

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

# Concrete Herald

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February 2017

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50 cents

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### Passion, pleas prevail as water-access remedies sought

A polite but passionate debate concerning water access in rural Washington unfolded Jan. 26 before the Senate Agriculture, Trade, Water and Economic Development Committee in Olympia. *Page 19.*

### Grizzly bear open houses announced

The National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service this month will host a series of informational open houses regarding the proposed alternatives for the restoration of grizzly bears to the North Cascades ecosystem. *Page 27.*

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Em Beals and Sgt. Chris Kading are working together to save Upper Valley lives. *Page 11.*

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# Concrete Herald

The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley

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## From the editor Push back

Last month a couple locals decided they'd had enough with their fellow citizens who seem to think it's acceptable to trash our rural and built environments. They raged against the bad behavior, hopped on Facebook, and encouraged likeminded folks to join them in cleaning up portions of Concrete and a more rural area off SR 530 south of Rockport. Good for them. Way to push back against the Rhodes Scholars who think it's acceptable to dump trash illegally on private and public lands; it's encouraging that we also have right-minded people who are willing to invest their time and money to demonstrate to anyone watching the right way to act. With dedication and perseverance, we will tip the balance even further in favor of those of us who want to live collaboratively, working together to raise all of our prospects and beautify our neighborhoods, instead of selfishly wasting everyone else's time, money, and other resources. Yes, that balance already is in our favor, but the work is never-ending. Several groups have formally adopted sections of SR 20 in and near Concrete, and can be seen picking up trash along the shoulders once or twice each year. Our Chamber of Commerce, the Concrete Saturday Market organizers, and Community Bible Church come to mind. But you don't need to be affiliated with any of these groups to grab a trash bag, slip on some nitrile gloves, and do some cleanup. If you see something on the ground that could hurt you, like broken glass or a needle, either leave it where it lies (and contact the town or county) or bring along a plastic milk jug to slip it into. Our Fire & Life Safety Facility has a receptacle for "sharps" (needles and the like), where that nasty stuff can be disposed of safely. Our Upper Valley community belongs to all of us. Let's keep it clean and set the bar for acceptable behavior where the majority of us want it: high.

—J. K. M.

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# Opinion

## Letters to the editor

### Abstinence a practical form of birth control

We are witnessing more federal government involvement in such moral issues as abortion. This issue is now a major political issue and every individual, regardless of their circumstance, is involved. In his commentary piece in the January issue of *Concrete Herald*, Claus Joens claimed that conservatives "... fight to ban birth control to prevent pregnancy ..."

What birth control options does he cite that conservatives seek to ban? Abstinence is a form of birth control which controls birth without the use of pharmaceuticals to end or prevent pregnancy. Abstinence is a form of birth control that controls birth without the use of taxpayer's money. It is a practical form of birth control for the following reasons:

- It places the individual as fully responsible for the choice to either restrain from becoming pregnant or to end pregnancy including related costs involved.
- It is the most inexpensive method of birth control
- It keeps government money out of the loop.

It must be clearly understood that by my not supporting abortion either by not involving taxpayer money to prevent it or terminate it or by not supporting the use of pharmaceuticals to prevent it or terminate it does not mean I do not support the use of birth control to "... ban birth control to prevent pregnancy ...". I only support abstinence, which is safe and practical for the individual and inexpensive for the taxpayer. There would be no issue regarding the "rights of the unborn" if the proactive

approach of abstinence is taken based on a conscious effort to study the full impact of pregnancy when one considers it. Let's promote abstinence as a viable form of birth control and promote less government involvement in this moral issue.

Gerald Hulbert  
Sumas

### WDFW should obey state law

Why don't Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) officials just obey state law? Why can't WDFW do as RCW 77.04.012 mandates the WDFW department and commission to do as managers of the elk herd in eastern Skagit County and keep elk from damaging private property? Why can't WDFW abide by

See Letters, p. 38

### Letters policy

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

## Corrections

The January issue stated that new Concrete Town Councilman Jude Dippold will complete the four-year term for Council Position 2, left by former Councilmember Corey Ruiz, which expires in December 2019. This may or may not be true; in order to complete the term, Dippold will need to run for re-election in the Nov. 2017 election.

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## Message from the mayor

By Jason Miller

A recent comment thread on Facebook reminded me that not everyone knows every detail about our **street maintenance strategy** in town. So let's talk about that.

The first thing to know is that for the time being, we are officially classified as a low-income community. We have precious little money to put toward street maintenance; therefore, we seek grant funding every year to maintain—and in some cases rebuild—our street infrastructure. This year, for example, you'll see crews working to reconstruct West Main St. from Superior Ave. N. to Grasmere Rd., and S. Dillard from SR 20 to Benjamin.

The staff, Town Council, and I are well aware of our "problem children" streets in town, and spent several minutes at a recent staff meeting discussing how badly hammered we were by the frigid temperatures/thaws in January. We have a list of every single street within town limits, prioritized by need. We'll be taking another look at that list, but know that Cedar St. is at the top, followed by Limestone. It looks like we'll be able to get started on Cedar St. sidewalks this year, and hopefully that will lay the groundwork for Cedar overlay in 2018. Cross your fingers.

In the meantime, we'll spend this month fishing for other means of funding.

Oh, and one other point regarding grants: They often do not coincide with our desired order of events. For example, money is available for Cedar St. sidewalks first, then hopefully the roadway later.

Finally, a reminder that the **Town Council meetings** have moved to 6 p.m., still on the second Monday of each month, at Town Hall. Our Parks Committee meeting is that same night, at 5 p.m., at Town Hall. Please join either or both to learn more about your town.

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



## Commentary

# Let's talk about dying

By Linden Jordan

I recently had a good friend die after suffering a stroke. He didn't die right away and was on life support in the hospital's Intensive Care Unit. His wife and adult children had to make a decision about what level of treatment to provide. He had no chance of rehabilitation. He had never been comfortable talking about death, so the family had no guidance regarding his last wishes. This is an all-too-common scenario, and it leaves families with the grief of loss, wondering what the deceased loved one would have wanted.

Most of us would like to ignore the fact of our death. There are so many more pleasant topics to discuss with family and loved ones. And how do you bring up the topic? When is a good time? Should it be over dinner? Imagine the family dinner where you say out of the blue, "I would like to talk about my death." That's probably an appetite killer, but these are critically important conversations to have with those you love. You do them a favor when you gather the courage to make decisions and let others know.

Join us on Mon., March 6, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Concrete Community Center as three knowledgeable professionals come to help us think about end-of-life decisions. Our speakers will be:

- Dr. Deborah North, a long-time internal medicine specialist at Skagit Regional Health who now is a Palliative Care doctor with Skagit Valley Hospital and Skagit Hospice.
- Dr. Anita Meyer, a long-time primary care doctor with Skagit Regional Health who now is a Palliative Care doctor with the hospital and hospice.
- Hannah Sullivan, who worked as a nurse for 20 years at United General/PeaceHealth United General Medical Center before joining the staff of Whatcom Hospice.

These professionals will talk about the reasons for preparing for your death, how to have difficult conversations with loved ones, and how to write what you want in a way that will help your wishes be honored.

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# Philips retires after 34 years with Concrete Volunteer Fire Dept.

## Darrel Reed named new chief effective Jan. 1

After 34 years of service to the Concrete Volunteer Fire Dept. — 30 of those as chief — Rich Philips has left the building, retiring at the end of 2016.

Philips, 67, joined the department in June 1982 and was voted into the chief position in 1986, taking over for Jack Hoover.

A lot has changed since he first joined the team, he said. At that point the fire department had no “Dist. 28” designation. Their engines included a 1968 Chevrolet and a 1958 Howard Cooper Ford. In 1990 they borrowed an engine from the McLean station in Mount Vernon, just so they could have two pumpers. That also was the year they got new bunker gear, which they’ve used ever since.

“And we had ‘fire phones’ back then,” said Philips. “It was before 911. People would call a number and one of us

would press a red button on our phone to set off the siren and call the rest of the firefighters.”

In 2012, Philips and Mayor Judd Wilson performed a full-court press in Olympia to gain a state appropriation to pay for the balance of the cost of the town’s new Fire and Life Safety Facility.

What’s next? Philips will stay on for a bit longer as the town’s assistant Public Works director even as he bids farewell to the fire department. “I’m still trying to figure what I’ll do later,” said Philips. “I miss my pager. It’ll take me awhile to get over that.”

### New chief, familiar face

Former Assistant Fire Chief Darrel Reed accepted the chief’s hat effective Jan. 1, after being voted in by his fellow firefighters. Reed, 56, has been on the

force since Jan. 1, 1997, and said his primary goals as chief are recruitment and training. He’s already formed a training committee of five.

“For training, I am working hard to include everybody on the department, since we have people who work night shifts and it’s hard for them to attend night training,” said Reed.

Reed has a carrot to dangle in front of potential recruits. “They need to live inside town limits, but the department does offer a \$300-per-month retirement package after 25 years of service.”

The fire department needs to upgrade its gear too, he said. “We’re fighting with old gear and old equipment, and it’s all about safety. I’d like to add some additional airpicks, and replace the 1989 Ford engine with a good used engine.”

—J. K. M.



Top: Former Concrete Volunteer Fire Dept. Chief Rich Philips, shown during the construction of the Concrete Fire & Life Safety Facility in 2014, retired from the position on Dec. 31 after 32 years of service. Above: New Chief Darrel Reed assumed his new duties on Jan. 1.

# Outreach aims to keep middle school boys busy

Ever since the Boy Scouts troop left Concrete, Art Torheim has been bothered by a lack of organized activities for middle school-aged boys. The Marblemount man, who attends Community Bible Church in Concrete, said he wanted to “give them something positive to be involved with. At least they’ll have something to do, other than get in trouble.”

To that end, Torheim formed CBC Young Men’s Outreach, which plans monthly outings for boys ages 10 to 18, with special attention focused on the middle school years.

The group is loosely faith-based, with a short message about Jesus Christ included during every outing. This year the boys will enjoy the snow at Mount Baker, take a weekend canoe trip at Baker Lake, hike and fish along Jackman Creek, and travel to the Museum of Flight in Seattle, among many more scheduled events.

Torheim’s goals for the group are simple. “I want to give these kids something to do, let them have fun, and

store a little bit of God’s word in their hearts. While they’re having fun, it’ll keep them out of trouble, and if they hit the bottom at some point in life, maybe Christ will help them climb out of it.”

Several church members and community members have come alongside Torheim to help make his efforts successful, including Ben Smith, Jarrod and Valerie Lee (who hopes to develop a group for girls), Mike Criner, Mike Farthing, Dave McLaughlin, Gene and Maureen Ford, and Torheim’s wife, Tonya. “She helps me stay organized,” said Torheim. “I wouldn’t have stood a chance with this if it hadn’t been for them.”

This month’s event is a Feb. 11 Snow Outing to Mt. Baker, with transportation leaving Community Bible Church at 8 a.m. The church is located at 45672 Limestone St. in Concrete.

For more information about the CBC Young Men’s Outreach, contact Torheim at us5nmm@frontier.com or 360.873.4781.



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## February Fundraiser for Concrete Farm to School Classroom Renovation

In-kind and cash donations needed to build on Farm to School’s participatory learning programs in the Concrete public schools.

Details on Facebook at “Concrete Farm to School.” Contact 360.854.7171 or [concretefarmtoschool@gmail.com](mailto:concretefarmtoschool@gmail.com).

### Obituaries published in Concrete Herald

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

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

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# Mardi Gras resumes purple reign

Concrete's hilarious nod to New Orleans' famous party will return to Concrete Town Center on Feb. 25. The event's primary focus, a parade, will start at 3 p.m., followed by dancing with live music provided by local band Jumbled Pie. A cookie-stacking contest for the kids, rock-painting for everyone, and a possible race or two are planned.

In its 10th year, Mardi Gras in Concrete is a popular way for locals to shake off the winter doldrums, dress up in the traditional colors of purple, green, and gold, and enjoy some family-friendly frivolity. All events associated with Mardi Gras in Concrete are free.

For more information, contact the Concrete Chamber of Commerce at 360.853.8784 or go to [www.concrete-wa.com](http://www.concrete-wa.com).

—J. K. M.

## THIS AND THAT

By J. K. M. and C. F.

**KSVU's power upgrade is a go!** After receiving a matching donation offer from an anonymous listener last year, KSVU 90.1 FM will use those funds to power up its transmissions soon.

At only 300 watts, KSVU's reception has been spotty at best since it began broadcasting in 2011. Although generally heard from east Sedro-Woolley to west Marblemount, many folks within that radius are still unable to pick up the signal because of our bumpy topography. With an increase in power, possibly up to 2,000 watts, the hope is to reach all those local "hidey holes," as well as expand to cover east Marblemount, Newhalem, and Darrington. The upgrade might increase coverage downvalley as well.

February 17 is the target date for the power upgrade, but will be weather-dependent, as the tower sits atop Burpee Hill which is currently under a few feet of

snow. Tune to 90.1 FM for more news of this event.

A **Pancake Feed fundraiser** is planned for Feb. 25 from 9 to 11 a.m., at Concrete Community Center.

The event is intended to raise funds and materials to supply the free Arts & Crafts activity that takes place at the community center every Thursday (see schedule, p. 29). Attendees at the pancake feed are encouraged to bring unwanted crafting supplies or donations of new crafting supplies, or even gift cards to stores such as Hobby Lobby, Michael's, Jo-Ann Fabric, Dollar Tree, and the like.

For more information, send an e-mail to [terrar@communityaction.org](mailto:terrar@communityaction.org) or call 360.416.1377.

Registration has opened for the **2017 Tulip Ambassador Competition**. Two child ambassadors will be chosen to represent the Skagit Valley Tulip Festival during a KeyBank 2017 Tulip Ambassador Event on Feb. 9.

Any fourth or fifth grade student in Skagit County is eligible to apply; one boy and one girl will be chosen to take part in parades, meet Governor Jay Inslee, and further represent the festival throughout

the area at many other events.

"We have had Ambassadors from many schools, plus home-schooled students," said Cindy Verge, executive director of the festival. "Ambassadors and parents agree that it's a great experience, and I hope we have lots of fourth and fifth graders apply."

Information has been distributed to Skagit County schools, and classroom visits took place in January.

The competition will take place at the Cascade Mall in Burlington on Feb. 9 at 5 p.m., with applications due on Feb. 5 by 4 p.m.

For more information, contact Verge at 360.428.5959 or [cindy@tulipfestival.org](mailto:cindy@tulipfestival.org), go to [www.tulipfestival.org](http://www.tulipfestival.org), or visit the festival office at 311 W. Kincaid in downtown Mount Vernon.

An informative presentation on **preventing type 2 diabetes** will be presented by WSU lifestyle coach Laura DeFreese on Mon., Feb. 6, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Burlington Library, 820 Washington Ave. in Burlington.

There is no cost for the class, but registration is required by contacting Laura DeFreese at 360.428.4270, ext. 224, or [laura.defreese@wsu.edu](mailto:laura.defreese@wsu.edu).

On Jan. 12, Skagit County Republican Party members elected **Bill Bruch** to be their new chairman.

Bruch has been a resident of Skagit County for the past 16 years and lives in La Conner, where he is a Town Council member and a property manager. Last year, Bruch was a GOP County, State, and National Convention Delegate.

"It is a true honor and privilege to serve as your new chairman," said Bruch. "We have so many important issues to work on, including helping to preserve citizen private property rights and electing good, principled Republicans to all levels of government."

Also elected was longtime party member Sandra Hulst as vice chair, former Anacortes port commissioner and three-term Washington State Legislative House Rep. Bob Eberle as State Committeeman, and Claire Painter Eberle (former National Convention Delegate) as state committeewoman.

The Skagit County Republican Party has more than 350 members.

## Council summary

*Concrete Town Council met for regular meetings on Jan. 9 and 23. 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. 9 regular meeting

- Public safety:** Sgt. Chris Kading reported they are currently in the process of serving a few warrants and making some arrests, so he will have to leave right after his report. He reported subjects broke into the Forest Service office in Birdview in December and stole approximately \$40,000 worth of equipment and vehicles. He reported they had apprehended three of the four individuals involved in that break-in.

Sgt. Kading also reported there were approximately 64 calls during December. He stated he will be putting together a 2016 report in the next few weeks for the mayor and council. He stated he believes they were a few calls higher last year than 2015.

Councilwoman Ginger Kyritsis stated that she recently had a friend move here from Wisconsin and during her drive here, her credit was hacked. She stated that when she arrived here, she had to make a police report and the responding officer was Deputy Wolff. She stated that he was very professional and kind.

Council voted to sign an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement supporting a countywide Public Safety Communications Center.

Town engineer Cody Hart reported they have closed out the first phase of the water tank project. He stated this has been reviewed by Public Works and he will provide the proposal to council soon for approval to go to bid. He stated they are also working to complete the waterline design for Main St., and the metering and services, which was required to be completed by the new conservation and use efficiency laws.

