—J. K. M.



The January 15 open house celebration packed out the Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce's new location at 810 Metcalf St. in downtown Sedro-Woolley.



Matney Cook sings during the after-hours celebration for the chamber. Cook is a member of the band Mudflat Walkers.

## The chamber has moved.

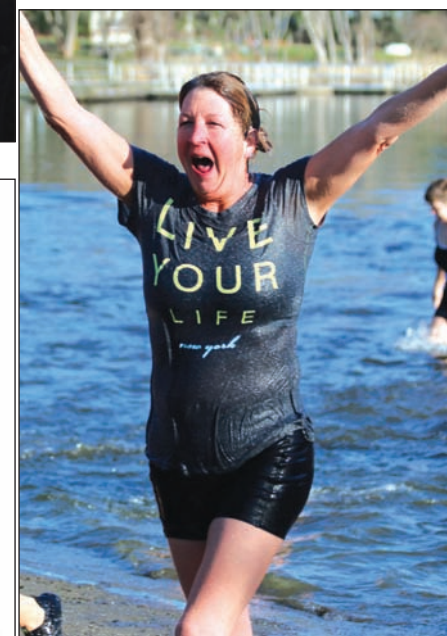
Effective Jan. 1, Sedro-Woolley Chamber of Commerce moved to its new location at 810 Metcalf St. in downtown Sedro-Woolley.



Sedro-Woolley Mayor Mike Anderson (left) chats with former Sedro-Woolley Police Chief Doug Wood during the chamber celebration.



The ASB Cascade Council of Cascade Middle School, Principal Scott McPhee, and members of the Big Lake Fire Department arrived at CMS in late December to pick up the more than 1,300 pounds of food that students collected for the Sedro-Woolley Food Bank. "Our goal was to 'Can the Man,' or rather fill Principal McPhee's office," said ASB Leader Brooke Howell. "We didn't quite fill it, but we did make it difficult to walk around." Submitted photo.



Cindy Pierce of Sedro-Woolley celebrates her chilly plunge into Clear Lake during the annual Penguin Dip Jan. 1.



Loggerodeo President Jeanne McLennan (left) presented a check for \$3,000 to Sedro-Woolley Mayor Mike Anderson at the Jan. 14 City Council meeting. The money will help fund the downtown flower baskets program in Sedro-Woolley during the summer and fall months. Other community groups are invited to donate to make sure the program continues. Photo by Lynn Torset.

Woolley Fiber Quilters is planning its annual quilt show for June 5-7, in concert with Sedro-Woolley's Blast from the Past festival. This year's theme is "Blast of Farms," celebrating Skagit County farming and farmers. All local

quilters are invited to enter quilts in the theme category or any of the other categories. Registration deadline will be in mid-May. Volunteers are welcome. For more information, go to [www.woolleyfiberquilters.blogspot.com](http://www.woolleyfiberquilters.blogspot.com).

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## Academic excellence for two SWHS grads at WWU

Western Washington University has released its fall quarter honor roll.

Included on the list are two Sedro-Woolley High School graduates, Tiegian Blair and Katie Lodjic, who both achieved a 4.0 grade point average for the quarter.

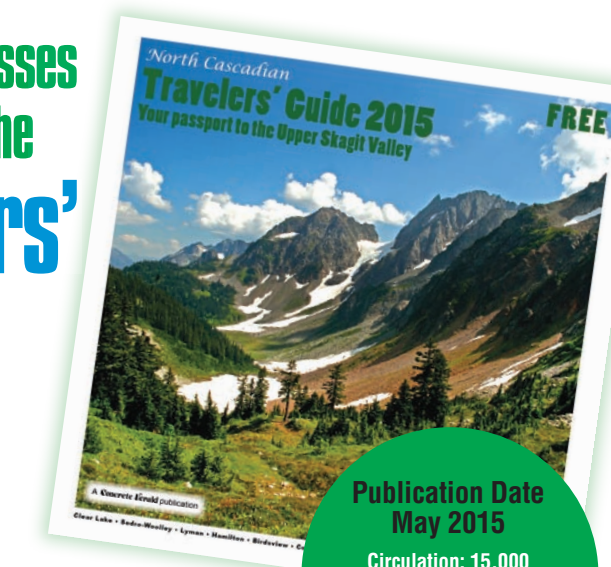
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## Smart businesses advertise in the Travelers' Guide!

Reach visitors to the Upper Skagit Valley by advertising in the 2015 North Cascadian Travelers' Guide.



**Publication Date**  
May 2015  
**Circulation:** 15,000  
**Pages:** 56  
**Deadline for ads and payment:**  
April 10, 2015

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# Lyman



# Day Creek



## How do you spell success?

**Kalin Adkerson** (right) took home top honors at the Spelling Bee at Lyman Elementary School on Jan. 27. Standing with Adkerson is runner-up winner Jaelle Werner. The students are in the sixth and fifth grades, respectively. The win was especially sweet for Adkerson, who just missed the top spot during last year's contest. *Submitted photo.*

## Council summary

*The Lyman Town Council held a regular monthly meeting on Dec. 16, preceded by a 2015 operating budget public hearing. Following is a summary of those meetings. Complete minutes for every council meeting are posted in the hall by the front door of Lyman Town Hall.*

### Dec. 16 public hearing: 2015 budget

- Mayor Debra Heinzman stated the purpose of the meeting was for public comment regarding the Town of Lyman 2015 Operating Budget.
- Citizen Don Fry asked several questions concerning the medical insurance, the water manager wages, and maintenance and meters in the water fund.
- For future consideration the franchise fee paid by Wave cable, and a possibility of the cemetery becoming

tax funded were mentioned as ways to keep revenues coming into them. The tax issue would be voted on by the residents; the cemetery is run by donation only, and the donations have gone down considerably in the last five years. The Lyman Car & Craft Show donates a large amount of money every year, but it goes to the rebuilding of the cook shack.

### Dec. 16 regular meeting

- An application has been submitted for a 150 cell tower at all Valley Storage. This would require a height variance and a conditional use permit. A public hearing will be scheduled.
- The owners of the property 31431 W. 2nd were present to discuss the property that is washing away when the rains come and the river comes through the channel behind their house.

## Public lands' surplus water rights could aid farmers, communities

By Alice Day  
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

OLYMPIA — Farmers, private businesses, and neighboring communities could have more access to water if legislators succeed in requiring state agencies to lease surplus water rights on public land.

In prior sessions, some lawmakers have tried to push through legislation allowing local communities to tap into state-held water rights. Rep. Brian Blake, D-Aberdeen, prime sponsor of House Bill 1000, said his proposal is an effort to have a conversation with the agencies about potential revenue from leasing unused water rights managed by the state Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW).

Co-sponsored by Rep. Joel Kretz, R-Wauconda, and Rep. Vincent Buys, R-Lynden, the bill would require WDFW to inventory and identify water rights that are not used for beneficial purposes such as agriculture, irrigation, and livestock, and lease surplus water rights to the public at a comparable market rate.

Revenues raised would accumulate in the Habitat Enhancement and Leasing Account that then could be used to support regional fisheries enhancement groups, production at state hatcheries, or acquire or enhance habitat for endangered species.

In a public hearing in the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee Jan. 14, some organizations expressed concerns with the language of the bill.

Bruce Wishart, lobbyist on behalf of the Center for Environmental Law & Policy and the Sierra Club, spoke against the bill, claiming if implemented, WDFW would

be forced to lease all unused water rights, including in-stream water rights currently maintained in the state's Trust Water Rights Program.

Unused water rights currently can be placed in the trust program for in-stream uses, such as fish-habitat and groundwater preservation, ecosystem maintenance, and hydropower generation. These water rights cannot be relinquished or lost if they are not used for out-of-stream purposes. However, Wishart says this bill would require WDFW to lease all unused water rights, including water that is seemingly being unused in streams.

"We've over-appropriated many streams around the state, and that's why we need to be very careful in making these decisions that determine we have enough water left in the stream," Wishart said.

Clay Sprague, lands division manager for WDFW, said the department supports the concept of keeping a better inventory of its water rights usage. However, the department would need to determine what portion of water rights should be retained to restore in-stream flows to meet the agency's habitat objectives.

Evan Sheffels, associate director of government relations at Washington Farm Bureau, and Trinity Stucker, secretary and treasurer at the Okanogan County Farm Bureau, said they aren't happy with a subsection of the bill that would allow WDFW to use money in the proposed habitat account to acquire more land for habitat.

Okanogan County and other counties in Eastern Washington already have a high percentage of land under state and federal ownership, so the prospect of adding more doesn't make sense, Sheffels said.

In addition, Stucker suggested the bill could be improved by adding a section that prioritizes agriculture's access to these water rights because a majority of the lands purchased by WDFW were used for agriculture.

No committee action has been taken on the proposal.

## Community notes

### Pancake feed and craft/garden sale

Join our community fundraiser, the annual Community Pancake Feed and Craft & Garden Sale, coming May 16. For more information, call 360.826.3003 or 360.826.3581.

### Kingdom Builders

Donna Pulver and Kathy Henderson, co-directors of Kingdom Builders, are reaching out to those in the Day Creek community who need help with trips to the doctor, hospital visits, store runs, and more. If you would like to become available to be a community helper, call 360.826.3003, 360.826.3581, or 360.826.3822.

### WOMEN HAND in hand

Join us with the ones you love for our Valentine's Breakfast fundraiser on Sat., Feb. 14, from 8 to 10 a.m. at Applebee's in Burlington. Breakfast includes pancakes, bacon, scrambled eggs, and a beverage. Tickets are \$10 per person; call 360.826.3067.

WOMEN HAND in hand will present another great speaker in 2015. Ruth Graham, the youngest daughter of Dr. Billy Graham, will be with us in

Darrington on Thur., April 23, and Sedro-Woolley on Friday and Saturday, April 24–25. We are excited to have her come for our HOPE LOVES women's conference. Plan now to attend with all your friends and family. Cost is \$20 for the two-day event. Follow WOMEN HAND in hand on our Facebook page or Web site.

To join WOMEN HAND in hand, call Sylvia Miles @ 360.826.3067.

### Walkie Talkies walking group

The **Day Creek Walkie Talkies** are up and at 'em. Every day around 7 a.m., there is a group walking the streets of Day Creek. When you see them, wave or honk—or better yet, join them. For more information, call 360.826.4375.

### Day Creek Book Club

The club meets at Cedar Springs Lodge on Barben Rd. on the third Monday of each month. New members are welcome. All members are welcome to host a club meeting at their favorite hangout spot.

For more information, call 360.661.0247.

### Garden dirt

Our resident gardener Donna Pulver offers these tips for February:

- Weather permitting, it's time to trim the previous year's growth on your wisteria, leaving three or four buds on the stem.
- Trim grasses if they have yellowed; cut down pampas grass.
- Trim grapes, prune blueberries (one-third of old growth and remove suckers).
- Start flower and vegetable seeds indoors.
- Transplant perennials.
- Fertilize trees and shrubs.
- In late February, very hardy veggies and herbs can be sown outdoors, although a cloche may be useful. Consider carrots, radish, garlic too.

We are looking for ideas for the Day Creek community—fun events and fundraisers—to support the fire hall and get to know the neighbors. If you have an idea, call Donna Pulver 360.826.3003 or Kathy Henderson at 360.826.3581.

—Kathy Henderson

## Open for business Feb. 12: The Wild Blueberry

Mark your calendar for Feb. 12, when the former Old Mill Restaurant will reopen under a new name and a new owner.

Melissa Quast will offer "good food at a reasonable price" at The Wild Blueberry. Look for good variety and lots of specials, said Quast, who's been in the restaurant business for years, most recently at Kitty Hawk in the Port of Skagit.

"I want this restaurant to become a community hangout for people," said Quast, who plans to offer free Wi-Fi for on-the-go diners.

And she's bringing back the walk-up and drive-up windows too!



Melissa Quast will reopen the Old Mill Restaurant under a new name on Feb. 12. The Wild Blueberry restaurant will serve "good food at a reasonable price," said Quast.

### At a glance: The Wild Blueberry

**Where:** 31439 SR 20, Lyman

**Phone:** 360.630.5440

**Hours:** Wed.–Sun., 5 a.m.–10 p.m.  
for first month, then 7 days/wk

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# January in pictures



**Above:** Boy Scouts from Troop No. 4074 pose for a photo next to a gear rack they built for the Grasmere Fire Hall Jan. 24. On hand during the service project day were Tyler Coffell, Noah and Isaac Tiemens, and Gabe and Robert Thompson. *Photo by Rod Coffell.* **Right:** The Scouts hunker down while assembling the rack.



**Left:** An interior view of the Fire and Life Safety Building in Concrete taken Jan. 27 shows the finished concrete floor and the three parking bays for engines. The project is slated for completion in late March/early April.

**Right:** Larry Koelling (left), Joe Bisson, and Don Payne carefully maneuver a statue onto the top of the fountain in Concrete Plaza Dec. 30. Koelling restored the concrete statue after Payne moved it and the fountain from behind the Cascade Mountain Lodge in Grasmere.



**Left:** Winners in the Best Gas Mileage category pose with their cars during the annual Girl Scouts Powderpuff Pinewood Derby at Clear Lake Elementary School on Jan. 17. From left, Callie Dennison, Daisy; Nicole Hall, Brownie; and Kjersten Larm, Junior. *Photo by Joan Cromley.*



**Above:** Sedro-Woolley High School graduate Annie Murray pauses during rehearsal for the University of Washington Drama School production of Twelfth Night, which will run from Jan. 30 through Feb. 8. A saxophone player in the UW marching band, Murray was invited to audition for the production and also will play a small role. *Photo by Nicola Pearson.*



**Skagit Eagle Festival** events consumed every weekend in January. **Above:** Runners begin the 5K Salmon Run at Overnell's Ranch near Concrete on Jan. 3. **Below:** "Bluegrass Box Lunch" at Concrete Theatre pulled in music lovers for a meal and a concert by Prozac Mountain Boys. **Bottom:** A golden eagle spreads its wings during the Sarvey Wildlife Care Center presentation at Challenger Ridge Vineyard near Concrete, Jan. 24. Sarvey was in town for additional shows during two other weekends in January.