Hart also reported on the water spray park project, which is still moving forward. He reported on a meeting that took place between him, the subcontractor, Dept. of Ecology, and Dept. of Health to discuss the option of using the current retention

ponds at the Park & Ride for the water runoff from the spray park. He stated that he is hopeful this will be approved soon by both agencies. He commended the subcontractor Aqueous Solutions for its assistance with this process.

Hart also reported that he will have a Scope of Work for the council at its next meeting for the S. Dillard Ave. overlay project, which is being funded by the Transportation Improvement Board.

### Jan. 23 regular meeting

- Representatives from PSE attended and presented the utility's plan to replace its current siren system with seven new sirens in different locations between Hamilton and Concrete. The new system will allow for future expansion. The new system also will have a much larger coverage area than the current system. The sirens will sound a continuous tone so they should not be confused with other emergency tones. PSE will continue to run on the same testing schedule (second Monday of each month at 6 p.m.) and should be installed by the end of 2017, depending on the permitting and bidding schedule.

- Public safety:** Sgt. Kading reported there has not been a lot of activity since the beginning of the year. He stated they are investigating a robbery that may or may not have actually occurred near Baker River Bar Rd. He also reported on Jan. 10 they received a call stating that someone had jumped from the Dalles Bridge, which ended up being a false report. He stated the reporting party admitted to the false reporting and was arrested for doing so.

Sgt. Kading said he is still working on the 2016 year-end report, but with the information he has gathered so far, there were approximately 688 calls in 2016. He stated this is the lowest number of calls annually since he has been with the East Detachment.

—Compiled from staff minutes

### Keep track of your council

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

# Youth Unity Rally bids 'no-Trump' in Olympia

By Enrique Pérez de la Rosa and Grace Swanson  
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

Cisco Tamayo lined up to speak at a podium before the steps of the Capitol to share his grief over and distaste for President Donald John Trump. It was Inauguration Day for the nation's 45th president and not all was quiet on this western front.

Similar shouts of opposition from hundreds of Washingtonians, many of them students, reverberated through the Washington State Capitol on Friday, Jan. 20, during a Youth Unity Rally following Trump's inauguration.

"Not my president!" shouted Tamayo, a

South Puget Sound Community College student. He expressed feelings of shock and anger, he said, after President Trump won the election.

"I wanted to punch the TV," Tamayo said in an interview Friday.

Since he won the election, Trump's controversial statements have inspired millions of people across the country to protest and rally. The nation's Electoral College certified Trump's victory in December, even though he lost the popular vote by nearly 3 million to his Democratic opponent Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Besides Olympia, protests also took place on Sat., Jan. 21, in cities across Washington State, including Bellingham, Walla Walla, and Seattle. Several Upper Valley residents traveled to Bellingham to participate in that march (see photo, pp. 20–21).

As a member of Olympia Confront the Climate, a movement that proposes potential alternatives to fossil fuel, Todd Davidson said he is concerned with Trump's Environmental Protection Agency appointment, Scott Pruitt. Pruitt has expressed skepticism regarding

See Rally, p. 18

## Community Meeting

Hamilton Town Hall

Thursday, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>

6:30 PM to 9:00 PM

The Town of Hamilton and Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group invite you for an update on our Carey/Alder Slough restoration planning project. Join us to review possible options and provide your perspective as we move forward together.



584 Maple Street  
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For details visit  
[www.skagitfisheries.org](http://www.skagitfisheries.org)



[ Chief Darrel Reed ]

## Concrete Volunteer Fire Dept. needs firefighters!

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# Sports

## Women's hoops full of pride, drive

By Kevik Rensink, head coach

One of my favorite quotes comes from the great John Wooden, who said, "No whining, no complaining, no excuses."

I love that quote, and it is one I try to apply to the Concrete Girls Basketball Program, as well as my own life.

The first month of the season looked like a time when we might have whined about not getting enough games in December, complained about not getting as many players to turn out as we thought we might, or made excuses when two of our varsity players both went down with major injuries in the first two weeks.

In fact, we started out the season 0-6, and could have become bitter, dysfunctional, and started pointing fingers. But we didn't do that. The girls stuck together, practiced hard, and got really tough when they needed it the most.

Last month I warned you that it was going to be exciting to see this team turn it around, and they have done nothing short of that. Our three captains (Emily Bridge, Jaycelyn Kuipers, and Chloe Stidman) have stepped up and led their team on a great run. The girls have won four of their last seven games, including two very

close games with the top two teams in the league. La Conner came in undefeated, and we lost 52-47. Mount Vernon Christian came onto our home court a week later, and we almost got them too (44-44).

It has made for a very exciting second half of the season, and although we were eliminated from the playoffs by Friday Harbor last Friday, we have three more games to still show a lot of team pride in the season we have had together.

It has been a lot of fun to watch this team grow together. Ever since Jenna Whorten returned from her injury the second week of January, it has given the entire team a boost, and every player has stepped up their game. Kuipers' scoring and rebound averages have both gone up as she continues to lead the county in scoring at 16.1 points per game. She had a week in January where she scored 25, 22, and 21 in our three games that week.

Bridge has stepped up in her scoring average too, averaging nearly 10 points per game after multiple double-figure scoring nights. She plays with all heart all of the time, and is the teammate everyone needs.

Stidman continues to lead us from the point guard position, putting up great stat lines every night while averaging 8 points, 9 rebounds, 5 steals, and 6 assists per game. With Senior Night approaching, it will be tough to watch our four seniors play their last week of basketball in a Concrete uniform. They are forever family though. All of these girls are, as well as anyone who has ever come through the program.

Let's go finish the season strong. We want you to join us! The girls basketball team has two home games left: Mon., Jan. 30 at 6 p.m., and Fri., Feb. 3 at 7 p.m.

Come and cheer our seniors on, our team on, and celebrate another season of hard work, great character, and a group of wonderful young ladies.



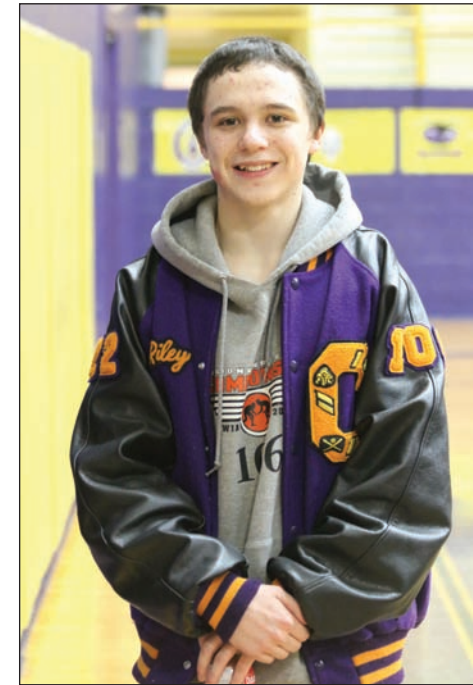
Jalayne Hastings (above) and Jenna Whorten (below) look to score during the women's home court game against Shoreline Christian on Jan. 12. The Lady Lions overpowered the Chargers with a 56-26 trouncing.



Robert Thompson (left) and Blaine Storms (below) show their opponents how it's done during a Jan. 11 league match on the Concrete mats. Thompson stormed his opponent, Skylar Carey of Muckleshoot, and pinned him in less than 10 seconds. Storms crushed Jordan Lawson of Friday Harbor with a pin.



## Athletes of the Month



### Athletes of the Month: Chloe Stidman and Riley Fichter

Chloe Stidman, a senior captain for the CHS women's basketball team, is "one of the toughest players I have ever coached," said Coach Kevik Rensink. "She is our point guard, floor general, and leads her team with her voice and by her actions. Chloe is relentless in her pursuit to give everything she has to every practice, every game, and every teammate. Chloe has been putting up impressive numbers all season, averaging 8 points, 9 rebounds, 5 steals, and 6 assists per game. She is a very deserving receipt ant of this award."

Junior Riley Fichter is a force on the wrestling mats, spending much of his time with his arm raised in victory. He moves from 113 to 120 lbs., showing great skill at both and holding at 113 as he heads into the post-season. "I'm positive that Riley will place at State this year," said Coach David Dellinger. "He's been to State twice already because he's a coach's dream: great work ethic, great personality, never complains, very coachable. I wish I had two or three more Rileys in the room!"

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

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# Basketball struggles with league numbers

A full January found the Concrete basketball team on the short side of the scoreboard more often than not, ending the month with a 2–8 league and 3–12 overall record.

The month kicked off with a Jan. 3 60–50 loss to Mt. Vernon Christian on the Hurricanes' court, followed by a home game against Friday Harbor on Jan. 6 that ended with a 51–30 Wolverines win.

On Jan. 7 the Lions traveled to Bush and were handed a 46–23 defeat. Three days later, they tasted victory with a 67–43 win at Darrington.

Another win for the Lions followed on Jan. 12 as they hosted Shoreline Christian and sent the Chargers packing with a 60–50 loss. Concrete fell to Orcas Island on Jan. 14, 63–37 in the away game.

On Jan. 17, the Lions took an equally bad drubbing in a league game at home against La Conner, losing 62–32. The Hawks of Mt. Rainier Lutheran beat

Concrete 60–41 on the Hawks' home court on Jan. 21.

Two more games followed: another home game on Jan. 24 against Mt. Vernon Christian—a nail-biter with the Hurricanes squeaking past Concrete 49–47—and a Jan. 27 away game versus Friday Harbor that ended with a 61–30 Lion loss.

Our boys on the court will finish their regular season play with two home games against Darrington and Bush on Jan. 30 and 31, respectively, and a final game at Shoreline Christian on Feb. 1.

—J. K. M.

**Continue the cycle**

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this newspaper**



The Lions basketball team notched a win against the Shoreline Christian Chargers during a hard-fought home game on Jan. 12. Clockwise from top, Rey Garibay rushes the basket, Grayson Luttrell flushes a 3-pointer, Joe Ramirez drives for a layup, and David Swain ponders a free throw. When the dust settled, the Lions were on top 60–50.



# Prepared for the worst

A new program for the Upper Valley aims to save lives.

By Haley McNealey

Concrete business owner Em Beals is leading local communities on a path toward preparedness in the event of emergency. Her efforts potentially could save lives.

I recently sat down to chat with Beals, owner of 5b's Bakery in Concrete, to discuss a program called Map Your Neighborhood. Beals has assumed an active role as coordinator and senior facilitator for the program.

Map Your Neighborhood aims to raise awareness by providing crucial information and working with local communities to foster a sense of unity and cohesion in the event of a mass disaster in the eastern portion of Skagit County. It differs from the Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) project in that CERT teaches immediate life-saving skills and techniques, while Map Your Neighborhood focuses on creating a thumbnail map showing nearby assets and resources.

Map Your Neighborhood is funded through Skagit County Department of Emergency Services and will cover communities stretching from Birdview to Newhalem, on the north and south sides of State Route 20.

Beals said the objective of the program is “to get communities organized and prepared for any kind of disaster, manmade or natural.”

Beals stressed the importance of immediate community action when facing

a disaster. “The reason this is so crucial is we will most likely be isolated by our geography depending on the type and severity of disaster.”

Because eastern Skagit County has a limited number of trained responders at its disposal, community members are a crucial source of aid in the hours following a catastrophe, a period of time that is often marked by chaos and panic.

The program was initially introduced in King County as a response to major fires in California. Distraught civilians expressed concern when immobile and elderly individuals passed away in their homes; these and other fatalities could have been prevented. First responders must act with speed and precision in the face of a disaster, and when they receive no response to a knock on the door, it is assumed the residence is vacant. But if the resident(s) is hard of hearing or immobile, they may not be able to hear or respond to a knock on the door. This is where the role of neighbors comes in.

The strategy presented by Map Your Neighborhood is to provide a four-hour training session in each local community, scheduled at the convenience of resident volunteers. The training will involve a precise charting of residences in a given community, and identifying and documenting specific needs, with particular attention given to distinguishing the residents who will be most vulnerable in the event of a disaster, including

elderly, disabled, and immobile people.

The primary objective of the training is to detect the indispensable tasks associated with responding to a disaster, such as utility shut-offs and assisting the neighbors who may need particular consideration in terms of being informed and potentially evacuated. Tasks will then be assigned to the community members in attendance. With a carefully calculated plan, community members will be enabled to respond immediately in the face of dangerous or unanticipated events, and individuals will be aware of the needs of neighbors around them.

Scheduling for training sessions will begin in April. In addition to Beals, Linden Jordan and Bill Pfeifer also will serve as facilitators for these community meetings, which are set to occur annually to update any changes within a neighborhood. The program is seeking volunteers to work with facilitators to schedule training sessions, with the option of hosting the event at a community member's home or a local community center. Anyone interested in more information is urged to contact Beals in person at 5b's Bakery.

Another related effort is in the works for maximizing the utility of local resources. Working with Beals, SCSO East Detachment Sgt. Chris Kading will organize a roundtable event for first responders to address “what if” situations, including response to earthquakes and



flooding. They will work with Seattle City Light to explore community needs in the event of the local dams failing, for example, when immediate response would be imperative: In such an event, massive flooding would reach Concrete in approximately 2 hours and 7 minutes.

Attendees of the roundtable events will include fire department staff, local law enforcement, utility workers, and first responders.

Sgt. Kading's role is law enforcement liaison, a position under which he will be tasked with sharing nonsensitive information. Sgt. Kading stands squarely behind the program. “We are short staffed, especially in an emergency situation. It is important we are reaching out to our partners in the community to task them with responding effectively in emergency situations,” he said.

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# Academics



## Rally gets legislators' attention on education funding mandate

By Grace Swanson  
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

More than 6,500 students, educators, and parents assembled across the Capitol steps Mon., Jan. 16, to shout out their frustrations over the state's failure to fund basic education, its constitutional duty. Speakers at the Rally for Student Civil Rights and Ample Funded Public Schools referred to Dr. Martin Luther King's fight for equality. Monday was his day.

"In honoring Martin Luther King Jr., Washington can look to his words for inspiration and a call to action," said Summer Stinson, co-founder and vice-president of Washington's Paramount Duty, an organization formed to ensure the state's basic education system is fully funded.

Stinson reflected on Dr. King's 1963 speech at the Lincoln Memorial, where he expressed that African Americans were not provided the rights that the Declaration of Independence and Constitution promised for all Americans; black Americans had received a check "marked 'insufficient funds.'"

"Washington's check to its children has come back marked 'insufficient funds,'" Stinson continued. "The state's inequities have most impacted students who need support, including children with disabilities, children of color, and children who are learning English," she said.

Students attending the rally spoke about funding inequalities within their schools. "I strongly believe there should be more African American teachers in history because I feel we should be teaching our African American students about our history," said student Decorlan Roundtree. "It's young men and young women being told that their education, their time, and their future, is not valued by the state or by its leaders," Garfield High School student Duncan King said to the cheering crowd. "I implore the members of the Washington State Legislature to keep these students in mind and meet their

constitutional obligation to fully fund education."

Paul Schneider, a Spokane social studies teacher and parent, urged the rally participants to initiate change by pressing lawmakers to sufficiently fund high-quality schools, support programs, an education that connects all students to school, and education professionals who are the "best trained in the nation," he said.

"Unfortunately too many kids come to us traumatized, too many kids come hungry, and too many kids do not have that same freedom to dream," he said. "Their futures are uncertain, dictated by ZIP code, skin color, and the crushing bigotry of institutional inertia."

Students, educators, and parents met with their district legislators to discuss the education funding issue.

Courtney Stange-Tregear met with Rep. Noelle Frame (D-Seattle) and Sen. Reuven Carlyle (D-Seattle). Stange-Tregear has three children who attend Adams Elementary School and is frustrated with the budget shortfalls Seattle Public Schools currently faces.

Responding to a question about how much leverage Seattle lawmakers have in the education funding issue, Frame expressed the importance of attending events, such as the rally, where citizens can communicate with lawmakers. Stange-Tregear appreciated Frame's message, but doesn't believe she gave a sufficient answer.

Rally participants gathered in the Capitol to listen to messages from Gov. Jay Inslee and Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal.

"Every child deserves a decent shot," Inslee said. He believes that his proposed education budget works to educate all students in the state. Both Inslee and Reykdal reiterated the importance of communicating with legislators about



Speeches, marches, and songs broke out at the Capitol on Jan. 16 as thousands of teachers, students, and parents assembled to prompt the legislature to fully fund basic education at their schools.

fully funding education.

This story is part of a series of news reports from the Washington State Legislature provided through a reporting

internship sponsored by the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation. Reach reporter Grace Swanson at [grace.swanson47@gmail.com](mailto:grace.swanson47@gmail.com).

## Writer, illustrator collaborate for book to support Upper Skagit Library

Sedro-Woolley writer Karen Smith and Rockport artist Don Smith (no relation) have published a children's book that has rapidly become more than the sum of its parts.

The dynamic duo published *My Name is Twirp* just before Thanksgiving last year, with a mind to donate the money from the first 30 sales to the Upper Skagit Library. A publicity push via KOMO 4 and *Skagit Valley Herald* landed two points of exposure that helped the book to pop up on Amazon.com, bumping sales. This month, Karen Smith will present a check for almost \$500 to the library.

### It started with a sell sheet

Karen said her idea for the book started with a call from former Concrete resident Carol Fabrick, who was trying to find a home for Smith's father's dog, Twirp, because he could no longer care for her.

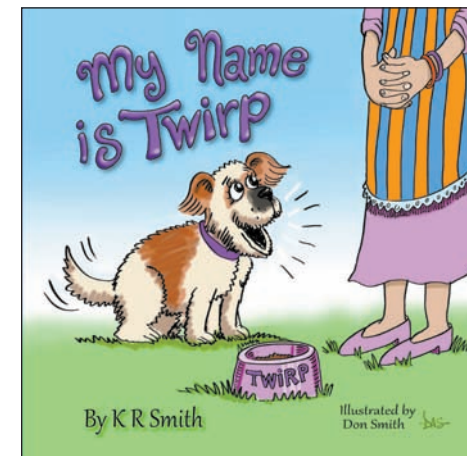
"I wrote up a list of things about Twirp, and started to think there might be a story there," said Smith.

Introduced to Don Smith by another Upper Valley resident, Bill Pfeifer (who used to work with Don Smith's father), Karen pitched her idea and watched Don sketch out a few ideas. Don, a senior park aide at Rockport State Park, keeps himself busy these days, but managed to shoehorn the project into his schedule, delivering page after page of artwork to match Karen's story in bite-size chunks.

"Everyone's been fascinated with his artwork," said Karen.

"Once I hit on the character using photos of Twirp, each illustration took about an hour," said Don. "And working with Karen was a hoot; she's a character herself. She didn't pressure me, but kept me on schedule. I love drawing cartoons, so it was fun to crank those out."

Karen is a longtime library supporter; she helped staff the old Concrete Library. She's surprised and delighted at the book sales and how they translate to direct support for the Upper Skagit Library. "We went from nobody even knowing it existed to almost \$500 for the library," she said. "I guess I'll just keep stirring the pot and see what turns up!"



What's next for Twirp? Karen said that's a common question, and one she believes she'll answer with a sequel: *Twirp Takes a Hike*.

The first Twirp book is available at 5b's Bakery in Concrete, Northwest Garden Bling in Grasmere Village, and Amazon.

## Town of Concrete accepting applications for AWC scholarship

Town of Concrete is accepting applications for the AWC Center for Quality Communities Scholarship fund. The deadline for applications is Feb. 24.

The scholarship is available through a statewide competitive process for students who are actively engaged in their city/town government and/or community and plan to attend post-secondary school in fall 2017.

To be eligible, a student must be graduating from high school or home school, or be receiving a GED in spring/summer 2017; live within the Concrete School District boundaries; plan to

continue their education at an accredited post-secondary institution in the 2017–2018 academic year on a half-time or more basis; and have been involved with a city 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). Completed applications are due no later than 4:30 p.m. on Fri., Feb. 24.

Submit completed materials to:

Town of Concrete  
Attn: Andrea Fichter  
P.O. Box 39  
Concrete, WA 98237

Applications and materials also may be e-mailed to Andrea Fichter at [andrea@concretewa.gov](mailto:andrea@concretewa.gov) or hand-delivered to Fichter at Concrete Town Hall, 45672 Main St. in Concrete.

—J. K. M.



Concrete High School students formed a conga line during a "Jam Night" hosted by the Concrete High School Prevention Posse on Jan. 13. The event included food, games, poetry, music, conversation, and some decidedly unique dance moves.





# Clear Lake



## HISTORY CORNER

The photo below shows the scene of **Bernie Pickering Davis' funeral** at Clear Lake Cemetery in 1909. Bernie Davis was seven years old when he was hit by a train while trying to retrieve a baseball that had been hit to the opposite side of the railroad tracks. A picture of Bernie and his 1909 tombstone are shown at right and far right.

Bernie's parents, Frank and Grace (Pickering) Davis traveled by covered wagon from Colorado to Clear Lake in 1898. They were the parents of three children: Bernie (born in 1901), Donna (1907), and Merle (1913).

Clear Lake Cemetery is located on the corner of Old Day Creek Rd. and North Front St. It is managed by Skagit County Cemetery District No. 6 and was recently expanded

to accommodate 277 more plots. In the permit application requesting approval of the expansion, it was noted, "The Staff testimony was that there have been no complaints from neighbors about this use in 100 years. The Examiner takes notice that, during the same period, "there have been no complaints by the permanent occupants."

*Photos courtesy of Clear Lake Historical Association.*

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

Like the Clear Lake Historical Association on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/clearlakehistory](http://www.facebook.com/clearlakehistory).

—Deanna Ammons, historian



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## Community Calendar



### FEBRUARY

- 5 Deadline for application submittal for 2017 Tulip Ambassador Competition. Competition to be held at Cascade Mall in Burlington on Feb. 9 at 5 p.m.; see notice, p. 6; info at 360.428.5959, [cindy@tulipfestival.org](mailto:cindy@tulipfestival.org), [www.tulipfestival.org](http://www.tulipfestival.org), or the festival office at 311 W. Kincaid, Mount Vernon
- 6 Presentation on preventing Type 2 diabetes, Burlington Library, 820 Washington Ave., Burlington, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.; see notice, p. 6; info at 360.428.4270, ext. 224 or [laura.defreese@wsu.edu](mailto:laura.defreese@wsu.edu)
- 6 Whatcom County Dahlia Society presents "New Introductions for 2017," Laurel Community Grange, 6172 Guide Meridian, Lynden, 7 to 9 p.m.; free admission; info at [wcdpublicity@gmail.com](mailto:wcdpublicity@gmail.com)
- 11 Author and Professor Kevin Zobrist presents and hikes at Rockport State Park, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; see article, p. 23; info at 360.853.8461 or [rockport@parks.wa.gov](mailto:rockport@parks.wa.gov)
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 15 Free Community Dinner courtesy of Concrete Elementary School teachers and Farm to School staff, Concrete High School cafeteria, 5 to 6 p.m.
- 16 Community Meeting at Hamilton Town Hall re: Carey/Alder Slough restoration planning project, 6:30 to 9 p.m.; see ad, p. 22
- 20 President's Day
- 22 Public Open House re: Grizzly Bear Reintroduction Proposal, Darrington Community Center, 6 to 8 p.m.; see article, p. 27; info at <http://bit.ly/ncegrizzly> or [www.nps.gov/noca/grizzly.htm](http://www.nps.gov/noca/grizzly.htm)
- 24 Deadline for AWC Scholarship applications; see article, p. 13; info at [andrea@concretewa.gov](mailto:andrea@concretewa.gov) or 360.853.8401
- 25 Pancake Feed Fundraiser for Arts & Crafts activities, Concrete Community Center, 9 to 11 a.m.; see notice, p. 6; info at 360.416.1377 or [terror@communityaction.org](mailto:terror@communityaction.org)
- 25 Mardi Gras in Concrete! Parade starts at 3 p.m. in Concrete Town Center; see notice, p. 6; info at [www.concrete-wa.com](http://www.concrete-wa.com) or 360.853.8784

### MARCH

- 6 Presentation regarding end-of-life decisions, Concrete Community Center, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.; free admission; see article, p. 3
- 11 Skagit County Fire District 19 Annual Scholarship Dinner Dance, Marblemount Community Hall; info at 360.873.2501 or 360.853.8889
- 19 "Ride to Remember Oso." Two rides, both starting at 8:15 a.m.; \$30 registration fee; see article, p. 24; info and registration at [www.ridetorememberoso.com](http://www.ridetorememberoso.com)
- 19 Free Day at Rasar and Rockport State Parks (no Discover Pass for day visits); see notice, p. 23

### APRIL

- 15 Imagine Concrete Workshop: "Branding Concrete"; Concrete High School Commons Room, 9 a.m. to noon; info at 360.853.8213 or [goodwords@frontier.com](mailto:goodwords@frontier.com)
- 29 8th Annual Have a Heart Run, Edgewater Park, Mount Vernon, 8:15 to 11:30 a.m.; register at [www.haveaheartrun.org](http://www.haveaheartrun.org)

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

## Community meetings

**Cascade Days Committee Board of Directors** meets the third Mon. of each month at 5:30 p.m., in the Pilots' Lounge at Mears Field, Concrete. 360.853.7867, [ember@cascaadedays.com](mailto:ember@cascaadedays.com), [info@cascaadedays.com](mailto:info@cascaadedays.com).

**Cedar Grove and Skagit Upriver C.E.R.T. Group** meets the first Mon. of each month at 6:30 p.m., Concrete Center in Concrete. 360.853.7420 or [emergencyresponsecomm@cedargrove-concrete.org](mailto:emergencyresponsecomm@cedargrove-concrete.org).

**Coffee Talk** with Concrete Mayor Jason Miller meets the third Fri. of each month at 8 a.m., at 5b's Bakery in Concrete. 360.853.8213.

**Community Chat**, an informal conversation about projects in Darrington, meets the second Sat. of each month at 9 a.m., at Mountain Loop Books and Coffee, 1085 Darrington St., Darrington. 360.436.2167

**Concrete American Legion Post and Auxiliary** meet the second Tue. of each month, Sept. through May, at 1 p.m. in the East County Resource Center Conference Rm. 360.853.8940.

**Concrete Economic Development Commission** meets quarterly at Concrete Town Hall. Its first meeting is Oct. 12 at 6 p.m. 503.333.2406

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

**Concrete Chamber of Commerce** meets the second Thur. of each month at 8 a.m. Meetings usually are held in the Pilots' Lounge at Mears Field in Concrete. 360.466.8754 or [concretechamber@mac.com](mailto: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 [www.concreteheritagemuseum.org](http://www.concreteheritagemuseum.org).

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

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

**Concrete School District Board** will hold its next work session on Feb. 21, at 6 p.m. in the high school Commons. The board will hold its regular monthly meeting on Feb. 23 at 5 p.m. in the same location. 360.853.4000.

**Concrete Town Council** meets the second and fourth Monday of each month at Town Hall, 45672 Main St., Concrete, at 6 p.m. 360.853.8401 or [andrea@concretewa.gov](mailto:andrea@concretewa.gov).

**Darrington Strong** meets the third Wed. of

each month, 7 p.m., at Cascade Senior Center, 1115 Darrington St., Darrington. 360.436.2167.

**Darrington Town Council** meets the second Wed. of each month at 7 p.m. at Town Hall, 1005 Cascade St. 360.436.1131 or [darrcityhall@frontier.com](mailto:darrcityhall@frontier.com).

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

**KSVU** station info and host training, second Wed. of each month at Portable B behind Concrete K-8 School, 11 a.m., open to public. 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](mailto:clerk_lyman@msn.com).

**Mansford Grange** meets the first Tue. of each month, 7 p.m., at the Mansford Grange Hall, 1265 Railroad Ave., Darrington. 360.436.0711.

**Marblemount Community Hall board and staff** meet the second Wed. of each month at the hall, at 6 p.m. 360.873.2323.

**Paranormal Discussion Group** meets the last Sunday of each month at Concrete Center, 45821 Railroad St., Concrete, at 7 p.m. 360.630.5143.

**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 on Jan. 9, at 7 p.m. at the Support Services Bldg. They'll meet again on Jan. 23, at 7 p.m. at Cascade Middle School. 360.855.3500 or [kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us](mailto:kcargile@swsd.k12.wa.us).

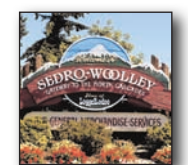
**Skagit River Bald Eagle Interpretive Center Board** meets the second Tue. of each month, 5:30 p.m., at Annie's Pizza Station in Grasmere. Open to the public. [sauskister@frontier.com](mailto:sauskister@frontier.com) or [www.skagiteagle.org](http://www.skagiteagle.org).

**Upper Skagit Library District (USLD) Board** meets Nov. 17 at 5 p.m., at the library. Public is welcome. 360.853.7939 or [info@upperskagit.lib.wa.us](mailto:info@upperskagit.lib.wa.us).

**Upper Skagit Writers Group** meets the fourth Mon. of each month at 7 p.m., at 5b's Bakery, Concrete. Open to the public and all skill levels. [ctomas@upperskagit.lib.wa.us](mailto:ctomas@upperskagit.lib.wa.us).

**Parents! Get involved in your PTO!**  
Concrete Elementary PTO meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month, at 5 p.m., in the Concrete Elementary School library.  
For more information, call 425.350.5988.





# Sedro-Woolley



## Local business owner working to “Paint the Town Purple”

Effort will support Relay for Life in June.



## Rotarians hand out free dictionaries to third graders

Members of the Sedro-Woolley Rotary Club recently distributed dictionaries to all of the third grade classes in the Concrete and Sedro-Woolley School Districts.

The nearly \$5,000 investment came from funds generated at the club's annual auction that took place last May.

Rotarian Curtiss Melder, chair of the Dictionary Distribution Committee, has a unique perspective: “My daughter received a dictionary three years ago from the Sedro-Woolley Rotary Club. The other day she pulled it off the shelf and challenged me to a race for looking up words.”

Melder stated as the committee affixed the bookplates in each dictionary the morning of distribution, “Spending this time with my daughter engaged in an uplifting activity using her treasured gift is priceless. I am sure that many of the dictionaries we've distributed over the years will be passed down to future generations.”

The Sedro-Woolley Rotary Club, chartered in 1922, is currently planning its 45th annual auction, which will take place in May.

—David Bricka



Rotarian Darrell Heisler hams it up with Mr. Lutes' class at Big Lake Elementary School last month. The Sedro-Woolley Rotary Club was on hand for its annual distribution of children's dictionaries to all third-grade classes in the Sedro-Woolley and Concrete school districts.

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Rotary Club Dictionary Distribution Committee members (from left) Dan and Kriss Johnson, Rod Hall, and Sedro-Woolley Mayor Keith Wagoner prepare the dictionaries for distribution. Submitted photos.

Sedro-Woolley entrepreneur Monique Brigham would be the happiest camper in the county if every one of its towns and cities were purple this June.

Brigham owns Plumeria Breezes Travel in Sedro-Woolley and sits on the planning committee for Relay for Life of Skagit County. The event is scheduled for Sat., June 10, at Burlington-Edison High School.

Relay for Life is the signature fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. Relay is staffed and coordinated by volunteers in more than 5,200 communities and 20 countries. Volunteers give of their time and effort because they believe it's time to take action against cancer.

Brigham said the committee's two goals are to get as many towns and businesses involved, and to get as many teams as

possible walking in the June relay.

The push for purple focuses on March 24–26, a weekend during which businesses countywide are encouraged to “Paint the Town Purple” in an effort to raise awareness for the relay.

Nobody expects business owners to grab paint brushes and literally change the exterior color of their storefront. Rather, the committee has suggestions for involvement that are decidedly less messy:

- Put up bows and post fliers (available from the planning committee).
- Hang a poster in a noticeable spot.
- Decorate front windows for the relay.
- Sell suns-and-moons or feet for \$1 each (also provided by the committee).

- Provide an incentive for customers who are wearing something purple, such as a coupon for 20 percent off any purchase.
- Ask employees to wear purple during the weekend.
- Decorate or cover planters, etc., with purple.
- Create a purple company newsletter.
- Change tablecloths in restaurants to purple ones.

Relay is a team fundraising event where team members take turns walking around a track or designated path. Each event is 6–24 hours in length, and each team is asked to have a member on the track at all times to signify that cancer never sleeps.

Each team sets up a themed campsite at the event and continues their fundraising

efforts by collecting donations for food, goods, games, and activities. This money will count toward their overall team fundraising goal.

In Skagit County in 2016, the Relay for Life provided 13 nights of free lodging, 412 appointment rides, and 40 wigs, and sent 37 patients to Look Good, Feel Better classes for patients in Skagit County.

“I can't wait to see Skagit County decked out in purple,” said Brigham.

For more information, contact Brigham at monique@plumeriabreezestravel.com or 360.391.6001.

—J. K. M.

*Read*

*The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley*

**Nick VanJaarsveld**  
Financial Advisor

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



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# Lyman



# Day Creek



Rally, cont. from p. 7

human-created climate change.

Olympia High School junior Billie Edward said she attended the rally to oppose the racism, homophobia, bigotry, and xenophobia she believes that Trump represents. "I can't believe we let someone like that in the White House," she said.

Olympia resident Sunshine Bamber said she was concerned with the Republican administration's push to defund Planned Parenthood. Bamber has depended on the organization's services in the past.

Some signs at the rally read "Unfit + illegitimate" and "Trump is unstable." Others called attention to environmental, LGBTQ+, and immigration issues.

Now that Trump is officially president, attendees at the Youth Unity Rally say they won't stop making their voices heard.

"My plan for the next four years is to fight, never give up, and to speak my word," Tamayo said.