**Above:** Hardy souls sprint into Clear Lake during the annual Penguin Dip on Jan. 1. The event draws dozens every year.

**Right:** Americorps VISTA volunteers Katie Griffith (left) and Rachel Sacco remove reed canary grass and blackberry brambles along the Lorenzen Creek shoreline in Concrete Jan. 19. The removal of invasive plants is part of the town's short-term plan to address the now-problematic waterway while a long-term reroute can be planned and funded.





# Hamilton



# Rockport



## Council summary

*The Hamilton Town Council held a regular meeting Dec. 9. Following is a summary of that meeting.*

- The regular meeting was preceded by a public hearing for the 2015 Town of Hamilton Budget. Mayor Joan Cromley announced that the projected budget was the same as presented last month. Cas Hancock stated that the budget looked good and that we will eventually be out of debt. Councilmember Betlem questioned the recreational facilities repairs and maintenance fund. Mayor Cromley explained those dollar figures for that particular fund.
- Mayor Cromley announced that we needed an ordinance to adopt the budget for next year and that we need to file it with the State Auditor's Office and Association of Washington

Cities. Council voted to adopt Ordinance 313.

- Mayor Cromley explained the water rates. We are expected to do a 5 percent increase, at least, to help cover costs. Councilmember Betlem motioned to accept the 5 percent increase; motion carried.
- Water Department:** Hancock stated that this month we have a 1 percent unaccounted for water loss and that for about a year we have stayed under 10 percent. Hancock is very pleased with how the maintenance guys are staying on top of the water leaks and making sure everything is running right.
- Fire Department:** Mayor Cromley announced that Fire Chief Bates has been working on a metal pole for the siren. Councilmember Betlem mentioned that there was no word on the ambulance yet.

—Compiled from staff minutes

## From the Mayor

There is an open seat on Town Council. The council will interview interested persons and appoint someone to the position at the council meeting on Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. Please come if you are interested in the position; bring a letter of interest giving some personal background and why you want to be on council.

Because of regular term elections and appointments, every elected official in Hamilton will be up for election in November. Please register to vote if you qualify and have an opinion about how your town is run. Anyone interested in running for council or mayor is welcome to let Town Hall know, and we will add you to the list of people receiving council packets and meeting notices. Almost all the meetings we attend are open to the public, so everyone interested can go and see for themselves what we do.

The free WiFi at Town Hall seems to be getting some good use. Please remember it is a public building, so there is no smoking within 25 feet.

Susan will be at the library on Mon., Feb. 9, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. for reading activities. Heart to Heart's KIDS Club will meet at Town Hall Feb. 11 and 25, from 4 to 5 p.m. for fun activities for kids 4 and up.

—Mayor Joan Cromley



**Heart to Heart Charity's KIDS Club** will meet on Wed., Feb. 11 and 25, from 4 to 5 p.m. at Hamilton Town Hall. Kids may ride the school bus to the meeting

with a signed note from their parents. We will make crafts and eat snacks! Free for children 4 years and older. For details, e-mail [hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com](mailto:hearttoheartcharity@gmail.com).

## Birdsview Buzz

Happy February, everyone, and welcome to spring since I think so far we have bypassed winter.

### February birthdays

3 Pam Giececk  
10 Matt Slater  
23 Rudy Giececk

We all wish Dan Brown a speedy recovery from his surgery last month, and for everyone else who's been hit with this cold/flu thing, get well soon!

A couple of new happenings at the brewery. Pam Giececk is starting a group for knitters, crocheters, sewers, etc., that she's calling the Upriver Hookers and Needle Pushers. The first meeting is at the brewery on Feb. 19 at 2 p.m. Bring your yarn and hooks or needles, or if you just want to learn, we will have someone to help with that as well. Check out her Facebook group page for more info.

Also, the Forest Moon Paranormal group will hold meetings here the last Wednesday of each month, at 2 p.m.

This month's meeting, however, will be Feb. 21 at the same time. Check out their Facebook page for details.

We're looking for some new music to play at the brewery. Contact Kris at the brewery or through the brewery Facebook page for details.

Beginning this month, we will serve 5b's gluten-free bread and hamburger buns with our gluten-free meals. We try to support local whenever possible and that's why we only use and sell Cement City Coffee (locally roasted here in Birdsview), and whenever a beer recipe calls for honey, we only use The Valley's Buzz from Concrete and when possible, the honey from hives that Seth Smith places on our property during the spring and summer months.

Our re-zone application has been docketed (meaning they have about a year to "think" about it). So that's one step closer to the kitchen expansion. Thanks for all the support from everyone who took the time to write a letter, e-mail, or sign our petition.

Have a great month!

—Kris Voigt

## PIONEERING TODAY

### Homemade bone broth and stock

By Melissa K. Norris

Our pioneer forefathers knew how to stretch a dollar and their groceries. They also did a lot of cooking from scratch. An easy way to do this is to make your own homemade bone broth or stock. Not only is it frugal, but it also provides you with gelatin and collagen.

You'll need the bones after cooking a whole chicken, beef bones, or even lamb. I often freeze mine until I have two chicken carcasses for a batch, or a good size pot full of beef bones. I only use our organic, pasture-raised chickens and beef bones. I don't want to be putting antibiotics, hormones, or other GMO things from the bones of animals into my broth or stock.

Place the bones in a slow cooker or stock pot. Pour a quarter-cup of apple cider vinegar over the bones. The acid helps pull out the minerals from the bones into your stock. And after it cooks, you don't taste the vinegar. Let it sit for about a half hour.

Add a combination of celery, garlic, onions, or other odds and ends vegetables for more vitamins, nutrients, and taste. Cover the bones and vegetables with water and bring to a boil. Turn to a low simmer and allow to cook for at least 12 hours and up to 48 hours. I add herbs in the last few hours of cooking.

Allow to cool, then pour the broth through a strainer. Often you can reuse the bones for a second batch of stock or broth. Store the broth in the fridge for up to five days, freeze it, or even dehydrate it into a powder. You can also can it following the instructions with your pressure canner.

We use our homemade bone broth and stock in place of water when cooking rice or quinoa, as a hot beverage, for soups and stews, and even to make gravy and sauces.

*Melissa K. Norris is a Christian fiction novelist who lives in Rockport.*

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



## Deep Forest experience

**Above:** Rain Olson, 2, investigates a stuffed bear at Rockport State Park's Discovery Center with Ranger (and artist) Don Smith. Rain and his half-brother Sylas Cargile, 3, visited the park on Jan. 24. **Below:** Rain and Sylas inspect a towering Douglas fir at Rockport State Park. Photos by Christie Fairchild.



## Wild and Scenic property conserved on Illabot Creek

Landowners place conservation easement on 100 acres of farmland and pristine salmon habitat.

Skagit's Illabot Creek became more thoroughly "wild and scenic" with the purchase and signing of a voluntary conservation easement agreement between Skagit Land Trust and landowners Ken and Velma Perrigou. Signed on Jan. 6, the day Congress officially designated Illabot Creek a federal Wild and Scenic River, the signing culminates a years-long collaboration between a private landowner and conservation partners and funders, including Skagit Watershed Council, WA State Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRFB), Skagit County Public Works, and the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Illabot Creek near Rockport is one of the most important tributaries of the Skagit River for salmon production and recovery. The conservation easement is one of several salmon recovery projects funded by the state in the Illabot watershed.

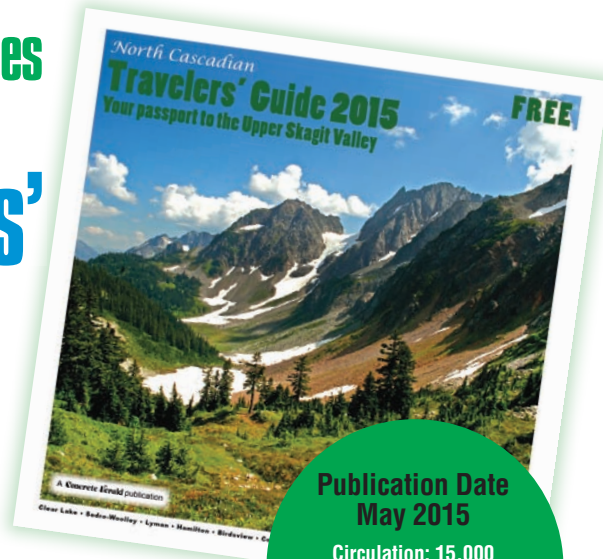
The easement is on private property and conserves one-half mile of river shoreline and working farmland. It extinguishes all future development rights on 100 acres to ensure the agricultural land will not be subdivided, and it will protect and restore a 130-foot buffer area along the stream. Skagit County will lead the restoration of the streamside area by fencing and planting native vegetation to provide shade and protect water quality.

The easement ensures that the one existing home on the property can be used by current and future landowners, and agricultural uses can continue outside of the stream buffer area. "This represents the best kind of partnership with a private landowner" said the Trust's Executive Director Molly Doran. "We are really happy to help find the common ground, where the landowner can keep ranching and the fish and habitat will thrive."

—Submitted by Skagit Land Trust

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**Publication Date**  
May 2015

**Circulation:** 15,000  
**Pages:** 56

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A **Concrete Herald** Publication

**Call 360.853.8213**

For more information or to request an advertising rate card, send an e-mail to [editor@concrete-herald.com](mailto:editor@concrete-herald.com).



# Darrington



## “Finish the Loop” a hot topic at community meeting

By Marla Skaglund

The Community Center in Darrington was filled with area residents and beyond Jan. 21 to hear updates regarding the status of a variety of projects that are currently under way.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to update attendees regarding the current status of the effort to pave the remainder of the Mountain Loop Highway (“Finish the Loop”) and the Mountain Loop Highway Stewardship project, and to summarize the status of other projects being pursued by Darrington Strong, Darrington Renewal Project, and Darrington Area Resource Advocates.

WSU representative Judy Pendergrass introduced Nels Rasmussen, who spoke on Darrington Strong and the efforts of the group to bring tourism and recreation opportunities, among other ideas, to the Darrington area. Several committees have been formed under the Darrington Strong umbrella, including Friends For Public Use, Friends of North Mountain, and the Darrington Area Resource Advocates.

Martha Rasmussen spoke on the work of Friends For Public Use and their efforts to clean debris and do maintenance work on local roads and trails.

Val Peppinger spoke on the Darrington Renewal Project and their efforts to establish a Farmers’ Market and other projects.

Amy Lucas, Snohomish County Planning and Development Services, spoke on the inclusion of Darrington in the yearly Eagle Festival.

Pendergrass then introduced Darrington IGA co-owner Kevin Ashe to begin the program and give detail on the efforts of DARA to get the 14-mile unpaved portion of the Mountain Loop Highway finished.

The Mountain Loop Highway, Forest Road #20, was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1941. The road, known for its breathtaking views and access to some of the most sought-after recreation in the state, has 14 miles of unpaved road requiring high maintenance

by the Forest Service. Once the Mountain Loop Highway is paved, the intention is that Snohomish County would take over the jurisdiction for the road. It is believed that paving the remaining 14 miles of road will secure a longer season for recreation, improve law enforcement, and increase recreation-generated revenues locally and for Snohomish County and the state.

In 1975, the Federal Highways Administration (FHA) published an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which proposed completion of a paved, two-lane scenic highway from Barlow Pass to Darrington. In 1986, the segment from Darrington to the Whitechuck River was paved. In the 1990s, FHA was ready to prepare an EIS to address paving the remaining 14 miles of gravel highway. This project was abandoned when the Forest Service, FHA, and Snohomish County decided not to proceed with the work because of a lack of active support.

Walt Dortch presented a slide show outlining the advantages of completing the paving project and the disadvantages of not paving. The gravel part of the Mountain Loop Highway becomes a dusty, pothole-filled road, making the drive a deterrent to visitors living in Washington state and the U.S. as a whole. Paving that gravel segment would significantly improve the capability of the road to provide a safe and accessible alternative route to passenger and emergency vehicles into and out of Darrington, Silverton, and other communities.

Based on the contract awarded to pave the Middle Fork Snoqualmie Rd., it is estimated that it will cost \$22 million to pave the remainder of the MLH. FHA can provide up to 86.5 percent of the funding for the project; the remaining 13.5 percent must come from “matching” nonfederal funds.

DARA continues to pursue building a case for the project and the communities that would benefit from paving the 14-mile stretch of the Mountain Loop Highway. Millions of visitors would have a world-class destination that would benefit Snohomish County and Washington state.

It is hoped this time to create an active constituency of local governments, federal and state representatives, and Snohomish



Darrington Mayor Dan Rankin speaks to attendees during the community meeting in Darrington Jan. 21. *Photo by Marla Skaglund.*

County officials and interest groups who will step up when it counts at meetings or other venues and urge the project to go forward.

Darrington Mayor Dan Rankin pointed out the representation in the room of the many organizations in Darrington that have taken on different projects around town, including the community garden, drug awareness, Skate Darrington, Grange, Bluegrass Association, Whitehorse Trails, and many others.

Granite Falls Councilmember Fred Cruger stated that all the communities along the Mountain Loop Highway will benefit from the paving.

Dortch encouraged everyone in the room to leave their e-mail addresses so that when an important event arises, an e-mail can be sent out to encourage participation.