On the day of the election, Evergreen State College student Gray Hunter said he watched with disbelief and despair as the electoral votes began adding up in Trump's favor.

"At first I felt like there was nothing I could do but go out and drink," Hunter said.

After attending rallies and protests that followed the 2016 presidential election, Hunter said he is inspired to get more politically involved to continue the movement. "A lot of people are out here today, but we need to keep going," he said.

Not everyone at the rally felt the same discouragement about the election. Michael Bane, from Lacey, stood on the steps wearing blue "Trump-Pence"

campaign signs in support of the new president.

"They're here supporting their views, and I'm here supporting mine," Bane said of the protestors. "He's elected by the people of America by the system that we have in place. I'm here to support him hoping we can make America great again."

According to Bane, some attendees harassed him, questioned what he was doing at the rally, and told him that he didn't belong there. It's contrary to the rally's message of acceptance, he said. He hopes Americans will be more united in the future.

"Stand up and fight for America, all of us, let's come together," he said.

Some attending believe they had already begun the process of bridging the divide. Kaleb Jarman, a self-described staunch conservative and student of Olympia High

School, attended the event to extend an olive branch.

"I want to try to understand what people are doing, what they're feeling," he said. "I think that's very important. My view isn't the only one in this country."

Attending the rally gave some attendees a sense of hope.

"I feel more united now with all these different types of people around me," Tamayo said. "I feel more safe and I feel more loved now with these people."

*This story is part of a series of news reports from the Washington State Legislature provided through a reporting internship sponsored by the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation. Reach reporters Enrique Pérez de la Rosa at perez.enrique17@gmail.com and Grace Swanson at grace.swanson47@gmail.com.*

## Passion, pleas prevail as water-access remedies sought

By Matt Spaw

WNPA Olympia News Bureau

A polite but passionate debate concerning water access in rural Washington unfolded Jan. 26 before the Senate Agriculture, Trade, Water and Economic Development Committee in Olympia.

A public hearing on SB 5024 and SB 5239, aiming to relieve water resource limits as a result of a recent Supreme Court decision, drew folk who have been denied building permits because counties must now determine water availability, instead of relying on the technical expertise of the state's Department of Ecology (DOE).

An impassioned plea from one Whatcom County landowner displayed the intensity of the issue for those now affected by the court's edict. As he was ending his remarks to the committee, Zach Nutting rose from his chair, stepped aside, then dropped to his knees to prayerfully seek the committee's support in resolving the issues.

For Nutting that meant restoring his ability to get a building permit so he could construct his family home on five acres he owns. He told the committee he had sold his former house and moved onto the acreage to build his new home. After obtaining permits for electricity and other elements related to construction, he was denied a building permit because it could affect nearby in-stream flows.

The Court's decision has affected a handful of counties, including Skagit, Whatcom, Spokane, and Pierce. In that decision the court determined counties, as part of the duties they have under the state Growth Management Act, must determine the effects water usage has on aquifer and surface water resources. Counties relied on what the DOE determined was available water, but the court halted that relationship.

"We are technically homeless because we are thousands and thousands (of

dollars) into this project. We have septic and electric, but we can't have our building permit," Nutting said. "I'm going to get on my knees and beg you to fix this." He did.

Both bills had supporters and detractors, but SB 5239 received the most passionate support from some who came to testify. The bills are in response to the Whatcom County v. Hirst decision in which the Court ruled the county violated its responsibilities outlined in the Growth Management Act. Counties must make their own decisions about whether water is available legally and physically, rather than relying on the DOE.

Whatcom County ceased issuing permits after the court decision while it attempts to deal with the new responsibility of managing the technical aspects of water sourcing formerly done by DOE. Skagit and other counties also have halted permitting for the same reasons.

The bills' sponsors are mostly divided along party lines. Sponsors of SB 5024 are all Democrats, while 11 out of 13 of the sponsors for SB 5239 are Republicans. Sen. Lisa Wellman, D-Mercer Island, is the only co-sponsor for both bills.

SB 5024 would allow counties to establish an optional program to mitigate surface water impacts for new permit-exempt groundwater withdrawals, such as home-use wells. Those applying for a well could use county-issued mitigation certificates—permission slips. These slips prove that the county can find water that makes up for water used by the well. All participants in the program pay the same fee. The DOE would provide ground and surface water data to county officials developing the programs.

Home-use wells use relatively little water—less than one percent of the state's total water—according to Sen. Jim Honeyford, R-Sunnyside. Exemptions to



**A well driller works** on the end cap of a well just finished. As a result of a Supreme Court decision last fall, management of groundwater withdrawals are in turmoil as counties now left with the task are unable to determine how well systems affect nearby rivers and those already with operating wells. Rural landowners in eastern Skagit County and elsewhere are being denied building permits as a result. Photo courtesy of Department of Ecology.

seeking full water rights include domestic or industrial uses not exceeding 5,000 gallons a day, as well as purposes such as stock watering or lawn care.

A seven-member committee would also be created by SB 5024, which would work with counties, tribes, rural property owners, conservation groups, and various state agencies. It would submit reports to the legislature and governor at the beginning of 2018 and 2019 that describe how groundwater availability would integrate with land-use planning.

## Community notes

### Friendship House Helping Hand

Dinner at the Friendship House has been a success. We have reached out to the homeless and are serving a monthly dinner, with prep at 3 p.m. and dinner at 5 p.m. on the last Sunday of each month.

For more information or to volunteer as a helper, call Sue Walden 360.391.1709.

### Kingdom Builders

Kingdom Builders works together with the help of our community, reaching out to be of help to those in need of trips to the doctor, hospital visits, store trips, and more. Drivers are needed and donations are always welcome. If you are interested in being a community helper, call 360.826.3003 or 360.826.3581.

### WOMEN HAND in hand

Watch for upcoming information as we prepare for the March 16–18 event with Jane Bateman.

For more information or to purchase tickets, go to [www.womenhandinhand.com](http://www.womenhandinhand.com) and follow Eventbrite for ticket information, or call 360.853.3066.

Follow WOMEN HAND in hand on Facebook. To join WOMEN HAND in hand, call 360.826.3696.

—Kathy Henderson

## 2017 Community Potluck dates

February 21, 6:30 p.m.  
March 21, 6:30 p.m.  
April 18, 6:30 p.m.  
May 16, 6:30 p.m.  
June 20, 6:30 p.m.  
July 18, 6:30 p.m.  
August 15, 6:30 p.m.  
September 19, 6:30 p.m.  
October 17, 6:30 p.m.  
November 21, 6:30 p.m.  
December 19, 6:30 p.m.

See **Water**, p. 18

Water, cont. from p. 19

SB 5239 would allow local jurisdictions to use the Department of Ecology's rules when determining water availability for approving building permits. Counties and cities could also use the department's rules as part of their comprehensive plans, which are adopted in accordance with the state Growth Management Act. The bill also determines that permit-exempt groundwater withdrawal, usually minimum flow of streams.

David Danton, an operations manager for Lexar Homes, told the committee this

problem is widespread. "We're seeing home sales decline because people are turning away after seeing all the permits they need. These are impacting thousands of people," he said.

Others who testified said SB 5239 was a poor solution to water issues. Trish Rolfe, executive director for the Center for Environmental Law and Policy, noted that section five of the bill undermines the basic principles of water law. The section, which worried other speakers, would prevent the DOE from considering permit-exempt withdrawal as damaging to in-stream flow rules.

"It makes in-stream flows a lesser water

right. It will allow permit-exempt wells to irreparably harm fish and wildlife that rely on in-stream flows, including endangered salmon," Rolfe said.

Dave Christensen, program development manager for the DOE, had problems with both bills. He did not support SB 5024 because of its significant budget impact—\$10 million appropriated between June 2017 and 2019—which is not in the governor's budget. He also did not support SB 5239 because he said it gives all permit-exempt users too much freedom from DOE rules.

"We can't support SB 5239 as written because of the blanket exemptions to

all permit-exempt uses. There needs to be adequate protection for in-stream resources," Christensen said.

Frederick Cardenas, a Spokane resident who developed a well only to find his county was no longer issuing building permits, also spoke. He worked 60 hours a week for seven years to pay for the property.

"I have over \$81,000 invested in this well and property. It constitutes the bulk of my wealth, which is now valued at zero," Cardenas told the committee.

Dawn Vyvyan, representing the Puyallup tribe and Yakama nation, expressed her conditional support for SB 5024.

"We like ecology assisting counties and setting up a fund for mitigation. We think mitigation is one of the solutions to finding water," Vyvyan said. "However, we would like to see the final determinations on water availability be made by the department. The tribe feels the county does not have the expertise to determine if water is available."

*This story is part of a series of news reports from the Washington State Legislature provided through a reporting internship sponsored by the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation. Reach reporter Matt Spaw at matthewspaw@gmail.com.*

**NEW library hours**

The Free Library in Lyman is no longer open on Wednesday.

The new hours are Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m.

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



**Nick VanJaarsveld**  
Financial Advisor

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# February in pictures



**Above:** Laura Moffitt reads a Native American tale about the creation of the sun during a January session of Storytime at the Upper Skagit Library in Concrete.



**A sizable contingent of Upper Valley citizens** traveled to Bellingham last month to participate in the Women's March on Bellingham Jan. 21, and some of them paused long enough for a photo. Standing from left, Goji Jones, Anne Schwartz, Justin Prescott, Christie Fairchild, and Cherie Donovan-Smith. Terri Wilde is seated in front. Submitted photo.



**The Concrete High School Prevention Posse** hosted a "Jam Night" at the high school Jan. 13 and drew a crowd of students for a verrrrry loosely organized night of food, games, poetry, music, conversation ... and a conga line. It was a thing to behold. Even School District Board President Crissie Wilson joined in the Macarena dance (photo withheld from publication upon threat of death).



**Right:** Karen Smith, author of *My Name is Twirp*, reads from her book for a rapt audience with help from local author and playwright Nicola Pearson during a library author event last month. Proceeds from sales of *Twirp* benefit the new library project. Submitted photos.



**Budding musicians performed at a Jan. 28 recital** at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Concrete, hosted by Concrete music teacher Gretchen Hewitt of Hewitt Music Studio. Among the performers were Michael Bartel, Lane Lloyd, Winter Lewis, Charlie Bartel, Tylar Rogge, Robert Rushin, Owen Aamot, Leia Vilardi, and Joanne Lennox. Hewitt Music Studio is located in Concrete Town Center. Photo by Dianne Aamot.

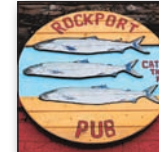




# Hamilton



# Rockport



## Council summary

*The Hamilton Town Council held a regular meeting Dec. 13. Following is a summary of that meeting.*

- A public hearing for the 2017 budget and urban agriculture opened at 7:03 p.m. Mayor Joan Cromley talked about several aspects of the budget. There were no public comments. Mayor Cromley also discussed urban agriculture. Resident Shannon Schlosser asked for clarification regarding goats. The regular council meeting resumed at 7:37 p.m.
- **Public comments:** Resident Shawn Brockman mentioned the Christmas party and asked for help decorating the Town Hall.
- Council approved Ordinance 324, the 2017 budget for Town of Hamilton.
- Council moved to table its Urban Agriculture ordinance until March.

- **Water Dept.:** Mayor Cromley spoke about the proposed water rate increase. Council moved to table that discussion until January. Cas Hancock announced that the town was at a 2 percent unaccounted for water loss. Mayor Cromley asked about a consumption report from Punkin Center. Hancock announced that the mitigation well is shut down for the winter.
- **Fire Dept.:** Councilman Bates announced that this year's Christmas Party will be held on Sun., Dec. 18, at 1 p.m.
- **Street Dept.:** The maintenance crew stated that everything is frozen.
- Mayor Cromley said that there was no update on the Carey Slough project.
- Mayor Cromley announced that the town received one bid for the Town Hall roof and a second bid is on its way.

—Compiled from staff minutes

## From the Mayor

The **February Town Council meeting** has been moved to Wed., Feb. 15, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall, for February only.

A **Slough Project community meeting** will be held Thur., Feb. 16, at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall. We'll discuss the modeling results and how the slough crossings affect water flow during high-water events.

**Thank you to all the firefighters** from multiple jurisdictions who responded to the house fire in January. It was cold and slippery work, and we appreciate your efforts to keep the fire contained.

The **Town Hall roof** is being repaired and changed on the southeast corner.

The existing roof is a bowl; it is being reconfigured to a pitched roof to better reflect the character of the house and prevent further water damage.

The **FEMA-required RV inspections** are being done. Landowners who do not have a permit or are not road ready will receive a letter stating what needs to be fixed.

Reminder: If your water comes with a bill from the Town of Hamilton, you live within the town borders. The two exceptions know who they are. **The state mandates that the only outside fires in incorporated areas must be within a fire ring measuring 3 feet in diameter or less, charcoal or firewood only, and ONLY for food, heat, or ceremonial purposes.** If you aren't following the rules, don't be surprised if your neighbors call Northwest Clean Air (360.428.1617).

—Mayor Joan Cromley



## Barnaby Reach Project update meeting held

The Barnaby Reach Project sponsors held a Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting in Concrete on Jan. 24 to update the group on project status; introduce the technical consultant, Natural Systems Design, who will be doing assessment work; and describe what assessment work will occur during the next six to nine months.

Much of the coming work was

prompted by local citizen response and input on the project. During the winter and early spring, the project team plans to complete a more detailed topographic survey, and collect surface water and groundwater monitoring data. They will then use that data to improve the existing hydraulic models and will also expand the analysis to evaluate existing sediment transport, flooding, and channel migration processes and risks. The project will not consider nor examine project alternative configurations for at least six months.

A field trip and community meeting is planned for April, which will be open to the public.

—Christie Fairchild, member Stakeholder Advisory Committee

## Rockport State Park hosts guided hikes, activities through winter

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission invites the public to experience the natural world at Rockport State Park through guided hikes and activities all winter.

The Deep Forest Experiences take place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays through February at Rockport State Park in Rockport.

Hikes depart from the Discovery Center at 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m., and 2 p.m. each day. Rockport State Park staff and volunteers will provide 30- to 45-minute guided hikes through the lush forest that includes ancient fir, cedar, hemlock, and maple trees, some towering 250 feet tall

and more than 300 years old, including "Grandmother Cedar."

At the family-friendly Discovery Center, participants can enjoy refreshments, warm up by the woodstove, explore interactive displays, watch nature videos, read a book, make crafts, and create a puppet show.

Once the eagles have come and gone along the Skagit River, visitors can keep an eye out for uniquely themed walks and talks taking place at the Discovery Center.

The park offers an ADA-accessible trail. Dress for cold, wet, winter weather with footwear suitable for very wet trails.

For more information, contact Amos Almy, interpretive specialist, at 360.853.8461 or rockport@parks.wa.gov.

A \$10 day-use pass or \$30 annual Discover Pass is required for parking at Rockport State Park and can be purchased at the park office or Discovery Center.

For more information about and directions to Rockport State Park, go to <http://parks.state.wa.us/574/Rockport>.

## Next state parks free day is March 19

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission has announced that Sun., March 19 is the next state parks free day, when visitors are not required to display the Discover Pass for day visits at state parks, such as Rasar and Rockport

state parks in the Upper Skagit Valley.

The March 19 free day is in honor of Washington State Parks' 104th birthday.

The "free days" for 2017 are in keeping with legislation that created the Discover Pass, which designated up to 12 free days each year when the pass is not required to visit state parks. The Discover Pass is still required to access lands managed by WDFW and DNR on these days.

## Rockport State Park to host forestry professor and author

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission invites the public to learn about native trees at Rockport State Park with forestry professor and author Kevin Zobrist.

Zobrist's presentation and hike are from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sat., Feb. 11, at the Discovery Center at Rockport State Park, 51905 SR 20, Rockport.

Zobrist is an associate professor at Washington State University and oversees the Extension Forestry program in King, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom counties. He is the author of the book, *Native Trees of Western Washington*. Zobrist will bring his unique perspective as a forestry specialist to this event, starting with a short presentation

on tree ecology, followed by an hour-long hike in the forest for a close-up look at the different species in the park. Participants will learn how to identify trees, discover their special features and adaptations, their role in forest ecology, and where they are likely to be found.

Rockport State Park features a rare, ancient forest that has never been logged—a perfect setting for discovering more about the native trees of Western Washington. The 670-acre park is open for day-use visits.

Participants should dress for cold and wet winter weather, with footwear suitable for very wet trails.

A \$10 day-use pass or \$30 annual Discover Pass is required for parking at Rockport State Park and can be purchased at the park office or Discovery Center.

For more information, contact Amos Almy, Interpretive Specialist, at 360.853.8461 or rockport@parks.wa.gov.

## Community Meeting

Hamilton Town Hall

**Thursday, Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:30 PM to 9:00 PM**

The Town of Hamilton and Skagit Fisheries Enhancement Group invite you for an update on our Carey/Alder Slough restoration planning project. Join us to review possible options and provide your perspective as we move forward together.



584 Maple Street  
Hamilton, WA  
For details visit  
[www.skagitfisheries.org](http://www.skagitfisheries.org)

## 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 and fourth Tue. each month,  
Noon–3 p.m.  
360.853.8505

### Darrington

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

### Hamilton

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

360.826.4090

### Lyman

**Shepherd's Heart Food Bank**  
8334 S. Main St., Lyman  
Every Thur. 10:30 a.m.–1 p.m.  
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# Darrington



## Ride planned to remember Oso disaster

On Sun., March 19, as many as 500 bicycle riders will converge in Darrington after a 28-mile bike ride called "Ride to Remember Oso," a celebration of strong communities.

Organizers from Darrington, along with support from Arlington community members, have planned this event to remember the victims of the March 22, 2014, mudslide that killed 43 members of the Steelhead Haven community when Hazel Hill collapsed, covering homes and the surrounding area with as much as 75 feet of mud and debris, making it the worst disaster in Washington since the Mt. St. Helens' eruption.

It all started with a visit from a father to Velo Sports in Arlington with a request to create a custom bicycle to remember his son, Jovan "JoJo" Mangual, who died in the slide, and the idea of the remembrance developed. Strong relationships developed in the aftermath of the slide, especially in Darrington, a town almost completely cut off from the rest of the state. Community members and businesses worked

together in the recovery, and new bonds were formed. A plan for revitalization of the Stillaguamish Valley emerged

and Darrington, along with Arlington, became a finalist in the America's Best Communities competition.

Two rides are planned for March 19, both starting at 8:15 a.m. A one-way, 28-mile ride will begin at Legion Park in Arlington and follow SR 530 east to the Darrington Community Center where a celebration of resilience will begin.

The second ride, "The JoJo Trail Ride," is a family-friendly, 6-mile free ride on the Whitehorse Trail, from Fortson Mill Trailhead to the Community Center.

The Celebration of Strong Communities event being held at the Community Center will feature food vendors, refreshments, family activities, reflection, and a celebration of the accomplishments made by both communities, which led to being chosen as a finalist in the America's Best Communities competition.

The \$30 registration fee will include return transportation if needed, rest stops along the route, bicycle mechanics/ support vehicles on site, and finish line events.

Registration and more information can be found at [www.ridetorememberoso.com](http://www.ridetorememberoso.com).

—Marla Skaglund

## Council summary

*Darrington Town Council met for a regular meeting on Dec. 14. The following is a summary of that meeting. Complete and council-approved minutes for every council meeting are available at Darrington Town Hall.*

### Dec. 14 regular meeting

- Guest speaker Ginger Castleberry spoke to the council regarding painting the Community Center. The board of directors has received a grant to paint the exterior of the building and the door that has weathered. The board has decided to accept the grant. Castleberry is not sure if there is a preference of color, and she is looking at beige or dark burgundy. She would like guidance for exterior color suggestions. Councilman Gary Willis would like it a different color than the school. Mayor Dan Rankin would like it to be the original color that it used to be; Castleberry would like it to be the way it was from her youth as well. She is not sure how it was voted to be the current color of cream; she is not sure if there is a back story or not.

Willis asked if there is a match to the grant. USDA is coming up with 75 percent and the rest comes from the Community Club. Donations of labor are unclear; Castleberry was not sure how that might work since there is only one vendor. They have some of the funds now, and they are in the process of starting a fundraising push to come up with the rest of the funds. Councilman Richard Osenbrock asked if they are thinking about putting blacktop down. Discussion ensued.

- Edge Analytical water sample results were presented by Mayor Rankin; they are satisfactory.
- Summit Planning Services, LLC was discussed at the last workshop in the context of a proposed professional services agreement with the town. Amy Lucas is the owner and has been working with the town for several years. Lucas stated she has donated hours for the comprehensive plan. Councilman Willis indicated that

Lucas was a large part of getting the Comp Plan put together this last year. She will donate time and assist with the future Comp Plan, as well as looking over the town's municipal code to help make it easier to understand and maneuver the plan into a matrix format. She can also assist the town with rewriting the codes and permits coming in. Councilwoman Mary Requa stated she will be contracting for certain projects. Councilman Willis asked how many hours per project; Lucas stated it depends on a particular project and the complexity of it. Councilman Willis asked if there will be a cap on the hours. Mayor Rankin said as the town goes through the budget, it will include estimates on the projects for 2017; if the town runs into a project that will put it over budget, it can amend the budget at that time. Councilman Willis asked about the wording in the contract and for some assurance that the town knows how much it will be spending. Mayor Rankin asked for permission to sign a three-year contract. Councilwoman Requa suggested that the town renew it every year. The town will change it to a one-year contract with one-year renewal, and add a section on estimates of jobs and approval for projects.

Council decided to table the contract until its Dec. 22 meeting.

- The town has set a deadline of Feb. 1 for AWC scholarship applications. The town will choose a candidate before the AWC deadline.
- Welcome to Darrington/event sign discussion: The sign will be removed. Councilman Willis asked if the town ever found out about the DOT permit, and can the town use that permit and move the sign or does it have to use that exact location. Mayor Rankin said he wasn't sure and will find out. The funding that Arlington used for its entrance signs was county funding. Mayor Rankin said the town will try to access that same funding source for its new entrance to Darrington signage.
- Utility tax discussion: The town's utility tax is the lowest in the county

at 8 percent. Electrical is 5 percent and phone is 6 percent. The county pushed to raise all these. The town will stay where it has been since 2014. The only tax that the town accesses are water and garbage. If the town reduces those tax rates, it will impact the budget. Councilman Willis said he is against reducing the garbage rate because we have to send the bills out and the town does not get reimbursed from Waste Management. We need that to pay for administrative costs. Most of the 8 percent is going to the state; the town gets only 1.1 percent; the state gets about 6.9 percent. Mayor Rankin stated that most grant agencies have pushed the town to raise its rates. Darrington is still below the national average.

- A discussion on PUD street lighting was tabled by Mayor Rankin until a later date.
- Youth Council of Darrington (YCD) budget discussion: Paul Franke is acting as chair of the YCD. YCD members introduced themselves to council. Franke explained they are wrapping up the movie idea for the middle school; they have decided to have it at the high school. The YCD talked to the principal, who approved having the movie night at the high school. Adults are allowed to attend the movie night. The first movie night is going to be a "test run." They will send out surveys and do some research to find out how much they should charge. Price would potentially be \$3 to \$5, or \$10 for food and snacks. YCD cannot handle the money directly; another organization will have to help out, then donate the money to YCD. Mayor Rankin said America's Best Communities (ABC) has given YCD a budget to last through 2017. They are planning on having gray hoodies with their name and the town logo with YCD above. They are asking permission for the council to purchase the shirts and use the town logo. Council approved YCD to use the funding for apparel and use the town logo.
- Mayor Rankin said Councilman Kevin Ashe was going to bring up Sauk Prairie Rd. Mayor Rankin has inquired with the county to see what their solutions are, but hasn't heard anything back. Ken Klein has taken a job at the regional office; he assured Mayor Rankin he will find some

answers.

- Council approved Resolution GR 279, an interagency agreement between the State of Washington Dept. of Enterprise Services and the Town of Darrington.
- Council tabled until its Dec. 22 meeting an MC Energy Services proposal to develop an audit and grant strategy: If the TOD does not receive the Commerce Grant and does not decide to proceed to construction, TOD would still be responsible for the payment of the IGA to UMC. Mayor Rankin said he felt there are significant things in this contract they need to know a little bit more about before approving.
- Council approved Town of Darrington to advertise for positions on the Planning Commission and Cemetery Board. Mayor Rankin said there is a vacancy on both boards.
- Council tabled until its next meeting a proposed approval of revised Cemetery Rules and Regulations: Appendix B and Cemetery Board acceptance of the resignation of Hal Ring.

There have been a couple issues with the cemetery. The first issue is the headstone sizing. There is no language in the rules and regulations that directly state what the height and width of the headstone can be. The council also would like to change the "suitable material" wording and replace it with "concrete liner or vault."

Mayor Rankin said he'd like to do something for the two retired members. Council would like clarification too.

- Council approved the TIB contract for the Riddle St. project and granted Mayor Rankin permission to sign the contract and documents for the project.
- Council approved allowing a committee to choose an engineer for the CDBG Grant Emens Ave. project prior to the next council meeting. Mayor Rankin explained to council what type of committees are needed. The town has fallen behind on the timeline and needs to get the contract back on track.
- The council approved a motion to allow a committee to choose a project manager for the Old School Park project prior to the next council meeting, as well as a motion to sign the Binding Site Plan Permit Application.



Darrington High School wrestler Gage Burtenshaw buried his opponent, Dominic Cassell of Concrete, during a league match at Concrete Jan. 11 that Burtenshaw won by pin. Burtenshaw has dominated the mats so far this season, with solid hopes for an appearance at this year's state tournament, Mat Classic XXIX at the Tacoma Dome, Feb. 17-18.

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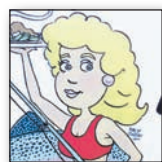
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# Marblemount



# Newhalem



Longtime National Park Service employee Mike Brondi (left) was the center of attention during a Jan. 21 retirement luau thrown in his honor at Marblemount Community Hall. Standing with Brondi are Leif Swanson (from Kendall) and Sacha Buller. Photo by Christie Fairchild.

## Community Hall happenings in February

With the 2017 Skagit Eagle Festival behind us, Tom Torrey's health and wellness seminars continue into February.

Featured in the January issue of *Concrete Herald*, Torrey and his wife Betty have spent their adult lives researching the effects of what we eat and how it makes us feel and act. They are offering free opportunities to learn how to "help your body" in three Upper Valley locations through Feb. 7: Marblemount Community Hall (Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at 10 a.m.), Steelhead Park Clubhouse in Rockport (Mondays and Wednesdays at 4 p.m.), and at the Concrete Community Center (Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays at 6 p.m.). All are welcome. For more information, call 360.770.6577.

Skagit Fire District 19's annual

Scholarship Dinner Dance will take place at the hall on March 11. This event raises funds for deserving graduating seniors from District 19 (Marblemount/Rockport) to be presented at the high school's June graduation ceremonies. For more information, call 360.873.2501 or 360.853.8889 and leave a message with your name and phone number.

After a number of years of effort, the Marblemount Community Hall, a locally owned, nongovernmental venue, has just received its federal nonprofit status as a 501(c)(3). This will allow the organization to be eligible to apply for grants and foundation monies to maintain, upgrade, and expand its services to our Upper Valley communities.

—Christie Fairchild

## The good news is ...

By Sasa and Starwalker

What can I do?

In the wake of the chaos today in the world, I have a choice: to join the fight or quietly pray and raise the vibration of Pacha Mama (Mother Earth). Having been through a couple of fights in my life against abuse and prejudice, I figured out that my fighting energy actually added to their cause, not mine, so I have chosen to pray quietly. I invite compassion, understanding, and love to pour into us.

I pray a little differently than most: I don't ask for something to happen or not happen. I imagine what it would be like to experience that something and feel the gratitude. This invokes the law of attraction. I express my gratitude for all in this world—the darkness and the light—for the darkness shows us where the light can be. I know that all is happening with reason to help us learn valuable lessons. I express my gratitude for the corrupt powers that be that are showing us how far we have come and what we need to

work on as one human family. I don't listen to the news because I feel that only confuses the matter. I already know what needs to be worked on so every day I work on being love, being peaceful, being nonjudgmental because I know that this has a positive effect on the total global human consciousness.

Others may feel they need to do other things to help. I honor their journey as well because I was there once, learning what it is to be peaceful and loving. I cannot judge the journey of another because I am not them and they are learning the lessons they need to in order to return to wholeness. I express gratitude that all this chaos will return to harmony and my personal effort of quietly praying does make a difference. So anytime during the day you find yourself drifting into the chaos is a good time to find a quiet spot and send love and peace out to the world.

Contact Sasa and Starwalker at [cascadiaeffect@gmail.com](mailto:cascadiaeffect@gmail.com). Experiences may be shared at <http://cascadiaeffect.weebly.com> and on Facebook: *Cascadia Effect*.

## Grizzly bear open houses announced

Public invited to provide feedback through March 14 on proposed alternatives for grizzly bear restoration in North Cascades ecosystem.

The National Park Service (NPS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) will host a series of informational open houses regarding the proposed alternatives for the restoration of grizzly bears to the North Cascades ecosystem. The alternatives are described in the draft Grizzly Bear Restoration Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (draft EIS), released last month by the two agencies. The meetings are one part of the public's opportunity to comment on the draft EIS.

The purpose of the EIS is to determine what actions, if any, should be taken to restore the grizzly bear to the North Cascades Ecosystem. Although there are six populations of grizzly bears in North America, the last-known sighting of grizzlies in the United States portion of the North Cascades Ecosystem is 1996.

The goal of the public comment period is to gather input regarding the draft EIS; public comments received on the draft EIS will be evaluated and considered in the identification of the preferred alternative, which will be published in the Final EIS. The full draft EIS is available at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/grizzlydeis>.

The alternatives analyzed in this draft EIS include a "no-action" alternative, plus three action alternatives that would seek to restore a reproducing population of approximately 200 bears through the capture and release of grizzly bears into the North Cascades ecosystem. The alternatives were developed by a planning team with input from the public, local, state, and federal agencies, and the scientific community.

In addition to the open houses, the public also is invited to submit written comments at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/grizzlydeis>. Comments may also be submitted through March 14, 2017, via regular mail or hand delivery at:

Superintendent's Office  
North Cascades National Park Service Complex  
810 State Route 20  
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

In order to maximize opportunities for public input, webinars are scheduled for Tue., Feb. 14, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Sun., Feb. 26, from 5 to 7 p.m.

For more information about the open houses and to register for the webinars, go to <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/grizzlydeis> and click on the "Meetings" link.

The public open houses will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. at the following locations:

- Cle Elum: Feb. 13 at Putnam Centennial Center
- Cashmere: Feb. 14 at Riverside Center
- Winthrop: Feb. 15 at Red Barn
- Omak: Feb. 16 at the Annex Facility at Okanogan County Fairgrounds
- Bellingham: Feb. 21 at Bellingham Technical College
- Darrington: Feb. 22 at Darrington Community Center
- Sultan: Feb. 23 at Sultan High School
- Renton: Feb. 24 at Renton Community Center

The grizzly bear was listed as a threatened species in the contiguous United States in 1975. The species was listed as endangered by the state of Washington in 1980.

The North Cascades ecosystem encompasses 9,800 square miles in the United States and another 3,800 square miles in British Columbia, Canada. The United States portion of the ecosystem includes North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake National Recreation Area, Lake Chelan National Recreation Area,

Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, and Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

The U.S. Forest Service and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife are cooperating agencies on the EIS. Funding for the EIS is provided by the NPS. The U.S. Forest Service, FWS and other cooperating agencies and partners will provide technical support throughout.

For more information on grizzly bear

recovery, go to <http://bit.ly/ncegrizzly> or [www.nps.gov/noca/grizzly.htm](http://www.nps.gov/noca/grizzly.htm).

—Submitted by Denise M. Shultz,  
Chief of Interpretation and Education  
North Cascades National  
Park Service Complex

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# Seniors

## Coffee Break Seniors' games

By Patrick M. Kennedy

The crossword puzzle in the daily paper, solitaire on the kitchen table, darts on the dart board hanging on the dining room wall, and juggling the hot biscuits just taken out of the oven—anything to pass the time.

Mention “seniors’ games” and some people think of the National Seniors’ Games played like an Olympics event every few years. A good competition if you are good at your game, a lot of fun to watch if you are not that good.

Of course, these days there are many games played online on the computer that can be played alone or against a stranger, possibly in a lonely room like you. They are probably updated every day so you can keep coming back for more challenges to test your brain. There are even memory games to help you keep sharp and the brain active.

Some games are broadcast on TV on weekends and some during the week: football, baseball,

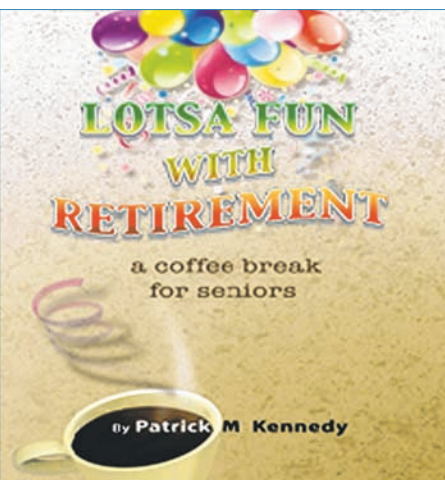
basketball, hockey, volleyball, and anything else the networks can think of to make a buck.

Speaking of a buck, you can bet a buck, join a sports pool at your local club or bar, draw your numbers, and participate in the game while watching it on TV. Each time one of the team scores, you check your numbers to see if you are close to winning the pot.