Ashe said, “We are looking for diversity in Darrington instead of relying on one industry. In the 1990s, Darrington had a strong economy, but times have changed.”

The meeting was sponsored by Darrington Strong, Darrington Renewal Project, Darrington Area Resource Advocates, River Resources Trust, and WSU.

Questions can be sent to [finishtheloop@gmail.com](mailto:finishtheloop@gmail.com).

## Eagle Festival arrives Feb. 7

This year Darrington has been invited to join the 8th annual Stillaguamish Eagle Festival, to be held on Feb. 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and will host events both in and outside of town.

An area has been selected for Eagle viewing at Squire Creek Park, at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. The salmon arrive yearly to spawn at Furland, Ashton, and Squire Creeks. There you can observe and listen to the eagles roosting in large trees along the shoreline.

Tours will be held at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Old Fortson Mill, where visitors can learn the history from its humble beginnings in 1905 to becoming a thriving and important community in the Stillaguamish Valley. The old Fortson Mill site is now owned by Snohomish County Parks, Stillaguamish Tribe, and Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, and will be a trailhead for the Whitehorse Trail. Fortson is located at milepost 42.5 off SR 530.

Horseback Rides to River’s End will be offered 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. River’s End is a popular eagle-viewing destination. Bar 3 Quarter Horse and Outfitter will offer two-mile horseback rides starting from the historical livery barn at the Darrington Ranger Station, 1405 Emmens St., to River’s End. The fee is \$40 per rider; riders must be 12 years of age or older.

Darrington Eagle Festival Photography and Art Show will be held 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Mansford Grange, 1265 Railroad Ave. Photographers will share pictures of eagles and the Darrington area.

Kids can learn how to make paper bead necklaces and paper weaving from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Darrington Library meeting room, 1005 Cascade St.

Mountain Loop Books and Coffee, 1085 Darrington St., will host a nature-themed poetry reading by students from Darrington High School at 11 a.m.

Come to the Local Treasures Quilt Show, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Cascade Senior Center, 1115 Darrington St., and see the special quilts that have become

See Eagle Festival, p. 25

## Open for business: Healing Wind Massage

Healing Wind Massage/MFR Therapy is open for business in Darrington. Roxanne Fisher is the Owner/operator, Licensed Massage Practitioner, and ordained minister.

Finding no fulfillment with her career in the corporate world, Roxanne made a major life decision about 10 years ago to explore her own spirituality more fully and to fill her desire to help people.

The John F. Barnes Approach to Myofascial Release is used at Healing Wind Massage. This approach “is considered to be the ultimate therapy that is safe, gentle, and consistently effective in producing results that last,” says Roxanne. This form of myofascial release therapy is used to treat patients with a variety of soft tissue problems, including acute and chronic pain, bladder problems, bulging disc, carpal tunnel syndrome, headaches/migraines, and mobility issues.

Roxanne began treating patients at Clear Creek Candle Shop in December 2013. After the devastating SR 530 slide, she began to donate her time and treat the first responders at the Darrington Fire Station. In June 2014, Healing Wind Massage found its location in the old dental office

### Eagle Festival, cont. from p. 24

part of family heritage.

Starting at 7 p.m., a contra dance will be held at Mansford Grange. Bring your dancing feet and have a lot of fun! This is an all-ages event. A \$7 donation covers the cost of callers and music.

### Children

- Ready Readers Family Storytime, Weds., Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25; 10 to 10:45 a.m. For ages birth to 5 years. Caregiver required.

### Families/All ages

- Lego Robotics, Wed., Feb. 4, 1 to 2 p.m. Children grades 4–7.
- Lego Club, Wed., Feb. 25; 1 to 2 p.m.

### Adults

- Free tax preparation assistance, Mon. Feb. 9, 2 to 6 p.m. Bring your tax information to the library and obtain free one-to-one assistance in

at 1140 Seeman St. and it has become a charming and calming oasis for therapy.

Roxanne greets guests at Healing Wind Massage with a calm and respectful demeanor. Her main focus is to “treat the whole person, not just the symptoms.”

Each person will receive a customized experience and depending upon what your individual body will allow, perhaps a spiritual experience. Roxanne’s mind-body approach is intended to bring about “positive and lasting changes,” she says.

Beginning in February, Roxanne will add equine massage to her business. Healing Wind Massage’s “approach to horses is very much the same as it is to humans: client-centered, nurturing, and specific to the situation.”

Hours of operation are Wednesday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Scheduled appointments are best; walk-ins also are welcome. The fee for a 60-minute session is \$45.

To schedule an appointment call 360.464.0714. More information can also be found online at [www.healingwindmassage.com](http://www.healingwindmassage.com).

The Darrington Area Spiritual Fellowship led by Owen Couch meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7 p.m. at Healing Wind Massage.

—Jentry Wright

Stop in at Adventure Cascades, 1055 Seeman St., and book an Sauk River float trip.

Various businesses in Darrington will participate in a scavenger hunt.

Watch for signs directing visitors to the

- preparing your taxes. In cooperation with the United Way of Snohomish County, tax experts will be on hand to give assistance on a first come-first served basis.
- Bibliophiles (book lovers): *Mink River* by Bryan Doyle, Wed., Feb. 4, 6:30 to 8 p.m.

The library will be closed Mon., Feb. 16, in observance of Presidents’ Day.

For more information, go to [www.sno-isle.org?ID=1194](http://www.sno-isle.org?ID=1194) or call 360.436.1600.  
—Bryan Stratton, branch manager



Licensed masseuse Roxanne Fisher has opened Healing Wind Massage at 1140 Seeman St. in Darrington. *Photo by Jentry Wright.*

### At a glance: Healing Wind Massage

**Where:** 1140 Seeman St., Darrington

**Phone:** 360.464.0714

**Hours:** Wed.–Fri., 10:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.  
Sat. 10:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

## Snohomish County launches property crime unit

The Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office and the police departments of Marysville, Lake Stevens, Stillaguamish Tribe, and Tulalip Tribe have launched a new North County Property Crime Unit. The unit is composed of property crime detectives from several agencies who will collaborate to track down the most prolific thieves in the county.

The unit will focus on crimes such as burglary, major theft, fraud, and trafficking in stolen property, as well as crimes that stem from these types of incidents.

The unit operates out of the Marysville Police Department.

—Snohomish County  
Sheriff’s Office

## Concrete Herald

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# Marblemount



# Newhalem



**Tour guide Chad Verbitsky** with Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group (far left) speaks with visitors to the Marblemount Fish Hatchery Jan. 17. The hatchery offered guided tours every weekend in January, one of many events during the Skagit Eagle Festival.

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**Call 360.853.8213**



**Flutist Peter Ali**, a popular guest at Upper Valley events, performs "Music from the Heart" at Marblemount Community Hall during the Skagit Eagle Festival Jan. 10. Highlighting Native American cultures and heritage, weekend events at the hall included an interactive puppet show storytelling and drumming by Samish tribal elder Rosie James, watershed restoration efforts, and Blackfoot Nation acoustic guitarist J. P. Falcon Grady. *Photo by Christie Fairchild.*

## Watch wintering wildlife with care

Winter can be a great season to watch wildlife, but it's also the time when we can most easily stress those objects of our attention.

All of us, including our feathered and furred friends in the wild, use more energy to move and function in winter's cold and snow. Unnecessary disturbance of animals that exist 24-7 in those conditions depletes their energy reserves more quickly.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) wildlife biologists say minimizing impact to wild animals at this time can be critical to their survival.

Little things can make a difference, like approaching animals too closely and causing them to flush or flee, often times in cold temperatures or through deep snow. You can avoid disturbing wildlife in that way by using your binoculars or scope and telephoto camera lens.

Teach children to be respectful of wildlife and their need for space, too. And leave the dog at home, in the vehicle, or indoors if you're watching on your own property.

Some wild animals that winter in Washington are very opportunistic in their survival strategies. A well-worn trail through the snow to a site where wildlife beds, roosts, or dens will be readily used by predators, both wild and domestic. Food sources inadvertently left accessible—such as garbage, compost, pet food, or poorly placed bird feeders—may draw animals that prey upon winter concentrations of other species.

Feeding wildlife in winter may seem like a good idea to offset their energy deficit, but it often causes more problems and can become very costly. For details, see WDFW's Winter Wildlife Feeding

information at [http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/winter\\_feeding/wildlife.html](http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/winter_feeding/wildlife.html).

A good way to watch wildlife in winter that is less apt to cause disturbance is to use specific sites that separate viewers from wildlife by motor vehicle routes, trails, boardwalks, and blinds. Skagit County locations include:

- Skagit Wildlife Area's Johnson/Debay Swan Reserve, northeast of Mount Vernon, provides a winter feeding and resting reserve for trumpeter and tundra swans, and other wildlife, with grass and corn planted for swans and ducks. The large numbers of wintering waterfowl also attract bald eagles and other raptors; beaver and river otters inhabit the sloughs year-round; public parking and access is provided, as well as two parking/viewing areas for disabled users.
- Skagit Land Trust's Hurn Field, two miles west of Sedro-Woolley, offers wintering area for elk, but also viewable waterfowl and winter birds; viewing area constructed by WDFW.
- Skagit Wildlife Area's Fir Island Farms Snow Goose Reserve, on Fir Island Road, and adjacent to the Skagit Bay estuary in Skagit County, provides a winter-feeding and resting area for thousands of snow geese with fields of winter wheat grown for the birds. Walk along the dike to scan for waterfowl and shorebirds, including wintering dunlin and numerous bald eagles.

More details on some of these and other sites for winter wildlife viewing are available in the Audubon Great Washington State Birding Trail series of maps ([http://wa.audubon.org/birds\\_greatwabirdingtrail.html](http://wa.audubon.org/birds_greatwabirdingtrail.html)) and at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/viewing/>.

—Submitted by WDFW

## SR 20 closed to recreational and vehicle traffic

State Route 20 east of the closed vehicle gate at Ross Dam Trailhead (MP 134) closed temporarily to foot traffic and recreational activities on Jan. 16.

Heavy rains caused rock slides that blocked the road. Boulders, debris, and hazard trees will be removed from the road bed and loose debris removed or

stabilized by contractors for Washington Department of Transportation. Heavy equipment will be used throughout the project, including dump trucks with trailers and tree-felling equipment.

Work will occur seven days per week to minimize the amount of time the road is closed to recreational activities. The project is expected to be complete by mid-to late February.

—WSDOT

## USFS issues policy for over-snow vehicles on national forests

The U.S. Forest Service released on Jan. 27 its final policy for managing snowmobile and other "over-snow" vehicle use on national forests and grasslands.

As directed by court order, the policy

requires that roads, trails and areas where over-snow vehicle use can occur be specifically designated by local Forest Service managers. Previously, managers had the discretion to decide whether to designate specific areas for over-snow vehicle use.

Many forests and grasslands currently have oversnow designations. Over-snow vehicles are used for recreation, gathering firewood, and subsistence hunting.

## AREA FOOD BANKS

### Clear Lake

#### Community Covenant Food Bank

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

### Concrete

#### Concrete Food Bank

112 E. Main St., Concrete  
Second, third, and fourth Thur. each month,  
Noon–3 p.m.  
360.853.8505

### Darrington

#### Darrington Food Bank

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

### Hamilton

#### Hamilton Community Food Bank

951 Petit St., Hamilton  
Every Tue., 11–noon and 1–3 p.m.

360.826.4090

### Lyman

#### Shepherd's Heart Food Bank

8334 S. Main St., Lyman  
Every Thur. 10:30 a.m.–1 p.m.  
Self-help classes after food bank closes; call  
for subjects: 360.853.3765

### Marblemount

#### Bread of Life Food Bank

59850 State Route 20, Marblemount  
First and third Wed. each month  
11 a.m.–4 p.m.  
360.873.2504

### Sedro-Woolley

#### Helping Hands Food Bank

601 Cook Rd., Sedro-Woolley  
Wed., 10–11:30 a.m. and 12:30–4 p.m.  
Open every Wednesday  
360.856.2211

\*Changes? Call 360.853.8213.

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



# Seniors

## Coffee Break

You hear voices

By Patrick Kennedy

You hear voices, or at least one voice, asking questions with no answers and describing common, everyday functions like talking from room to room, or folding the laundry, or even what might be nice for dinner. You find, after an analysis of these activities, it's your own voice seeking company and/or keeping yourself company. It's a common situation seniors must deal with when they are thrown into an area of isolation, living alone after a lifetime of family and friends constantly around them. This is a big problem for those in the middle of it.

There are several ways to look at this. "It is better to be alone than in bad company," is the way George Washington looked at it. Bad company can be just as lonely as being alone. Then there is Marilyn Monroe: "It's often just enough to be with someone. I don't need to touch them. Not even talk. A feeling passes between you both. You're not alone."

Just anyone? Maybe there is

a better way to solve this. Some might suggest the solution is to get at pet. The dilemma is that you can talk to them, but they can't talk back, and there you are again, back to ground zero/silence. This is not a permanent answer, but a temporary bit of fun.

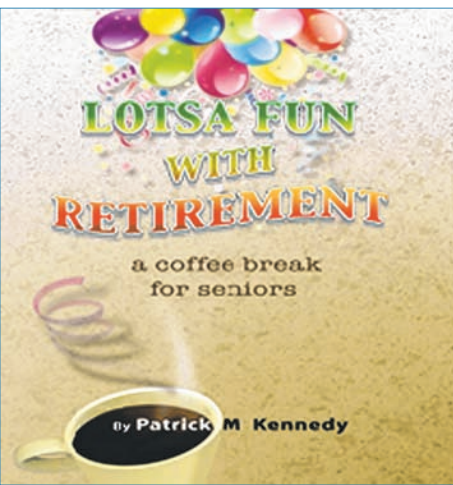
Another solution is to get out of that old house with all the haunting memories echoing of those who were and aren't now. But maybe you want to keep the memories; besides, comfort must be considered.