If you want to exercise your body, you just have to take a walk or run around a few blocks, or even join a local gym. If you want to exercise your brain, you can take that same long walk and try to memorize some of the trees, bushes, and flowers you pass along the way.

Or you can check out a stack of books from the library on the subject and play the memory game so you will recognize the plants on your next walk. Another trick is to find a jigsaw puzzle with natural scenery and put it together. They say a game is for someone eager and willing to do something new.

*Patrick M. Kennedy is the author of Lotsa Fun with Retirement. Find it at Amazon.com. For more, go to [www.funwithretirement.com](http://www.funwithretirement.com).*



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## Way Back When

### 70 years ago

*Feb. 13, 1947:* It took a little time for the news that the Upper Valley was about to lose the Birdview hatchery to sink in, but when it did, people began to do a little thinking about the matter. The result was a resolution by the Birdview Grange that an effort be made to have the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service continue the hatchery in operation.

Immediately, petitions were started throughout the valley, pointing out the value of the hatchery to this district and urging that the bureau reconsider the decision. It was pointed out that the only real reason for closing the hatchery is the silt in Grandy Creek, from which the water supply is derived. This condition is caused by erosion on the upper reaches of the stream and in turn comes from logging operations, which have cut the heavy cover from the watershed.

This land is now growing up with brush and will soon hold back the water enough to allow the creek to run normally most of the year. As time goes on, the siltation will disappear entirely.

Another solution besides waiting a few years for clear water is to pipe a new supply in from Pressentin Creek, south of the river—an ideal source for the pure, cold water needed in hatchery work.

### 60 years ago

*Feb. 21, 1957:* Sale of Superior Portland Cement, Inc., with its plant and quarry in Concrete and its plant in Seattle, was approved Tuesday by the stockholders of the company during a special meeting in Seattle. The company will be transferred to the Lone Star Cement Corporation of New York City around April 1. The Superior Company has been operating in Concrete since 1906.

—Compiled from archives



**Above: 30 years ago, Feb. 26, 1987:** Rona Pressentin celebrated her 98th birthday last week at her home in Rockport.

Arriving in Rockport as a young teenager in April 1904, Pressentin was the daughter of Abb and Hannah Clark. The family left North Carolina when Rona was a baby, moving to Colorado where her father held several mining claims.

The family later followed other relatives who had journeyed to the Upper Skagit area, including grandparents and aunt and uncle Dolph and Annie Clark (parents of Roy, Rudy, and Jim Clark). *Archive photo.*

## Concrete Community Center

### February 2017 Activities

Mon. – Fri., 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Breakfast served at 8:30 a.m.  
Lunch served at noon

East County Veterans Center meets Mon.,  
Tue., Wed., from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### Monday through Friday

Jigsaw puzzles, walking group, card games,  
dominos, and more

### Mondays and Fridays

1:45–2 p.m. Exercise  
2–2:50 p.m. Bingo

### Wednesdays

1:45–2 p.m. Exercise  
2–2:50 p.m. Board Games

### Thursdays

1:45–2 p.m. Exercise  
2–2:50 p.m. Arts and Crafts

### Sunday

2/5 6 p.m. Health Class  
2/12 7 p.m. Dance: Jumbled Pie

### Monday

All 7 p.m. Jam Session (Songfest)

### Tuesday

2/7 6 p.m. Health Class  
2/28 5:30 p.m. BEAM Class

### Wednesday

All 4 p.m. Incredible Years Class

### Thursday

All 10 a.m. Senior Tax Prep  
2/2 12:30 p.m. Pinochle  
2/2 6 p.m. Health Class  
2/16 12:30 p.m. Pinochle

### Friday

2/10 12:30 p.m. Commissioner Janicki

### Saturday

All 7 p.m. AA Meeting  
2/25 9 a.m. Pancake Feed

**Closed** on Feb. 20, Presidents’ Day



**Above: 30 years ago, Feb. 12, 1987:** With a mix of emotions, the entire morning class of Concrete Cooperative Preschool shared their Valentine’s Day creations. None of the students would admit to any girlfriends. From left, Joey Frank, Clinton Ross, Charles Baker, Brian Lampman, and Daniel Herring. **Below: 30 years ago, Feb. 19, 1987:** Nathan Storms (left) and his passenger Dave VanAusdle inspect Storms’ old Chevy truck following an accident in Van Horn. Both men escaped with only minor injuries after the truck’s steering mechanisms failed, resulting in an impact and rollover. *Archive photos by Anne Bussiere.*





# Obituaries

**Dave H. Wright**, 88, passed away at his home in Concrete on Dec. 16, 2016. Dave was born in Burlington, Wash., on Oct. 4, 1928, to Mabel (Brooks) and Dave Wright Sr.



Dave was known as the upriver gas and oil man for more than 30 years. After retirement and spending about a year at home, he went back to work at Albert's Red Apple as the oldest box boy, later to become known as "that man in the cooler." He loved meeting and greeting all the people.

Dave was a retiree from the Concrete Volunteer Fire Dept., 45-year-active member of the Concrete Lions Club, Cascade Days Committee member, and commissioner for the Concrete Cemetery District.

Dave leaves his wife of 66 years, Ellamae; children Robin (Thom) Dudley of Milwaukie, Ore., Robert (Lorene) Wright of Bellevue, Wash., and Patty (Louie) Goldner of Concrete; six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

His mother, Mabel (Onkels), of Concrete and brother, Jim Wright, of Connecticut preceded him in death.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. on Sat., Feb. 11, at Forest Park Cemetery, Concrete, followed by a potluck Celebration of Life in the Commons Room at Concrete High School.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Concrete Lions Club, P.O. Box 40, Concrete, WA 98237.

Share your memories of Dave and sign the online guest register at [www.lemleychapel.com](http://www.lemleychapel.com).

**Susan A. Vik**, age 52, of Concrete, passed away on Mon., Jan. 2, 2017.



Sue was born on Aug. 8, 1964, in Missoula, Mont., to Walter and Betty (Bennett) Justice. Growing up with her parents and brother, Sue lived in Montana, Nevada, and Washington, and attended Riverside High School. In 1981 she married Gregory Miller and in 1991 they moved to Concrete with their four children: Misty, Brandy, Vernon, and Travis.

Sue was a real estate agent and broker in Concrete for more than 20 years, working at Valleys West Realty and Cascade Country View Realty.

In 2004 she married John Vik. Sue and John enjoyed walking along the river banks of their property with their dogs, as well as fishing, crabbing, taking their boat out to Baker Lake, working on real estate projects together, and playing with the grandchildren.

Sue is survived by her husband, John; her children, Misty (Joel) DeWispelaere, Brandy (Barrand) Reece, Vernon Miller, and Travis (Lacey) Miller; her grandchildren, Drew, Kaylee, Alexander, Ellie, Hailey, Bentley, Evan, and Eliza; brother Rick (Amy) Justice; and family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Walter and Betty Justice.

In accordance with Sue's wishes, a private family gathering is going to be held at a later date.

**Obituaries published in Concrete Herald** from May 2009 to present are posted online at: [www.concrete-herald.com/obituaries](http://www.concrete-herald.com/obituaries). For more information, contact Concrete Herald at 360.853.8213 or [editor@concrete-herald.com](mailto:editor@concrete-herald.com).

## Sunday School lesson Caring too much about what others think

By Rob Thomas

If we're brutally honest, most of us would admit that we care about what others think of us. Believing that to be true, I found the response to the video clip at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=rL\\_NpdAy3WY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rL_NpdAy3WY) rather interesting.

Let me set the stage. It was the night of the Academy Awards, during which Hollywood celebrates itself by giving itself gold statues known as Oscars.

One of the actresses nominated for Best Actress was no stranger to Hollywood. In fact, she had been in the business for more than 20 years, beginning her career while a teenager. But Sally Field may well be remembered more for her acceptance speech than any of her roles. Her words, though often misquoted, "You like me, right now, you like me," became a meme before there was even such a thing. But why? I believe because Sally Field was simply saying what know wish to be true:

We want people to like us. The problem arises when the desire to be liked/accepted leads us to make poor decisions. It reminds me of the following fable:

An elderly man was traveling with a boy and a donkey. As they walked through a village, the man led the donkey and the boy walked behind. The townspeople said the old man was a fool for not riding, so to please them, he climbed up on the animal's back.

When they came to the next village, the people said the old man was cruel to let the child walk while he enjoyed the ride. To please them, he got off and set the boy on the animal's back and continued on his way.

In the third village, people accused the child of being lazy for making the old man walk, and the suggestion was made that they both ride. So the man climbed on and they set off again.

In the fourth village, the townspeople were indignant at the cruelty to the donkey because he was made to carry two people. The frustrated man was last seen carrying the donkey down the road.

In the Gospel of Luke (23:01-25), we read the tragic story of what happens when you care too much about what other people think. To set the context, Jesus began this week (a.k.a. Passion/Holy Week) by triumphantly entering the city of Jerusalem to the cries of, "Hosanna; Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord."

In the past days, Jesus has cleansed the

See Sunday School, p. 38

## Skagit County Sheriff's Office Blotter

**Jan. 1**

A deputy assisted Washington State Patrol (WSP) at a one-car rollover accident on SR 20 near Lyman at about 3 a.m. on New Year's Eve. The driver was uninjured and was arrested by WSP for DUI. Something to remember: If you choose to drink and drive at 3 a.m. on slippery roads and then crash your car, your car will be impounded and you will go to jail. That's the policy; fair warning.

**Jan. 4**

An early morning house fire destroyed a residence in Hamilton. All the family members were able to get out safely, but the house may be a total loss. Several fire departments, including Hamilton, Lyman/Punkin Center, and Sedro-Woolley, responded to the event. The Skagit County Fire Marshal is investigating the cause of the fire. Two firemen were treated for

### Level 2 Sex Offender NOTIFICATION

The Skagit County Sheriff has released the following information pursuant to RCW 4.24.550 and the Washington State Supreme Court decision in State v. Ward, which authorizes law enforcement agencies to inform the public of a sex or kidnap offender's presence.

**Clark, James Lee**

Age: 53  
Race: W  
Sex: M  
Height: 6' 1"  
Weight: 210  
Hair: Brown  
Eyes: Green  
Address: 2xx Cumberland St., Hamilton



Clark was convicted of first-degree child molestation in Skagit County. His victims were females ages 3-5 who were known to him.

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

Source: Skagit County Sheriff

smoke inhalation, but were determined to be OK.

**Jan. 8**

A man called to report an act of arson in Rockport. His Dodge Caravan had been set on fire and significantly damaged. The Fire Marshal was summoned and a suspect's name was obtained. The investigation remains open as deputies look for the suspect.

**Jan. 9**

A fisherman near the Skagit Land Trust property near Hamilton reported a vehicle prowling. A crook broke the window on his vehicle and stole a laptop, an expensive fly-fishing rod, and other items. Luckily, weeks later, some of those items were recovered by the Skagit County Pro-Act team as they served search warrants at some known criminals' houses.

WSP requested assistance at milepost 113 on SR 20 near Marblemount for a possible suicide. The trooper had responded to an abandoned vehicle and discovered a note inside indicating the person may be despondent. The trooper followed footprints in the snow down an embankment and discovered a female recently deceased. The local fire department arrived, but the person had already expired. An SCSO deputy assisted in the death investigation, which at this point appears to be a suicide.

**Jan. 10**

A male subject reported he'd been assaulted near a state park, but he was awaiting contact at Loggers Landing in Concrete. A deputy spoke to the male subject, who also claimed he'd been injured by two men. The medical units checked him out and determined he was fine. The alleged suspects were contacted, and they adamantly denied even being in the area. The report was likely false, but here's where it gets interesting:

The next day, Jan. 11, the same man called 911 to report he and his friend were walking across the Dalles bridge when his friend jumped over the rail and into the river. Deputies launched the East County Water Rescue SAR boat crew, and the Grasmere Fire Department and two helicopters from the U.S. Navy and U.S. Homeland Security also assisted in the search. Upon further direct questioning from the SCSO sergeant, the man admitted this was all a hoax. No one had jumped from the bridge. The sergeant made room in the jail, and the man was booked into jail for false reporting. He may face extensive restitution for the expenses accrued for this false report.

**Jan. 12**

Deputies are investigating a reported

armed robbery that may have occurred at the Baker River access in Concrete. A female reported several men approached another man with a gun and demanded money outside of a trailer. No one was injured, and there's no threat to the public. Deputies are trying to determine fact from fiction on this one, because, frankly, many of the folks involved are less than truthful. There's much more to this story.

**Jan. 15**

A deputy was sent to the shooting area near the Cowboy Campsite on Medford Rd. near Hamilton for a possible pipe bomb. The deputy received a picture from a man who had been shooting in the area and discovered an eight-inch-long cylindrical device, which may have been an explosive. The WSP bomb squad was summoned and took the device with them for further investigation.

**Jan. 21**

Someone broke into the Dave's Towing yard in Concrete and stole two tires off of a vehicle. They also broke out a window on a car as they left the area.

At least two persons called in to report their vehicle license tabs stolen from the area of Main St. in Lyman. There are no suspects at this time.

**Jan. 22**

A caller from Pipeline Rd. in Lyman reported finding two loose dogs in their yard. Unfortunately there were also two dead chickens found in the yard. The dogs apparently killed the chickens, and the dog owners are still unidentified. One was a husky type and the other was a white mutt.

**Jan. 23**

A male subject was pumping gas at Loggers Landing in Concrete and decided to punch the gas pump. The business owner obtained a license plate, and the amateur pugilist was tracked down at home. He agreed to pay for the damages to the pump, and the owner will not press charges. There may be some unresolved, deep-seated anger against machinery occurring here, or he's just frustrated at the price of fuel.

**Jan. 24**

A caller from town reported her husband had lost their laptop near Concrete Town Hall. He apparently left it on the roof of the car as they drove away. It's described as a white Lenovo-brand laptop, and my guess is it has a significant dent in

See Sheriff's Blotter, p. 33

## Worship directory

### Assembly of God

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

### Citipoint Church North Cascade

59850 SR 20, Marblemount  
360.873.2504  
Sunday Gathering: 10:30 a.m.  
[www.citipointchurch.com](http://www.citipointchurch.com)  
E-mail: [matt@citipointchurch.com](mailto:matt@citipointchurch.com)

### Baptist

**First Baptist Church**  
12732 Hemlock St., Clear Lake  
360.856.2767  
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.  
Sun. worship: 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.  
Wed.: 7 p.m.  
E-mail: [pastorjohn@firstbaptistclearlake.com](mailto:pastorjohn@firstbaptistclearlake.com)

**Hamilton First Baptist Church**  
797 Hamilton Cemetery Rd. at SR 20  
Office: 360.826.3307  
Sunday School: 9:40 a.m.  
Sun. worship: 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

### Lyman Church

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

### Catholic

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

### Covenant

**Community Covenant Church**  
12605 Highway 9, Clear Lake  
360.856.1023 // [covenant@wavecable.com](mailto:covenant@wavecable.com)  
[www.clearlakecov.org](http://www.clearlakecov.org)  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Sun. worship: 11 a.m.  
Call for weekly youth group/Bible studies

### Episcopal

**St. Martin/St. Francis Episcopal Church**  
55223 Conrad Rd., Rockport  
Services: first and third Sunday of each month, 1 p.m.

### Free Methodist

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

### 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.

### 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.

### Lutheran

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

### Nondenominational

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

### Community Bible Church

45672 Limestone, Concrete; 360.853.8511  
E-mail: [cbcofconcrete@earthlink.net](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

### The RIVER Gathering

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

### Rockport Christ the King Comm. Church

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

### Wildwood Chapel

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



## CONCRETE HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWS

The ice and gloom kept many of our normal contingent from attending our scheduled January meeting. That means it's time to reevaluate our meeting times. If you're interested in attending our meetings, but the meeting times have not been convenient for you, now is the time to make your voice heard.

Normally, January is the big time to identify and prioritize projects for the coming year. We are still taking input and would appreciate hearing from you. We do our best to make our museum the community's museum. So far, we have identified completing some construction/upgrade projects, updating our Walking Tour Brochures and *Travelers' Guide* ads, and improving some of our displays.

We continue to guide and assist researchers trying to uncover interesting tidbits for everything from scholarly research papers to background information for novels. I say "guide and assist" because we simply do not have

enough hours in the day to do everyone else's homework for them. The hardest thing about doing historical research, besides finding the time, is to stay focused. It's next to impossible not to get sidetracked when you're going through the old *Concrete Herald* newspapers. You too can peruse the old editions of *Concrete Herald* in the comfort of your home. Most issues are available on our Web site, as are a veritable treasure trove of historic photos. Check them out at [www.concreteheritagemuseum.org](http://www.concreteheritagemuseum.org).

Last month I challenged you to make history yourself. Remember many of history's biggest accomplishments started out as something small, but significant. Opportunities await you.

As always, even though we are closed for the season, special tours can still be arranged by calling 360.853.8347 or e-mailing your requests to [jboggs@wash.aol.com](mailto:jboggs@wash.aol.com).

—John Boggs

## February at the Darrington Library

### Children and family programs

- Family Storytime, Wed., Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22; 11 to 11:45 a.m.; all ages welcome, caregiver required.
- LEGO Club Robotics, Wed., Feb. 1; 1 to 2 p.m.; ages 7 and up.
- LEGO Club Free Play, Wed., Feb. 8, 3 to 4 p.m. Ages 5 and up.
- Pioneer Birthday Bash, Sat., Feb. 11; 2 to 4 p.m.; celebrates Laura Ingalls Wilder; registration starts Feb. 1.
- Writers Ink, Fri., Feb. 17, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. A group for any age writer to improve their skill.
- Half Day Movie Matinee: "The BFG," Wed., Feb. 15; 1 to 3:30 p.m.; craft a dreamcatcher while watching.
- Drop-In Scratch Studio, Sat., Feb. 18; 1 to 2:30 p.m.; basic coding skills introduced and expanded; save your work by creating a SCRATCH login here: <https://scratch.mit.edu>. Grades 3 and up.

### Adult programs

- Computer Basics Class: Introduction to Microsoft Word. Mon., Feb. 6, 1 to 2 p.m. For computer users with basic keyboard and mouse skills.

### Darrington Book Group

Discussing *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt. Wed., Feb. 1; 5:30 p.m. Newcomers welcome. Potluck optional.

### Library closures

All Sno-Isle libraries will be closed on Mon., Feb. 20, in observance of Presidents' Day.

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

—Asheley Bryson, branch manager

## At the Upper Skagit Library

Play **Winter Book Bingo** and win great prizes! Read books from specific categories on the Bingo card. You could win the \$50 Amazon Gift Card grand prize or a book/DVD pairing. Book Bingo ends March 31. You still have time to Bingo! Bingo cards are available at the library, or download the PDF at [www.upper-skagit.lib.wa.us](http://www.upper-skagit.lib.wa.us).

Teens, our **Nonfiction Reading Challenge** is just for you. Read one book from at least five Dewey Decimal categories before March 31 and be entered to win a \$25 Amazon gift card. Pick up a reading challenge form at the library. For ages 12–19.

The Upper Skagit Library thanks everyone who attended the *My Name is Twirp* author reading. A big thank you goes to author Karen Smith and illustrator Don Smith for publishing the book to benefit the library. You are making our library stronger; thank you.

**Valentine's Open Studio**, Feb. 7–14. Drop in anytime at the library during open hours. We provide the materials for Valentine's Day cardmaking; you provide the love.

**Essential Oils Education** with Terry Parker. Terry is a community member with extensive experience working with

therapeutic-grade essential oils. She will share how to incorporate essential oils into your daily life. Essential Oils 101: Sat., Feb. 11. Essential Oils and Your Pets: Sat., Feb. 25. Both classes will be held from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the library. Get a chance to win a prize during the free raffle at the events.

**Storytime with Miss Brooke**. Mark your calendars for Feb. 4 and 18. Families with young children are invited to join us for stories, songs, and a simple craft. First and third Saturdays, January through May, 11 a.m.

### New on our shelves

In adult fiction, *Silence* by Shusaku Endo.

In adult nonfiction, *The Earth is Weeping: The Epic Story of the Indian Wars for the American West* by Peter Cozzens.

In young adult nonfiction, *Are You Afraid Yet? The Science Behind Scary Stuff*.

In Juniors, *The Diamond of Darkhold* (City of Ember, Book 4).

Upper Skagit Library Board of Trustees meeting will be held Feb. 9 at 5 p.m.

—Cora Thomas, Library Associate

## Lions R-O-A-R



This month's Concrete Lions Club **regular meetings** will be on Feb. 1 and 15 at Annie's Pizza. The meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.; however, there is always a group that gathers around 6 p.m. to eat and socialize before the meeting starts. All existing members, mark your calendars.

Thanks to all our members who continue to do projects to help out our community. Our next big event will be the annual **Corned-beef Feed** coming up in March. Watch for further information.

For those interested in becoming a member, submitting a request, or just want to see what we are about, please feel free to visit any of our regular meetings.

The Concrete Lions Club has access to **medical equipment**, such as wheelchairs,

walkers, shower chairs, and commodes, which can be lent to help those in need. Contact any Lions Club member and we will do our best to help you.

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 2017 is to double our membership numbers. 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!

Thank you for your continued prayers for the healing of our Lions Club members.

—Connie Smithhart

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

it now. If found, please contact 911 or Town Hall, and we'll get it returned to the embarrassed husband.

### Jan. 26

Skagit County has recently purchased the property formerly known as the Hi-Lo RV Park in Hamilton. As is customary, squatters have moved into the abandoned area and have been addressed by deputies. The county will be taking enforcement action and folks could be arrested for trespassing if found there after Feb. 1.

—Compiled by Sgt. Chris Kading

## Read

*The Voice of the Upper Skagit Valley*

## Twenty-nine WSP patrol vehicles struck in 2016

On New Year's Day, a Washington State Patrol (WSP) trooper's patrol car was struck on I-5 in Everett (see photos at right). The collision occurred at 2:29 a.m. that day when a driver plowed into the back of a patrol vehicle while the trooper was investigating a collision on the right shoulder of northbound I-5 at milepost 195. The trooper was not injured; however, the driver who hit the trooper's car sustained minor injuries and was arrested for suspicion of driving under the influence (DUI).

The crash highlights not only

the dangers of drinking and driving but also the problems of drivers not following the Move Over law.

This was the second WSP car that was hit by a suspected DUI driver in just over a one-month period in the Everett area. Statewide between Jan. 1, 2016 and Jan. 1, 2017, 29 WSP vehicles were struck while conducting traffic stops or providing motorist assistance.

According to the Move Over Law, RCW 46.61.212, drivers approaching an emergency zone are required to either move over to another lane in the same direction if it is safe to do so, or, if a driver is unable to move over safely, proceed with caution and reduce the speed of their vehicle.



# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

To add your business to this directory, call 360.853.8213 or e-mail [editor@concrete-herald.com](mailto:editor@concrete-herald.com)

### Bookkeeping

**UpRiver Bookkeeping Services**  
360.853.7667 or 360.708.9761  
[upriver21@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:dpaynes2001@yahoo.com)

### Donald K. Moore Construction

Dump truck / Sand / Gravel / Topsoil  
Complete excavation and lots, to acreage cleared / log loads, underground utilities avail.  
Licensed, bonded, and insured  
360.853.8525 / Reg. #DONALKMO15KE

### Gifts

**All Valley Storage & Gifts**  
31687 SR 20, Ste. 102, Lyman/Sedro-Woolley  
Our prices can't be beat! Beanpod candles, home/garden items, decorating ideas, more!  
360.826.6001 / [allvalleystorageinc@live.com](mailto:allvalleystorageinc@live.com)  
Online: [www.allvalleystorageinc.com](http://www.allvalleystorageinc.com)

### 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 11 a.m. 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)

### Ranches

**Double O Ranch, LLC**  
46276 Concrete Sauk Valley Rd., Concrete  
360.770.5380, 9-5 M-F, by appt. weekends.  
All natural, grass-fed, USDA inspected beef by the package, ¼ and ½ beef orders.  
Burger available at Albert's Red Apple.

### Restaurants

**Cascade Burgers**  
45292 State Route 20, Concrete  
Featuring great burgers, fries, and milkshakes in a 1950s, family-style atmosphere!  
OPEN DAILY: Mon.-Sat. 11–7, Sun. 11–6  
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**  
Located on Fir Street, Concrete  
Heated and nonheated, security surveillance, coded entry, 4x5 to 15x32 units, locks for sale.  
Customer service is our top priority!  
360.853.8100/[concreteselfstorageinc@live.com](mailto:concreteselfstorageinc@live.com)

### Septic services

**Cinema Septic**  
Inspection, troubleshooting and pumping  
Serving all of Skagit County  
Fred West, owner. 360.466.8753  
[fred@cinemaseptic.com](mailto:fred@cinemaseptic.com)  
[www.cinemaseptic.com](http://www.cinemaseptic.com)

### Thrift stores

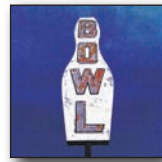
**Second Floor Thrift Store**  
Antiques, Vintage, Collectibles, Thrift  
Inside & upstairs at Gold Nugget Pawn Shop  
Corner of Hwy 530 & Mt. Loop Hwy, Darrington  
Tue.-Fri. noon–6, Sat. 10–5  
360.436.1029 [www.goldnuggetpawnshop.com](http://www.goldnuggetpawnshop.com)

### Towing services

**Cascades Towing**  
Professional roadside assistance. Flatbed towing and winch-outs. Lockouts, jumpstarts, fuel delivery, and motorcycle towing. Licensed and insured. Lowest prices around!  
360.853.8599 // [www.cascadestowing.com](http://www.cascadestowing.com)

**Dave's Towing 360.853.7433, Concrete, WA**  
For all your roadside service needs.  
Call Dave's towing for fast, courteous response.  
**10 years' experience can get any job done.**  
We tow all motorcycles, RVs, and trailers.  
Storage, cash for clunkers, remove junk autos.  
Registered, insured, bonded. 360.853.7433





# Out & About



## State

### Legislators aim to protect, restrict gun rights

By Enrique Pérez de la Rosa  
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

After the heavily backed and massively popular ballot measure, Initiative 1491, passed with 69 percent of the popular vote in Washington last November, lawmakers in Olympia have proposed legislation to protect gun rights from further restrictions.

The initiative has not significantly changed the type of legislation introduced this session, according to Rick Halle, national coordinator for the Gun Rights Coalition, but he believes it sets a precedent for future restrictions sought by gun-control groups in Washington State.

“They might be more empowered to shoot for initiatives,” Halle said of a possible future strategy, instead of relying on legislated limits or reactions to limits.

Jan. 13 the coalition held the Rally 4 UR Rights in Olympia at which gun owners stood on the steps of the Capitol building carrying firearms. Attendees were asked to meet with and write letters to their legislators addressing firearm-limitation issues.

Initiative 1491 authorizes courts to prevent a person from possessing or accessing firearms by issuing “extreme risk protection orders” at the request of police or families of gun owners.

For the court to issue a protection order the defendant must be proven to be a significant danger to him or herself or to others by exhibiting mental illness or violent behavior. The protection would last one year, subject to appeal by the defendant. The measure also allows for petitioners to apply for renewal of the order for an additional year.

Perhaps the biggest anti-gun proposal since the passing of the initiative is an assault weapons ban proposed by Attorney General Bob Ferguson. HB 1134



**Rick Halle, national coordinator of the Gun Rights Coalition**, addresses attendees to the Rally 4 UR Rights rally at the Washington State Capitol Jan. 13. “Gun rights is a nonpartisan issue,” Halle said, urging supporters to remember the second amendment is an American right, not just a conservative or Republican right. Various bills have been introduced to the legislature regarding gun rights and control, including a bill that would require gun dealers to offer to sell or give a lock or lock box with every gun sale. *Photo by Enrique Pérez de la Rosa, WNPA Olympia News Bureau.*

would prohibit the sale of assault-type weapons and high-capacity magazines in Washington State.

A 2013 Senate bill, banning the sale of assault weapons, SB 5737, died in committee that session.

Wednesday, Jan. 18, Rep. Laurie Jenkins (D-Tacoma) filed HB 1387, which proposes enhanced background checks and special licenses for assault-type weapons.

“Not everyone is a dangerous person,” Jenkins said. “But let’s make sure people who buy assault weapons are not.”

This bill would act as fallback legislation if Ferguson’s assault weapons ban fails to advance, said Dave Workman of Bellevue, Wash., senior editor of TheGunMag.com.

“How many background checks does somebody need to go through?” Workman asked. “You already need one to buy any firearm in Washington. Having a second background check to purchase semi-automatic rifles is kind of silly.”

Rep. Matt Shea (R-Spokane Valley),

author of several gun-related bills this session, has proposed HB 1380 to repeal what Initiative 594 placed into law—the requirement that background checks be made for every gun sale and transfer, even if the firearm is being returned to the owner.

Rep. Brian Blake (D-Aberdeen) has sponsored HB 1181, which would prohibit the Department of Licensing from keeping a database of records of applications to purchase pistols or of pistol transfers and sales. Rep. David Taylor (R-Moxee) proposed a similar bill, HB 1190, that would also eliminate the database, but did not reference records acquired from sales.

Mitch Barker, executive director of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, says law enforcement officers investigating gun crimes make inquiries of the DOL database daily.

“That database is essential to law enforcement both for investigative purposes and to return stolen firearms,” Barker said.

Two bills concerning firearm storage

### Gun bills await fate in House committees

Other bills introduced so far this session regarding firearms and gun control include three by Rep. Matt Shea, R-Spokane.

The first, HB 1004, relates to firearms during a state of emergency. It removes the governor’s authority to prohibit the possession of firearms during a state of emergency. Currently the governor can take away gun rights if he or she proclaims a state of emergency. The bill also prevents any restrictions from being imposed on the storage or sale of guns. No hearing has been set for the bill now in the House Judiciary Committee.

His second, HB 1015, focuses on the carrying of concealed pistols. That bill would require a public stadium authority to allow a person with a concealed pistol license to carry a weapon into the facility, such as CenturyLink and SafeCo Field stadiums. This bill also is assigned to the House Judiciary Committee and awaits a hearing date.

Shea’s third proposal, HB 1381, addresses reciprocity for concealed pistol licenses from outside Washington State, expanding license reciprocity to every state and to persons over the age of 18. Currently, Washington State limits reciprocal consideration if the licensing state does not issue the license to persons under 21. The bill has been assigned to the House Judiciary Committee; no hearing date has been set.

Rep. Dick Muri, R-Steilacoom, is sponsoring HB 1174, which proposes a firearm safety and hunter education class for high schools that satisfies a hunting license prerequisite requirement. The bill would authorize a school district to adopt the program as an elective half-credit course. This bill was scheduled for a hearing before the House Education Committee Jan. 26.

Rep. David Taylor, R-Moxee, with HB 1100, would require the Dept. of Licensing, approximately 90 days before a concealed pistol license expires, to mail a renewal notice to the licensee. The department already provides e-mail and mail reminders of upcoming expiration dates for drivers’ licenses. Its fate last rested in the House Judiciary Committee.

—Enrique Pérez De La Rosa, reporter  
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

have also been introduced. HB 1122, sponsored by Rep. Ruth Kagi (D-Seattle)

See Gun Rights, p. 35

## Abortion foes March for Life; pro-choice advocates share rally

By Enrique Pérez de la Rosa  
WNPA Olympia News Bureau

For the 39th year in a row, pro-life supporters gathered on the steps of the Capitol for the Washington State March for Life Rally.

Organizers estimate 5,000 people attended the rally Mon., Jan. 23, the day after the 43rd anniversary of the Roe v. Wade 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion at the federal level and left states to decide what restrictions, if any, would apply.

In 1991 Washington voters passed, with 50.04 percent of the popular vote, the Washington Abortion Rights Initiative, I-120, which declares that the state could not deny a woman her right to undergo an abortion.

Some attending Monday’s rally, like Curtis Bush, a Lacey paraeducator who held a sign that read, “Dad’s for pro-life,” had close ties to abortion. In 1998 Bush lost his daughter when his partner decided to have an abortion, he said.

“I had no right to seek her life,” Bush said. “I’m here representing not only my daughter, Shelby, but also my belief that as far as what God has created, only He can intervene.”

Bush also said that in cases of rape and incest he agrees with pro-choice advocates that abortion could be permissible, but he argues that many times, pro-choice advocates don’t understand the issue fully.

“Until you’re in the position of having grieved over the loss, I think you’re sitting on the outside of the issue,” Bush said. “I think that too much of the time, abortion is used as birth control.”

### Gun Rights, cont. from p. 34

would require gun sellers to offer to sell a locked box, lock, or a device that prevents the gun from discharging with every gun sale. The bill is intended to address the unsafe storage of firearms. HB 1270, sponsored by Rep. Mark Harmsworth (R-Mill Creek), would provide a sales tax exemption on firearm safety products.

But it’s impossible for law enforcement to ensure that firearms are stored safely without infringing upon other rights, Workman argued.

“You can’t just willy-nilly dictate

Megan McKenzie, with National Advocates for Pregnant Women, also has close ties to the issue. A genetic disorder that makes it dangerous for her to be pregnant forced her to have an abortion because her life was at risk.

McKenzie was part of a small counter-protest at the rally of pro-choice advocates. “My body, my choice,” they chanted energetically, along with other slogans.

“Some abortions are medically necessary and for that reason I believe abortion should be allowed in the late term,” McKenzie said.

Two bills have been introduced in the 2017 legislature so far, which could restrict abortion rights for some women. HB 1002, sponsored by Rep. David Taylor (R-Moxee), proposes prohibiting the use of public funds for elective abortions in the state of Washington. No committee hearing has yet been scheduled.