Another way to go might be to get a buddy/girlfriend (the nonromantic type) to live with you or you with them. You can discuss things, do things, and just be together, and you both would have the positive of two-way conversations.

There must be somebody you know who has the same problem. This could be better than moving into a senior complex with all its dilemmas. This might bring on the burden of dealing with a lot of other's problems and not just your own.

Loneliness is an important concern for mental health. Research has related loneliness in older adults to mental health problems, especially depression and anxiety. However, little is known about loneliness from the perspective of older adults living in the community. Loneliness is an important problem, and should be avoided if possible. Henry David Thoreau thrived on being alone; we don't have to.

Patrick M. Kennedy is the author of *Lotsa Fun with Retirement*. Find it at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).



## Way Back When

### 80 years ago

*Feb. 7, 1935:* Loggers have always had a reputation as tellers of tall tales, but one has drifted in from Birdsvew that has witnesses to prove its truth.

Goodwin Rolls, a logger hailing from Arlington, wanted to get across the river at Birdsvew one evening. He was employed at a camp on the south side and wanted to get back that night. The river was high and the wind blowing so strong that the ferryman refused to take the ferry across.

Undaunted, Rolls secured a piece of rope from Herbert Bloom and, tying it around his waist for a safety belt, took off his coat and shoes and started across the cable hand over hand. On the way over, he rested frequently by climbing up and lying on the cable, and at other times by swinging on his safety rope. Witnesses report that at times his body was blown almost straight out from the wire by the wind.

Rolls made it across the river with only a ruined pair of canvas gloves and a few torn clothes as the price.

Rolls states that he had done the stunt before on smaller streams, but had underestimated the distance on this one: The cable at Birdsvew is about 600 feet long. He does not plan to make a habit of this method of crossing the Skagit.

### 60 years ago

*Feb. 17, 1955:* Last Friday night, Jim Chamness and Wayne Crinklaw again proved their

ability at the foul line by winning the Skagit County Hoop Shoot. Shooting before a capacity crowd in the Mount Vernon gym, and against the 10 top contenders from the rest of the county, both boys coolly walked off with top shooting honors.

Chamness was first with 23 out of 25 and Crinklaw was second with 20. Their nearest competitor was Bassett of Burlington, with 18. Both boys now will represent this county in the district shoot-off, which is to be held this Friday night in Bellingham. The district winner will compete for the state championship at the University of Washington pavilion in Seattle.

*Feb. 24, 1955:* Jimmy Chamness did it again last Friday night at Bellingham when he won the District Hoop Shoot at the Bellingham High School gym against Jerry McBeath, the Whatcom County champ. Jimmy now will go to the Washington State finals at Hec Edmundson Pavilion in Seattle on March 12.

To win the district title, Chamness scored 20 out of 25; McBeath was close behind with 19.

### 50 years ago

*Feb. 4, 1965:* Mud from the slipping hillside above the power house of the Lower Baker River Dam in Concrete continued to harass Puget Sound Power and Light officials and employees last week as they fought to keep the doors of the power house clear and the material moving from the rear of the building, where a thick retaining wall shunted it around

## Concrete Center

### February 2015

#### Activities

Mon. - Fri., 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Lunch served Tue. - Fri., noon

#### Mondays

10 a.m.  
Noon  
12:30 p.m.

Jigsaw puzzles  
Coffee Bar  
Skip Bo, Cribbage,  
Yahtzee

#### Tuesdays

10 a.m.  
10:30 a.m.  
Noon  
12:15 p.m.  
12:30 p.m.

Jigsaw puzzles  
Tai Chi  
Lunch  
Leap of Faith, 2/24  
Skip Bo, Cribbage

#### Wednesdays

10 a.m.  
10:30 a.m.  
  
Noon  
12:30 p.m.  
12:30 p.m.

Jigsaw puzzles  
Advisory Board mtg.,  
2/11  
Lunch  
Skip Bo, Cribbage  
White Elephant Bingo,  
2/11, 2/25

#### Thursdays

10 a.m.  
Noon  
12:30 p.m.  
12:30 p.m.

Jigsaw puzzles  
Lunch  
Skip Bo, Cribbage  
Pinochle, 2/5, 2/19

#### Fridays

10 a.m.  
  
Noon  
12:30 p.m.

Jigsaw puzzles,  
watercolor painting  
Lunch  
Dominoes, Skip Bo,  
Cribbage

#### Holiday closures

Feb. 16

Way Back, cont. from p. 28

both sides of the building.

The slides on the hill above had been caused by heavy rains. Two separate channels of mud and dirt came down at the rear of the building. Work continues on the upper slopes to pump water pockets from the slide area and take weight off the loose masses of topsoil.

On Saturday a third slide area developed unexpectedly farther south and came down across the parking area, sweeping away two trucks parked there. A pick-up was pulled from the slide, but a panel truck went into the Baker River and disappeared.

On Sunday small slides continued in all three areas, hampering the efforts of loaders, trucks, and bulldozers to clear away the debris. A respite in rainfall has aided the work, but more trouble is expected if weather starts again.

### 40 years ago

*Feb. 6, 1975:* Concrete police and State Liquor Board officials are investigating an early Monday break-in at the State Liquor Agency in Concrete. Liquor valued at more than \$15,000 was taken from the store, but later recovered.

Burglars gained entry by going over the roofs of adjoining buildings and cutting a hole

through the roof of the liquor store.

Bottles were taken from the shelves, boxed, and carted across Main Street before the burglars were frightened from the scene. Using the liquor store handtruck, one man was moving cases across the street to a spot behind Peterson's Garage when he was seen by a local resident who called police. Police Chief Bob Blankenship responded, but the culprits escaped.

All the liquor was recovered, store manager Barbara Hoover reported. The only loss is one bottle, which was broken, and one that the thieves had opened and partially emptied.

—Compiled from archives



**30 years ago.** The Feb. 21, 1985, issue of *Concrete Herald* included this photo of students from Concrete Elementary School who had been awarded stickers, posters, and other prizes in a recent Multiple Sclerosis read-a-thon conducted at the school. Top readers were Leah Berg with 80 books read during the four-week event, and second grader Zachery Hedgpeth with 51 books. Others participating were Nathan and Melissa Renzelman, Noah Weaver, Seana Helms, Summer Woodson, Jeremy Thresher, Lynne Troxel, Bram Sherin, Amanda Hall, Annie Metcalf, Jeff Luse, Shawn Wilkins, Chara Leopard, Ryan Thygesen, Jeff Phillips, Andy Troxel, and Jennifer Weaver. The students read a total of 434 books and collected \$548.21. Archive photo by Anne Bussiere.

Continue the cycle

Please recycle  
this newspaper



# Obituaries

## Sidney Charles "Chuck" Jenkins

Mule packer, musician, homesteader, husband, hound hunter, historian, and friend. Sidney Charles "Chuck" Jenkins was all that and more.

When he suddenly left this world on Jan. 7, the Upper Skagit and all of the Pacific Northwest lost a beloved treasure.

Born Feb. 13, 1932, in Whatcom County, Chuck grew up along the shores of Lake Whatcom, attending the Geneva School and relishing the freedom of a Huck Finn life. Raised by his pioneering parents, Will D. and Mildred Hunley Jenkins, he was given the skills and tools to go on to become a highly respected man of commitment, dedication, and honesty.

A veteran of the Korean War, Chuck married Wilma Rose Olsen of Lummi on Oct. 14, 1956, and they soon settled in Glacier, where he had begun work for the Mount Baker National Forest. By 1966 they had transferred to the Marblemount District. After North Cascades National Park was established there from former U.S. Forest Service lands, they moved down to the Darrington District to continue packing their mules with supplies, food, and equipment needed for work in the back country.

Chuck and Wilma hand-built their log home south of Rockport and lived there most of their lives. Bookshelves overflowing with local history tomes; antler racks, skins, and pelts adorning the walls; and stacks of photo albums always welcomed visitors to travel back in time as they shared stories with anyone wishing to listen.

Chuck lost his beloved Wilma in 2007, and now we have lost Chuck.

Please help honor our friend by attending the Memorial Service at the Darrington Community Center on March 14. And don't forget to bring a story.

## Obituaries published in Concrete Herald

from May 2009 to present are posted online at:

[www.concrete-herald.com/obituaries](http://www.concrete-herald.com/obituaries)  
For more information, call 360.853.8213 or e-mail [editor@concrete-herald.com](mailto:editor@concrete-herald.com).



## Sunday School lesson

### Excess baggage

By Bruce Martin

During my lifetime I have packed many suitcases and carried them a great number of miles. I know that when we travel we take along things we believe are necessary to ensure our comfort and security. If we are traveling by car, we can take as much as our car will hold. But if we are traveling by plane, we know there are certain restrictions and limits. A problem arises when we have more bags than we are able to carry.

I remember one occasion while traveling with my family that this problem was fully illustrated for me. We had just landed in England and were catching a train from the airport to London. My job at age 14 was to carry our two heaviest

suitcases. As we were getting on the train, it began to move. I was the only one who had not boarded. With suitcases in hand, I began to run alongside the train as fast as I could. I threw the suitcases on the step and jumped aboard just as it began to pick up speed.

As I reflect upon that incident, I consider some of the options I had that day as I chased the train, wrestling with those heavy suitcases. In my panic I could have abandoned them to ensure I was not separated from my family in a strange place. I guess I also could have waited for the next train, though I had no ticket or the means to secure one. The most reasonable conclusion seems to be that we should have traveled with a lot less baggage. Since that time I have been very careful to travel in a much lighter fashion.

Sometimes our spiritual journey is like traveling with too many suitcases. As we endeavor to serve the Lord and walk with him each day, we may find we are taking along more than the essentials we really need. We may be carrying along a load of "excess baggage" God never intended for us to carry. For a few moments, let us consider some of those things that can become "excess baggage" in our lives and keep us from walking in the true joy and peace that we can know in relationship to Jesus Christ.

### The past

One of the heaviest bags to carry is that of our past. The Bible tells us that when we commit our lives to Christ, "the old has gone the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17). The Bible also reminds

us that with God's help we can "forget the past and look forward to what lies ahead" (Philippians 3:13c). For many of us, this is one of the most difficult challenges to overcome.

There are things we would like to change. There are things we would like to forget. We may be reminded daily of memories from which we can't seem to escape. The good news is we can have hope in Jesus Christ; in him there is forgiveness and healing for all our past. The Bible describes for us the magnitude of God's love and forgiveness for us all: "As high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a Father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him" (Psalm 103:11-13). The past is "excess baggage."

### Unforgiveness

There is another heavy bag that God never intended for us to carry. It is one that seems to be "excess baggage" for more people than any other burden. That is the heavy bag of unforgiveness. We may be hurt or offended, many times through no fault of our own, and become so wounded that it begins to consume our lives. It interferes with our thoughts and even with our relationships to those around us. Our hearts become hardened, cold, and isolated. Because of our hurt, we end up hurting even those

See Sunday School, p. 31

## Skagit County Sheriff's Office Blotter

### Jan. 5

A gas station in Marblemount reported a burglary. A deputy discovered someone had apparently shot out a window, then entered the business. Several items were taken and deputies recovered evidence at the scene.

### Jan. 6

Several neighbors near Lyman called in a suspicious vehicle. A vacuum cleaner company was going door to door attempting to sell their products. They were driving a vehicle that did not indicate they were legitimate salespersons. A deputy found the suburban, stopped it, and identified the occupants. They were cautioned about their sales tactics; a sign on their vehicle might have prevented this.

## Level 3 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.

**Smith, Larry Wayne**

Age: 59

Race: W Sex: M

Height: 5' 6"

Weight: 152

Hair: Brown

Eyes: Green

Address: 205xx  
Prairie Rd., Sedro-  
Woolley

A Level 3 sex offender, Smith was convicted of two counts of first-degree child molestation and indecent liberties in Skagit County. His victims were young males between 6-11 years old who were known to him.

Smith 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



### Jan. 12

Around Thanksgiving, someone stole the American Flag from Veterans Memorial Park in Concrete. That person's guilty conscience made him return the flag and submit a note of apology to deputies on Jan. 2; however, a second flag has been stolen, and the town and SCSO sergeant are really upset. If anyone has any information about the second theft, please contact Sgt. Kading or any other proud veteran who fought so hard for this crook.

In the case of the first flag theft, Donnie Doyle Pearson of Concrete was arrested for third-degree theft, a misdemeanor. Pearson received a citation and a court date. Pearson admitted to the first flag theft, but denied the second theft. The second theft is still being investigated.

### Jan. 13

A Marblemount mother called the SCSO to report her 12-year-old son was missing. A deputy responded and asked for Search and Rescue to respond. The mother explained the young man was just going out to feed the animals, but had been gone for more than an hour. As deputies began

to form a search party, the young man was found walking on SR 20.

A suspect wanted in the assault of a Marblemount man is in jail. A 41-year-old man turned himself in at the East Detachment in Concrete. He was the main suspect in a shooting of a subject walking on Rockport Cascade Rd. He was wanted for questioning by detectives. There's much more to this story. The man who was shot was actually accused of breaking into the shooter's trailer earlier in the month. All parties are now in jail and several felony charges are pending for both the shooter and victim.

### Jan. 15

Deputies, Washington State Patrol troopers, and the Lyman Fire Dept. responded to a potentially bad car crash. A car had picked up a hitchhiker and was westbound on Lyman Hamilton Highway at a high rate of speed. The road curves as it approaches Highway 20 at the stop sign. This car failed to make that curve, and drove straight, nearly hitting a power pole, and coming to rest in the ditch off Hwy 20. Not surprisingly, the driver fled, but

the passenger remained, slightly injured. WSP is handling the investigation and is looking for the owner of the car.

### Jan. 16

A caller from Healy Rd. near Lyman reported a pitbull had attacked some of their livestock. The dog was described a black and brown pitbull, wearing a red collar. The SCSO Animal Control Officer is following up on the investigation.

### Jan. 18

A windstorm swept through the Hamilton area, keeping the deputies and the local fire departments busy. There were several reports of trees in the wires and branches on the highways, but nothing life-threatening. Lots of kindling was produced that night.

### Jan. 19

A Concrete citizen reported a man living in a tent on the east end of Cedar Street. This man was known to deputies. He was cooperative and agreed to move his one-man tent city to another location. Deputies are assisting in getting him some more permanent living quarters.

—Compiled by Sgt. Chris Kading

## Sunday School, cont. from p. 30

who are closest to us. I have been blessed to observe that when people experience forgiveness in Jesus Christ, they are empowered to forgive others for the first time in their lives. That is why we are encouraged in scripture to "Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:13). Forgiveness not only sets us free, but also frees those whom we forgive. Unforgiveness is "excess baggage."

### Worry, fear, anxiety

Finally, there is one more heavy bag that we should take note of because it is one that is common to all of us. For all who are burdened by it, it is "excess baggage." That bag is packed with "worry, fear, and anxiety."

The Bible tells us in Philippians 4:6-7, "Don't be anxious about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done. If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus." Worry, fear and

anxiety are "excess baggage."

Perhaps you are carrying a heavy burden today. It may be one that is more than you are able to bear. God never intended for us to carry this "excess baggage." In fact, the Apostle Peter encouraged us in 1 Peter 5:7 to "Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about what happens to you." We have been blessed with the privilege of coming to God at his invitation with a humble and open heart, knowing that he hears us when we pray and we can come freely. Give your "excess baggage" to Jesus today.

And remember, it was he who said "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

Bruce Martin is pastor at Concrete Assembly of God in Concrete.

## Worship directory

### Assembly of God

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

### North Cascade Community Church

59850 SR 20, Marblemount  
360.873.2504 // [www.mmag.net](http://www.mmag.net)  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
Sun. worship: 10:30 a.m.  
Thur.: Men's meeting, 8 a.m.  
Thur.: Bible Study, 7 p.m.  
Dave Nichols, pastor  
E-mail: [pastordave@fastmail.fm](mailto:pastordave@fastmail.fm)

### Baptist

**First Baptist Church**  
12732 Hemlock St., Clear Lake  
360.856.2767

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

Sun. worship: 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.  
Wed.: 7 p.m.

John Batts, pastor  
E-mail: [pastorjohn@firstbaptistclearlake.com](mailto:pastorjohn@firstbaptistclearlake.com)  
Hamilton First Baptist Church  
797 Hamilton Cemetery Rd. at SR 20  
Office: 360.826.3307  
Sunday School: 9:40 a.m.  
Sun. worship: 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.  
Ron Edwards, pastor

### Lyman Church

31441 W. Main St., Lyman  
Office: 360.826.3287  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
Sun. worship: 11 a.m.

### Catholic

**St. Catherine Mission Church**  
45603 Limestone St., Concrete  
Mail: 719 Ferry St., Sedro-Woolley  
Office: 360.855.0077  
Weekday hours: 9:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.  
Sat. Mass: 8:30 a.m.  
Father Martin Bourke, pastor  
[www.svcc.us/scm](http://www.svcc.us/scm)

### Covenant

**Community Covenant Church**  
12605 Highway 9, Clear Lake  
360.856.1023 // [covenant@wavecable.com](mailto:covenant@wavecable.com)  
[www.clearlakecov.org](http://www.clearlakecov.org)  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
Sun. worship: 11 a.m.  
Call for weekly youth group/Bible studies  
Tim Hedberg, pastor

### Free Methodist

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

### Methodist

**Central United Methodist Church**  
1013 Polke Rd., Sedro-Woolley  
360.856.6412 / [centralumcsw@yahoo.com](mailto:centralumcsw@yahoo.com)  
<http://centralumcsw.org>  
Adult Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Sun. worship: 11 a.m.  
Marilyn Kallshian, pastor

### Presbyterian

**Mount Baker Presbyterian Church**  
45705 Main St., P.O. Box 246, Concrete  
Church 360.853.8585; office 360.595.0446  
[www.mtbakerpresbyterian.synodnw.org](http://www.mtbakerpresbyterian.synodnw.org)  
Sun. worship: 9 a.m.  
Tom Ross, pastor

### Lutheran

**Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church**  
46372 Main St., Concrete / 360.853.8814  
Sun. worship: 10 a.m.  
Chris Anderson, pastor

### Nondenominational

**Agape Fellowship**  
Meets at Mount Baker Presbyterian,  
45705 Main St., Concrete  
Second and fourth Weds., 7 p.m.  
360.708.4764  
Dolores Elliott, pastor

### Community Bible Church

45672 Limestone, Concrete; 360.853.8511

E-mail: [cbcofconcrete@earthlink.net](mailto:cbcofconcrete@earthlink.net)  
Sun. School: 9 a.m.; Worship Svc: 10 a.m.  
Childcare/Children's Ministries at both  
Contact church for other ministries  
Rob Thomas, pastor

### The RIVER Gathering

720 Puget Ave., Sedro-Woolley  
Sun. worship: 10:30 a.m.  
Wed. potluck/study: 6 p.m.  
Thur. ladies group: 6:30 p.m.  
Last Fri./mo. potluck/games: 6 p.m.  
[www.facebook.com/therivergathering](http://www.facebook.com/therivergathering)  
360.853.6676 // Pastor Larry Weston

### Rockport Christ the King Comm. Church

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

### Wildwood Chapel

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

**50's Bakery**

*Dedicated Gluten Free Great Food For Every Body*

- Variety of morning baked goods including cinnamon rolls, french toast and waffles
- Panini sandwiches, hearty salads, and soups made from scratch daily
- Daily specials include lasagna, pot pies or baked macaroni & 5 cheese

A 1940s-style bakery in Concrete serving espresso, old-fashioned sodas, handcrafted pies and artisan breads!

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Breakfast ~ Lunch ~ Early Supper

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45597 Main St., Concrete  
7-5 Daily • Closed Tuesday

## Continue the cycle

Please recycle  
this newspaper



## At the Upper Skagit Library



Our **10th Anniversary Celebration** drew more than 130 people, including patrons and old friends we hadn't seen in awhile. Guests included former library director Margaret Studer, County Commissioner Lisa Janicki, and many former library board members.

Samantha Hooper, a community member and library supporter, helped spread the word about our **Winter Book Drive** to classes in the Concrete School District. Many children's books were donated from her advocacy work.

We now offer **One-on-One Tutoring** at the library on the first and third Fridays of each month. Tutoring will focus on basic computer skills, resumes and cover letters, and help with completing job applications. Call the library at 360.853.7939 or stop by to reserve a spot. Scheduled appointments take place from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. You can reserve a 30- or 60-minute appointment.

A new **Book Drop** is expected to be delivered for the Marblemount area in February. If you live near Marblemount, soon you won't need to worry about returning your books and other library materials on time. Just return them to the book drop and be on your way. We will continue to update you on this new service to the Marblemount area, as well as a WiFi Hotspot.

Get your game on at 5b's Bakery! **Board Game Night**, that is, Fridays from 5 to 8 p.m. through the end of February. Catch up with friends and make a few new ones. Baked goods for sale, some refreshments free. Open to all ages.

We invite families with young children to join us for **Storytime** on Sat., Feb. 7 from 11 to 11:45 a.m. This month we will read about "bears." Join us for stories, songs, a simple craft, and perhaps even some bear hugs as Valentine's Day is around the corner.

The annual meeting of the Friends of the

Upper Skagit Library will be held Feb 18 and will feature **Nancy Pearl**, an award-winning librarian, as guest speaker. (See page 6 for details.)

### What's new at the library

In adult fiction, check out *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova, the story of a woman in her 50s struggling with early-onset Alzheimer's disease, and an American West epic, *The Son*, by Phillipp Meyer. Explore the challenging dynamics of family in the debut novel *We are Not Ourselves* by Matthew Thomas.

In adult nonfiction, find *The Heart of Everything That Is: The Untold Story of Red Cloud, An American Legend* by Rob Drury, *Getting Schooled: The Reeducation of an American Teacher* by Garret Keizer, and discover how cotton has been central to the world economy with *Empire of Cotton: A Global History* by Sven Beckert.

New children's and junior books include *Eye Benders: The Science of Seeing and Believing*. Kids can build their math skills with *Junk Drawer Physics*, and warm your soul with *Animal Stories: Heartwarming True Tales from the Animal Kingdom*.

Our new Young Adult fiction includes the all-time classic, *The Giver*, and follow the creepy and hilarious tale with *Grasshopper Jungle*.

Don't forget our new hours: We open at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, and Wednesday we're open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday is 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. We're closed Sunday, Monday, and Thursday.

The Upper Skagit Library Board meetings will be rescheduled to the second Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be at the library on Feb. 12 at 5 p.m. We look forward to your continued support in 2015.

—Cora Thomas, library associate

our community.

There are two meetings this month. Feb. 4 will be a closed meeting where members will hear from the Lions Club District Governor at 5:45 p.m. On Feb. 18 there will be a regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the front dining room at Annie's Pizza Station. Show up around 6 p.m. to eat and socialize before the meeting. Existing members, remember to mark your calendar.



January was another busy month for the Concrete Lions Club. Members have been cutting firewood, building a wheelchair ramp, cleaning and packaging fish for the food bank, and arranging for eyeglasses and a hearing aid for those in need within

## "On Our Shelves" book review

By Cora Thomas

### The Wild Truth Carine McCandless, author

Years ago I read the book, *Into the Wild*, by Jon Krakauer and was instantly captivated by the true story of Chris McCandless, a young man who cut off all connection to his family and ventured into the Alaskan wilderness, never to be seen alive again. Curiosity still churns in my mind after all these years. What would drive him to such an extreme and what was he searching for out there? Krakauer's book attempted to explain part of his motivation.

Now, Chris' sister, Carine McCandless, addresses their troubled childhood, a subject Krakauer only hinted at upon Carine's request. McCandless felt the truth should be heard about physical and emotional abuse at the hands of their parents, including the blow of uncovering details of their father's second family.

No one will ever know what Chris was thinking or feeling during his final years, outside of his journal entries. However, Carine pieces together a persuasive explanation of her brother's actions from her own experience dealing with the same devastating dysfunction while growing up.

She begins with a visit to her childhood home, the house tattered and unkempt, a far cry from the manicured perfection she remembers as a child. This metaphor of imperfection revealed is a prophetic introduction to the rest of the book.

McCandless explicitly reveals her parents' deeply rooted flaws and speculates Chris' absence may have been because of their unwillingness to even admit they had done anything wrong and change their ways. She outlines compelling examples of how unwavering patterns of dysfunction could result in

Chris' outlook on life and his ultimate disappearance.

McCandless seamlessly combines memories of her troubled childhood and adolescence with bright spots of sibling strength. She shares her life after Chris' departure and time spent with her half siblings. The author takes the reader through her journey of piecing together the last years of Chris' life as she retraces his steps along his journey from their home in the suburbs of Washington, D.C., to the wilds of Alaska.

The author claims her intention was not to slander her parents, but it appears she does the opposite in her descriptions and opinions, even though she repeatedly tries to give her parents a chance to reconcile the grief they have caused.

McCandless' need to construct a more complete picture of the McCandless family history echoes Chris' trek of finding his own truth. This story illuminates how the truth resides within ourselves. It tends to hide deep beneath the surface, and to take that brave step into the wilds of oneself is where you'll meet challenge, but you may also find what you are looking for.

This book includes graphic descriptions of physical abuse and explicit language, and may not be suitable for sensitive readers.

I highly recommend *The Wild Truth*. It's a triumph of courage in finding and facing the truth. This book and *Into the Wild* are available at Upper Skagit Library and other Skagit County libraries.

*Cora Thomas is a library associate at Upper Skagit Library in Concrete. This review appeared in the Feb. 1 edition of Skagit Valley Herald and is republished with permission.*

The Lions Club has access to medical equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs, and portable commodes to be loaned out to help those in need. Contact any Lions Club member to make a request if you know of someone who has a need for such equipment.

As 2015 starts, it is the time to think about our commitment to ourselves and others. While we contemplate our New Year's resolutions, I encourage members of our community to think about and join your local Lions Club. Our club is

your club. We are a club to serve you and our community. Our hope for 2015 is to increase our membership numbers times two. We all have friends and family who have seen the outreach of your local Lions Club, so now is the time to give great thought about being a member! If you are interested in membership, submitting a need request, or just want to see what we are about, contact a Lions Club member you know or visit one of our meetings.

—Connie Smithhart

### Lawmakers, cont. from p. 3

remove the felony classification from drug possession charges, reducing them to simple misdemeanors. The bill was set to be presented to the House Public Safety Committee on Jan. 16.

"I expect that moving this through the Legislature will be a big challenge, and I can't predict whether we'll make it this year or not," Appleton said via e-mail. "What I hope to accomplish is to improve on the situation we now have, which finds us with people still incarcerated in our state for simple possession."

Appleton's identical bill last year never made it to the House floor. But proposing the same bill multiple times is not uncommon in the Legislature.

"All ideas need to start somewhere," said independent pollster Stuart Elway.

"If they know it's not going to pass this time, maybe next time or five years down the road it'll gain traction. There's a lot of [bills] that take two or three sessions before they ever make it further along."