The bill contends “polls overwhelmingly demonstrate that Americans, regardless of their opinion on whether abortion should be legal, oppose taxpayer funding for abortion.” The bill doesn’t cite the sources for the statement.

According to an October 2016 poll conducted by Politico and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, 58 percent of voters opposed the use of federal funds through Medicaid to pay for abortion.

HB 1003, sponsored by Rep. Matt Shea (R-Spokane Valley), proposes establishing parental notification requirements for

to people how to store firearms because there’s no way to enforce it constitutionally,” Workman said, citing the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which protects Americans from unreasonable search and seizure. “We’re not talking about guns. We’re talking about personal privacy.”

Gun rights are not just a partisan issue, because everyone has a right to bear arms, Halle maintains.

“That doesn’t come from the Constitution and it doesn’t come from a



**Thousands gathered at the steps to the Capitol** on Jan. 23 for the 39th annual Washington State March for Life Rally. *Photo by Enrique Pérez de la Rosa, WNPA Olympia News Bureau.*

abortions performed on women under age 18. It awaits a hearing before the House Health Care and Wellness Committee. A similar Senate bill, 5320, was scheduled for public review Jan 26, before the Senate’s Law and Justice Committee.

Tiffany Hankins, executive director of NARAL Pro-Choice Washington, argues that the bills threaten Washington women’s abortion rights. “These do nothing to reduce unintended pregnancy, and they target vulnerable women,” Hankins said.

HB 1243, sponsored by Rep. Brad Klippert (R-Kennewick), proposes prohibiting the use for any purpose other than burial, the body of a fetus whose death resulted from an abortion. This bill also awaits a hearing before the House Health Care and Wellness Committee.

Michelle Fuller, who came to the rally in

Olympia from Des Moines, said the issue was simple to her. “We don’t have a right to end a life,” Fuller said. “Whether it’s in the womb or the electric chair.”

It’s illogical to arbitrarily decide when a life begins, Fuller said, adding she does not feel like she can have a discussion with pro-choice advocates in the counter protest.

“They’re so angry,” Fuller said. “You can’t have a dialogue with that.”

*This story is part of a series of news reports from the Washington State Legislature provided through a reporting internship sponsored by the Washington Newspaper Publishers Association Foundation. Reach reporter Enrique Pérez de la Rosa at perezhenrique17@gmail.com.*

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# Smile



... from the Concrete Herald archives ...

A man is sitting with his newspaper when his wife sneaks up behind him and whacks him on the head with a frying pan. “What was that for?” he asks. “That was for the piece of paper in your pants pocket with the name ‘Mary Ellen’ written on it!” she snaps. “Don’t be silly,” he says. “Two weeks ago when I went to the races, Mary Ellen was the name of a horse I bet on.” She seems satisfied with this answer and apologizes. Three days later he’s again sitting in his chair reading when she nails him with an even bigger frying pan, knocking him out cold. When he comes around, he asks, “What was that for?” “Your horse phoned!” — § —

Each evening, Tom stood in the backyard hooting like an owl. One night, an owl called back to him. For a year, the man and his feathered friend hooted back and forth. One day, the wife had a chat with the lady next door. Seems her husband spent his nights hooting out to owls. “That’s odd,” said the first wife, “so does my husband.” — § —

“I fired my masseuse today. She rubbed me the wrong way.” — § — Guest: “Is there a florist in the hotel? I want to send flowers to your switchboard operator.” Desk clerk: “She will be thrilled!” Guest: “Thrilled? I thought she was dead!”

## Dwelleysms

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

“An old South Sea alcoholic drink has been researched by chemists to find out why it makes a person happy, but does not leave a hangover. They find it affects the brain’s good humor cells without disturbing those that store regrets. The State Liquor Control Board should get some for Olympia immediately.”

“If you notice, a great deal of our most important decisions are being made on the basis of momentary emotional appeal. Save this, save that. We suggest a better approach: ‘Save the dramatics; let’s look at the facts.’”

“To set future voters right, every school civics class should carefully explain that governors and presidents do not pass laws, nor levy taxes. All they can do is suggest. Any blame or praise for the results lies solely with your elected legislators.”

—Feb. 1, 1967

“Someday soon they say it will be possible for entire cities to be built under water. After the past winter rains, Washington is prime for experienced inhabitants.”

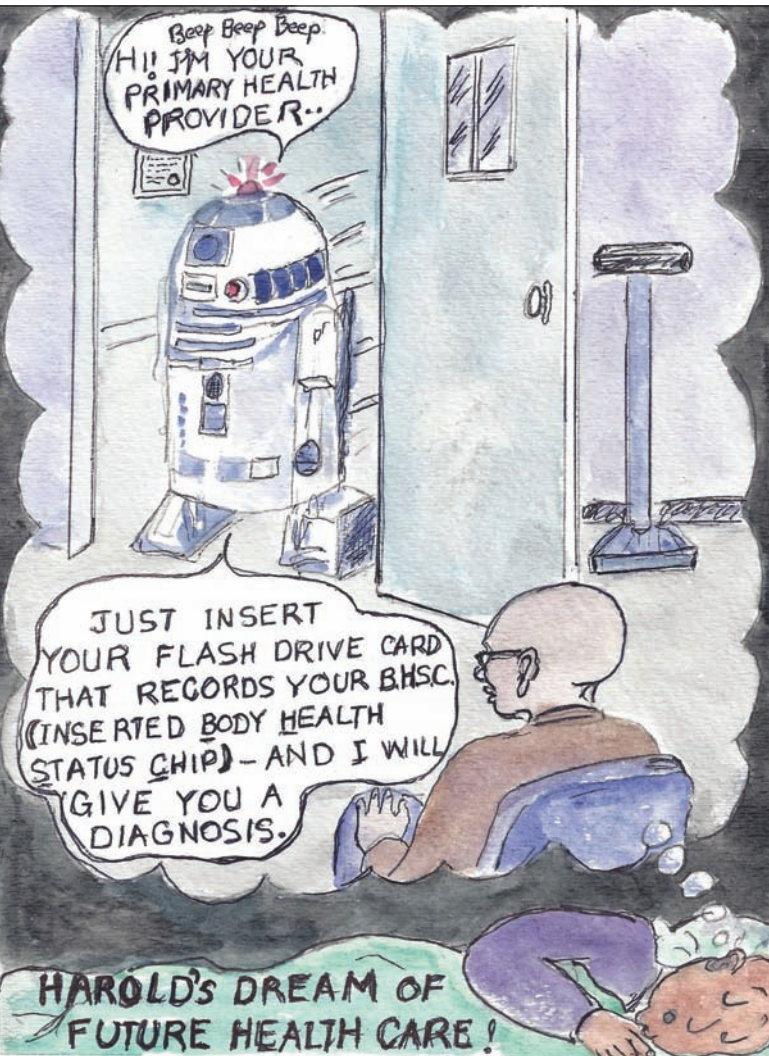
“One thing the legislators should remember is that no matter how they figure it out, the folks at home are going to figure it up.”

“Protest marches will never gather up all their partisans until they let them drive in their cars.”

—Feb. 8, 1967

## Concrete Harold

By Joyce Harris



## Crossword: “The In Crowd”

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21						22				
23								24						
				25	26	27	28		29		30	31	32	33
34	35	36	37		38				39					
40				41				42	43					
44							45				46			
47					48		49			50				
				51		52			53	54	55	56	57	
58	59	60	61				62	63	64					
65					66					67				
68					69					70				
71					72					73				

### Across

- 1. Floating, perhaps
- 5. Arctic dwellers
- 10. Bring down the house
- 14. Shut up
- 15. Accustom
- 16. Auspices: Var.
- 17. Novice: Var.
- 18. Hoisted, nautically
- 19. Certain raptors
- 20. For one thing
- 23. Doctor’s order
- 24. Damage
- 25. Shiny on top?
- 29. Gawk
- 34. Is into
- 38. Intimidate
- 39. Postal scale unit
- 40. Sooner or later
- 44. Grafting shoot
- 45. Artist’s asset
- 46. Flower holder
- 47. Like some carpets
- 49. Sots’ spots
- 51. Called the shots
- 53. Philip, to Camilla
- 58. Nearly simultaneously
- 65. “Watch out!”

### Down

- 1. At the breakfast table
- 2. Angler’s gear
- 3. Our “mother”
- 4. Ho hello
- 5. Page (through)
- 6. Con
- 7. Feline vibrato?
- 8. Geometrical solid
- 9. Of an anatomical partition
- 10. Stagger
- 11. Indian tourist stop
- 12. Brass component
- 13. Latin infinitive
- 21. Decline
- 22. 86 is a high one
- 26. Be in a cast
- 27. Drawing
- 28. Dork

- 30. Ballpark figure
- 31. Jersey, e.g.
- 32. Cap
- 33. Abound
- 34. Univ. paper
- 35. Mark of a ruler
- 36. Greek earth goddess: Var.
- 37. Kind of alert
- 41. Fish
- 42. Shag rug
- 43. Robert Burns’s “Whistle \_\_\_\_ the Lave O’it”
- 48. Approvals
- 50. “My dear man”
- 52. Cow
- 54. Jocks’ antitheses
- 55. A Bush
- 56. Book of maps
- 57. Watery parts of milk
- 58. In doubt
- 59. “O Sanctissima,” e.g.
- 60. Branch headquarters?
- 61. Bridge site
- 62. \_\_\_\_-en-scène
- 63. Case
- 64. Common past participle

## Public Service Announcement

By Stig Kristensen



## 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.

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

\*Solutions to both puzzles are on p. 38.

## Funny as Facebook

- The following funnies were pulled verbatim from Facebook status updates in January.
- “HEY HEY HEY! Don’t chew on that! No! Not OK! Stop wagging your tail! YOU ARE NOT ACTING LIKE AN ASHAMED DOG RIGHT NOW! Apparently getting scolded for chewing on the rug is happy fun times to beagles.”
  - “Having to explain to some very distraught chickens that everything is going to be okay, the raccoon isn’t going to eat any more of them, is enough emotional drama for me. Two killed, one missing, one had to be dispatched, one missing her comb, the boss hen took a beating. Let’s pretend I now have only the six chickens the city says I can have. Next up: how to skin a very fat raccoon.”



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state law, which states WDFW shall in no way allow their elk "to infringe on the right of a private property owner to control the owner's private property"?

Why does WDFW admit it has no true actual elk count numbers in the county?

Why are WDFW officials not listening to the local WDFW biologist and conflict specialist?

Twelve months ago, WDFW scientists verified an elk in the Skagit County herd tested positive for hoof rot disease. Yet WDFW officials have completely ignored addressing this major disease outbreak, except to propose more studies as they have in Southwest Washington for past eight years, with no answers or results.

The epidemic foot rot disease is killing elk in many Southwest Washington counties now. This same disease spreads to our beef and dairy cattle, which will cause devastating economic losses to our Skagit County livestock owners and industry.

Is it incompetence of WDFW officials in management skills and knowledge in elk management or are a few top WDFW brass afraid of political retribution if they obey the law?

Should livestock management classes be required for WDFW officials to manage elk herds? We as livestock owners must manage our farm animals or face fines of animal cruelty, trespass, and liability for animal accidents on highways.

Have elk caused grief and damages to your property? Call WDFW's Regional Director at 425.775.1311 and your state legislators at 800.562.6000, and let them know and request that WDFW obey the law by keeping elk off private property.

Randy Good  
Sedro-Woolley

## I believe in possibility

Thank you, everyone.

The *My Name is Twirp* book was created as a fun read with a serious project in mind: \$1 of the royalty money from every sale on the Amazon site will be donated to the Upper Skagit Library. Artist Don Smith agreed with me that the full proceeds of 30 printed books would be an outright donation to the library.

*My Name is Twirp* evolved through community effort and I would like to thank the following people for their part in this project:

Carol Fabrick: a longtime Friends of the Library member. While I was searching for a good home for *Twirp*, Carol suggested putting an informational

description together, which she could post on the bulletin board at the community club house where she was living. When I did so, I thought that *Twirp* was a pretty smart dog and that it could be turned into a fundraiser for the library.

Bill Pfeifer, library board member: Bill made possible the contact between artist Don Smith and me.

Don Smith, artist/illustrator of the book: Don, his wife, Cherie, and their dog Stella and I met and discussed the project over pizza at Annie's Pizza. Don enthusiastically agreed to work on the project for the benefit of the Upper Skagit Library.

On Monday before Thanksgiving, the book met self-publisher Createspace qualifications and appeared on the Amazon book site. There was a slight problem: I was an unknown writer and as such the *Twirp* book was not in the mainstream children's book section. The only way to get it there was by increased sales. It was obvious that without knowing the exact title to ask for by name, sales would not increase.

Tuesday morning I went to the *Skagit Valley Herald* office. I was informed by staff writer Craig Parrish that the newspaper did not do book reviews. As we talked and the purpose of *Twirp* became clear, Craig handed me his card and asked me to send him an e-mail. He sent a message back saying that he would like to set up an interview for Wednesday that would appear in the Sunday paper after Thanksgiving.

I also contacted KOMO. Kara Kostanich responded, saying she thought it would make a nice Thanksgiving Day story, but the library was closed and most folks in Concrete were in the midst of their Thanksgiving Day plans. I made several phone calls to see if there was a way to get the key to the library for the interview. Library board member Keith Alesse located a key and participated in the interview.

Santa Claus: On Dec. 10, Santa Claus read *Twirp* to children attending the Imagine Concrete Foundation's 3rd annual Children's Craft Fair. Eric Archuletta was able to get a verbal thank-you to Santa Claus for that entertaining read.

Erma Baude, interviewer for KSVU 90.1 FM: Erma set up an interview with Cora Thomas of the library, Don Smith, and me. That interview aired on Dec. 20.

And thank you to all the enthusiastic library supporters who bought *Twirp* and kept the *Twirp* story going on Facebook.

Karen Smith  
Sedro-Woolley

Temple, celebrated the final Passover, initiated the first communion, prayed earnestly in the Garden of Gethsemane for His Father's will to be accomplished, been betrayed by Judas, and arrested by the Roman soldiers. Jesus is presently in the midst of a series of trials: some religious and some civil.

This is where we pick up the story. Jesus stands before Pilate (23:1-7), before Herod (23:8-12), and before Pilate again (23:13-25). And here is where the story culminates so sadly for one of the major characters.

Although Jesus is declared innocent five times in the story (between the various Gospel accounts), Pilate succumbs to peer pressure (caring too much about what others think) by choosing:

- Customs over Christ
- A murderer over the giver of life
- A lawbreaker over the Lawgiver

How does one avoid the path of Pilate and stay focused on being more concerned about what Jesus thinks about us instead of what others may think about us? I am reminded of that great American poet

Henry David Thoreau, who said, "If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away."

How do we keep in step to the music that we hear? How do we focus more about what Jesus thinks about us instead of what others think about us? I think part of the answer is found in the chorus "Step By Step":

- O God, You are my God (personal relationship)
- And I will ever praise You (praise)
- I will seek you (purpose)
- In the morning (priority)
- I will learn to walk in Your way (perseverance)

This is a good place for us to begin.

It's a good place for us to continue on a daily basis. There is nothing wrong with wanting to be liked by others. But what is most important is to hear the applause of the One who created us and gave us life.

Rob Thomas is pastor for Community Bible Church in Concrete.



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## Sudoku solution, from p. 37

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

## Crossword solution, from p. 37

1	A	S	E	A	5	L	A	P	P	S	9	R	A	12	E
14	S	E	A	L	15	E	N	U	R	E	16	E	G	I	S
17	T	I	R	O	18	A	T	R	I	P	19	E	R	N	S
20	I	N	T	H	E	F	I	R	S	T	P	L	A	C	E
23	R	E	H	A	B	24	M	A	R						
25	B	A	L	D	26	L	O	30	K	32	A				
34	D	I	G	S	35	C	O	W		36	O	U	N	C	E
40	I	N	A	M	41	A	T	T	E	42	R	O	F	T	I
43	S	C	I	O	N	44	E	Y	E	45	S	T	E	M	
47	S	H	A	G	48	B	A	R		50					
51	L	E	D	52						53	I	N	L	A	W
58	I	N	T	H	E	S	A	M	E	B	R	E	A	T	H
65	F	O	R	E	66	S	U	I	T	E	67	R	U	L	E
68	F	E	E	L	69	E	N	S	U	E	70	D	R	A	Y
71	Y	L	E	M	72	S	T	E	I	N	73	S	A	S	S

# Classifieds

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Weekends/Holidays: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.\*

\*Closed Christmas Day

**Skagit Regional Health**  
Skagit Valley Hospital · Skagit Regional Clinics

Check wait times and learn more at

[srclinics.org](http://srclinics.org)



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These products have intoxicating effects and may be habit forming. Marijuana can impair concentration, coordination, and judgment. Do not operate a vehicle or machinery under the influence of this drug. There may be health risks associated with consumption of this product. For use only by adults twenty-one and older. Keep out of the reach of children.