Among other interesting bills is a measure to outlaw breed-based dog bans, which some dog owners believe unfairly target certain breeds without the science to back up the bans. Another proposed bill would create an advisory committee to set East Asian-medicine standards.

The fate or future of any of these proposals rests with the legislative process that opened Jan. 12 in Olympia. For the curious, bills filed and their hearing schedule if referred to committee may be accessed at <http://app.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/ForLegislaturecommittee/schedules>, go to <http://leg.wa.gov/legislature/pages/calendar.aspx>.

### Council, cont. from p. 7

of dollars to do just a portion of the creek cleaning. He stated the town does not have the funds to do this work, but was allowed a less costly option for this emergency. He stated that Wayne Watne, who is now the town's contact at WDFW for this area, may have other options for the town and he will discuss these options with him. He also stated that there is a plan to remove the debris as soon as the ground is not as saturated at the disposal site.

Mayor Miller stated that he is going to be working with WDFW on a long-term plan and the possible re-route of this creek. He stated that he plans to meet with local tribes and request their support for the re-routing

project. He stated that he has a phone call in to the Upper Skagit Tribe so that he can sit down with them and discuss the benefits of this project with them.

- **Public safety:** SCSO Sgt. Chris Kading reported that two businesses in the area were targeted by the Liquor Control Board. He stated that both businesses were cited for selling alcohol to underage buyers. He stated that Loggers Landing has a seven-day sanction in place, because this was their second offense, and Young Market has a 30-day sanction in place, because this was their third offense. He stated that he believes fines have been issued to both businesses.

See **Council**, p. 39

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

### Bookkeeping

#### UpRiver Bookkeeping Services

360.853.7667 or 360.708.9761  
upriver21@hotmail.com  
Reasonable rates  
Payroll services to full-charge bookkeeping

### Brew pubs

#### Birdsview Brewing Co.

Fresh micro beer brewed on our premises  
Great food! Family friendly!  
Open Tuesdays through Sundays  
38302 SR 20, Birdsview // 360.826.3406  
[www.birdsviewbrewingcompany.com](http://www.birdsviewbrewingcompany.com)

### Construction

#### Don Payne's Backhoe Services

Extensive experience, reasonable rates  
Trenching for electrical and plumbing lines, site preparation, road- and lot-clearing  
360.853.7838 / 770.0178 / #PAYNE\*066BC  
dpaynes2001@yahoo.com

#### Donald K. Moore Construction

Dump truck / Sand / Gravel / Topsoil  
Complete excavation and lots, to acreage cleared / log loads, underground utilities avail.  
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### Gifts

#### All Valley Storage & Gifts

31687 SR 20, Ste. 102, Lyman/Sedro-Woolley  
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360.826.6001 / [allvalleystorageinc.com](http://allvalleystorageinc.com)  
Online: [www.allvalleystorageinc.com](http://www.allvalleystorageinc.com)

### Matty's on Main

45726 Main Street, Concrete  
UNIQUE & ANTIQUE / JEWELRY & PAWN  
Inventory Clearance: 20 – 50% off!  
NEW INVENTORY WEEKLY  
360.333.8851

### Hair salons

#### Hair Fitness

Complete family hair care, specializing in:  
PERMS / COLOR & CUTS / WAXING  
More than 25 years' experience!  
Call Kathy Monrad and Becki Hoover for appt  
360.853.8684

### Liquor stores

#### Concrete Liquor Store & Convenience Store

45895 Main Street, Concrete // 360.853.7149  
Monday thru Saturday 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
Sundays Noon to 5 p.m.  
Gifts, Rocks, Tobacco, Cigars, and more!

### Pawn shops

#### Gold Nugget Jewelry & Loan

New & Used guns, ammo, sporting goods  
We Buy, Sell, & Loan Guns, gold, coins  
Corner of Hwy 530 & Mt. Loop Hwy, Darrington  
Mon. - Fri. 10–6, Sat. 10–5  
360.436.1029 [www.goldnuggetpawnshop.com](http://www.goldnuggetpawnshop.com)

### Restaurants

#### Cascade Burgers

45292 State Route 20, Concrete  
Featuring great burgers, fries, and milkshakes in a 1950s, family-style atmosphere!  
OPEN DAILY: 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
Ask about our daily specials! 360.853.7580

### Perks Espresso & Deli

Full breakfast, espresso, sub sandwiches, drive-thru and take-out. Find us on Facebook.  
M–F, 5 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Sa.–Su. 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
44586 SR 20, Concrete  
360.853.9006

### RV Repair

#### Goldner RV Repair, Concrete

Mobile RV Maintenance & Repair  
LP gas systems, water, heating systems, AC/DC electrical  
360.826.3303 // [rvrepair@frontier.com](mailto:rvrepair@frontier.com)

### Self-storage

#### Concrete Self-storage

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Heated and nonheated, security surveillance, coded entry, 4x5 to 15x32 units, locks for sale.  
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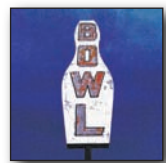
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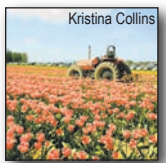
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# Out & About



# Home & Garden



## Mount Vernon

### WSU conference connects women in agriculture

On Feb. 21, the 2015 Women in Agriculture Conference will offer women in Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and Alaska an opportunity to gather in 28 locations for a one-day event featuring speakers, inspiring stories, networking with other producers, and practical advice for learning new skills.

This year's event, "Put Your Best Boot Forward" covers the topic of making sense of marketing.

The conference is designed for women who have been farming for years, as well as new and aspiring farmers. Supporting spouses, students, interns, or people who own an agriculture-related business are

also welcome.

Locally, the conference will be held at the WSU Extension Office, 16602 State Route 536, Mount Vernon.

For more information and registration, go to [www.womeninag.wsu.edu](http://www.womeninag.wsu.edu).

The lineup for the day includes a local farmer and marketing specialist. Walla Walla farmer Emily Asmus will showcase how her farm, Welcome Table Farms, keeps its brand fresh to build interest and loyalty.

Marketing expert Erica Mills from Claxon Marketing believes every woman should have a consistently compelling way to describe her farm business. She will help farms of all sizes tackle this challenge. Using tools that have been tested by thousands of users, participants will learn a three-step marketing method and create a marketing action plan that gets results.

The conference registration fee is \$30,

but attendees who register before Feb. 13 will pay only \$25. Registration fee includes the workshop, light breakfast, lunch, and conference materials.

### Library presents "Tales from the Coop"

Mount Vernon Library will host four local poultry enthusiasts for an evening presentation on keeping chickens, ducks, and quail in one's backyard.

"Tales from the Coop: Inspiration and advice for raising backyard poultry" will be held Mon., Feb. 9, at 6:30 p.m. at the library.

The four presenters—all former library employees—will share tales from their coops, providing inspiration to get started, practical advice, and alternative ideas for raising healthy and happy birds.

The presenters have designed and built their own custom coops and raised their poultry from a variety of sources, including mail-order and incubating eggs. All believe that chickens can be an integral part of one's backyard. In addition to eggs, chickens provide many benefits to the garden and family.

Two presenters also have raised quail. They discovered there wasn't a lot of information for raising quail in more natural and humane ways, so they were forced to wing it. They'll share their successes and failures and everything they've learned along the way.

The event will be held in the library's Reference Room and is free and open to the public. For more information, call 360.336.6209 or go to [www.mountvernonwa.gov](http://www.mountvernonwa.gov).

### Mardi Gras Dinner Dance

Immaculate Conception church in Mount Vernon will host a Mardi Gras Dinner Dance on Sat., Feb. 14, from 6 to 10 p.m. at St. Joseph Center, 215 N. 15th St., Mount Vernon. Costumes are optional.

Diners will enjoy salad, spaghetti with marinara sauce or meatballs, bread, and dessert with a cash bar. Advance tickets are \$20 per adult; a limited number of tickets will be available at the door for

\$25 each. A raffle is planned, and "Mike in the Morning" will DJ.

Tickets are available at the Immaculate Conception parish office or by calling 360.848.8707. Proceeds will benefit the New Church Building Fund.

## Skagit County

### County creates health advisory panel

Skagit County Commissioners announced Jan. 23 a new, 23-member health advisory panel.

The commissioners, whose responsibilities include deliberations as the Skagit County Board of Health, have embarked on an examination of the scope and delivery of local public health services. That effort will unfold over a period of months, but an initial action deemed vital to the process was the establishment of a "Population Health Trust Advisory Committee" made up of volunteers.

The purpose of the Trust is to provide a permanent ongoing forum and structure to assess, plan, and provide strategies and direction on how to improve the population health in Skagit County.

The Trust, which will meet for the first time on Feb. 5, will partner in development of a "Community Health Plan" that includes strategies to meet local needs. Members range from hospital administrators to educators, pharmacists to tribal representatives.

The Trust and its members were officially authorized in a Skagit County resolution on Jan. 27.

The inaugural Trust meeting is Feb. 5, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Northwest Career and Technical Academy at Skagit Valley College in Mount Vernon.

For more information regarding the advisory group, contact Jennifer Johnson, director, Skagit County Public Health and Community Services, at 360.419.3432 or [jenniferj@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:jenniferj@co.skagit.wa.us), or Lead Staff David Jefferson, Skagit County Community Health Analyst, at [davidj@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:davidj@co.skagit.wa.us).

## Garden Patch

By Gladys Silrus

Now is the time to think about your spring and summer garden. Starting some seeds indoors can be done now. It's easy, fun, and a rewarding means to get garden seedlings at a fraction of the cost of potted starts. Here are a few hints on the best ways to start vegetable seeds indoors.

You can start seeds in just about any container. Trays, flats, pots, old egg cartons (if plastic, punch a hole in bottom for drainage), cut-off milk cartons, or egg shells. My favorite container is avocado skins. When your seedlings are ready to move up to a bigger container or be planted outdoors, plant them skins and all!

If you reuse trays or pots from last year, first soak them in a solution of 90 percent water and 10 percent bleach.

All-purpose potting soil or starting mix can be used for starting seeds. Do not use soil from your garden unless it has been sterilized first; you are apt to introduce weeds, bugs, and disease to the mix. You can sterilize the soil in the oven by baking it for two hours at 170 to 180 degrees, but buying from local garden centers is easier.

Annual and vegetable seed packets can be put in the refrigerator for a couple days before being seeded; it speeds up germination.

Fill containers to overflowing with soil. This allows air to flow easily across the soil, aiding in the control of damping-off disease, which rots a stem at its base.

Barely cover the seeds with soil. Some seeds do not need to be covered at all. Check the sowing instructions on the back of the seed packet for correct spacing, planting depth, time to sow, and other information.

Keep containers of seedlings in a warm spot where the temperatures are 65 to 75 degrees day and night. Select a spot where there is bright light, or use a fluorescent light to speed the germination. Space the lights 12 to 15 inches above the soil.

Use warm water to wet the seed for the first two or three days. Once the seedlings have germinated, use water that is just warmer than room temperature. After the new seedlings have formed a couple of sets of true leaves, they can be individually potted or spaced so there is

room for them to develop naturally. Do not set outdoors until after all danger of frost has passed. Concrete's last frost is around May 10. I usually wait until after Mother's Day to plant.

Vegetables are like people; they thrive on companionship. Here are a few vegetables and their best friends.

Beans: They like celery and cucumbers, but dislike onions and fennel, so keep those at opposite sides of the garden.

Beets: Plant with bush beans, lettuce, onions, kohlrabi, and most members of the cabbage family. Keep the pole beans and mustard away from them.

Cabbage: Celery, dill, onions, and potatoes are good companion plants; cabbage dislikes strawberries, tomatoes, and pole beans.

Carrots: Plant with leaf lettuce, radish, onions, and tomatoes, but plant dill at the opposite end of the garden.

Corn is friendly with pumpkins, peas, beans, cucumbers, and potatoes. Keep tomatoes away.

Cucumbers: They like corn, peas, radishes, beans, and sunflowers, and dislike aromatic herbs and potatoes.

Lettuce grows especially well with onions, strawberries, carrots, radishes, and cucumbers.

Onions: Plant near lettuce, beets, strawberries, and tomatoes; keep away from peas and beans.

Peas like carrots, cucumbers, corn, turnips, radishes, beans, potatoes, and aromatic herbs. Keep them away from onions, garlic, leeks, and shallots.

Radishes have a lot of friends, including beets, carrots, spinach, parsnips, cucumbers, and beans. Don't plant them near cabbage, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, broccoli, kohlrabi, or turnips.

Tomatoes: Yes to carrots, onions, and parsley; no to cabbage and cauliflower.

If you have a patio or porch, plant mint to repel ants and basil to keep flies and mosquitoes away.

Next month: easy ways to grow potatoes, plus different varieties to fit your cooking needs and taste preferences.

Until next month, happy gardening!

Send gardening questions to Gladys. Call her at 360.826.4848, or write to her at [gsilrus@frontier.com](mailto:gsilrus@frontier.com) or 42002 Pine St., Concrete, WA 98237.

## "Skagit Geographic"

By Christie Fairchild

Whether you're a newcomer or a long-time resident, explaining our local geographic terminology is a matter of practice. "Upriver," "downriver," "upvalley," "downvalley," and the ubiquitous, and sometimes vaguely ominous, "down below" are all terms in constant use, but what do they mean, and when and where are they correctly used? It's a matter of many things: geography, sociology, economics, and orographics, otherwise known as the weather.

Let's start with geography. If you look at a map of Skagit County, you'll notice that the town of Concrete is smack dab in the middle of the valley (hence the famous Don Smith mural on the town's former police and fire station, in Concrete Town Center, proclaiming Concrete to be the "Center of the Known Universe").

If Concrete is in the center of Skagit County, then eastern Skagit is upriver of there and western Skagit is downriver of there.

But take another good look at your map and you'll notice that the valley begins to narrow substantially near Concrete, and continues to squeeze narrower and narrower until the river gushes through the rocky gorge at Newhalem. Hence, it's called upriver east of Concrete and downvalley west of Concrete as the valley widens out approaching the flats of Puget Sound.

What about "valley" versus "river"? If you really want to split hairs, you can travel downriver if you are going from one upriver location to another, but if you are heading west past Concrete/Birdsview, it widens out and becomes downvalley.

Now for sociology. As most of us recognize, upriver residents are proud to be from here and tend to be independent, community-minded folk. Until the North Cross State Highway (SR 20) was completed in 1972, upriver towns were self-sufficient and oftentimes ignored by downvalley county government (sound familiar?). If a person had to go down below, it was an all day (or multi-day) affair with a serious purpose. Although the daily train is now gone and the state

highway is open six to eight months a year, upriver towns are still proudly self-sufficient, and having to become more so daily, as gas prices and concerns about climate change keep many from making the 100-mile round trip downvalley very often. In addition, the Concrete School District busses and educates our children from Diablo to Birdsview, and from Baker Lake to just north of Darrington—geographically speaking, it's one of the largest school districts in the state.

Economics. Many of us are either self-employed (artists, writers, farmers, etc.), work for a government agency (National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Washington State Parks, Skagit Co. Parks & Recreation, WSDOT, Seattle City Light, etc.), a local business, or the school district, or have to commute. We also have long been a haven for those disenfranchised members of society who have nowhere else to go. Upriver land and costs of living used to be much cheaper than downvalley, but that is rapidly changing. However, high unemployment rates continue to remain the norm.

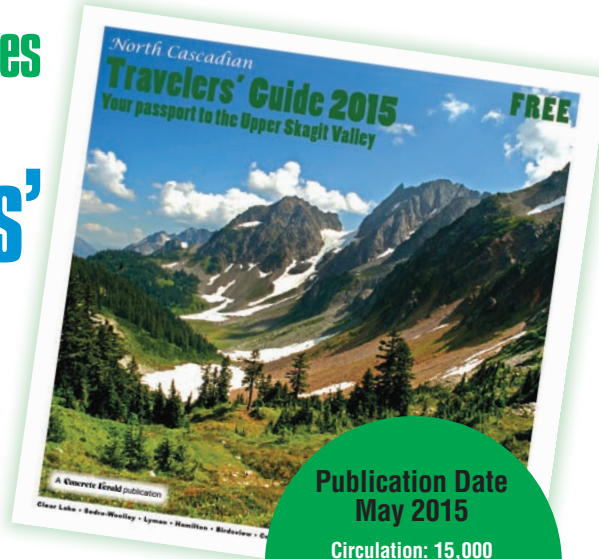
Finally, orographics (also known as the weather). It is a well-known fact that as one travels eastward from downvalley, each mile equates to another inch of precipitation. For example: Sedro-Woolley lies at milepost 46 on Hwy 20 and receives 40–50 inches of rain a year. Rockport, at milepost 98, receives 90–100 inches. This dramatic increase is due, in part, not to any increase in elevation (Rockport lies at only 350 feet), but rather to distance from the weather-moderating influence of Puget Sound, as well as proximity to the mountains.

This trend continues until one reaches the gorge between Newhalem and Diablo. And once one arrives at the Ross Lake trough, precipitation drops off even more, until one finally crosses the pass and drops down into the dry, ponderosa pine-sagebrush steppes of the Methow Valley.

Now that you've survived reading this tutorial, you can quiz yourself or your friends. Winners become official Local Yokels of the Upper Skagit!

## Smart businesses advertise in the Travelers' Guide!

Reach visitors to the Upper Skagit Valley by advertising in the 2015 North Cascadian Travelers' Guide.



Publication Date  
May 2015

Circulation: 15,000  
Pages: 56

Deadline for ads  
and payment:  
April 10, 2015

The Travelers' Guide showcases the history and events for visitors to:

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For more information or to request an advertising rate card, send an e-mail to [editor@concrete-herald.com](mailto:editor@concrete-herald.com).

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# Smile



## Dwelleysms

Wit from former  
Concrete Herald editor  
Charles M. Dwelley

"It was once believed bad luck to light three cigarettes on a match. Not anymore. Now it just means that two others are staying with you in braving the cancer threat."

"Tax credits for new industries may be fine, but how about those old industries that have spent many years building the state to where it is now?"

"One sign of being well bred is knowing how to butter up those you meet."

"One latest rocket will orbit the earth within observation range. At least we can keep an eye on that several million dollars."

—Feb. 18, 1965

"Penny saved is a penny earned. Dollar saved is an enormous temptation."

"Someone asked today what gives a print shop its universally recognized scent. Our answer was, 'a combination of ink, hot metal, paper, blood, sweat, and tears.'"

"After backing down in our stand at the United Nations in spite of the brave front in which we said no nations not paying their dues should be allowed to sit in on decisions affecting those who do, there is little image left of the fierce-eyed American eagle. Soon the more appropriate emblem will be a molting parrot."

"Fighting the communists in Vietnam through a pinwheel-type government is pretty much like trying to throw eggs through an electric fan."

"Drive like you intend to come back. You might."

—Feb. 25, 1965

"A machine designed for easy cheating in exams failed to get on the market. Somebody snitched."

"It used to be that you could get into an enjoyable and rewarding life's work by accident. In present competition, it's all you can do to accomplish half as much on purpose."

—March 4, 1965

"Sometimes it seems that the older you get, the faster you have to go. Actually, it isn't your speed that increases; you just start running around in smaller circles."

—March 18, 1965

"This has been quite a week in space. The Russians finally took a walk that meant something. We got a 'first' away from them by steering our spaceship in orbit. Then we hit the moon with another bullseye on camera. With this impetus, earth is gradually going to be declared obsolete and the money we could spend in renovating the old place will be used to see if there is something better in living quarters in the universe neighborhood. We can state right now that the status may be valuable, but we really can't afford to commute until the transit system is improved."

"Dirty books are declared to be fit for the reading public as long as a percentage of the words contain more than four letters."

"The only self-sufficient man is one who has never tried to follow simple printed directions on the box."

"Nobody cares much about what you do as long as it is interesting, entertaining, or worth gossiping about."

"The idea of putting 'Poison' on cigarette packages is a rather silly thing. We imagine as many die from alcohol, or just plain overeating, each year as are buried from smoke inhalation. Too much of anything can kill you if you let it. As the rigors of staying alive today are sufficient in any case, what say we allow an individual his or her choice of which way to go?"

"A Philadelphia museum has 1,000 human skulls it would like to give away. Expect to see them soon as Yorick-type conversation pieces for the smart home."

"One thing that determines the character of a man is how often he considers plenty is enough."

—March 25, 1965

## Concrete Harold

By Joyce Harris

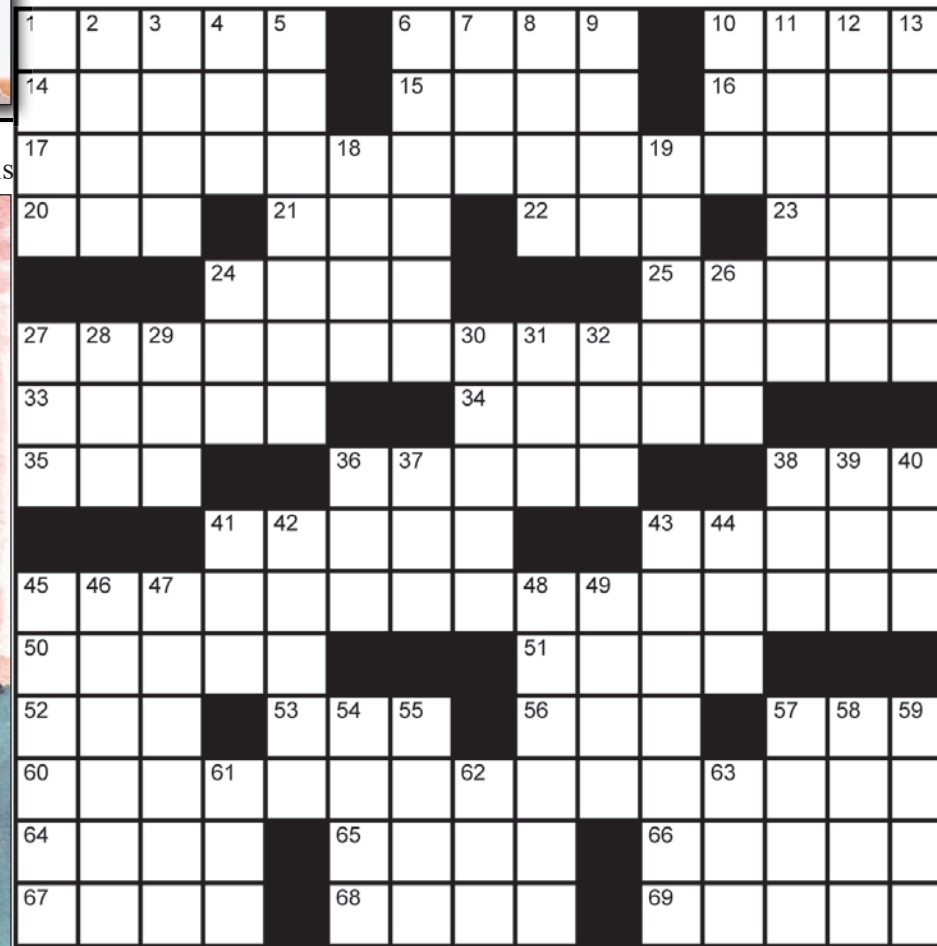


By Stig Kristensen

## Public Service Announcement



## Crossword: "Day in court"



### Across

1. Recipient
6. Winston Churchill's " \_\_\_\_ Country"
10. Be a kvetch
14. Flip
15. Latest thing
16. Carbamide
17. Cross query
20. Misjudge
21. Emolument
22. \_\_\_\_ out a win
23. Not req.

24. City in Central China
25. Stage item
27. It's given on the stand
33. Long bones
34. Flat-bottomed boat
35. Fancy neckwear
36. \_\_\_\_ box
38. Didn't hold
41. 100 kobos
43. Approval
45. No cross allowed for him
50. Furnace button
51. Berry
52. Hotel sign
53. Rel. leader
56. Affect. with "to"

### Down

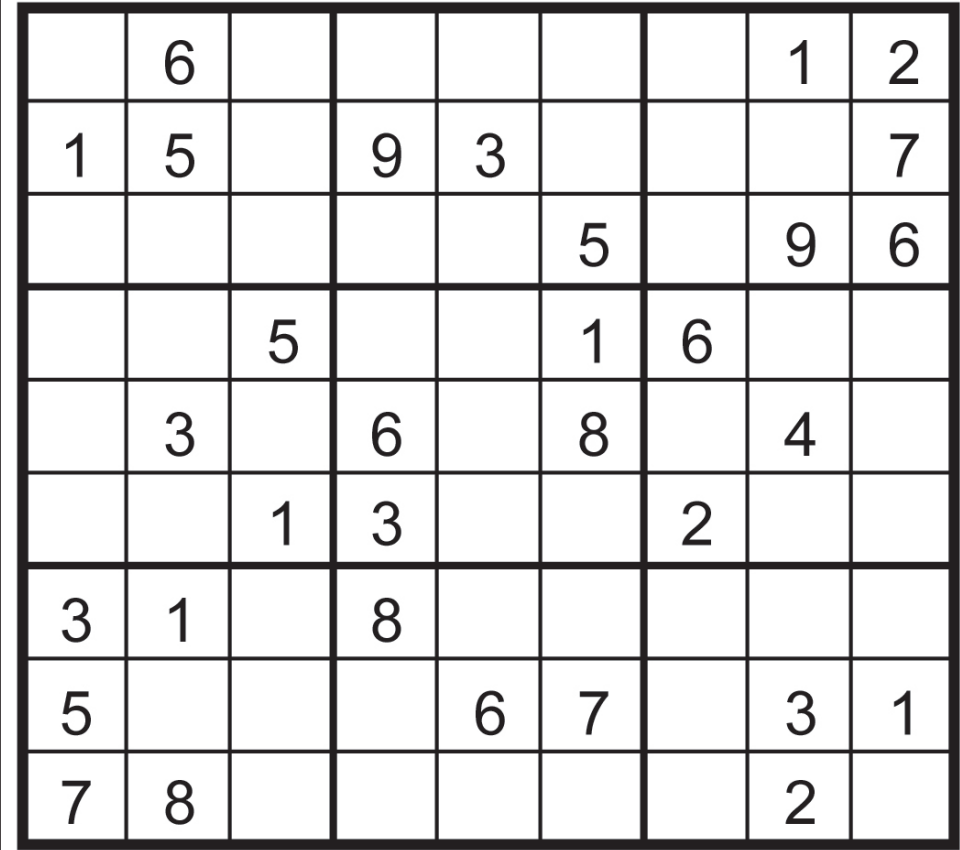
1. Cry softly
2. Takeoff artist
3. Four quarters
4. Word with loose or back
5. Skyscraper, e.g.
6. Silver, in heraldry
7. Query list, for short
8. Fit of fever
9. Need a bath
10. Injured
11. Melodic passage
12. Look into again, as a cold case
13. Buttery
18. Kempt
19. Printing flourish
24. Swell place
26. Global fin. overseer
27. Name
28. U.N. workina-conditions agcy.

### Down

29. Messenger \_\_\_\_
30. Swift work
31. Word with bum or bunny
32. Square one?
36. Central
37. Web browser entry
38. Kvass ingredient
39. Balaam's mount
40. Figs.
41. Watchman \_\_\_\_, Chinese
42. Bone cavities
43. Booster \_\_\_\_
44. Singer DiFranco
45. Gelid
46. Enumerate
47. Gets revenge
48. Black Marias, e.g.
49. Locks up
54. Irascible
55. A constellation
57. Pastry dough
58. Buck passers?
59. Part of A.M.
61. German spa
62. Nave bench
63. First prime

## Sudoku

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



\*Solutions to both puzzles are on p. 39.

## Funny as Facebook

The following funnies were pulled verbatim from Facebook status updates in January.

- "Just blew the sugar off my doughnut. Dieting is hard."
- "If I was in charge of everything, there'd be more movies about time travel. And not just lousy ones."
- "Pros: Play Dough keeps the toddler occupied for a significant amount of time. Cons: The dog finds the pieces that fall quite tasty. Pros: The toddler communicates 'No eee' very clearly to the dog. Cons: My carpets needs a good cleaning."
- "Am I the only one who cries when the lucky charms are all gone?"
- "100-calorie packs have just enough cookies to piss me off."
- "So I've looked at Facebook and watched all the sports shows after the Seahawks/Packers game and wonder why no one has commented about the lack of a flag for pass interference on the play that won the game? The Packer defender was riding Kearsse like a rented mule. Thank God Kearsse caught the ball to save the refs."
- "When a virus e-mail starts going around the workplace, you get a real glimpse into who you work with. Who are the ones that click on random embedded zip files and who doesn't. It really separates people into two categories!"
- "I'd like to use the Five Point Palm Exploding Heart Technique on the remainder of this week."
- "Kayleigh last night: 'Mom, two girls at school told me that that song says butt in it. But I told them it was my momma bought that vase. Are they right?' 'No sweetie, it's 'I'm all about that bass' ... you're all wrong. But to be fair, when she says bass, she's referring to her butt.'"
- "Shouldn't atheists type ONG?"
- "Do any of you reread books in hopes that the characters won't make the same mistakes over again?"

# The Man in the Mud Room

By Nicola Pearson

*Editor's note: This is the second installment of a monthly serialized story by award-winning author and playwright Nicola Pearson of Sauk City. Future installments will appear on this page each month during 2014 until the story is complete. Previous installments are posted at [www.concrete-herald.com](http://www.concrete-herald.com). Enjoy!*

Lange filled the wheelbarrow with pinkish-yellow wedges of Douglas fir. He would enjoy the snapping sounds it made as it burned. Might even take his mind off the fact that someone had been on his property, pilfering his firewood, he grumbled in his mind. He lifted the handles and was halfway to his yurt when he was interrupted by the cell phone jangling in his pocket. It so startled him, lost in thought as he was and not knowing that he had cell phone reception here on his property, that he dropped the wheelbarrow and narrowly missed having it land on his foot.

"What!" he barked into the phone. "Am I bothering you?" a female voice barked back at him. "No, but ..."

"So that's how you always answer the phone?"

"What are you ..." Lange stuttered, then regained his composure. "Who is this?"

"It's Suleka!"

"It doesn't sound like Suleka."

"It doesn't? How should I sound then?"

"Okay, maybe it does now," conceded Lange. "You were distorted before."

"I'm always distorted but that's beside the point."

"Very funny," remarked Lange, without sounding like it was funny at all. Then he remembered something. "Did you call earlier?"

"No." Suleka paused, but when Lange didn't fill the void, she went on. "Did you get Detective Deller's message?"

"Frankie left me a message?"

"Yes."

"Well then no. But you know I don't usually get cell phone reception up here. The fact that you're getting through now is kind of an anomaly."

"Is that why you bit my head off when you answered? You were so blown away that you got cell service?"

"No, I was blown away that I didn't break my foot by dropping a load of

firewood on it when my phone rang!"

"Are you hurt?"

"Well, no ..."

"You want me to call back so you can try again? Give you a reason to whine?"

"Now you are bothering me," Lange complained, and just as quickly changed the subject. "Say, do you know anything about someone stealing my firewood?"

"Nooooo!" Suleka dragged the word out, filling it with concern, and Lange could picture her brown eyes softening and her thick, dark brows coming together the way they did when she heard something that disturbed her. "Somebody stole your firewood? How did they get past your gate?"

"They walked. Which limited how much they could steal ..."

He heard a small gasp from her end. "What?"

"People have been talking about a rash of small thefts on Highway 530, which isn't that far from you."

"Small thefts? Like what exactly?"

"A can opener, a quart of milk, beans that were soaking in a pot on the stove ..."

Lange tipped his head up, thinking about this. It was almost dark now and the motion sensor light over his door popped on as a bug flew past it.

"Callum? Are you still there?"

"Yes, yes, I'm here," Lange replied. His mind wanted to chew over the information she'd just given him, but he knew it couldn't until he stopped being on the phone with her. "Why did you call me?" he asked suddenly.

"Oh," Suleka responded, remembering her mission. "Well, Detective Deller wants you to help with this missing woman case."

"A woman's gone missing?"

"You didn't hear about that?"

"You know I never hear about things around here."

"Usually, yes. But you went to the library today."

Lange was perplexed. "What's that got to do with anything?" Then he honed in on what interested him. "Who went missing?"

"Margery Breckenridge. Margi, is how she's known. With a hard g. She and her husband, Sam, live over on Rockport Cascade Road. He was away for a few days and came home Sunday to find the house empty. But her car was in

the driveway and her purse was on the counter in the kitchen where she always left it, so he figured she couldn't be far. He waited and then when she didn't show by dinnertime, he called some of the neighbors but nobody had seen her, so he waited some more. When she didn't show up by bedtime, he got worried and called the Sheriff."

"I'm guessing his wife doesn't carry a cell phone?"

"Well, she does, but it was in her purse ..."

"... in the kitchen," finished Lange. He had more questions, but he knew there wasn't any point in asking Suleka. She tended to have the bare bones of any story floating around the Upper Skagit, but not more than that. Plus the accuracy of her information depended on who gave it to her. He suddenly noticed that he was cold, the October evening having penetrated his fleece jacket, and his urge to get inside and start a fire in the woodstove grew. He pulled the cell phone away from his ear to hang up, when he remembered something. "How did you know I went to the library today?"

"Britta told me you'd been in." Lange didn't say anything. "She works there."

"I know that."

"Well, I'm never sure with you," Suleka countered. "Some people you acknowledge and some you don't."

Lange looked at the phone again and hung up, having already moved on in his mind to the next thing. He slipped it back in his pocket, pulled the zipper on his jacket up under his chin to keep his neck warm in the fleece collar and lifted the wheelbarrow, pushing it through the rutted dirt and scraggly, ankle-high brush toward the door to his yurt. Now that the heating season was starting, he'd have to blade this area of ground, he thought to himself, maybe even order some loads of gravel to make this journey with the wheelbarrow easier.

He reached the two steps leading up to the little platform outside his door and set the wheelbarrow down. He leaned forward and loaded his arms with firewood, then climbed the steps to his door. He nudged the handle down with his right elbow until it let him push the door open and walked into the round, canvas space. Even with the firewood in his arms, he made a beeline for the Pirateer game.

He leaned down, freed his right arm, and moved one of his pirate ships three spaces down the trade winds and five spaces across the diagonal to take Suleka's ship with the gold. Done! He flipped the gold coin onto the thistle decal inside his

ship and set Suleka's skull and crossbones decaled ship on the matching flag next to her harbor, so it was out of the game.

He glanced at the clock over his bed and awkwardly scribbled down the time of his move on the piece of paper next to the game. He and Suleka played on the honor system and neither of them cheated. Now she would have 24 hours from the time she saw the board again until she had to make her move. Not that she would need it. Lange was always impressed with how quickly she made her moves—as if she could see the game and was always one step ahead of him. Fortunately that was only in Pirateer. Every other game they played he had a tendency to dominate.

He crossed to the wood box and let the firewood tumble out of his arms into it, creating a series of rolling booms like thunder in the distance. He unzipped the collar of his fleece jacket a few inches and brushed the front clean of wood chips.

Then a thought occurred to him. He stopped, narrowing his eyes and gently sucking on his retainer. Stealing beans and milk and a can opener suggested someone homeless and hungry. At least, in NYC that's who he would have been looking for. Stealing his firewood fit this profile too, especially since, as Suleka had said, the other thefts had happened not far from his property. The only thing was, he was sure there'd been more than one person at his place. So maybe it was a family, working to steal what they needed. But then why walk as far as his place for a couple of armloads of firewood?

Lange pushed his thumbs under the straps of his daypack and pulled it off his shoulders. The pack slipped down his arms. He caught it in his left hand and swung it onto the black leather footstool he had in front of its matching chair by the wood stove, thinking he'd empty the groceries out of it after he lit a fire. He'd been hoping to go up into the pass tomorrow, do a little early season deer hunting, but if Deller needed his help maybe he wouldn't. He crouched in front of the woodstove and picked up a starter brick of compressed sawdust, made from waste wood at the local guitar manufacturing business. He ran his thumb lightly over the outline of a guitar pressed into the top of the 3-inch-thick yellow oval, then slipped it into his wood stove. He snapped apart a 4-by-4 square of cedar kindling with his fingers, leaned the pieces up against the guitar brick, and searched the hearth for a sliver of pitch wood. Once he found one, he pulled the lighter out of

See Mud Room, p. 39

Mud Room, cont. from p. 38

the pocket of his pants and flipped open the lid, intending to light the pitch wood. But then he stopped again.

What made him think they'd walked? Maybe they'd driven up to his gate, left the vehicle, and hightailed it in from there to grab what they wanted of his firewood. He made a phuhf of exasperation. Some people! A light glow was beginning to radiate across the skylight above him and he tipped his head toward it. It would be a full moon tonight.

Lange went back to the pitch wood. The resin on the fir was like gasoline the way it lit right up. He held the flame against the cedar and watched it lick around the thin sticks of deep brown until they caught. He dropped the pitch wood under the kindling and sat back on his heels. The flames grew, engulfing the cedar and making pockets of orange in the surface of the guitar brick as Lange balanced longer and larger lengths of wood on top. He wondered whether ownership of a vehicle was really in keeping with people who were homeless? And hungry? And did any of this really matter, he thought, in light of somebody going missing?

He closed the door to the firebox and stood up, watching the flames leap toward the wedges of fir on top. He heard the first loud snap of gas igniting and knew that his fire was well under way. He wanted to stand there longer, watching the lights flicker and grow, but that wouldn't help find this missing woman. He slipped his hand inside the pocket of his jacket and let his fingers touch his cell phone. Then he made a beeline for the door to his yurt.

Continued next month ...

Sudoku solution, from p. 37

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

Letters, cont. from p. 2

forward in building a new home for your library.

Samantha Hooper, a community member and library supporter, helped spread the word about our Winter Book Drive to classes at the Concrete School District. Many children's books were donated from her advocacy work. We thank those kids, parents, and teachers who were so giving. And thank you, Samantha!

*Cora Thomas, library associate  
Upper Skagit Library, Concrete*

Council, cont. from p. 33

- Town Planner Marianne Manville-Ailles reported on progress made regarding the Eagles Nest property. The owner has been reporting his efforts to the town on a monthly basis, but lingering issues remain because of the way the property was permitted initially. Manville-Ailles and town staff will research county records and council meeting minute archives to try to find answers. The property was initially permitted by the county, not Town of Concrete.
- The property at 45501 Main St., which was taken over and cleaned up by the town, has a buyer. Council voted to accept the buyer's offer of \$20,000. The buyer will pay the closing costs too.

Jan. 26 regular meeting

- Resident Dorothea Sheppard voiced concerns regarding the Swap Meet field. Sheppard said that she lives

Crossword solution, from p. 37

1	P	A	Y	E	E	6	A	F	A	R	10	C	A	R	13
14	U	P	E	N	D	15	R	A	G	E	16	U	R	E	A
17	L	E	A	D	I	18	G	Q	U	E	19	S	T	I	O
20	E	R	R	21	F	E	E	22	E	K	E	O	P	T	
23															
24	S	I	A	N	25	E	S	T	I	M	O	N	Y		
27	D	I	R	E	C	T	28	Y	29	S	R	I	S	E	R
30	U	L	N	A	E	31			32	S	K	I	F		
33	B	O	A	34	M	U	S	I	C	35	R	A	N		
36															
37															
38															
39															
40															
41	N	A	I	R	A	42			43	S	A	Y	S	O	
44	F	R	I	E	N	D	L	Y	45	W	I	T	N	E	S
46															
47															
48															
49															
50	R	E	S	E	T	51	A	C	A	I	52				
53	I	C	E	R	E	V	54	G	E	T	55	F	D	A	
56	G	I	V	E	A	D	E	P	O	S	57	I	O	N	
58															
59	I	T	E	M	60	G	L	E	N	61	O	W	L	E	T
62															
63	D	E	N	S	64	Y	A	W	S	65	N	O	O	S	E

on Pine St. She stated that there is more and more litter in this area and around the creek, as well as in the field between the Swap Meet and Loggers Landing. She stated there is a lot of garbage around the Sani-Can that sits above the creek. She stated people are also using the area west of there, where there is no Sani-Can, as a bathroom.

Property owner George Theodoratus stated that he did not realize there were problems and that no one had come to him with these complaints. He stated he went down there today and cleaned up garbage. He also stated if there is a problem, he will work to get it corrected.

- Public safety: Sgt. Kading reported on malicious mischief on Nellie Lane and stated that they have been in contact with the neighbors and owners, and have also increased patrols in the area. He stated he has a good idea who is responsible.
- Airport leaseholder Gary Dunlap asked the council for reimbursement for surveying work that was not pre-approved. Council denied his request.

—Compiled by J. K. M.

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